

When God Created Life

Genesis 1:20-31

In the last lesson (Gen. 1:1-19) we discovered that *in the beginning* God created the basic elements of the universe out of nothing, and it *was formless and empty*, chaotic and uninhabitable. Then, it was energized by the *Spirit of God*. The first four days were a rearranging or development of what God created in verse 1. During the first four days of creation light, air, water, dry land, vegetation, sun, moon, and stars were developed into what God desired, *and God saw that it was good*, good for man, His reason for creation. Now we come to...

The Fifth Day - 1:20-23

After creating everything necessary to sustain animal life, *God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (1:21)*. Animal life was not the result of a blob of protoplasm coming together with electrical discharges in an ancient ocean, as evolutionists believe. God spoke, and marine life and *birds* came into being. This is the first-time *creatures (nephesh, neh-fesh)* are mentioned in the Bible. This word refers to consciousness or psychological life.

The animals specifically mentioned are *the great creatures of the sea (1:21)*. The Hebrew root word translated *creatures (tannin)* is also translated *monster (NIV)* and *dragon (KJV)* in Ezekiel 29:3. In *Revelation*, the word *dragon (Gk, DRAKON)* is used to picture creatures of tremendous size and strength. How do we see this in Revelation 12:4a?

Great creatures probably include some large dinosaurs, which are classified reptiles along with turtles and crocodiles. The semi-aquatic diplodocus (dip-lod-uh-kuhs) weighed up to 15 tons and grew to a length of over 90 feet, including a tail of 30 feet or more. The references in the Bible to dinosaur-like dragons with long tails, as well as in early traditions of most ancient nations, cannot be dismissed as fairy tales. They probably represent stories of dinosaurs handed down by tribal ancestors who encountered them before they became extinct.

The extinction of dinosaurs has been attributed to changes in climate, volcanic activity, an asteroid that struck the earth, etc. However, it could be that after the Fall, when many animals became wild, vicious, and carnivorous (flesh-eating), God allowed the dinosaurs to die off over time because they would threaten the continued existence of humans. If you have seen the movie "Jurassic Park," the problem is obvious.

God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth " (1:22). This is the first time the idea of being *blessed* occurs in the Bible. Though not objects of God's love as man would be, how does Matthew 10:29 reveal that animals are objects of God's concern?

As Christians we should not let the teachings of some, that animals are equal to humans in importance and rights, keep us from being concerned about cruelty to animals. God created all forms of animal life for a purpose and that never includes unnecessary brutality.

The Sixth Day - Gen. 1:24-31

On the last day of creation *God made the wild animals... livestock... and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds (1:25).* *God made the wild animals,* whereas in verse 21 it says *God created* the air and marine animals. Since God had already created conscious life, there was no need to do it again. He therefore formed new types of life from what already existed, which could be mistaken for evolution if one does not believe the *Genesis* account of creation.

All were to reproduce *according to their kinds*, which means like the various plants, animals are programmed by God to assure continuation of *kind* or species. This probably refers to DNA, which contains the genetic code in all organisms and causes reproduction in kind.

Also on the sixth day, *God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish... the birds... and over all the creatures that move along the ground" (1:26).* The phrase *let us* indicates all the members of the Trinity existed and were present before anything else. "Elohim," the name used for God in creation, is plural. God is a tri-unity, three persons in one. This fact is not fully revealed until the NT. What do we find out about Jesus in John 1:2-3?

God created man in his own image (Gen. 1:27). What does it mean to be created in the image of God? Does it mean God looks like me? I hope not! The word *image* doesn't refer to appearance; it refers to likeness in nature. God created you and me in the image of His trinity. (Image bearers)

Humans are made up of three parts: body, soul, and spirit. The soul and the spirit may never be separated, and they do not operate independently of each other, but they can be differentiated and considered separate entities. Sometimes the words *soul* and *spirit* are used interchangeably, but in both the Old and the New Testament they are used distinctively. How does 1 Thessalonians 5:23b describe the tri-unity of man?

