

Foundations

Series #4

The Doctrine of Creation – Part 2

April 7th, 2024

Read Genesis 1:4-5

INTRODUCTION

This evening, we continue our journey through the foundational truths laid out in the opening chapter of Genesis, in this message we will look at verses 4 through 31.

As we delve into the Scripture, we are reminded that every word penned in the Bible is breathed out by God, serving as our guide to truth and life.

In the beginning, the Almighty set forth the heavens and the earth, crafting each aspect with intentionality and purpose. As we ponder the vastness of creation, we find

ourselves confronted with the ultimate question of purpose.

Why did God create the universe, the earth, and all that dwells within? Our study reveals a Creator who delights in His creation, who establishes order, beauty, and life, and who desires to display His glory and share His love with beings created in His image.

The timeline of creation is a topic of much debate and discussion. Yet, as we stand firm on the foundation of Scripture, we see clearly the testimony that the world was crafted by the divine Word in six literal days.

This understanding not only aligns with the historical reading of Genesis but also affirms the power and authority of God's Word. In a mere six days, the Lord brought forth all that exists, demonstrating His infinite power and sovereign will.

Day Two of Creation - sees the formation of the firmament, separating the waters above from the waters below. This act of divine separation and organization sets the stage for the habitation of life, showcasing God's meticulous care in preparing the earth for His crowning creation.

Day Three of Creation - unfolds with the gathering of waters and the sprouting of vegetation. Here, God introduces diversity and abundance, filling the earth with plants and trees, each according to its kind. This day speaks to God's provision and foresight, ensuring that every need of His creation is met even before bringing forth life.

Day Four of Creation - marks the appointment of the sun, moon, and stars to govern the day and night, to mark seasons, days, and years. The celestial bodies stand as constant reminders of God's faithfulness and the ordered rhythm of life designed by His hand.

Day Five of Creation - witnesses the teeming of life in the waters and the skies. Fish and birds, created in a vibrant array of forms and functions, declare the creativity and care of the Creator, each reflecting His glory in unique ways.

Day Six of Creation - culminates in the creation of land animals and, ultimately, mankind—created in the very image of God. This final act of creation before the day of rest underscores the special place humanity holds in God's heart and plan, entrusted with stewardship over the earth and commissioned to live in relationship with Him.

As we journey through these divine acts of creation, let us be stirred by the majesty and mystery of our God. Let us marvel at His power, wisdom, and love. And let us respond with worship, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to live according to His purposes, bearing His image in a world that desperately needs His light.

And this brings us to our first point...

Question #6 WHY DID GOD CREATE?

Genesis 1:4 “And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.”

Notice the Bible continues to affirm the existence of light (and a day for that matter) without the existence of the sun, which is still three days away from its creation. The creation of light anticipates the creation of sunlight. What Moses is telling us here is that God caused the light to shine from a source other than the sun for the first three days of creation.

Notice, this is how the Bible begins and ends by describing an untarnished world that is filled with light, but no sun (*Revelation 22:5 - And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever*).

The light was good for the purposes it was intended to serve. "Good" is very common Hebrew adjective that has a broad range of meanings, as does the English term. Primarily, it draws attention to an object's quality and fitness for its purpose. ““Good” here probably means “fits its purpose” (cf. Isa. 41:7) or “intrinsically without flaw”.”¹

We can understand this because of the declared source of the light, which is God, in the person of Christ. God is preeminently the one who is good, and His goodness is reflected in His works (*Psalm 100:5 - For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations*).

¹ (Utley, 2001)

Please turn with me to Psalm 33

But first, let me read to you **Revelation 4:11** “*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*” Notice the reason given here for creation “*for thy pleasure they are and were created.*”

There are many things determined from creation. Ultimately Revelation 4:11 shows us that the Father created creation as a love offering to His Son through the work of all three members of the Trinity. Psalm 33 highlights this with a response in praise and thanksgiving, now let's read in Psalm 33:1-9.

