

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

Genesis 1:6-8: *And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.”⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so.⁸ God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second 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.

Many people express anxiety and discouragement because their devices and constant consumption of media are stealing contentment, joy, and focus from their lives. This kind of thievery does not come from the goodness of God and His Creation, but from the Evil One. Thankfully, Jesus gave us this promise: *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life; and have it to the full.* (**John 10:10**)

INTRO to **Genesis 1:6-8**: On the second day of creation, Genesis describes God moving creation forward with water which was eventually separated to become the “waters below” and the “waters above,” in between which there came to be a great “expanse.”

-Key Thought for Week 2: God **forms**, **shapes**, and **gives order** to every part of His creation.

-Screens/Tech/Media Tip for Week 2: If you are one who struggles with mindlessly being drawn to look at your phone multiple times a day, try a week with your phone’s display on “grayscale mode.” Through a few simple steps, your phone’s display can be all in black and white which makes it far less attractive, stimulating, and addictive. Most people who try this for one week notice a big drop in mindless scrolling.

I. God forms every part of His creation.

-As we saw on the first day Creation, so we see again on each day of Creation—God speaks every part of Creation into being through His powerful Word.

-vs. 6: *“And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.”*

-As God spoke all of creation into existence, He also formed everything being created—from the largest celestial bodies to the smallest particles—according to the perfect work of His Hands.

-vs. 7a: *God made the vault*

-The “vault” that God made and formed on the second day of Creation is also called an “expanse” or a “firmament” in different translations. The literal meaning of the Hebrew word *rakia*’ is something extended or spread out, such as a tent used as a covering or stretching metal by hammering it out.

-In our modern understanding of science, we would likely describe the “vault” as the earth’s atmosphere and that which is above it.

II. God shapes every part of His creation.

-God spoke Creation into existence by His powerful Word, formed it with His mighty hand, and then gave shape and dimension to all He had made in perfect design.

-vs. 7b: *and separated the water under the vault from the water above it.*

-God formed the water and then shaped it from one section of water into two – with the waters below (the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, etc.) being separated by the vault itself from the waters above (the precipitation which comes down from the sky).

-As God formed and shaped the water above and below the earth on the second day, He also gave order to this part of creation by placing each exactly how He wanted them.

III. God gives order to every part of His creation.

-God spoke Creation into existence by His powerful Word, formed it with His mighty hand, gave shape and dimension to all He had made in perfect design, and ordered all of Creation according to His perfect will, purposes, and plans.

-vs. 7c-8: *And it was so. God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.*

-“And it was so” becomes the standard explanation in Genesis for God’s divine commands being completed—as He creates, forms, shapes, and gives order to all He has made.

-God now gives the third name to what he has created – first was “day” and “night,” and now, “sky.”

-Sometimes the world seems out of control, but Scripture reminds us that because of God's power and authority things are never outside of His control.

-The perfect order God has given to Creation is secure, and though it might be distorted by sinful people, it can never be undone. The most important reason we believe this, is because Christ Himself holds it all together! (**see Colossians 1:15-17**)

FORM: *God made the vault*

SHAPE: *and separated the water under the vault from the water above it.*

ORDER: *And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.*

-This is the only day of Creation where what God has made is not called "good." The reason becomes clear on third day, however, because what happens next is needed to complete the work of the second day (see **Genesis 1:9-10** below).

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Colossians 1:15-17: *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Genesis 1:9-10 *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.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-*The Digital Fast – 28 Challenge: Detox your Mind and Reclaim What Matters Most* – by Darren Whitehead