

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:21

“24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.”

"God Brings Forth the Animals"

It is good to be back in the pulpit here at Church of the King! I bring Christian greetings from all the Saints at Reformation Covenant Church in Oregon City: I was privileged to be in their pulpit last Lord's Day where my message was warmly received.

- We are in the midst of the series on the Book of Beginnings, Genesis, and today we begin to consider the Sixth Day of Creation.

I want to begin by reminding us that we truly know what happened on the Sixth Day of Creation because the Triune God who has always existed has revealed it to us in the Bible.

- As with the other days, what is revealed is simple & yet very profound!
- Something we can teach to our children with ease and something that theologians have studied for thousands of years without exhausting the truths revealed!

Sadly, for the past few hundred years many in the Church have tried to accommodate secular humanists who insist that the world is billions of years old by compromising the history of creation given here in Genesis.

- This has led to the destruction of the faith of many.

You see, if God is NOT telling us true history here at the beginning, why should we trust that He is giving us true history when it comes to the great flood, or the call of Abraham, the exodus from Egypt, the reign of King David or even the life of Jesus? The Apostle Paul, writing to the troubled Church at Corinth tells us that our very salvation depends on the authenticity of the resurrection account:

I Corinthians 15: “12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!”

- Those who fail to see the Creation account as true history, are far too often also persuaded that they must deny the history of the resurrection because that is a miraculous event that humanists will insist that 'science' cannot confirm as well.
- The same Bible which tells us about the resurrection of Jesus, also declares the glories of what He created and how He did so!

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we come in faith knowing that God has always existed and that He created all that we can know or see out of nothing by the power of His Word.

How do we know this? How can we be sure that the Bible is true?

- Because God has chosen to reveal Himself in history and in the Bible.
- This is how we have approached the Six Days of Creation and it is how we will approach the rest of the Book of Beginnings.

I have spent only one sermon on each of the first five days, because many of the truths that could have been expanded upon will come up again as we move on in the Book of Genesis. However, I will need to spend a few weeks on this sixth day even though the entire 2nd Chapter of Genesis will be an expansion of what is taught here. I am going to focus this week on the creation of the animals:

- The cattle, the beasts and the creeping things!

As we do so I am going to look at some of the structure that we see in this first chapter, talk a bit about the animals themselves and as we have committed ourselves in this series, we will consider how we are to see Jesus in these events and the application for our lives today.

- Yes, we are going to consider how we see Jesus in the animals!

There has been much written about the structure of the Creation account that we find here at the beginning of the Book of Beginnings... There is much that can be helpful and some that has been destructive, like making it simply a clever poem or finding gaps where none are needed.

I have included some notes in the order of worship that will help us see some of this and Lord willing, lead to some further discussions and study.

First, we must remember that the Scriptures focus on seven days:

- Six days of work & one of rest.
- Thus this must be our primary focus as well!

With that in mind we can also look at how God created the heavens, the seas and the dry lands and then filled them with heavenly bodies, sea creatures and land animals. This looks at the process of forming and filling that God seems to have followed.

I could have included many more with Chiastic structures that focus on the rulers placed in the sky on Day Four in relation to man and others. But we can also look at the three creative acts of God found in verses one, twenty-one & twenty seven.

I mention in my footnote how these three actions by God, the creation of matter, life and man, provide the answers that man cannot find in his humanist worldview, something we considered at length in my last sermon. As we look at the creation account in this way, we notice that after each creative act we then see God expanding what He has done with the material, energy or life He has called into being.

- In verse one God creates all time, matter & energy!
 - Then on Day one He brings forth light.
 - On Day Two He brings forth the vastness of space.
 - On Day Three He forms the seas, the dry land & brings forth plants.
 - On Day Four He sets the sun, moon and stars in the heavens
- In verse twenty-three God creates again and brings forth living beings.
 - On Day Five He brings forth the sea creatures and birds
 - On Day six He brings forth all of the land creatures
- In verse twenty-seven God creates man in His image, using the word for create three times so we don't miss the point!

Most of Chapter Two is then a further explanation of this great work of creating man in His image, as male and female to rule the earth.

So I would argue that what we have here in verses 24 and 25 is an extension of the work that began in Day Five, just as the work of days two, three and four carried on the work of day one.

On Day five God created living things in the seas and skies and now on Day Six He brings forth the land animals. In verse 24 we read: "Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; & it was so."

