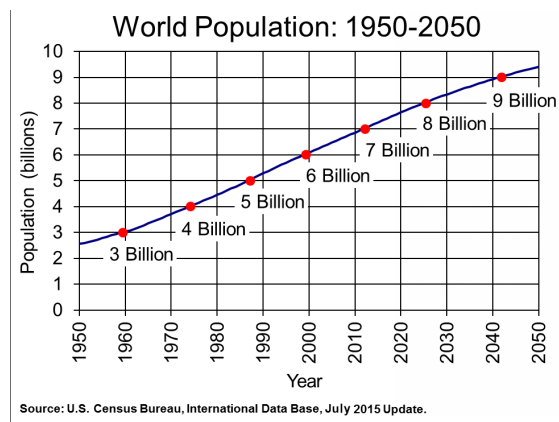


Population Growth and Reproductive Rights

While human population remained relatively stable for many thousands of years, in the last century it has increased rapidly. This may lead to environmental and economic pressures.



Be Fruitful and Multiply

God blessed them (Adam and Eve) and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, fill up the land and conquer it.'

Even if a man has already fulfilled the mitzvah of 'be fruitful and multiply' he is still commanded by the Rabbis to have more children as long as he is able.

– Genesis 1:28 and Maimonides Laws of Marriage 15:16.



Who Decides How Many Children?

Should governments be able to limit how many children we can have in order to preserve natural or economic resources, or is having children a personal matter that no government should interfere with?

Reproductive Rights

With small numbers, as it says in the Torah: As a family of 70 your ancestors went down to Egypt. **And now, God has made you numerous as the stars of the heavens.**

And there you became a nation: This teaches that Israel remained distinct. Large and numerous, as it says in the Torah: **And the children of Israel were fruitful and multiplied**, they became very strong and numerous, **and the land was filled with them.**

Great, mighty, as it is written. "The children of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and became mighty, and the land was full of them." And numerous, as it is written: "I made you as populous as the plants of the field; you grew up and wore choice adornments; your breasts were firm and your hair grew long; yet, you were bare and naked."

בְּמִתֵּי מְעוֹט. כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: בְּשָׂבָעִים נִפְשׁ יָרְדוּ אֲבוֹתֶיךָ מִצְרֵימָה, **וְעַתָּה שְׂמַח ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם לְרַב.**

וַיְהִי שֵׁם לְגוֹי. מִלְּמַד שֶׁהָיוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל מְצִינִים שֵׁם. גְּדוֹל עֲצוּם – כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: **וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל פְּרוּ וַיִּשְׂרְצוּ וַיִּרְבוּ וַיַּעֲצְמוּ בְּמֵאד מְאֹד, וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ אֹתָם.**

וְרַב. כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: רַבְּבָה כְּצֶמַח הַשָּׂדֶה נִתְתִּיף, וַתִּרְבִּי וַתִּגְדְּלִי וַתִּבְאֵי בְּעַדֵי עַדִּים, שְׂדִים נִכְנוּ וּשְׁעָרָה צִמְחָה, וְאֵת עֵרֶם וְעָרִיהָ. וְאֶעֱבֵר עָלֶיךָ וְאֶרְאֶה מִתְּבוֹסָסֶת בְּדַמְיָה, וְאֶמַּר לְךָ בְּדַמְיָה חַיִּי, וְאֶמַּר לְךָ בְּדַמְיָה חַיִּי.



Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16

Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family.