Psalm 33:1-9 “*Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise. For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth*”[“*And God said*”]. *He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*” Notice how this passage reiterates the Genesis account of creation.

Now we know that Christ is the bridegroom of the Church, and as the Holy Spirit enables righteousness in us, we are to be a praise offering of thanksgiving to Christ, that glorifies the Father.

Back in Genesis 1:4, when we see that God separated the light from the darkness, we understand that in the work of creation, Genesis 1:4 logically follows v. 3, for x can be separated from y only on the assumption that both x and y are already in existence. One commentator explained it this way:

“Separated means here not to pull apart, but to assign each part to its respective sphere and slot...In creation, there is separation toward order: light from darkness, waters above from waters below, day from night, woman from man. In sin and trespass there is a separation toward disorder: man and woman from God; man from woman; man from the soil; man from a garden.”²

In God’s creation, we see separation to order, and in sin, as a result of the fall, we see separation to disorder. **Romans 8:22-23** reflects this thought of disorder and disunity caused by sin, *“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our*

² (Hamilton, 1990)

body.” All of creation groans waiting for redemption from the effects of sin.

The reason for creation is God sovereignly brought creation into existence for the pleasure of the Son, and it was good, God created to bring glory and honor to His Son.

The Bible makes it so clear that we might unashamedly separate ourselves from every imaged theory that seeks to supplant the notion that God sovereignly brought creation into existence. The other theories are attempts to excuse rebellion against God.

Illustration: God’s Work

The story has been told of a museum guide who would take his tour group to a darkened room, shine a light on a mass of string, color, and apparent chaos and ask the group, “What do you think this is.” “I don’t know,” was the inevitable reply. He would then say, “Stand over there and watch.” As the group moved over to the other side of the room, he would turn on a spotlight.

It was instantly apparent that the mass of jumbled colored string seen just a moment earlier was in fact an enormous tapestry from the back side. The real work had to be seen from a different perspective to understand what the artist was creating.

So, it is with God and His ways. We often look at them and ask questions such as “Why?” and “How?” not because there is no purpose in what God is doing, but because we are on the wrong side of eternity to be able to have the

perspective that would enable us to see the order and pattern to God's work.³

Finally, through God's Creation, we can understand...

Question #7 WHEN DID GOD CREATE?

Genesis 1:5 “*And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*”

After the initial creation, God continued to complete His universe. Once God separated certain things, He then named them. God showed His superiority over both the light and the darkness by naming them “day” and “night.” One author pointed out the significance of naming:

“*The act of naming is an important feature in the creation account, indicating the existence (“being”) of the element named and also God’s authority over His creation. This divine prerogative of “naming” is extended to the first man, who names the animals and his companion “woman” (2:19, 23; 3:20).*”⁴

Please turn with me to Exodus 20

Generally, in scripture “Day” can refer to one of three things:

- (1) The light portion of a 24-hour period (1:5,14)

³ (Green, 1989)

⁴ (Matthews, 2001)

- (2) An extended period of time (2:4) – like the “Day of the Lord” referring to the 7-year Tribulation.
- (3) The 24-hour period which basically refers to a full rotation of the earth on its axis, called evening and morning.

Genesis 1:5 cannot mean an age, but only a day, reckoned by the Jews from sunset to sunset (vs. 8, 13, 19, 23, 31). One commentator wrote this in support of a 24-hour day here in Genesis 1:5:

*“There can be little doubt that here “day” has its basic sense of a 24-hour period. The mention of morning and evening, the enumeration of the days, and the divine rest on the seventh show that a week of divine activity is being described here.”*⁵

“Day” with numerical adjectives in Hebrew describing it always refers to a 24-hour period. Comparing the order of the week in Exodus 20:8–11 with the creation week confirms this understanding of the time element.

The Hebrew word for day in Genesis chapter one is *yom*. Outside of Genesis chapter 1, *yom* is used with a number 410 times.⁶ Every time it is used it is referring to a 24-hour literal day. Why then would Genesis Chapter 1 be any different?

