

THE SEVENTH DAY

Genesis 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION

I was planning on not beginning this sermon with more of the folly of the theories of Evolution or Old Earth. However, as I was eating breakfast at the hotel in Boulder, CO on Friday, I came across an article in the *USA Today* entitled “Antique Human DNA Muddies Family Tree”.

Now, in the past, we have talked about the **farce** of evolution, there is the **fossil** record, the **ape** man fraud, the **recapitulation** theory, **chance** and **entropy**.

Recall the Nebraska man - the archeological finding of a tooth in the state of Nebraska that caused the London Times to publish a picture of 'Nebraska' man along with Nebraska women and Nebraska baby. It then became known that all of this was based on the finding of a tooth from what turned out to be an extinct pig. I made the comment at the time that if they had found a jaw bone, they may have had a photo of Nebraska village!

In the spectrum of worldview and politics, Boulder CO is somewhere on the spectrum between San Francisco CA and Greenwich Village NY.

This *USA Today* article is a perfect picture of the utter folly and imagination of the Old Earth view and of all evolution. The photo that accompanied the headline had an artist's rendering of seven people, what researchers believed to be ape men, from “a scrap of a bone.”

Today, we come to the end of our study of Creation week, the 7th and last day. It is a special day.

READ Gen 2:1-3

Proposition: 3 Closing Statements in God’s Panoramic Creation Account, the 7th Day:

- I. God **Completed** His Work of Creation
- II. God **Ceased** His Work of Creation
- III. God **Consecrated** His Work of Creation

First Closing Statement in God’s Panoramic Creation Account

I. God **Completed** His Work **Gen 2:1-2a**

Point – This is a positive statement. **Completed** and **Ceased** are closely related, but not the same. You can stop doing something before it is finished, while it is incomplete. You can cease your activity while work remains to be done.

Not so with God’s Creation. Everything is here. Nothing lacking.

Proof – **Gen 2:1-2a** – “**Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.**”

^{2a} **And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done;**”

Work:

- finished work
- comprehensive work
- skilled work

Finished Work

- four times – “**completed**” (twice) “**done**” (twice)
- God is driving home the idea that there was nothing left - it was finished

“**the heavens and the earth**” – **Gen 1:1**

- totality

“**and all their host**” – sometimes refers to the stars and angels in OT

- in the context of **Gen 1:1**, it is clear that God means the stars here

Comprehensive Work

- three times – “**all**”
- everything is here
- nothing is missing or overlooked
- there are no gaps between **Gen 1** and **2**
- there are no aliens that are going to be discovered somewhere

Skilled Work

From the Hebrew language, the Old Testament has two words for work or labor :

- one word is a word that describes raw and unskilled work
- the word used here in this verse (“**work**” – *melakha*) is a Hebrew word that describes skilled work – work that is performed by a craftsman or artisan

Illustration – An ancient Greek Painter named Timanthes produced what is widely regarded as one of finest paintings of antiquity, “*The Sacrifice of Iphigenia*.”

Prior to this masterpiece, when he was a young student, Timanthes studied under a respected tutor. After several years, the teacher’s efforts seemed to have paid off when Timanthes painted an exquisite work of art. He was so enraptured with his painting, he spent days gazing at it. One morning, when he arrived to admire his work, he was shocked to find it blotted out with paint. Timanthes ran to his teacher in rage. The teacher admitted he had destroyed the painting. “I did it for your own good. That painting was retarding your progress. Start again and see if you can do better.”

Not so with God, you see. There is no progress. There is no improvement with God and His Creation. It is finished. It is mature. It is perfect for His purpose and His plan.

God **Completed** His Work.....

2nd Closing Statement in God's Panoramic Creation Account

II. God Ceased His Work Gen 2:2b

Point – 6 Days of Activity. 1 Day of Rest. A day of quiet. A day of refrain.

- Silence and stillness again enter the atmosphere.
- No activity.
- No noise.

Proof – **Gen 2:2b** – “and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.”

3 Components in this statement and beyond:

- **Cessation**
- **Conservation**
- **Satisfaction**

1st Component ...

Cessation

“**rested**” – *savat* – refrained → better translated “**ceased** from His creative work”

- ceased from a certain kind of work (creation)

i.e., not a rest of inactivity, a rest from a certain kind of work

God does not get tired →

Isa 40:28 – “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired.”

