

Dear Donald,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked if the words, "replenish the earth" in Genesis 1:28 indicate that there was a pre-Adamic race that God destroyed.

The word translated "replenish" in Genesis 1:28 (King James Version) is Strong's #4390 and means to fill or be full of. The same word, #4390, is found in Genesis 6:11 and is translated "filled." "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." A better rendering for Genesis 1:28 can be found in later Bible versions. For example the New International Version reads, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."

In answer to your question, we do not perceive any indication from the afore mentioned Bible text or, for that matter, any other biblical text that even hints of a race of humans existing before Adam.

Adam was a very special creation of God. "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7) Had Adam obeyed the command of God and not eaten from the tree of good and evil, he would have lived forever in a state of perfection. Because he disobeyed God, he not only forfeited that right, but also plunged his entire progeny into sin and death. For almost 4000 years man's fate appeared to be hopeless, until God provided a Redeemer in the person of his Son, Jesus. He, who was the first-born of God, a mighty archangel, submitted his will to his Father's and allowed his nature to be changed to that of a perfect human being. By allowing his perfect sinless humanity to be sacrificed on the cross, Jesus was able to redeem the once perfect man Adam who sinned and, thereby, free all of Adam's progeny from the curse of death.

It has been almost 2000 years since Jesus made that supreme sacrifice. Although the ransom has been paid, humanity is still sin-sick and dying. The Kingdom of God on earth, for which we so earnestly pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10), has not yet been inaugurated. Why? Because the class of Christians who have chosen to follow Jesus now by sacrificing their wills to do the will of God, is not yet complete. "The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed." (Romans 8:19)

We look forward to the day when the body of faithful followers of Christ will be complete so that the entire world will be the beneficiary of our Lord's ransom sacrifice. Then every man, woman, and child who ever lived will be awakened from their graves in order to have an opportunity to walk up the Highway of Holiness (Isaiah 35:8) and share in the Kingdom blessings. "And the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away." (Isaiah 35:10)

We hope we have shed some light on your inquiry.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio