

THE DAYS OF CREATION | GENESIS 1:3-2:3 | Pastor Mark Bofill | 3/19/2023

I. God Forms (1:3-13) | II. God Fills (1:14-31) | III. God Finishes (2:1-3)

INTRO: The surrounding visible world is something we are constantly aware of. We must never lose sight of the fact that the universe itself testifies *to the reality of God*, to *His existence*, to *His power*. It all started with God in the Beginning of Creation. In this teaching, we will now examine **THE DAYS OF CREATION (Genesis 1:3-2:3)** – As we review the **six days of creation**, I want to point out a five-fold pattern that I see with each day's activity, which includes:

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** *"Then God said..."* (vv. 3, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29)
2. **COMMANDMENT:** *"Let the" or "there be..."* (vv. 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24)
3. **DIVISION:** e.g., *"Day/Night and Water/Land"* (vv. 4, 6, 10, 14, 20, 24-27)
4. **REPORT:** *"And it was so..."* (vv. 7, 9, 11, 15, 24, 30) **Also:** *"So, the evening and morning were."*
5. **EVALUATION:** *"And it was good"* (vv. 4, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

I. GOD FORMS (1:3-13): Days 1-3

A. Day 1: The Creation of LIGHT (1:3-5) – The Dark World was immediately illuminated when God said, *"Let there be light."* – The idea of light existing first in God's mind was **"given form" by His words (3)**. – A literal translation would be a command, something like *"Light, exist!"* – God spoke into the void and **commanded light** to come into being!

1. God Assessed that Light was Good (4). He then divided the two, distinguishing **LIGHT** from **DARKNESS**.

- The light was natural, physical light. Its creation was an immediate triumph because **it dispelled darkness**.
- **Light is a Form of Energy** and may be produced in many different ways, not just by the **Sun** or the **Stars**
- **Visible Light**, i.e., the kind we use to see the outside world, serves much broader purposes than just enabling vision.

2. God named them DAY and NIGHT (5) As God formed Light, He gave it a name... "DAY" {Heb. Yom}, which distinguishes two things here: 1) It's **opposition to darkness**, and 2) a **division or measurement of time**, as determined by the phrase *"evening and morning."*

- Light is Essentially different from darkness. – Spiritually and Symbolically, Light portrays that which is good and brings life.
- The **physical light** that God created on the first day of creation **serves as a beautiful illustration** of what He does in each heart that trusts in **Jesus, the True Light**. – *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (John 1:4-5)*
- I want to point out that **Separating** and **Naming** are acts of dominion. God did this and it served as a pattern for Adam to follow (2:19-20).

B. Day 2: The Creation of the FIRMAMENT (1:6-8) – On this day God separated the **atmospheric waters** from the **earthly waters** and established an **arching expanse** called the **Firmament** {*Heb. “Raqiya”*}, which can mean **atmosphere** or **the sky** as we know it. – The word appears 9x’s throughout the first chapter of Genesis (vv.6-8,14-18 20) and 8x’s throughout the Old Testament (in Psalms, Ezekiel and Daniel).

- **Canopy Theory** – As mysterious as this may sound and **hard to prove since it no longer exists**, scripture suggests that a **Vapor Canopy** of some sort existed above the earth **prior to the Great Flood of Noah’s day**; often referred to as the **“Canopy Theory.”**
- This suggests that a dense moisture enshrouding the earth, which produced a sort of **greenhouse effect. (Gen 2:6)**, tells us of the conditions: *“...but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.”*
- All the earth was tropical and there were no negative effects of solar rays (*damaging cosmic radiation*). As a result, people lived longer.
- Opponents, however, contest the existence of even the efficacy of such a canopy in achieving such outcomes. – **(2 Pet 3:5)** *For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water...*
- **And it was so (7-8)**: This is the start of life on Earth, immediately produced by God rather than progressively growing over millions of years.