The word translated *soul* (*PSUCHE*) is the Greek word from which we get our English words "psyche" and "psychology." It refers to the mind, emotions, and will—to psychological life. The word *spirit* (*PNEUMA*) refers to the spiritual part, the part that makes us like God.

All life can be divided into three parts: plant, animal, and human. Plants have a body but no soul or spirit. They have no intellect, emotion, or will. However, animals have a *soul* (*PSUCHE*), and therefore dogs can be angered and taught to retrieve a bone. Yet, there is something that makes humans distinctively different from a dandelion or a dog, and that is our *spirits*. It is our spirits that make us seek God. We commune with God through our spirits. How did Jesus confirm this fact in John 4:24?

Because plants and animals do not have a spirit, you will never see them praying or going to church. The desire to seek God simply does not exist in their being. God created us to fellowship with Him. How does Proverbs 20:27 reveal that God speaks to us through our spirits?

God speaks to us through our spirits. He speaks to us primarily through *the word of God*, which is the only thing that is able to penetrate our being *even to dividing soul and spirit* (Heb. 4:12). It is through our spirits that God gives us moral consciousness, so that the Holy Spirit can convict us of sin. No animal can distinguish between good and evil or sense guilt or remorse.

God designed salvation in three parts to redeem the entire person—body, soul, and spirit. The first, called **regeneration** or being born again, saves our spirits instantaneously the moment we trust Christ. The second, called **sanctification**, redeems our soul—our mind, emotions, and will—progressively as we read and live the Bible. How is the final part, which is called **glorification** and occurs at the resurrection, described in Philippians 3:21b?

God created them *male and female* (Gen. 1:27), and *God blessed them*, commanding them: "*Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it*" (1:28a). In all the rest of creation the word *create* (*bara*) is used only twice (1:1, 21), but it is used three times in reference to man. It is as though God is putting exclamation points to indicate we are special. God created the spirit and made the body.

When did God create man? Various scholars suggest from 4,500 to 10,000 years ago. However, the discovery near Glen Rose, Texas, of fossilized tracks of men and dinosaurs together proves there was no gap between them and has caused many revisions in what scientists had thought. Today in Glen Rose one can visit the Creation Evidences Museum, which was established for the purpose of excavating and displaying scientific evidence of creation.

If God created Adam and Eve with age, could He not do the same with the earth, moon, and all the universe? It is without question that an omniscient and omnipotent God could create anything or everything at this very moment. If looking for a natural explanation, under scientific examination creation could appear to be billions of years ago. God can create not only space, matter, and time, but age as well. How did Jesus express this truth in Matthew 19:26?

Apparently Adam and Eve were initially vegetarians because God said, *"I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."* To the animals God said, *"I give every green plant for food"* (Gen. 1:29-30).

Some consider this part of *Genesis* to be myth not history. However, Adam and Eve are presented as actual people who gave birth to literal children. Moreover, what did Jesus say about the first couple in Matthew 19:4?

A Christian should never be embarrassed or apologize for believing that God spoke everything into existence as the Bible teaches. Since no human was there, whatever one believes about the origin of the universe is by faith. It is not a matter of faith versus knowledge. It is a matter of faith in chance versus faith in a Creator. It boils down to faith in one of two equations: Nothing times nothing equals everything, or God times nothing equals everything. Which of these two requires the most faith? I personally do not have enough faith to believe the first equation.

Never be afraid to believe the Bible. For thousands of years scientists believed the world was flat and held up by some kind of firm base. The Egyptians thought the earth was held up by giant pillars, one at each corner and one in the middle. The Greeks taught that the skies and world were balanced on the back of a giant named Atlas. Even today a book of maps is called an "atlas" and will often have a picture of Atlas supporting the earth on the front page. These ideas were prominent until Copernicus and Galileo broke the news in the 16th and 17th centuries that the world was round and suspended in space.

God created life on the fifth and sixth days, and He created us not to live by our lowest physical desires but at a high spiritual level. How does the creation account encourage us to live the way God intended?