

DAYS 5-6: SEA AIR AND LAND CREATURES

Genesis 1:20-25

INTRODUCTION

R.C. Sproul – Only 4 options for the origin of the universe:

1. The universe is an illusion, it doesn't exist
2. It is self-created.
3. It is self-existent and eternal.
4. It was created by someone who is self-existent.

There aren't any other options. Either it doesn't exist or it created itself, or it always existed, or somebody created it. That's it.

Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution – 1996 book which presents notion of irreducible complexity → balance-equilibrium reached in life forms, in particles, and in the universe are impossible → intelligent design.

A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking – admits in this book that a mere fraction of a difference of millivoltage between particles would collapse the entire universe.

Hawking: **Religion** is a fairy tale for those afraid of the dark.

Reality: **Atheism** is a fairy tale for those afraid of the light (the light that God gives us in the pages of Scripture)

Illustration – The difference between physically impossible and truly impossible. For example, God's laws of physics say it is *theoretically* possible for this pulpit to begin to float in the air. If all the molecules that make up this pulpit act appropriately at the same time ... but try claiming you have seen this happen.

Days 1-3: Divine Separation

Days 4-6: Divine Population

Recall: God forms the formless (vv.1-3) and fills the void (vv.4-6)... divine population

Henry Morris, *The Genesis Record*

– “All the necessities for living creatures were present on the earth by this time: light, air, water, soil, chemicals, plants, fruits.”

READ Genesis 1: 20-25

Proposition: Days 5 and 6 - God creates 3 creatures:

1. Sea creatures
2. Air creatures
3. Land creatures

Day 5 – Sea and Land Creatures Gen 1:20-23

Point – Fish and Fowl.

Days 2 and 5 are related:

- Form - Day 2 - God put an atmosphere between the waters below and the waters above
- Fill - Day 5 - that which He separated, God now fills

God **Creates Life** that is: Breathing, Moving and Mature

God **Creates Life** that is: Complex and Diverse, Unique and Bounded and Complete and Approved

God **Creates Life** that is: Blessed, Reproducing and Important

Proof – Gen 1:20 – “Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.”“

Point – God Creates:

- **Breathing** Life
- **Moving** Life
- **Mature** Life

The introduction of animal life WAS NOT a fragile blob of protoplasm that happened to come together by chance in response to electrical discharges over a primeval ocean, as evolution teaches.

Divine Fiat (Decree) – “Let ...” - God speaks things into existence with divine decree

→ God Creates Moving Life

“teem”

“swarm” → filled → fertile, fecund (it is rich and bountiful)

- literally says “Let the waters swarm with swarming creatures that live.”
- swarm is chosen here because it has the idea of movement - from one place to another place - in contrast to plants that move but not from place to place

→ God Creates Breathing Life

“living” – *nephesh* – life – literally means “breathing”

- this is what animates these creatures and causes them to breathe
- God creates living creatures who are conscious
- they react to their environment and they move from place to place
- used here for the very first time
- the first living creature that moves on its own
- plants are not creatures because plants can’t move and they are not conscious

Plants – have life in the organic sense – sprout, grow, and die

Animals – have breath, consciousness

Man – self-consciousness

These “**living creatures**” are conscious.

- they respond to their environment, but they are not aware of this response
- it is a mechanism we call instinct

These “**living creatures**” are not self-conscious.

- they do not know they are alive
- they do not know one another
- they do not communicate with one another in personal, self-conscious ways

→ God Creates Mature Life

“**bird**” – Hebrew word means “flying creature”, this would be everything with wings (birds, insects, Pterodactyls)

“**let birds fly above the earth**” – God didn't create baby birds - they don't fly

→ God made these creatures instantly, universally, fully-grown, and fully-functioning.

