

## Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:13

**“1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. 6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus 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. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. 9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day.”**

# **"The Earth & the Seas"**

**This morning we will consider the third day of creation...**

- **Here we find God making the dry land and seas and covering the earth with plant life.**

**When we come to the end of day three we have the earth fully formed with land and seas and plant life covering the face of the earth! This morning we will consider how the Bible looks at these events and again what they mean for us today! As we do, please remember that we are being told what happened by the one who was there:**

**The eternal personal God who brought forth all that we can know and see... This stands in stark contrast with the secular materialists of today who search endlessly for a way to explain the creation they must get up and live in EACH & EVERY day without having to deal with God... They go to such great lengths to do so, because if you bring God into the picture there is truly someone there they must be accountable to!**

- **These discussions and debates are much more about morals than they are about physics or biology!**

**You see neither side can go back and watch what happened: And despite all of man's attempts to find alternatives, we still have only one eye-witness account and we should take it seriously!**

**One of the things that I chuckled at as I have prepared these messages is how so many of the so-called Christian commentators who struggle with seeing this first chapter as real history focus on the events of the sixth day saying it would be “impossible” to have God and Adam doing all that is recorded.**

- **We will get to all of that, but I find it humorous that they pass over the events of days three and four which in my mind are much more astounding!**

**We will talk about all those heavenly bodies next week, but here on Day Three God brings forth the earth with dry land and seas and vegetation.**

- **Surely, a BIG day's work!**

**In fact, just by way of comparison, if you look at the most modern view of how the earth was made from the secular humanists, like the National Geographic videos that you can watch on line, they will tell you that our planet is about four-and-a-half billion years old!**

And according to their chronology, it took over four billion of those years to get the earth to where Genesis has it at the end of Day 3!

- They need four billion years to accomplish what God did in one amazing day!
- As we consider the Scriptures this morning, think of the contrasts: The world sees time & chance, death, chaos & destructive forces where we see a personal God creatively bringing forth the land & seas from water /w structure & life

[So you know, we will deal with the importance of seeing what is presented here in the first chapter as normal 24-hour days next week when God places the sun, moon and stars in the sky and more on the issue of evolution when we come to the creation of life on Day Five.]

- What I want to focus on this morning is the wonder of what God has done here in Day Three and how we should learn to view it as it is viewed throughout the Scriptures.
- It is here with the glory of the earth with its vast lands and mighty seas that we see the center of the truth which Paul tells us in Romans is suppressed in unrighteousness...

Romans 1:18 “18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools...”

This is not a new doctrine that Paul cooked up for the Gentiles there in Rome... It is a theme that is very plain to see in all of the Scriptures! We have been following Psalm 104 as a summary of God’s Creation and we will turn there first: “1 Bless Jehovah, O my soul! O Jehovah my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor & majesty,...

*The Psalmist uses the creation to show this honor & majesty beginning with days one & two of the creation*

2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. 3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, 4 Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

*Then we see much more detail about what was accomplished on day three...*

5 “You who laid the foundations of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever, 6 You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. 7 At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. 8 They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them. 9 You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, That they may not return to cover the earth. 10 He sends the springs into the valleys, They flow among the hills. 11 They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. 12 By them the birds of the heavens have their home; They sing among the branches. 13 He waters the hills from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. 14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, 15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man’s heart. 16 The trees of Jehovah are full of sap, The cedars of Lebanon which He planted, 17 Where the birds make their nests; The stork has her home in the fir trees. 18 The high hills are for the wild goats; The cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.”

The Psalmist explains many details along with the meaning and purpose of what God has done here on the third day and we see the same in the New Testament with the focus on Jesus...

**In chapter one of Hebrews we learn that God... “has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, ... [and after a comparison with the angels the writer continues in verse 10] “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.”**

**And we must remember that it is not just the hardened unbelievers who can forget the wonders that God has done. We all know the story of Job and how he was caught up in a cosmic battle between God and Satan, which he had no knowledge of at the time. In the midst of his trials, including the seemingly endless debates with his so-called friends, Job wants to better understand what God is doing and desires to talk with God about how He is working things out... [We ever do that?]**

**This brings a response from God, but not in the way Job expected: God comes to Job in a whirlwind and says, well if you want to counsel with me, let me first ask you a few questions: And they have NOTHING to do with Job’s situation, but rather God turns to the power of His creation to demonstrate what Job’s proper attitude & perspective should be...**

- **A lesson for us all in our modern secular world today!**

**When God confronts Job in chapters 38-42 it is a challenge to show his understanding of God’s creation if he would be God’s counselor... It begins with the events of Day Three:**

**Job 38: “1 Then Jehovah answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: 2 “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? 3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. 4 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 “Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; 9 When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; 10 When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; 11 When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!’”**

- **If we have eyes to see we know that we have great examples from history and recent events to confirm the truth of what God is telling Job...**

