

WHAT DOES 'REPLENISH' THE EARTH MEAN?

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An examination of the **Oxford English Dictionary (OED)** shows that the word was used to mean *'fill'* from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries. In no case quoted in these five centuries does it unambiguously mean *'re-fill'*. The OED defines *'replenish.'*

Replenished (adjective):

- a. fully stocked; provided, supplied;**
- b. filled, pervaded;**
- c. physically or materially filled;**
- d. full, made full.**

When the KJV was translated, 'replenish' was just a scholarly word for 'fill'.

So my understanding of the word in the KJV is that *'replenish'* then just meant *'fill up'*, So in 1611 it's quite clear the translators didn't necessarily convey anything about a second filling of the earth in ***Genesis 1:28 (KJV)***.

Now as to the Hebrew word itself: it is *male'*, the simple verb *'fill'*. (*Strong's concordance No. 4390.*)

Quite clearly the idea of refilling is completely absent from the Hebrew. There's no doubt on that score. So the English of the KJV is the only problem. We all know that languages change over the years. So that's the real explanation of the

misunderstanding about this verse that tells us that God commanded the first humans to fill up completely the earth He had prepared for them.

Finally, the proof is that the similar phrase in *verse 22* has the translation '*fill*' in the KJV. Here are the parallel cases.

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|---------------------|---|
| <i>Verse</i> 22: | <i>peru u - rbu u - mil'u eth hammayim</i> |
| | be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters |
| <i>Verse</i> 28: | <i>peru u - rbu u - mil'u eth ha'arets</i> |
| | be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. |

Thus it appears that the change to '*replenish*' was merely a stylish variation.