

**Capturing the fullness of
God's vision for work
(in 7 stories)**

Ross Hendry, ELF Workshop May 2023




- **7 Jobs**
- **2 as CEO**
- **10 years leading work and faith ministry**

**A narrow and wide
view of work**



1. Adam and Eve



A close-up detail of the central portion of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam," from the Sistine Chapel. The image focuses on the two hands reaching toward each other: the hand of Adam on the left, which is extended and reaching forward, and the hand of God on the right, which is extended and pointing toward Adam. The fingertips are just inches apart, creating a sense of tension and divine spark. The background is the aged, cracked, and yellowed plaster of the original fresco.

**Made in the image
of God**

Relationships



Stewardship



Made to work



מלאכה

God who undertakes...

Melâ'kâh

- Sowing
- Plowing
- Reaping
- Binding sheaves
- Threshing
- Winnowing
- Selecting
- Grinding
- Sifting
- Kneading
- Baking
- Shearing wool
- Washing wool
- Beating wool
- Dyeing wool

- Tying
- Untying
- Sewing stitches
- Tearing
- Trapping
- Slaughtering
- Flaying
- Tanning
- Scraping hide
- Marking hides
- Cutting hide to shape
- Writing two or more letters
- Erasing two or more letters
- Building

- Demolishing
- Spinning
- Weaving
- Making two loops
- Weaving two threads
- Separating two threads
- Kindling a fire
- Putting the finishing touch on an object
- Transporting an object between a private domain and the public domain, or for a extinguishing a fire distance of 4 cubits within the public domain

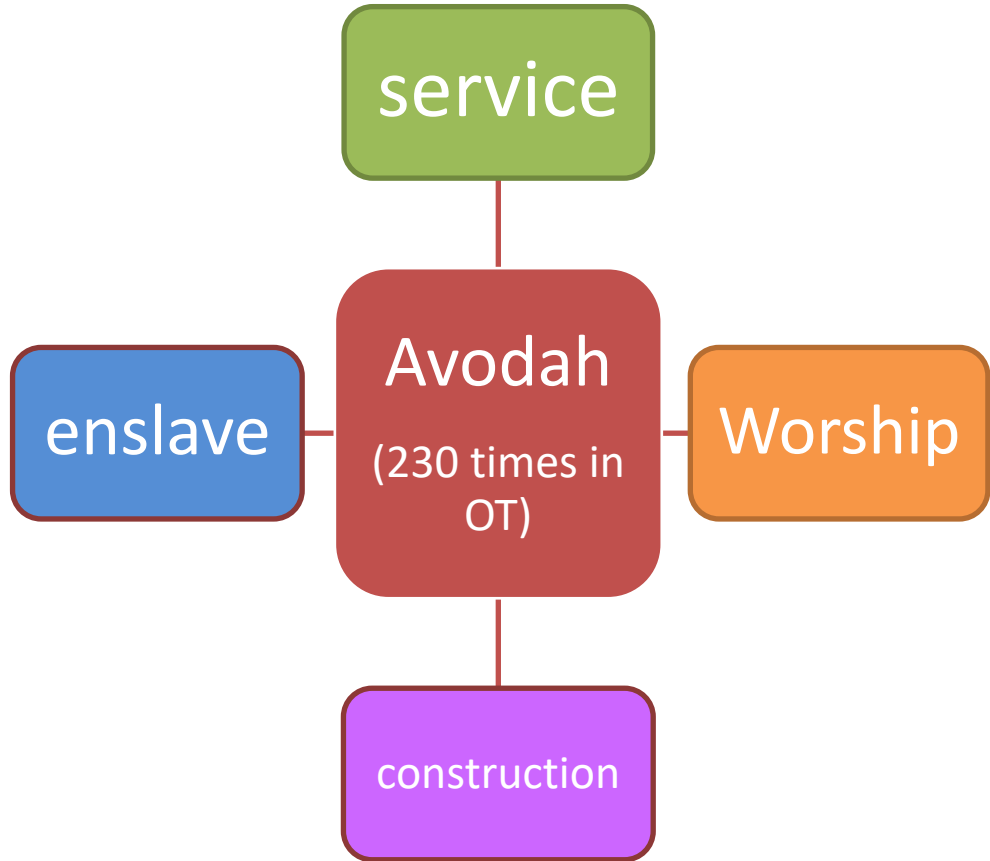
מלאכה

God who undertakes...

Melâ'kâh

Avodah

עבודָה



מלאכה

God expects Adam and
Eve to undertake
Melâ'kâh and Avodah

עבודת

Our cultural mandate:

God blessed them and said to them,
'Be fruitful and increase in number;
fill the earth and subdue it'.

Genesis 1:28





2. Joseph

FAITHFULNESS

God's faithfulness to us:

He is sovereign

He is present

Our assurance

Our faithfulness in response:

Excellence

Industry

Perseverance

Service

A classical-style painting depicting the biblical story of Daniel in the lions' den. Daniel, an elderly man with a long white beard, stands in the center, wearing a yellow tunic and a dark, striped shawl. He has his right hand raised in a gesture of prayer or supplication, looking upwards. He is surrounded by several lions of various sizes, some resting on rocky ledges and others looking towards him. The scene is set in a dimly lit, cavernous space with a dark, textured background. The overall mood is one of divine protection and faith.

2. Daniel

**Distinctiveness....
doesn't just happen**



Avoid the “Marginal Costs” Mistake

“...it's easier to hold to your principles 100% of the time than it is to hold to them 98% of the time. If you give in to “just this once,” based on a marginal cost analysis, as some of my former class-mates have done, you'll regret where you end up. You've got to define for yourself what you stand for and draw the line in a safe place.

A painting depicting a scene from the story of Esther. In the center, a man wearing a crown and a yellow robe sits at a table. To his right, a woman in a red dress and a golden crown is leaning over the table, appearing to be in conversation with him. On the left, another man in a dark, patterned robe is seated, looking towards the central figures. The scene is set in a dark, richly textured environment, possibly a palace interior. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the figures against the dark background. The overall style is characteristic of 17th-century Baroque painting.

3. Esther

Different types of power



5. Philemon



Courage and trust

Blind spots

Responsibility before rights

Forgiveness

Restoration

The image depicts five ancient wooden sailing ships, likely representing the vessels of King Darius's fleet mentioned in the Bible. The ships are arranged in a line across a vast, blue sea. Each ship has a single mast with a large, white, rectangular sail. The hulls are dark brown wood, and the ships are decorated with colorful figures along the deck. The sky is a mix of dark, stormy clouds and a bright, golden light near the horizon, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is dramatic and evocative of a historical maritime journey.

6. Ships of Tarshish

1. Adam and Eve: designed, called, image bearers
2. Joseph: faithfulness
3. Daniel: disciplined
4. Esther: powerful
5. Philemon: transformed
6. Ships of Tarshish: redemptive

Questions for group discussion

1. What surprised you or struck you in a fresh way?
2. Which of these characteristics do you feel you embody best at work?
3. Which do you struggle most to demonstrate at work?
4. Which do you feel are most and least present in your workplace? How will you reinforce the good and challenge the bad?

7. 'The story I am in'

Service, Sabbath, Community, Discipleship,
Confidence