Outside of Genesis 1, *yom* is used in association with “evening” or “morning” 23 times and every time it refers

⁵ (Wenham, 2002)

⁶ (Ham, 2023)

to a 24-hour literal day.⁷ Why would Genesis 1 be any different?

53 times outside of Genesis 1 *yom* is used in association with “night” and every time it is in reference to a 24-hour literal day.⁸ Why would Genesis 1 be any different?

So it becomes very clear to us that the meaning of *yom* “day” in Genesis Chapter 1 could only be in reference to a 24-hour literal day.

Now look with me at ***Exodus 20:8-11*** “*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*”

Focus on verse 11 again, “*For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*”

Remember in Hebrew if a day is modified by a numerical adjective it is always referring to a 24-hour day. So what does this tell us? It tells us that God “*made heaven and*

⁷ (Ham, 2023)

⁸ (Ham, 2023)

earth, the sea, and all that in them is” in six literal 24-hour days.

Genesis records that God created things as fully grown, which is why when people look back and examine geological, or cosmological phenomena, they appear much older than when they were created.

Think about this the animals would need to eat, Adam would need to eat, if God created all the fruit trees as seeds, and all the vegetables as seed, all the animals He just created along with Adam would die of starvation before they would have any food to eat.

So God created fruit trees with fruit on them already. He created vegetables loaded and ready to harvest and eat. God created all things fully mature, so they all had the appearance of age but were merely days old.

One more example of this, is in ***Genesis 1:14*** which says, “*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.*”

God made the stars to “*be signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.*” So when God made them their light was already visible to Adam when he was created, though they were just two days old when Adam first looked at them.

Is A Day Like a Thousand Years?

Please turn with me to II Peter 3:8

In **II Peter 3:8** we read “*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*” Many people will point to this verse and very sincerely say that the word “day” used in Genesis chapter 1 could possibly be 1,000 years. I have to admit that I have considered this possibility myself.

But when we look carefully at the verse, we notice a detail we may not initially catch, look at the verse again with me, “*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*”

The key word I want you to focus on is the word “as.” Notice it does not say “is” it says “as.” This verse is not telling us one day is 1,000 years it is telling us with God “*one day is with the Lord as a thousand years.*”

It is telling us that with God, one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day to Him. Because God is outside of time and God created time, so He does not age. There is no time as far as God is concerned.

We also have to look at the context this verse in II Peter is found in. The context is the second coming of Jesus Christ. Peter is saying that in the last days, and ever since Jesus stepped into history as the incarnate God-man we have been in the last days, scoffers will say Jesus is not coming back.

They will claim things just go on and on. But God, through Peter is saying that what we may think is a long time is not

to God as He is outside of time, and the reason He has not come back yet is because He “*is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (**II Peter 3:9**).

And one more point to make about this - If we were to go with this and say that one day is 1000 years because of what Peter said then he also says that 1000 years is as one day. This would mean that every time you read the word day, it means 1000 years. And every time you read about 1,000 years; it would mean a day.

This would make no sense. This will tell us that Jesus was supposed to be in the grave for 3000 years before He rose. And the millennial reign of Christ would then be one day. You see, it would just make no sense.

Now we have looked at those seven questions concerning the first five verses of Genesis chapter one and the first day of creation: now we are moving on to quickly go over the next five days of creation... so day one is done, now moving on to...

DAY TWO OF CREATION

Genesis 1:6-8 “*And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.*”

So What Was the “Firmament”?

To understand this passage, we also need to look at verse 20 which says, “*And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.*” Notice the birds fly in the “*open firmament*.”

