Passage	Be Fruitful	Multiply	Fill the Earth	Subdue It	Have Dominion…
Genesis 1:28 God to Adam & Eve	X	X	X	X	X
Genesis 9:1 God to Noah & sons	X	X	X		
Genesis 9:7 God to Noah & sons	X	X 2x	"bring for abundantly in the earth"		
Genesis 16:10 God to Hagar		X			
Genesis 17:1-6 God to Abraham	[X] "I will make you exceedingly fruitful"	X "I will multiply you exceedingly"			
Genesis 17:20 God about Ishmael	[X] "[I] will make him fruitful"	[X] "[I] will multiply him exceedingly"			
Genesis 22:17 God to Abraham		[X] "and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven…"			
Genesis 26:1-4 God to Abraham		[X] "I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven"			
Genesis 26:24 God to Isaac		[X] "I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."			
Genesis 28:3 Isaac to Jacob	[X] "[God] make you fruitful"	[X] "[God] multiply you"			
Genesis 35:11 God to Jacob	X	X			
Genesis 48:4 God to Jacob (repeated)	X	X			
Exodus 1:7 Of Israel in Egypt	[X] "were fruitful and increased abundantly"	[X] "multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty"			
Exodus 32:13 Moses Reminding God		[X] "…You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the starts of heaven"			
Deut 6:3 Moses to Israel		[X] "that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you"			
Deut 7:13 Moses to Israel	[X] "He will also bless the fruit of your womb"	[X] "and He will love you and bless you and multiply you"			
Deut 8:1 Moses to Israel		[X] "that you may live and multiply"			
Deut 13:17 Moses to Israel		[X] "have compassion on you and multiply you"			
Deut 30:5 Moses to Israel		[X] "He will prosper you and multiply you"			

Deut 30:16		[X] "that you may live and multiply"			
Leviticus 26:9 God to Israel	X	X			
Psalm 128:3	[X] "Your wife [shall be] life a fruitful vine"				

A. What Are They?

1. **Authorizations** (The *Right* to Do These) God gave us **permission** to carry out these five blessings.
2. **Blessings** (The *Privilege* to Do These) God considers each of these 5 as **good** and **desirable**.
3. **Commands** (The *Responsibility* to Do These) Each is an **imperative** – a command.
4. **Directions** (The *Path* Which Will Be Taken) Each is a **course** set in motion by God that will be followed.
5. **Enablements** (The *Ability* to Do These) God gave us the **capacity** and **desire** to do the things commanded.

APPLICATION: God Is…
- The <u>Creator</u>: We are to understand God's design and desire, and work by and with His plan.
- The <u>Explainer</u>: We must interpret life and culture by God's revelation, not by man's practice or culture's direction.
- The <u>Sustainer</u>: We can see God's creative work still in force today, though marred and actively rejected by man.

B. What Do They Mean?

The first three directly involve procreation (bearing children). The last two involve man's relationship to God's creation (specifically the earth, and the creatures within it)

- **Be Fruitful** (to bear fruit) – to **have children**
- **Multiply** (to become many, to become numerous) – to have **numerous** children
- **Fill the Earth** (to fill) – to have numerous children to the point of eventually **filling** the **earth**
- **Subdue It** (to take control of) – to become **master** over the earth, and **responsible** for it
- **Have Dominion** – to rule **over** the **creatures** of the earth (fish of the sea, birds of the air, every living thing that moves on the earth)

C. Are They for Today? (Do They Apply to Us Today?): 12 Reasons for "Yes"

1. (A) *Practice* – We still practice each as though we have permission to do so (if not for today, why still do them?)
2. (B) *Blessing* – They continue to be something that is good in God's eyes (a blessing).
   - Each of these is still something to be considered a privilege, something good & desirable.
   - Example: Throughout Scripture, God blessed and cursed by means of children (no change from Gen 1).
     Gen 17:20 – And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.
     Deut 1:11 – May the LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you!
     1 Chron 26:4-5 – Moreover the sons of Obed-Edom [were] Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sacar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth, Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth; for God blessed him.
     Job 42:12-13 – Now the LORD blessed the latter [days] of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters.
     Psalm 107:38 – He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly; And He does not let their cattle decrease.
     Psalm 107:41 – Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, And makes [their] families like a flock.
     Psalm 127:3-5 – Behold, children [are] a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb [is] a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So [are] the children of one's youth. Happy [is] the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.
3. (C) *No Condition* Is Stated – "Be fruitful UNTIL this specific state or condition is met, etc. …"
4. (C) *No Timeframe* Is Given – "Be Fruitful UNTIL this specific time…"
5. (C) *No Reversal* – Cancellation – There are no commands from God to rescind, repeal, or revoke any of these 5 blessings. (Human argument & logic is insufficient to counter God's commands. Many seek to do so for all of God's commands.)
6. (D) *No Ceasing* – Cessation – There is no evidence of any of these five stopping. (Executive; laws of nature)
7. (E) *Continuing* – Continuation – The enablement for each continues. We still are able to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue the earth, and to have dominion over fish, birds, and all living creatures. (Hamburger?)
8. *Repeating* – Repetition – Some commands are repeated. Others are never repeated. (Gen 9:1; 9:7; 35:11)
   Non-Repeating – Subdue is only commanded HERE, and "have dominion" only HERE in this context.
9. *Incomplete* – Completion – The world is not full, fully subdued, nor can it be once & for all ruled. (Side Note: There is no hint that the world's problem is overpopulation and its results, but the Bible clearly teaches that God is the Supplier, and the world's problem is sin and rebellion, with the resultant judgment from a holy God.)
10. *Necessary* – Necessity – We cannot survive or function without any of them. The human race would die out in one generation (first three) or in days (last two).
11. *Partial* – Inconsistency – People still embrace the last two (without hesitation or question). Our claim to the right (or authorization) to any necessitates our acceptance of all 5.
12. *Connected* – Connection – They seem to rise and fall with marriage.
    The passage is an overview of the creation of the first man and woman, and it encompasses Genesis 2 as well. God spoke all of the blessings to THEM, which would have required the blessings to be given after the woman was created at the end of Genesis 2. It would appear that Genesis 2:7-25 would fit after the third clause of 1:27 *("male and female He created them"*), and before Verse 28. It is textually accurate, and also logical and rather obvious that that the commands to "be fruitful and multiply" would be given *after* the creation of both the male and the female, and thus after the events described in Genesis 2. If Genesis 2 lays any lasting demands on us by pattern and principle (which it obviously does, given that the passage is referred to over and over again in the New Testament), then it would seem that the blessings of 1:28 would equally be relevant and applicable for today. You cannot separate chronologically what is chronologically a unit.