God's second great creative act is to bring forth life: The living creatures.

As we saw on Day Five they are to reproduce after their kind, something that is mentioned seven times so we don't miss it: Perhaps God knew the struggles we would have with evolution in our time. We are told about three classes of living creatures on land: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth.

These classes of animals are mentioned again in verse 25: "And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."

When you think about it, this matches the world we observe around us: You have domestic animals, wild animals and all the creepy crawlies. I don't want to get ahead of myself, but we should note that our modern divisions of carnivores and herbivores does not fit here. When we get to verses 29 and 30 we will see that God has provided the plants of the earth as food for all the living creatures on the land and seas.

➤ So let us talk a bit about these creatures that God created.

Each group of animals has a role to play in the life of man and is mentioned quite extensively in the Scriptures. After the fall of man we know that the whole creation was impacted and so after the flood we do see carnivores as well as herbivores.

➤ Throughout the Scriptures we see animals used to instruct us & they can be both blessings or curses.

The domestic animals are now one of God's means of providing for our daily needs and blessings: Like bacon! When God is blessing a people their flocks multiply and when they come under judgment they are destroyed.

The creeping creatures seem to be much more about judgment when we think of serpents and locusts... But you also have the instruction we get from the ants and bees.

While the wild beasts are still grand creatures that we should appreciate, they have under the curse become a burden for man like the weeds in the fields. This will not always be so, as we shall see in a moment, but for the present time we must remember that having grizzly bears or wolves roaming our land is not a good thing.

When God brought the Hebrews into the Promised Land He told Moses: Deuteronomy 7: "22 And Jehovah your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you."

God also warned His people that if they were not faithful they would come under many harsh judgments which included the use of the wild beasts: Leviticus 17:22 "I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate."

The beasts are also used in many ways to instruct us in the Scriptures:

➤ There are almost a hundred references just to lions!

And I guess no discussion of the beasts of the earth would be complete without mentioning those dinosaurs. Once again our humanistic evolutionary friends will think they have really boxed us in when they hear me claim that the dinosaurs were created with all the other land animals here on Day Six just a few thousand years ago! They will be sure that they now have a very solid case to show the Scriptures being at odds with true science...

- Because EVERYONE knows there are dinosaur fossils all over the earth that are millions of years old and that they became extinct about 70 million years ago.

We dealt with the age of the earth at length in my last sermon, but let me give our skeptics something else to think about: We know from the study of ancient civilizations & their literature that they had many myths about dragons and giant beasts...

- Or were they just myths?

We have all heard the dragon stories and seen such pictures. There are also many drawings of a creature that looks just like the brontosaurus family of dinosaurs with a huge body and long neck. These are common throughout the world, so here is my question for our modern skeptics:

IF these creatures became extinct 70 million years ago and we only reconstructed them from fossils in the 1800's: Then how did these other people know what they looked like? Why are the pictures and stories SO similar?

- THAT is a big problem for them, but not for those of us who read the Scriptures honestly.

If the dinosaurs were created on the same Day as man & were included among the animals taken on the ark then all men would have known what they looked like. So down through the years we have stories and pictures of fire-breathing dragons and huge creatures that look like a brontosaurus.

- Many of these accounts may have been exaggerated or embellished, but they are still similar.
- Also, we would then expect to see the same types of creatures in the Bible, and in fact we do!

I have encouraged you as we move through the creation account to study the final chapters of Job where God puts Job in his place by asking a series of difficult questions about the creation. Chapter 38 focuses on the wonders of the earth and heavens and in chapter 39 God talks about many of the creatures He created, how he cares for and enjoys them. The climax comes in chapters 40 & 41 where God calls Job's attention to two grand beasts. Two beasts that had not died out millions of years earlier...

- But beasts that Job knew of from first-hand experience.

Listen carefully as I read portions of these two chapters and in doing so I would also commend them to your further study:

Job 40:15 "Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; "He eats grass like an ox. 16 See now, his strength is in his hips, And his power is in his stomach muscles. 17 He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. 18 His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron. 19 He is the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword."

- God goes on to describe this beast that certainly sounds like the brontosaurus that was drawn and sketched throughout the world long before its fossils were discovered.
- It is certainly NOT a hippopotamus or elephant as the footnote in the NIV Bibles would suggest!

Now can anyone guess which creature God then focuses on in chapter 41?

