

completed until the Third day (when the waters would be separated from the dry land). Interestingly, the Third Day contains the words “It was good” two times!

The Days of Creation (Continued)

(Lesson 5)

- III. The Third Day (1:9-13)
 - A. On the third day, God separated the water on earth from dry land, and the ground appeared. The ground had been there, but it had been covered with water in the deluge of Genesis 1:2. The third day corrected the flood problem.
 - B. The waters were divided from the land and gathered “unto one place,” meaning that the waters were initially a continuous mass, as was the land. This, of course, took place *before* the continental divide.
 - 1. Modern science recognizes that the earth was comprised initially of one continent that later divided. They even have a name for it: Pangea.
 - 2. According to scientific theory, Pangea was surrounded by a single ocean names Panthalassa.
 - 3. While the scientific theory is correct in its description of the initial world, science requires 200 million+ years for the continents to drift apart. This is NOT a Biblical requirement. Interestingly, one verse of Scripture (Gen. 10:25) indicates that the “earth divided” in the days of Peleg. Likely the division of the continents was a divine act of God who sovereignly would place men in their own habitations after the Tower of Babel incident.
 - 4. Psalm 74:13, 104:6, 104:9; Prov. 8:29; Jer. 5:22 all speak of God’s dividing the water from the dry ground.

- C. God named the work of the third day of creation (1:10a).
 - 1. Dry land is properly referred to as “earth.”
 - 2. The waters are called “Seas,” plural because the water surrounded the singular continent in every direction. There could be a north sea, south sea, etc. and yet it was all one sea. The earth and seas are the final things named by God in the creation account.
 - 3. God declared the separation of earth from seas as “good.” Now that waters above are divided from waters below (day 2) and earth is divided from seas (day 3), God proclaims the work “good.” The work of day three completed the work of day 2.
- D. In addition to separating earth from seas, God caused the earth to bring forth vegetation (1:11).
 - 1. Fruchtenbaum says three categories of vegetation find mention: grass and grain; herbs and vegetables; and fruit trees (p. 48).
 - 2. 1:12 gives the result—“and the earth brought forth...”
 - a. Note: vegetation would reproduce “after his kind,” meaning seeds would produce like plants, fruit, and more like seeds.
 - b. Later man developed methods of grafting and ways to alter various characteristics of plants within their own kinds.
 - 3. God declared the vegetation “good, “ and thus concluded the third day.
- IV. The Fourth Day (1:14-19)
 - A. On the first day, God created light. On the fourth day He created “light bearers” to propagate and reflect the light initially created.
 - 1. Some hold that the sun, stars, moon, etc. were created on the first day but were obscured by fog.
 - 2. It is more in keeping with the text (“God made two great lights”—Vs. 15) to simply affirm that God completed the work of the first day (creation of light) on the fourth day (creation of light bearers).
 - B. On the first day, God divided light from darkness. The purpose of His creative work on the fourth day was that the “lights in the firmament” would divide night from day. In other words, mankind would recognize the sun would rule the day and the moon would rule the night.
 - C. The creation of heavenly light-bearers would accomplish several things:
 - 1. They would serve as “signs” (1:14)
 - a. Navigational signs—from earliest days the stars and their positions in the heavens were used as navigational guides.
 - b. Pictorial signs (Job 38:31-33)—The constellations were familiar with the ancients. Astrology perverted the original intention of the constellations. But “signs in the heavens” still serve as indicators.
 - c. Glorification signs (Psalm 19:1)—The “heavens declare the glory of God.” God is glorified in the majesty of the heavens. But, in addition, the heavens declare God’s glory in redemption! See *The Witness of the Stars* by E.W. Bullinger, available on Amazon.com.
 - d. Preservation of Israel signs (Jer. 31:35-36)—The presence of the heavenly lights assures us of Israel’s continued existence and perpetual preservation by God!

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.