Let’s now look at verses 15-17 “*And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth.*”

We see birds were to fly in the firmament and the sun, moon, and stars were in the firmament. So what is the Bible telling us with all this:

- (1) The “firmament” is outer space, where the sun, moon, and stars are.
- (2) The Bible also tells us in verse 7 that god “*divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament.*” The Bible is telling us there was either a water canopy over the earth, and then this was part of the water that flooded the earth, or that there is currently a water barrier at the outer edge of the universe.
- (3) The “firmament” is also very obviously the sky or the atmosphere that surrounds the earth because the birds fly in it.

So the firmament is the sky, it is what we see when we look up. It includes Earth's atmosphere but also includes what we call outer space as well.

Now in regard to point number two where I said there is possibly a water barrier at the edge of the universe, ***Psalm 148:3-4*** seems to support this, “*Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.*” Keep in mind this was written after the flood and it is referring to waters above the heavens.

Was Day Two Not Good?

Notice at the end of the second day God does not say that it was “good” like He does with the other five creation days. I believe this could be because He did not create anything totally new on day two.

He just separated what was already created. But regardless we know day two was good because of what God says in verse 31 “*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.*”

Now, When Were the Angels Created?

This is a good time to address this question. They are created beings, for Colossians tells us “*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him*” (***Colossians 1:16***) and

Exodus 20:11 tells us everything, and that would include angels, were created in six days.

So the angels were created and they were created sometime during the six days of creation. **Job 38:6-7** says, “*Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together; and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*”

This passage in Job lets us know the angels were created early in the creation week. Based on all this it would be a fair assumption to place their creation here on day two because day three could be the start of what was referred to in **Job 38:6** as “*the foundations thereof fastened*” and the cornerstone being laid.

Now let's move on to...

DAY THREE OF CREATION

Genesis 1:9-13 “*And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.*”

Now God is molding this earth into the habitation of man. So the water vapors under the firmament, that is, the fog and vapor that covered the earth under the skies are now condensed and gathered together into seas and the dry land appears.

Notice it says in verse 9, “*the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place.*” This seems to be telling us there was only one large continent at this time because if the waters were all in one place, the land would have to be all in one place too. And if you look at a globe you can kind of see how all the continents could have fit all together as one.

Notice verses 11-12 again, “*And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*”

One commentator offered these thoughts:

“*God does not say that He made some seeds and put them in the earth that they might some day grow into great trees. No, no. He made the herbs. He made the grass, made the fruit trees already “yielding fruit after his kind.”*”⁹

⁹ (Rice, 1975)

Think about this, we know that when we cut down a tree today it has rings. We know these rings are records of periods of rainfall and then rest. They can tell us how old the tree is. Did these first trees have rings? We don't know but it is something to think about. Perhaps they did since God made Adam with the appearance of age.

One more thing to consider about this day...

Day Three to Golgotha

Think about this, one of the kinds of trees God created on day three made copies of itself many times over, so there were trees of the same kind when Jesus came to earth. One of those descendants of that tree was used by Roman soldiers to make a cross on which the Son of Glory died.

It is on this day, on day three, that we know God was already thinking about our redemption. He was already thinking about sending His Son to die on the descendant of the tree He just made.

Already then God had such great love for us that He went ahead and made that tree knowing what it would eventually lead to, knowing that His Son would eventually be nailed to a descendent of that very tree.

The Bible tells us in ***Revelation 13:8*** “*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*” God knew that He would send His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sin of rebelling against Him.

He knew this before He made the world. Even knowing this, He still made the world, He still made that tree. He made that tree on day three of creation for you, He made it for me.

You cannot begin to fathom the love that God has for us! “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (**John 3:16**).

Now moving onto...

DAY FOUR OF CREATION

Genesis 1:14-19 “*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.*”

God already made light on the first day of creation, and we know the ultimate source of light is Jesus, He was that light and the source of that light. Here on day four, we see that God made “lights” (v.14). The Hebrew word for “lights” in this verse means “light givers.” God now made tangible sources of light for the light He already created.

The main purpose for light was given on day one – to divide the day and the night. Light also has many other functions including providing heat enabling plants to produce chemical energy through photosynthesis. The lights that have the greater significance are called the “great lights” (v.16). The greater of these is the sun and the lesser of these is the moon.

