



Pray

How does Genesis 1:14-31 inspire you to pray?
Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray
for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



Filling of the Earth | Genesis 1:14-31
Study Guide 3 for sermon on 05/16/2021



Introduction

“Mom/Dad, look at what I made!” Children love to build various things as they put their creative minds and hands to work. Just a couple of days ago, one of my daughters showed me her drawing that was so vivid it seemed to jump off the page. Here, in the second half of Genesis 1, the details of God’s grand creation are on display for our eyes to behold God’s greatness.

Our creator God shows his creativity and authority in creating not only the stars in the sky and creatures to roam the land, but uniquely in creating man and woman in the image of God. As his creation, we learn to live according to his purpose and design.



Overview

Context: Genesis was written by Moses for Israel to learn that humans are the pinnacle of God’s creation and are blessed by God to live according to His Word. The uniqueness of this section sets the stage for the rest of Scripture as we see glimpses of God’s global plan for men and women to hear, respond, and rule as unique image-bearers to reflect God’s glory.

Structure:

Form		Filling	
Day 1	Light	Day 4	Luminaries
Day 2	Sky & Waters	Day 5	Birds & Fish
Day 3	Land & Plants	Day 6	Animals & Humans



Engage

1. Genesis 1 is a chapter that is read repeatedly. Each time we read it, we find new details and eye-opening moments when we see the grandeur and complexity of creation. What are the great lights that are described in vv. 14-18 and what is their purpose?
2. In day 4, we read of the great lights (luminaries) and in day 5, we read of the birds and fish in vv. 20-23. The seas and the skies swarm with astonishing variety. The variety and creativity is mind-blowing, but the story also reveals divine order as well. Think about what would have happened if God made the fish before he made the water. Why does order matter in creation?
3. In vv. 24-25, the narrative shifts to a new kind of creation yet again. Living creatures are created according to their kinds. God made the wildlife, livestock, and all sorts of creatures. As the old hymn states, "All creatures great and small, the Lord God made them all." How are these creatures generic and specific at the same time?
4. The creation narrative makes another transition. God speaks and says, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness." What does this statement reveal about the nature of God?
5. God gives men and women a clear command in verse 26. What is this command and how does it distinguish humanity from the rest of creation?
6. We read the relevant words of our creator in verse 27 that say, "So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female." God created. God created humanity. God created humanity in his image. God created humanity male and female. Male and female are not modern constructs, but part of God's divine design. How does this design inform our view of our identity?
7. Genesis 1:28 is a key verse in this section and for the book as a whole. God speaks to humanity in saying, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." As God speaks, what is our response to his command?
8. To subdue the earth and to have dominion over the earth means that we are permitted and even commanded to benefit from the earth. This does not mean that we are to exploit the earth, but we can utilize its resources. How do we do this while guarding against greed and selfishness?
9. In Genesis 1:31, God sees all he has made and says that it is "very good" at the end of the sixth day. What comes to your mind as you read the description of God's creation?