Isa 40:29 – “He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power.”

Psa 121 - v. 2 - creation

- **vv.3-4** - does not slumber

Application – there is a time when we need to stop trying and start trusting

- We need to be still.
- Wait upon the Lord.
- Rest - of the heart and the soul

Psa 4:4 – “Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still.”

Psa 27:14 – “Wait for the LORD; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD”

2nd Component ...

Conservation

It is important to understand that God is not like Benjamin Franklin's "Blind Watchmaker". God didn't 'crank things up' and formed the formless on Days 1-3, and then filled the void on Days 4-6, and then turned away and washed His hands of it. That would be the Deistic view.

God continues to uphold everything he has made; he opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. The movement of the atoms and the stars have their being in Him, but there is no new creative activity.

No more creation. From Day 7 and forward, we move from Creation to Procreation and Self-Perpetuation – ongoing filling → seed-bearing **Gen 1:28-31**

Shift from Creation to Providence

- 1) **Preservation** – Existence God **Keeps it going**
- 2) **Concurrence** – Activity God **Uses us**
- 3) **Government** – Guidance God **Directs it all**

Also, this is God in His created universe.

He is the One to put the laws of physics into place.

1st Law of Thermodynamics – the total energy of an isolated system (the Universe in this case) is constant; energy can be transformed from one form to another, but cannot be created or destroyed – there is no new matter or energy appearing anywhere in the universe, nor is there any matter being annihilated. All matter and energy in the universe is conserved. This law is often referred to as the *Law of Conservation of Mass and Energy*.

Present– **Conservation** and **Disintegration** (1st and 2nd Laws) - what scientists can study now
Past – **Creation** - separate domain

3rd Component ...

Satisfaction

Exod 31:16-17 – God was “**refreshed**” – satisfied, delighted

Psa 104:31 – “**Let the glory of the LORD endure forever; Let the LORD be glad in His works**”

The psalmist is not hoping for an uncertainty that might come to pass. He’s rejoicing in a certainty that will come to pass. There is no doubt in his shout, “**Let the glory of the LORD endure forever!**” And there is no doubt in his shout: “**Let the LORD be glad in His works!**”

God takes pleasure in His creation. He delights in the work of His hands. God rejoices in His work of Creation because it expresses four of His attributes:

- 1) **Glory**
- 2) **Praise**
- 3) **Wisdom**
- 4) **Power.**

1st Attribute of God Expressed in Creation ...

God rejoices in His work of Creation because it expresses His **Glory**:

Psa 19:1 – “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.”

John 1:3 – “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

2nd Attribute of God Expressed in Creation ...

God rejoices in His work of Creation because it expresses His **Praise**:

Psa 148: 1-10, 13 – The teeming ocean declares the glory of God, and praises Him a hundred miles from any human eye.

Creation praises God by simply being what it was created to be in all its incredible variety. And since most of the creation is beyond the awareness of mankind (in the reaches of space, and in the heights of mountains and at the bottom of the sea), it wasn't created merely to serve purposes that have to do with us. It was created for the enjoyment of God.

3rd Attribute of God Expressed in Creation ...

God rejoices in His work of Creation because it expresses His **Wisdom**:

Psa 104:24 – “O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.”

4th Attribute of God Expressed in Creation ...

God rejoices in His work of Creation because it expresses His **Power**:

Isa 40:26 – “Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power Not one of them is missing.”

Illustration – Master Craftsman

How satisfied God was. How much pleasure God must have taken when He looked at His Creation, free from sin, free from decay, free from the curse, free from disease, free from death.

“When He saw pristine blue skies sparkling with diamond stars, a brilliant blazing sun, when He saw crystal-clear waters without any kind of pollution, when He was a world with no death, when He saw shining white sands and magnificent colorful flowers, stately trees, forming the stage, as it were, for birds and fish, animals cavorting all over His created earth without fear. And how much God must have delighted when He walked through the Garden and fellowshiped with man, with Adam and the wife He made for him, named Eve. What a delight it must have been” – MacArthur

Application – I like the application James Montgomery Boice makes from these great truths ...