**The power of the seas was demonstrated during the world-wide flood of Noah’s day as God brought judgment on the earth because of man’s great sin. We have God’s promise that such an event will never take place again, but at times we are still reminded of the importance of having God set the limits for the sea... When a thirty-plus foot wall of water hit Japan in 2011 it washed away an estimated five million tons of debris into the Pacific Ocean!**

- **All this from a minor shift in the earth as the creation groans awaiting our redemption!**

**But, I am getting ahead of myself because we will consider the impact of man’s sin on the creation when we get to Chapter three of this Book of Beginnings.**

**What we want to see this morning is the power and majesty, the wonder and complexity of what our God accomplished on this third day.**

**Our family camp this year will focus on music and I have encouraged some of you to listen to some recent lectures by Ken Myers where he talks about the relationship of music to the order of God’s creation: We see this perhaps nowhere better than in Psalm 98, which is one of our favorite Psalms to sing here at Church of the King:**

**“1 A Psalm. Oh, sing to Jehovah a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. 2 Jehovah has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. 4 Shout joyfully to Jehovah, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. 5 Sing to Jehovah with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm, 6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before Jehovah, the King. 7 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it; 8 Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before Jehovah, 9 For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.”**

- **We must never grow tired of singing this Psalm, but always remembering all that it means.**

**Beautiful music is composed with rich melodies along with proper rhythm and harmony. Thus we have seas roar in this Psalm while rivers clap and hills are joyful. We as God’s people join with all of creation in singing the praises of our God and Savior and we do so out of proper fear of the judge of all the earth who is the Creator of all the earth.**

**There are almost a thousand references in the Bible to the earth and seas, so you could spend a life-time understanding the fullness and richness of the history given here in the Book of Beginning regarding the third day. And sadly, those who try to take away the real history of Genesis one to accommodate secular science are now the same ones who, in the end, lose the richness of how we are to relate to the earth and seas as taught in the rest of the Scriptures!**

**After forming the land and setting the seas in their place God says it is good. Our text then says that the earth brought forth plant life: Grass, or vegetation; seed bearing plants or grains; and fruit-bearing trees. Again, we are not reading a biology book, but nothing here violates true science: You have all the major types of plants, ornamental, grains and fruit-bearing trees producing after their kind, which is a thought to keep in mind when we come to the discussion of evolution in a couple of weeks. As we saw in our reading from the Psalms this is to remind us of God’s care for the animals and man!**

- **Even with all of our modern discoveries & advances, we must still honestly marvel at God’s work!**

**Jesus reminded us of this when he said: “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”**

- **The more we study God’s creation the more wondrous it becomes IF we do not allow the very discoveries that we make to cause us to be so proud that we cannot see or appreciate the Creator’s work!**

**I mentioned the National Geographic videos earlier where they try to explain this world by replacing God with time and chance and even with 4.5 billion years they still must make some incredible jumps, and one of the more astounding was actually with plants. At one point they just announce that primitive plants have appeared and then they are suddenly carrying on the amazing process of Photosynthesis:**

- **Somehow they just figured out how to convert water and carbon dioxide into simple sugars & oxygen.**

**You can go on line and read thousands of pages of explanations about how this essential process might have evolved over billions of years, BUT these proud men do so not yet fully understanding how it even works.**

- **And it is very telling that no one has managed to replicate what every green leaf on this planet is able to do every day!**
- **BUT, they say we should believe it happened with just time & chance.**

**I have no doubt that we will at some point learn to replicate this important process and the question is whether we will give glory to God as we learn to use one of His amazing processes or will we arrogantly declare that again, we no longer need God because we understand where oxygen came from?**

*[tell the Redwood story]*

- **This is the type of foolishness that Paul condemns in Romans one.**

**After the great prayer we will, as we do each week, join in praying the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray which says in part, “give us this day our daily bread.”**

- **I trust we can learn from this message today that this portion of the Lord’s prayer means much more than just hoping God keeps the grocery shelves full so mom can buy all the food that we need.**

**It should be a reminder that the one who brought forth the green plants, the seed bearing plants and the fruit-bearing trees is the one who sustains His Creation still today.**

**The foundations of the earth are secure, the oceans stay in their domain and the plants of the earth continue to provide the carbohydrates and oxygen that is needed for all of life on the earth!**

**Again, this is why Paul reminds us that through Jesus, “all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist [or hold together or have their being].”**

**Perhaps this is why not once, but twice on this third day of creation, God declared it is good: Following the formation of the dry land and seas and again after bringing forth plant life:**

**May we learn to proclaim this as we get up and see God’s creation all around us each and every day and partake of the bounty He has provided for us to eat!**

**Remembering, as we shall shortly sing that God moves in mysterious ways!**

**Yes, ways that can be discovered by those who are made in His image, but ways none-the-less that should cause us to join with His creation in singing His praises as our Creator & Savior!**

**Communion Meditation: *Isaiah 25:6-9***

*Thinking of mount Zion...*

**“6 And in this mountain Jehovah of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees.**

**7 And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.**

**8 He will swallow up death forever,**

**And Jehovah God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for Jehovah has spoken. 9 And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us.**

**This is Jehovah; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”**