So on day four, God made the moon, the sun, and the stars. So He made outer space as we know it. He made the universe as we know it. He made all the other planets, galaxies, and everything else that is out there. Day four was a busy day.

Is There Life Out There?

I believe ***Genesis 1:14*** answers this question for us, look at it again with me and focus on the second half of that verse, “*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.*”

God created life on earth, that was the purpose. The earth was specially created by God, it is unique, and it is the focus of God’s attention.

Isaiah 45:18 “*For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.*” God only made the earth to be inhabited.

Now look at the second half of ***Genesis 1:14***, “*let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.*” God created the rest of the entire universe just to serve as signs, seasons, days, and years for man. He created it all to help man, to assist man. Not for life, but to assist man as He lives on the earth.

Really Old Light?

Scientists will tell you it takes billions of years for the light of these stars we see in the night sky to reach the earth, so therefore the earth has to be billions of years old. But the Bible clearly tells us that God created them on day four to be used “*for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.*”

Adam would have seen them on day six. Their light was visible on the earth from day four of creation until now, some 6,000 years later. God created the stars so they would be seen from the earth from day four onward, “*For with God nothing shall be impossible*” (***Luke 1:37***).

So now let's move to...

DAY FIVE OF CREATION

Genesis 1:20-23 “*And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed*

them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”

Now we have life on earth, specifically we have life in the waters, and life in the air. “*God created great whales*” – He did not create baby whales, He created great full-size grown whales, again He created all these things with the appearance of age built into them.

To answer the age-old question, “which came first the chicken or the egg” God’s answer is here, He made the chicken first, He made a full-grown chicken, then told it to be fruitful and multiply.

One more thing to point out before we move onto Day Six, notice the phrase in verse 20 “*that hath life*” this is from the Hebrew word *nephesh*. It is on day five that we have our first mention of life on earth. This is the same word used for the soul of man and the life of animals.

Plants do not have *nephesh*, which means in a biblical sense, plants are not considered alive or having real life. Plants were given to man and animals for food. Man and animals were vegetarian originally.

There was no *nephesh* death before sin. God did not tell man to eat animals until after the flood (*Genesis 9:3 - Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things*).

Now let's look at...

DAY SIX OF CREATION

Genesis 1:24-31 “And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air; and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air; and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

We will briefly look at day six tonight, but next month we will dig into day six more deeply. Also, in our next message on the Doctrine of Creation, we will look at the following in addition to day six:

- Where did Cain's wife come from?
- What about the Dinosaurs?
- Were there Dragons?
- And what about Evolution?

A Brief Overview of Day Six of Creation

Day six is the climax and the crowning day of God's creation. Now God makes living land creatures such as cattle, creeping things, beasts of the earth, and man. We affirm a literal interpretation of the Scriptures, holding firmly to the belief that the universe, Earth, and all life were created by God in six literal, 24-hour days.

On this sixth day, we witness the culmination of God's creative power and the establishment of humanity's unique place in creation.

The Creation of Land Animals (Genesis 1:24-25)

Verse 24 says, "*And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.*" On the sixth day, God filled the land with a diversity of creatures. Each was created according to its kind, showcasing God's infinite wisdom and creativity.

These animals were designed to inhabit the earth, each perfectly adapted to their environment, reflecting God's glory through their complexity and the harmony within the natural world.

Then We Have the Creation of Man (Genesis 1:26-27)

Verse 26 says, "*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*" Here, we encounter the crowning act of God's creation: humanity. Unlike the animals created earlier that day, humans were made in the very image of God Himself.

This divine imprint grants us unique value and sets us apart as stewards of creation. Being made in His image includes our moral, spiritual, and intellectual capacities, enabling us to relate to God in a way no other part of creation can.