“Then let us be done with the long faces and solemn demeanors that so often characterize the people of God on the Lord’s Day. And let us be done with the type of worshiper who comes to church only to go home. If you do not enjoy the worship of God and the fellowship of God’s people, if you do not enjoy the preaching of the Word and the response of the congregation in work and song, stay home!” In the early days of the church the apostles did not have to go around ringing doorbells to get people to come out to the service. They did not have to maintain every member visitation plans to renew flagging interest.”

God **Completed** His Work, God **Consecrated** His Work.....

3rd Closing Statement in God’s Panoramic Creation Account

III. God **Consecrated** His Work

Gen 2:3

Point – Remember God’s demonstration of His Sovereignty on the stage of His Creation → forming and filling

Days 1-3 → forming the formless

Days 4-6 → filling the void

→ Divine separation and Divine population

→ Forming → separating and bounding

→ “**the 7th day**” → set apart, make Holy, bless and sanctify

Proof – **Gen 2:3** – “**Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.**”

God (*bara*) **blessed** (exclusively of God)

- v. 22 - sea/air creatures
- v. 28 – man
- 2:3 - seventh day

“**blessed ... and sanctified**” – root meaning to cut off or separate

- same word we use for “Consecrate” “Holy”

- e.g., “Be holy for I am holy.”

As God demonstrated His Sovereignty over His Creation – forming the formless → separating and bounding

- light/darkness
- waters above/waters below
- sea/dry land

→ He again separates and bounds

- time and holy time
- everyday and this solemn day
- six days of work and this day of rest

Two patterns of truths we had seen on the first six day:

No “saw that is was good”

- “good” (first 5 days) → “very good” (Day 6) → Day 7 - “**sanctified**”

No “evening and morning” – Why? Same 24 hour day as 1-6.

- Set apart. Continuation of no creation. 1st Law of Thermodynamics.

No commandment is given to man (Adam) at this time. That comes later. The Sabbath day, which is the fourth of the 10 Commandments, was a sign of the Mosaic Covenant.

Exod 16:22-30 – Manna from Heaven

- they gathered manna on six days - twice as much on sixth day
- seventh day - observe the Sabbath

Exod 20:8-11 – 4th Commandment

Sabbath – **Mark 2:27** – “**The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath**”

- God’s gift to man for his bodily and spiritual well-being

Mark 2:28 – “**The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**”

Point – Jesus restores the original meaning – He rescues the Sabbath → and claims the Right to do this as God!

→ “You aren’t in charge of the Sabbath, I am.”

→ “You do not rule the Sabbath. I do.”

The one commandment of the 10 is not reaffirmed by Jesus.

Fulfilled by Jesus – **Col 2:16-17** – shadow has become substance

The Sabbath was unique to the Old Covenant and to Israel. The other nine commandments are repeated and expanded upon many places in the New Testament.

Application – Paul’s point → Why cling to the shadow ... when the shadow-casting figure has arrived??

OT Sabbath is the seventh day - Saturday.

In the NT, because Christ rose on the first day of the week, on Sunday, we gather on the Lord's Day.

Rev 1:10; 1 Cor 16:2 → when He was resurrected

“**sanctified**” – is inseparably connected with “**rested**”

Application → We understand that God ceased His creation activity, He was still active

upholding His creation. For us, this is not a day to just swing in the hammock. It is a day of fellowship. It takes work to meet together. It is a blessed work of ministry on this day of rest, quiet and being still.

CONCLUSION

Part of the problem with sin, is that it is a disorder, a conscience that is pained. It is a lack of true quiet in the heart and soul.

Heb 4: 1-9

Heb 4:1-3 →distinguishing of two groups of people - believers and non-believers

- those who have been forgiven of sin and those who are still under the death penalty of their sin
- those who have the true rest of the soul and those that don't

Heb 4:4

Augustine – *“You have made us for Yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.”*

Where are you?

Come to the One who gives true rest: **The Lord of the Sabbath**

This is the good news to weary, burdened, guilty sinners – stop all your self-effort.
Come to the cross.

One of greatest gifts from God → rest!

- Be still.
- Be quiet.
- Wait.

No God, no peace..... No God, no rest

Know God, know Peace.....Know God, know rest
→ true rest of the soul

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