Gen 1:21 – “**And God created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.**”

Point – God Creates:

- **Complex** and **Diverse** Life
- **Unique** and **Bounded** Life
- **Complete** and **Approved** Life

bara – Hebrew word from which English word created comes from

- exclusively used in the Bible of God as the subject, never of man
- used three times in Gen. 1:1 (universe), v. 21 (breathing life), v. 27 (man)
- v.21 - this is God's second act of Creation *ex nihilo*

→ God Creates Complex and Diverse Life

1) “**great sea monsters**” – whales, megalodon, kronosaurus

At the time of Moses writing Genesis, the pagans worshipped the sea and these great sea monsters as dragons and monsters.

God is telling us that God created these creatures and God controls them.

Job 7:12 – “**Am I the sea, or the sea monster, That You set a guard over me?**”

Psa 74:13-14 – “**Thou didst divide the sea by Thy strength; Thou didst break the heads of the sea monsters in the waters. You crushed the heads of Leviathan; You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.**”

Psa 148:7 – “Praise the LORD from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps;”

Isa 27:1 – “In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; And He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.”

2) “**every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind**” – smaller fish and aquatic animals who move through the water or creep along the bed - every aquatic animal other than the sea monsters

3) “**every winged bird**” – every flying creature with wings

→ God Creates Unique and Bounded Life

Boundaries → each creature can only reproduce the same kind.

“**after their kind**” – *min* – repeated over and over, **31 times** in OT

- **10 times** in Genesis 1 → **7 times in vv. 20-25!!** (twice for sea and air creatures and five times for land creatures)
- God uses this same word 3 times in vv. 11-12 regarding the plants

→ **No Evolution!!**

God wants us to understand that there is no evolution of the plants.

God really wants us to understand that there is no evolution of the animals

There can be **variation** within the species but there’s no moving outside that DNA coded in each species. There is no transmutation.

Mutations are very rare and all harmful.

- It’s always negative.
- It is always downward.
- In most cases mutations never even survive.

→ God creates Complete and Approved Life

“**and God saw that it was good**” –

Application – A tilapia is not just “**good**” because we can catch it and eat it. A salmon is not just “**good**” because it is rich in Omega 3 oils. These fish are “**good**” because God made them and pronounced them “**good.**” This “**good**” includes the perfect balance and function of the biological world.

Everything so far in God’s Creation has received His **inspection** and His **approval**. God now adds **His blessing**.

Gen 1:22 – “And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”“

Point – God Creates:

- **Blessed** Life
- **Reproducing** Life
- **Important** Life

→ God Creates **Blessed Life**

God **blesses** the sea and air creatures.

God **blessed** (*barak*) them (also used exclusively of God as the subject)

- v. 22 – animals
- v. 28 – man
- v. 2:3 - Sabbath

This gives fuller color and majesty to the words of Jesus:

Matt 6:26 – “**Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.**”

Matt 10:29 – “**Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.**”

Praise our Sovereign God that watches over all of His creation.

→ God Creates **Reproducing Life**

“**Be fruitful and multiply**”

- self-sustaining
- self-repairing
- self-reproducing

God created the extreme complexities of the **DNA molecule** and the genetic code contained in it.

- each type of organism has its own unique structure of DNA and can only reproduce the same kind.
- every species in creation, from the smallest, tiny, microscopic kind of creation all the way to the largest land mammals and sea-going creatures and dinosaurs, and all of the reproductive processes are all encoded in the DNA - all that information put in every single cell of every single creature to reproduce its own kind.

After the flood → **Gen 8:17** – “**Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.**”

God has been speaking. But this is the first time God speaks directly to “somebody” → God speaks directly to the animals.

God commands the sea and air creatures to fill the earth.

- God forms in 3 days.

- God fills in 3 days.
- He continues to fill by commanding His creatures to multiply.
- This is a foreshadow of the Creation Ordinance.

Application - Filling is a **blessing**. Filling is also a **command**.

→ God Creates Important Life

More important than plants.

We know this because:

1. “**living**”
 - breathing
 - moving (from place to place)
2. “**created**” – *bara*
3. “**blessed**” – *barak*
4. speaks directly to → **commands**

Gen 1:23 – “**And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.**”

Each day ends with this repeated phrase to emphatically declare the 6 days are the same, → regular 24 hour days.

