

# APOLOGETICS 11 – DEFENDING CREATION – PART 3

## GENESIS 1:9-13 – LAND, VEGETATION, AND KINDS

### **INTRODUCTION**

Apologetics - ἀπολογία apologia

The definition of Christian Apologetics is “the information that enables a believer to provide a defense for why a doctrine is believed.”

1 Peter 3:15 – But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

So far, we have discussed the true age of the Earth. We have demonstrated that the biblical chronology has the age of the Earth at less than 10,000 years. We have refuted popular theories within Christendom that capitulate to naturalistic atheists regarding the age of the Earth and universe, namely the Gap and Day-Age Theory. Also, we have looked at Day One and Day Two of creation from an apologetic and scientific perspective.

### **GENESIS 1:9-13**

Let the dry land appear. Day three begins with the appearance of land and the gathering of the waters into one place.

After God restrained the water, He said, “Let the dry land appear.” Does this mean that God moved the water and there was land? No. 2 Peter 3:5 – (ek) water and (dia) water. Psalm 24:1-2, 136:6

The word for *spread out* in Psalm 136:6 is “רָקַע rāqā’ (raw-kaw’),” which means to stamp out and flatten. He creates land and then stretches it out over the waters. The earth at its surface now is mostly water. The way that this is stated indicates that the earth was mostly land with gathered waters on the surface and most of the water under the surface of the land.

For several years, scientists have known that there is a massive amount of water under the earth, below the springs, below the water drill line. One headline states that there are oceans of water inside the earth. When the flood occurred, great fountains of the deep sprung forth, but it appears that not all the water was released. There are still some great amounts of water under the earth.

So, God stretched out the land over the waters and set specific places for the water. There was no rain (Genesis 2:4-6). There was a river flowing out of Eden that separated into four rivers (Genesis 2:10-14).

I think we can state with reasonable confidence that when God made land, He made the elements: metals, stones, and minerals. One of the most difficult hurdles that evolutionists have to jump over is often avoided – the fact that we have an abundance of elements in our physical universe.

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Evolution promotes the idea that the universe started as hydrogen and helium. However, through radiation and various pressures, one can only manipulate the elements up to a certain point. It is impossible to move past iron on the periodic table; trying to bond anything past iron creates decay.

All the scientists agree that gold is not native to our planet; it came from somewhere else in the universe. There is a problem with this theory. If gold came to this earth while in a molten state (scientists' speculation), it would have sunk to the Earth's core. But they admit that "precious metals are tens to thousands of times more abundant in Earth's silicate mantle than anticipated."

In verse 11, God makes plants. He says let it sprout. *Sprout* is a word that means become green. Then, God describes all the kinds of plants.

When God first created the land, it was made of rock, metal, and soil. It looked very earthy. The earth's predominant green look comes after God calls forth plants.

The plants provided food for the coming animal life and man.

- *Vegetation* is grasses.
- *Plants* can refer to herbs or food plants (crops).
- *Fruit* is a food source.

Evolution states that all plants, bugs, animals, and humans are related. Environmentalists propagate the false theory that we are no better than animals, and, in many cases, no better than plants. Are plants alive? Is eating a piece of fruit, a crop, or a seed killing a plant? We often refer to plants in this way, but we must recognize the difference between man, animal, and plant life. Seeds are designed to self-propagate and replenish supply. If there is a similitude between animal life and plant life, then God ordains death.

There is a God-given responsibility to care for and keep creation. We are not subject to creation, but we are to care for and protect it.

However, the life of a plant, tree, cow, or dog is not as valuable as human life. Once again, this is not a call for abuse, but we must recognize that not all life on earth is equal. Plants and animals are for mankind to enjoy, rule, and care for.

So, did God create life on day three? Before we answer that, we must define "life" biblically. The first time we see the word *life* ("חַיִּים" *hay*" or "חַיֵּי" *chayyāh*" or "חַיָּה" *chāyāh*" or "חַיִּים" *chayyîm*") is in verse 20 (Read 1:20-26).

- Life is commanded to appear in the waters, in the sky, and on the earth.
- Plants are already on land (and probably in the seas).
- God does not command the plants to be fruitful and multiply.
- In Genesis 1:26, God does not say man has dominion over plants.

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- In Genesis 2:15, man cultivates and keeps the garden.
- Life cannot be defined by similarities but by its biblical differences.

*After its kind* – *according to its kind* - is the preposition “לֵּאֵלֶיךָ,” which is the same as the Greek “kata,” meaning here “in accordance with.” *Kind* is the noun “מִיֵּן מִיֵּן” and means kind – family – species. In the Greek LXX, this is translated as “γένος genos (ghehn-ahs).” In Genesis 1, this phrase is used 10 times. God emphasizes the limit of reproduction of plants and animals to a defined family. We cannot cross-breed between kinds. Once we get to a certain genetic code sequence within a kind, we cannot go back. One can go from a wolf to a poodle through breeding, but you cannot go from a poodle to a wolf. Certain breeds of dogs cannot cross and have a successful litter.

In Miami, we saw a Liger, a cross between a male lion and a female tiger. The amazing thing is that when it is a male tiger and a female lion, we get a tigon. The differences are amazing. A liger is a bigger and very stable breed. It is bigger than either a lion or a tiger. A tigon is smaller, often born prematurely, and has a short life span.

Searching the internet for species cross-breeding leads only to intra-species or intra-kind breeding:

- Zebra + Any other equine = Zebroid.
- Bottlenose dolphin + false killer whale = wholphin.
- Grizzly bear + polar bear = grolar bear.
- Domestic cattle + American bison = beefalo.
- Male donkey + female horse = mule.
- Male camel + female llama = cama.

What we find in the Bible recorded 3500 years ago is not just observational truth but is scientifically verified, despite all of the human gene biology, technology, and understanding. God’s wisdom in biology is unsurpassed when compared to the vast research of human science. Genesis is a book of history that gives us the framework for science.