The concept is called *imago Dei* (meaning the image of God). The *imago Dei* refers to the unique endowment of human beings with qualities that reflect God's own character. While the Scriptures do not exhaustively detail what it means to be made in the image of God, several aspects can be inferred:

- (1) Relationality: The Trinity is a perfect relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Being made in God's image, humans are inherently relational, created to live in harmony with God, each other, and creation.
- (2) Rationality and Morality: Humans are endowed with the ability to reason, to discern moral good and evil, and to make choices. This capacity for moral awareness and ethical reasoning reflects God's own moral nature.
- (3) Dominion and Stewardship: The mandate to have dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28) reflects

man's call to stewardship. This involves caring for creation in a way that honors God and using our abilities and resources responsibly and wisely.

(4) Creativity and Productivity: Man's capacity to create, innovate, and work mirrors God's creative power and workmanship.

(5) Spirituality: Unlike any other part of creation, humans have a spirit that enables them to worship and commune with God, seeking a relationship with their Creator.

Being made in the image of God (*imago Dei*) imbues human beings with dignity, value, and purpose. It establishes a foundation for human worth and ethics, calling humanity to live in a way that reflects God's character—marked by love, justice, wisdom, and creativity.

Finally, We See the Declaration of Goodness (Genesis 1:31)

"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." The sixth day concludes with God's declaration of the goodness of all He had made, with humanity as its culmination. This statement of "very good" reflects a world in perfect harmony, free from sin and death, a testament to God's glory and benevolence.

The sixth day of creation reminds us of our unique place in God's plan. Created in His image, we are called to live

in a relationship with Him and to steward His creation with care and wisdom.

Amid a world that often questions the authority of Scripture, let us stand firm in our faith, trusting in the literal truth of God's Word and the power of His creative work. Let us live in a manner worthy of the calling we have received, glorifying our Creator in all that we do.

CONCLUSION

Now having journeyed through the miraculous acts of creation as revealed in Genesis 1, our hearts are stirred, our minds awakened to the majesty of our God.

- We have seen the purposeful intention of the Creator,
- the precise timing of His creative acts,
- and the unfolding of His design across six literal days, affirming a young earth shaped by His Word.

Why did God create? - Not out of necessity, but out of an overflow of His love and glory. Each star, each wave, each creature speaks of a God who delights in sharing His goodness. He created a world teeming with life and beauty, a canvas that reveals His character, a creation that reflects His image.

When did God create? - In the beginning, marking the dawn of time as we know it, God spoke, and the universe leaped into existence. This young earth, fashioned by His command, stands as a testimony to His power, challenging

us to trust in the authority and accuracy of His Word over the shifting sands of human conjecture.

- From the separation of the waters on Day Two,
- to the calling forth of vegetation on Day Three,
- the establishment of celestial markers on Day Four,
- the filling of the seas and skies on Day Five,
- and finally, the creation of land animals and humankind on Day Six, we witness a God of order, creativity, and care.

Each step, each day, intricately woven together, leading to the pinnacle of His creation: mankind, created in His very image, entrusted with the stewardship of all He has made.

This narrative, this truth, is not merely historical; it is foundational to our faith and understanding of who we are in Christ. As those created in the image of God, called to reflect His glory, how are we responding to the charge given at creation?

- Are we good stewards of this earth, and a good caretaker of the life He has entrusted to us?
- Are we living as image-bearers of the Creator?
- Are we showcasing His love, His grace, and His truth to a world in darkness?

Let the reality of God's creative work fill you with awe and lead you to worship. Let the truth of His Word, proven

from the very beginning, anchor your faith in these turbulent times. And let the knowledge of your place in His creation empower you to live out your God-given purpose with courage and conviction.

Today, I challenge you: choose to believe in the God of Genesis, the Creator of heaven and earth. Embrace His truth, stand firm in His Word, and live as those made in His image, for His glory.

Let us not be swayed by the fleeting ideas of man but be grounded in the eternal truth of Scripture. For in the beginning, God... and that is all the assurance we need to live lives of faith, obedience, and worship, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*" (***Genesis 1:1***).

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