

God-Made – Genesis 1 – Week 2 – Genesis 1:6-8

Genesis 1:9-13: *And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.*

¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

INTRO to Series: Genesis 1 describes God’s work of speaking and forming all of creation, including our own existence. As we revisit the story of creation in Genesis and beyond, we will discover countless ways the Bible points us to the wonder of God’s good creation, made by His powerful word. We’ll also discuss each week some helpful practices to help us pull away from the intense draw of our technology and media and find space again for the goodness of God.

INTRO to Genesis 1:9-13: The Third Day of Creation in Genesis 1 is directly connected to Day 2. At the end of Day 2, the phrase “And God saw that it was good” is omitted. On Day 3, the phrase appears twice, showing that Day 3 completes the interconnected work that God began on Day 2.

*****Key Thought – Week 3:** God created the universe and the earth to produce, protect, and cultivate life.

-Screens/Tech/Media Tip for Week 3: Choose a time and space each day that you establish as a “phone free zone.” This might be your morning or evening times with the Lord, times for conversation with your spouse, mealtimes, on your commute, the last minutes before bedtime, or maybe some moments of silence. Keep your phone at a distance during this time and set all your devices to “do not disturb,” turning on only essential notifications that can breakthrough if needed.

I. God created the universe and the earth to produce life.

-As God continued the work He began on Day 2 of Creation, He once again spoke that which was created into being.

-God separated the waters below the sky and gathered them into place so that dry ground He made became visible. God called the dry ground “land, and the gathered waters He called “seas.” And it was so!

-“Land” is often talked about in Scripture with the same language as family and people. That’s how precious the land God provided was to His people from generation to generation. (see **Leviticus 27:30-31** below)

-The third day of Creation contains a second act – God spoke into creation again, and said, “*Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.*” (**vs. 11**). And it was so!

-Notice God does not bring the vegetation out of nothing, but out of the earth, which He created to produce life as part of its own existence and cycles. For the first time, the earth becomes productive.

II. God created the universe and the earth to protect life.

-As God continued forming, shaping, and giving order to all that was on the earth and around the earth, He was setting boundaries and creating the conditions under which life would not only be produced but would be protected so that life might survive and ultimately thrive (see excerpt from **Job 39** below).

-Other ancient cultures and religions often deified, or treated as if gods, the various parts of the earth’s features, but the Bible tells us the earth only has power because God is the one who empowers.

-There is no “mother earth,” only our Heavenly Father, who is also the One True Creator God!

III. God created the universe and the earth to cultivate life.

-The land produced vegetation in the form of plants, trees, and other kinds that were seed-bearing, meaning they were capable of reproducing more vegetation which would also be seed-bearing to produce more vegetation, and so on.

-The Hebrew word for seed, *zera'*, becomes incredibly important from this point on in the Bible, for it is through “seed” that life is reproduced in plants, animals, and humans, which, as we know today, is true even at microscopic levels.

-Though Day 3 of Creation concludes with the words: *there was evening, and there was morning—the third day*, it is clear that God has much more “creating” to do!

Did you notice? Day 3 of Creation in Genesis 1 says, “And God saw that it was good”, twice. This shows the aforementioned interconnectedness of days two and three and has also been called the day of “double blessing” in Hebrew tradition.

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Leviticus 27:30-31: “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. ³¹ Whoever would redeem any of their tithe must add a fifth of the value to it.”

-God speaking to Job in **Job 39:**

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?
Tell me, if you understand.
⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!
Who stretched a measuring line across it?
⁶ On what were its footings set,
or who laid its cornerstone—
⁷ while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy?
⁸ “Who shut up the sea behind doors
when it burst forth from the womb,
⁹ when I made the clouds its garment
and wrapped it in thick darkness,
¹⁰ when I fixed limits for it
and set its doors and bars in place,
¹¹ when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther;
here is where your proud waves halt’?
¹² “Have you ever given orders to the morning,
or shown the dawn its place...
¹⁶ “Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea
or walked in the recesses of the deep?...
¹⁸ Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth?
Tell me, if you know all this.”

Colossians 1:15-17: *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-The seas and mountains and elemental forces of nature “are not independent forces to be feared or worshiped but rather creations that respond to the direct commands of God.” –Kenneth A. Matthews

-Your phone steals your time, attention, and energy. For the average person who spends 5-6 hours scrolling per day—that’s 20 years of your life!