By the end of this “**fifth day**,” the Earth is filled with luxurious vegetation and swarming with wildlife in the seas and air.

→ Can you imagine it?

Application -

Evolution: Marine organisms, then plants, later reptiles, even later birds.

Bible: Plants came first, then marine creatures and birds simultaneously, then land reptiles a day later.

If anything, the larger animals were created first (they are listed first).

Day 6 – Land Creatures Gen 1:24-25

Point – Days 3 and 6 are related → form and fill

Proof – **Gen 1:24** – “**Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so.**”

Again, we have this Divine Fiat (decree) of God creating into existence. We also have a comprehensive description.

Point - Life that is:

- **Complex** and **Diverse** Life
- **Breathing** and **Moving** Life
- **Unique** and **Bounded** Life
- **Complete** and **Approved** Life

→ God creates **Complex and Diverse Life**

1) “**cattle**” – domesticated animals

The children of Israel were nomads following their herds of “**cattle**” → camels, goats, and sheep. The people lived and slept with these animals around them.

This is why they chose a golden calf as an idol when they rebelled in the wilderness. They made a calf out of gold and the leaders cried, “Behold your god!”

Remember ... God made all these animals, says Moses.

2) “**creeping things**” – low to the earth – worms, insects, reptiles

3) “**beasts of the earth**” – “wild animals” → they have freedom of movement on the earth. This would include lions, tigers, bears, brachiosauruses, velociraptors, tyrannosaurus rexes....

→ God creates **Living Breathing and Living Moving**

“**living creatures**” – very important concept. Plants are never called “**living creatures**” Trees are never called “**living creatures**”

→ God creates **Unique and Bounded Life**

“**and it was so**” – 5th time out of 6 in **Genesis 1**

Day 2 – Atmosphere (1:7)

Day 3 – Dry Land (1:9)

Day 3 – Plants (1:11)

Day 4 – Lights (1:15)

Day 6 – Animals (1:24)

“**and it was so**” with “**after their kind**” → made permanent

- there is a firm and fixed and established condition

There is no cross-breeding. Many scientists have tried and every single time, every single time, they have failed and it will fail every single time because God tells us He created → “**after their kind**”

Gen 1:25 – “**And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.**”

Evolution says that insects came into being, then millions of years later amphibians, then millions of years later came reptiles, then millions of later came mammals

In Genesis 1, God has listed in reverse order from v. 24 to v. 25

→ these were **all created at the same time**

God makes it clear to us that they were created simultaneously!

Application – Theistic Evolution? Progressive Creation? Really???

→ **God Creates Complete and Approved Life**

There is absolutely no evolutionary “struggle” ... because ...
“**and God saw that it was good**” – nothing was missing, nothing was out of place or in conflict.
There was no death. There was no struggle.

1:4 – Light → Light to see

1:10 – Dry Land → Land to live

1:12 – Plants → Food to eat

1:18 – Lights → to see, to navigate, to harvest, to sleep, etc.

1:21 – **Sea and Air Creatures**

1:25 – **Land Creatures** →

Everything God made was good and prepared for man.

I cannot believe that God looked down on the creation He had made for billions of years and watched animals biting the heads off other animals, saying all the time that this was “**good.**”

This beautiful truth captured in this 17th Century Hymn:

All Things Bright and Beautiful

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell

How great is God Almighty who has made all things well.

The Garden is ready. Man’s house is built.

It is now ready for his occupancy.

God did not need 5 billion years to prepare for man. He didn’t even need the 6 days He took.

[By the way, God’s creation of the land creatures only took a small portion of day 6. Because the rest of the day ... **Man**]

God took 6 days to prepare for Man in order to:

- Stress His sovereignty and dominion over His creation
- Stress the orderly and logical relationship and structure of His creation
- Provide a divine pattern for man’s 6 day work week.

CONCLUSION

Read Job 38:4-33

10/27/13