C. Day 3: The Creation of DRY LAND (1:9-13) – Wow, on this third day of creating God again commands by **dividing the underwater mass to form DRY LAND (9-10)**. It cataclysmically surfaced by His Word and the existing waters divided so as **to gather together to a predetermined locality**; so that the land would remain dry! (cf. Psalm 104:4-9)

1. Many pagans believed in **“deities of the deep”** as forces to be reckoned with...but this account shows that **God controls the boundaries of ‘the Seas’ (Job 38:8-11)** *“...who shut in the sea with its doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb; ⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness it's swaddling band; ¹⁰When I fixed my limit for it, and set bars and doors; ¹¹when I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud ways must stop!’*
2. **Plant Life and Vegetation was also formed on the third day (11-12)**. Vegetation is part of the ordered universe by God's design. There is **no cyclical season or myth to explain it**. God started it once and for all! – What’s fascinating is that God formed it into existence in a mature state (*not seeds*). – Secondly, these were brought forth BEFORE the Sun was Created! As a result, the light that God created before the sun and moon must have provided the plants with enough nutrition **(1:3)**.
3. **And God saw that it was Good! (12-13)**, which completed the third day.

CLOSING THOUGHT: *God is the greatest mathematician! Beginning with ZERO, He CREATES, then He DIVIDES, resulting in MULTIPLICATION!*

II. GOD FILLS (1:14-31): Days 4-6 The parallel between God's work on the first three days and the second three days becomes ever so clear. On day 1, *light was created*, then on day 4 the *heavenly lights*; On day 2, the *sky and oceans were created*, then on day 5, *birds and fish* came into existence to dwell within. On day 3, *dry land and plants appeared*, then on day 6, *animals and mankind were created* to dwell on the earth. *God formed an atmosphere so that He could fill it with light and life! (God cares about every detail!)*

A. Day 4: The Creation of the SUN, MOON and STARS (1:14-19) – God filled the dark void of space with stars (*Suns and Planets*), referred to as “*Lights.*” He created our Sun to govern the day and the Moon and the Stars to rule the night.

1. The incredible size of the sun... according to scientists, the Sun's diameter is **864,938 miles (1,391,980 km)**. This is almost 10 times larger than the planet Jupiter and about 109 times as big as the earth. The volume of the sun is 1,299,400 times bigger than the volume of the Earth; about 1,300,000 Earths could fit inside the Sun.

2. The great importance of the moon... If we didn't have a moon, the global altitude of the ocean would be different. If you take away the moon, suddenly a lot of water would be redistributed towards the polar regions. Earth would spin much faster because the moon's gravity pulls on earth's oceans. – With no moon there would be no reflection of the sun at night, leaving the backside of the earth in utter darkness. (**Psalm 104:19**)

3. The incredible number of stars... According to astronomers [*who offer estimations on issues of this nature*] if you multiply the number of stars in our Galaxy by the number of galaxies in the universe, **you get approximately 10^{24} stars**. That's a number 1 followed by 24 zeros. Which is a septillion stars.

4. These heavenly bodies were formed (v.14) – They serve as *signs for seasons and days and years*. These terms, as well as *day and night* from (v.5), are meaningless without the existence of the sun and the rotation of the planets. **Yet God miraculously suspends them all...by His Mercy!** (cf. Ps 136:4-9)

5. In astrology, unbelievers use stars and planets for guidance. But the Bible says that they merely display the handiwork of God (cf. Psalm 19:1-6)

- What foolishness to follow astrological charts of the Babylonians or worship the god of the Sun, as ancient Egypt did. *Humankind should trust the Creator who made these objects in the heavens. Yet so many repeatedly reject the Creator and bow down to the Creation instead.* (Cf. Rom 1:20-25)

4. And God saw that it was Good! (18-19), which completed the fourth day.

B. Day 5: The Creation of BIRDS and SEA CREATURES (1:20-23) – On this day, God spoke into existence the vast number of birds and sea creatures... **At God's Word**, they were also **commanded to flourish and abound throughout the whole earth.**

1. Not only were these creatures **numerous**, but they also included **various sizes and sorts**, which would have included large birds and underwater creatures. **To name a few:**

- **(Job 40:15-24)** describes **The Behemoth**, a huge plant eating creature with a tail the size of a tree! (*Not a hippo, as some suggest*)
- In **(Job 41:1-9; Ps 74: 13-14, 104:26, Isa 27:1)** we read of **the Leviathan**, an incredibly intimidating beast which could not be tamed.

C. Day 6: The Creation of Land Animals and Mankind (1:24-31) – The creation account **reaches its climax on this day**. Note how much fuller the description of God's work on this day is, than any of the preceding days.