Yes, a dragon like creature and one that God expected Job to be familiar with, else His questions make no sense.

**Job 41: "1 "Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, Or snare his tongue with a line which you lower?
2 Can you put a reed through his nose, Or pierce his jaw with a hook? 3 Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you? 4 Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever? 5 Will you play with him as with a bird, Or will you leash him for your maidens? 6 Will your companions make a banquet of him? ...**

- **God's point of this discussion is to humble Job, and all of us so He continues ...**

10 "No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me? 11 Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine."

- **God then goes on to describe the majesty and power of Leviathan...**

12 "I will not conceal his limbs, His mighty power, or his graceful proportions. 13 Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach him with a double bridle? 14 Who can open the doors of his face, With his terrible teeth all around? 15 His rows of scales are his pride, Shut up tightly as with a seal; ...

18 His sneezings flash forth light, And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. 19 Out of his mouth go burning lights; Sparks of fire shoot out. 20 Smoke goes out of his nostrils, As from a boiling pot and burning rushes. 21 His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes out of his mouth...

25 When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; Because of his crashings they are beside themselves.

26 Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; Nor does spear, dart, or javelin. 27 He regards iron as straw, And bronze as rotten wood. ...

31 He makes the deep boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a pot of ointment. 32 He leaves a shining wake behind him; One would think the deep had white hair. 33 On earth there is nothing like him, Which is made without fear. 34 He beholds every high thing; He is king over all the children of pride."

- **Once again the NIV does great violence to the text by suggesting that it might possibly be a crocodile!**

Here we have the most extensive description of any creature God created other than man, which I read only in part!

- **Perhaps there is good reason for all those dragon accounts to be a part of human history!**
- **According to the Bible Leviathan and Behemoth were contemporaries of Job after the flood!**

We will discuss all this in more detail when we come to the flood...

- **But I hope that for today you can see that our Great Creator should be trusted more than the wisdom of men!**

So what does all of this have to do with Jesus and our Christian walk today? First, we know that Jesus created all these animals and we as we reread all those Chapters in Job, we should do so remembering it is Jesus as the 2nd Person of the Eternal Trinity who is speaking with Job describing the vast diversity and power of the creatures He created! Many of the animals that Jesus created are often used in the Old Testament for man's instruction as we have seen this morning in the Book of Job and will find in other places, especially in the Book of Proverbs.

- **We will see in the coming weeks how the naming of the animals was also part of man's instruction before the fall.**

Jesus in His earthly ministry continues to use animals for our instruction, like the account of the lost sheep or the picture of Satan as a wolf. We see the control that Jesus has over the animals as He commands fish to go into Peter's nets on at least two different occasions.

- **We see animals serving Jesus as He rides into Jerusalem to be THE sacrifice for sin on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**
- **And of course we have the grand picture of Jesus riding forth on horses in the Book of Revelation.**

But finally, we need to remember that the work of Jesus in creating a new Heavens and a new Earth includes not only glorified bodies for all His Saints, but a full restoration of the creation as well, including the animals!

Paul talks of this in Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body."

Paul describes our spiritual bodies at length in I Corinthians 15, but the Bible also gives us clues as to what all of this means for the other living creatures as well:

- **The deliverance of the creation from the bondage of corruption caused by man's sin.**

The coming of Jesus as the Savior of His people is seen throughout the book of Isaiah and it is interesting that animals are mentioned near the beginning in chapter eleven and again at the end in chapter 65:

Isaiah 11: "1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah. 3 His delight is in the fear of Jehovah, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. 6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

As we learned in the Book of Acts, the Spirit of God is going to fill the earth with the Kingdom of Jesus and we see this pictured by the prophet at the end of his work and once again the restoration of all things includes the animals that God has created:

Isaiah 65: "17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying. 20 "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of Jehovah, And their offspring with them. 24 "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says Jehovah."

- **There are many who hope and wish for a day when the lion and the lamb lie down together...**
- **But we as Disciples of Jesus know it can only be accomplished by the work of Jesus removing the curse of sin as His Kingdom fills the earth!**
- **This is why we should rejoice to be the beautiful feet who confidently bring the Good News to a needy world!**

Communion Meditation: Genesis 3

"17 Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': 'Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, And to dust you shall return.'" 20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

21 Also for Adam and his wife Jehovah God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. 22 Then Jehovah God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'-- 23 therefore Jehovah God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken."