

2. They would determine “seasons.”
 - a. The “seasons” referred to have reference to the 7 Feasts of the Lord prescribed by Moses for the Hebrew people. Note these feasts are divided into Spring feasts and Fall feasts.
 - b. The “seasons” would be characterized by various weather phenomenon, including temperature and moisture variations. Think spring, summer, fall, winter. The heavenly bodies (particularly the sun) would determine seasons. The seasons would be evident both by calendar (Hebrew people used a Lunar based calendar) and observation—heat, cold, etc.
3. They would define “days.”
 - a. Heliocentrism—The rotational axis of the earth in relation to the sun defines 24 hour cycles.
 - b. Geocentrism—The sun revolves around the earth every 24 hours.
4. They mark “years”—the calendars are based upon cycles of the sun and moon.

Lesson 6

V. The Fifth Day (1:20-23)

- A. On the fifth day God created aquatic life and bird life. Thus, the creation of the second day (water separated from atmosphere) is filled with life.
 1. The idea of “bring forth abundantly” literally means “swarms of swarms” in the Hebrew language. God created immediate abundance of aquatic life and from there life multiplied biologically. In other words, the oceans were filled with life. Lakes, rivers, streams—all were filled with swarms of marine animals.
 2. God also created an abundance of birds to populate the entire heaven, the “firmament of heaven” (20). On day five, the earth was teeming with life, both in the water and in the air!
 3. God also created “great whales,” or “sea monsters,” the large and formidable mammals. Mammals differ from fish and other aquatic life in that they give birth to live young, among other characteristics. The leviathan mentioned in Scripture is part of the “great whale” class of animals created on day 5.
 4. Both aquatic life and bird life would reproduce “after their kind,” allowing for variation within species but not changing from one species to another.
 5. God’s Conclusion
 - a. “God saw that it was good” (21).
 - b. “God blessed them,” enabling their multiplication. The instinct to reproduce comes from God and the purpose is to “fill” God’s creation (22).
 - c. God intended that His entire creation be filled with life. Life is a sacred principle with God. Human life, of course, trumps all life in importance because man is uniquely made in the image of God.

- d. Fruchtenbaum makes the interesting note that “within the fifth and sixth days of creation, the phrase *living creature* appears a total of seven times” (p. 51). Seven is a unique number emphasizing completeness and perfection. It is the most used number in Scripture, appearing over 700 times.
- e. The Bible’s emphasis on the number 7 begins in Genesis with 6 days of creation and rest on the 7th. The seventh day became the day of rest for the Hebrew people, the Sabbath. Many see a correspondence between 7 and God’s program for the world: First 2,000 years are the age of the Patriarchs from Creation to Abraham. The second 2,000 years are the age of the Hebrew people, from Abraham to Christ’s first advent. The third 2,000 years comprise the church age. The final 1,000 years will be the millennial kingdom of Christ.

VI. The Sixth Day (1:24-31)

- A. The work of the 6th day completes the work of the third day, the separation of dry land from water. Having filled the water and atmosphere with life on the 5th day, God will now fill the land with life on the 6th—land animals and man.
- B. Creation of Land Animals (1:24-25)
 - 1. The words *Let the earth bring forth* indicate that God made land animals out of the ground. Genesis 2:19 confirms this. Man, too, was made of dirt.
 - 2. Three Categories of Land Animals:
 - a. Cattle—all domesticated animals including cows, bulls, sheep, goats, rams, etc.
 - b. Creeping things—Large and small animals without legs (or short legs) that appear to crawl on their bellies. This includes reptiles and amphibians.
 - c. Beasts of the earth—Wild animals that cannot be fully domesticated.
 - d. All of these categories were made to multiply after their “kind,” their particular species. Again, variation within species is expected and, indeed, has occurred many times.
- C. Creation of Man (1:26-31)
 - 1. Fruchtenbaum comments:

Higher animals and man were both created on the same day. This accounts for the fact that man, in his physical makeup, is very similar to the physical makeup of the higher animals as far as the basic internal organs are concerned. The differences lie in the spiritual nature of God-likeness and man’s conscious ability to know God not given to the higher animals. (p. 52-53).

- 2. The words “let us make” introduce a different form in the Hebrew language, indicating something very important is about to happen!
 - a. The plurality “us” opens the door to plurality in the Godhead (the Trinity) as does use of the plural *Elohim* for God.
 - b. The “us” could refer to the angelic host who were witnesses to creation and similarly created like man. Dr. Michael Heiser contends that God has