1. The number and significance of land animals (24-25) – Land animals were created prior to mankind, which consisted of all cattle, creepy things and beasts. *As God spoke it, and it was so!* This includes what we consider **dinosaurs**.

- As dinosaurs were land animals, which cohabited the earth alongside Adam/Eve.
- The Bible makes it quite clear that there was no animal or human death prior to Adam's transgression. (**Gen 2:17, Rom 5:12, 8:20–22, Acts 3:21, Heb9:22, 1 Cor 15, Rev 21:1-4; 22:3**). This means NO animal fossils (*dinosaur bones*) existed before sin.
- All living things **relied on vegetation** as their food source! (**cf. 29-30**)

2. Mankind is the pinnacle of creation! (26-28) – Thus far, the Genesis record has detailed the handiwork of the all-knowing, all-powerful, sovereign God. But now we see God's crowning creative act — **The formation of human life!**

- In **(v.26)** The wording changes from the impersonal *“let there be”* to the deliberate and intimate expression, *“Let Us MAKE man in Our image...”* **{Heb. “Asah”}**.
- In **(v.27)** we read, *“So God CREATED man”* **{Heb. “Bara”}**. Thirdly, **(Gen 2:27)** states, *“And the Lord FORMED man.”* **{Heb. “Yatzar”}**. – This seems confusing, but...
- **In just three verses we are provided the Origin, Gender and Purpose of mankind!**
 - **God Made Us (26): In His Image.** The essence of God is mysteriously plural. He created mankind singularly, in an **“expression of His plurality”** (*i.e. Body, Soul, Spirit*). From these three, many God-like attributes are uniquely expressed (*e.g., Reason, Intellect, Will and Emotion*. We also have a Moral nature and a Creative nature, etc.) – In **(Rom 8:29a)**, Paul tells us that God *“...predestined [us] to be conformed to the image of his Son.”*

- **God Formed Us (27):** As Man and Woman (*Male and Female*), not she-male or he-she. **Not non-binary!** The image of God imparted to humanity was equally implanted in both sexes. Yet, physically diverse to in order to multiply!
- **God Gave Us Purpose (28):** *Dominion over all creation* was ordained by God. **King David** marveled at the Responsibilities and Rulership given to mankind on earth (cf. **Psalm 8:3-9**) *“What is man that you are mindful of him...?”*
- **These verses confirm that we did not evolve from other lower forms of life.** We were created by God to represent Him on the earth and have dominion over every other creation in His name.

3. God Sustains Life with Food (29-31) God created **3 different food sources:** Plants which yield Vegetation, Fruit Trees, and Greens Plants, which “leaves” provide relevant nutrients for man and animal. (**Psalm 104:14-18**) *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...*

- Animals, including dinosaurs, lived in perfect peace with Adam and Eve in perfect planet, consuming only vegetables!
- After man was created, **God assesses all of His creation** and for the **7th time**, God saw and declared His repeated phrase... but this time He adds an adverb to communicate His pleasure: *“...and indeed it was very good” (1:31)*

CLOSING THOUGHT: We see here that **God both Forms and Fills the earth** in the way that He designed. *Oh Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth (Psalm 8:9)* – He can also Form and Fill our lives today if we fully surrender to him!

III. GOD FINISHES (Gen. 2:1-3) Day 7 – God’s Blessed Rest!

- 1. He Finished (2:1)** – The completion of His perfect plan was confirmed 4x’s in these three verses. Such confirmation makes clear that no additional creation was needed. **God always completes what He desires to accomplish** (e.g., *Moses/Tabernacle; Jesus/Cross*)
- 2. He Rested (2:2)** – God’s rest is not the ceasing of all activity due to weariness, but rest from the activity of creating. – In (**John 5:17b**) Jesus tells us that **God is always working** *“...My father has been working until now, and I have been working.”*
- 3. He Blessed (2:3)** – On the 7th day, **God blessed all that He had made**. God also *sanctified* it (*made it holy*) because it commemorated the completion or cessation of His creative work for mankind’s habitation. All creation was made so that Mankind can Commune with God!

These are the DAYS OF CREATION – God Forms, God Fills, and God Finished His Work!