

Land Animals: Neighbors and Teachers

Genesis Sermon 8 Genesis 1:24 - 25

Theme: Having filled the earth *below* and *above* man with souls (fish and birds), God now makes the souls dwelling *beside* man (land animals). They are full of lessons for us.

Gen 1:24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth *the living soul* according to its kind: **beasts**, and **gliders**: that is, *the life of the earth*, *each* according to its kind. And it was so.

- I. Genesis answers man's **big questions**: *Who* are we? • God's creation, divided from Him by our sin.
How do we return to God? • God retrieves us, promising Christ from the start, Gen 3:15.
How retrieved? • Justification by faith, Gen 15:5-6
Where are we going? • Judgment is coming again, like the Flood. Christ is the only ark.

II. Outline of Genesis

I. Creation	1-2	IV. Renewed creation	9
II. Fall	3	V. A <u>Touchstone</u> Covenant	12
III. Judgment	6-8	A. <u>ABRAHAM</u>	12-25
		B. Covenant with Isaac	25-27
		C. Covenant with JACOB	27-36
		VI. A New Nation: Jacob's 12 Sons	37-38
		VII. Blessing to the Nations: JOSEPH	39-50

Kid-speak: What book of the Bible are we studying today? Genesis.

III. Genesis in Essence

- A. Creation is the foundational teaching of the Bible, an account Jesus believed, Mk 10:6-8.
B. Redemption teachings *keep* and *build on* the doctrine of Creation, a cause for praise.
C. John 1:1-3 repeats "In the beginning," making Christ Mediator of Creation and Redemption.
D. The days so far
1. Day 1: Earth & heavens in darkness, v 1-2. **Light**, its division from darkness; their new names, v 3-5. • The better work of Christ shining God's knowledge into us, 2 Cor 4:6.
2. Day 2: Upper & lower waters separated by an expanse called the heavens (our sky), v 6-8. • The work of distinguishing given to us as an aspiration, 2 Tim 2:20-21.
3. Day 3: Earth and its produce. • We are sown to be sowers, Jms 3:18.
4. Day 4: **Light** (v 2) embodied. • We who were darkness are now light in the Lord, Eph 5:8.
5. Day 5: Souls for sea and sky. • *All in all* realms will ascribe glory to the Lamb, Rev 5:18.

Kid-speak: How many days of creation have we looked at so far? Five.

IV. The Idea of Day Six: Having filled the upper and lower regions (**sky** and **sea**) with a vast array of souls suited to those domains, God now makes *man's nearest neighbors*, **land animals**. These most specifically relate to us, revealing God's character, instructing us, helping us, *and* depending on us as overseers in God's name.

Kid-speak: Which day of creation are we looking at today? The sixth day of God making things.

V. God's Momentous Pronouncement Once Again

A. "And God said,"

1. As He spoke before, in 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, and last time, v 20.
 - a. God is a speaking being. When He speaks, "And it was so."
 - b. *His* speech can *bring into being*, as in this chapter.
 - c. I am leery of the teaching that *Christians* are supposed to speak things into being.
 - d. We are made in God's image, but we are not creators in the same sense that He is.
 - e. Prayer is the undertaking of asking God to act on our behalf.
 - f. If it were an act of faith to simply pronounce things into existence, why need prayer?
2. Not all God's pronouncements are to the same ends or have the same effects.
 - a. We don't have the phrase, "And God said" again until the Flood, Gen 6:13, 9:8, 12, 16.
 - b. That will be appropriate for a *starting over* period.

B. *Our* main power in speech is merely this: "This is what *God* says," repeating God accurately.

1. If we'll just stand behind what God says, He'll be standing behind us.
2. It requires careful, intense effort to properly fill in "this is what *God* says"!
3. I fear that those who wish to pronounce things into existence do so partly to *avoid* the WORK of finding out exactly what God has pronounced.

Kid-speak: How did God make everything? He just had to SAY for it to be there, and there it was!

VI. God's Sixth Day Command

A. "Let the earth bring forth": a command.

1. We dealt with the *earth* "bringing forth" in v 12 (not a command there).
 - a. There the earth brought forth plants.
 - b. "Bringing forth" plants is a proper function of the earth.
2. We dealt with the *waters* "bringing forth abundantly" (KJV) being better translated "let the swarms swarm."
 - a. The waters didn't produce sea life.
 - b. But the seas were the *matrix* for fish, the medium God gave them to live in.
3. Now the word for "bring forth" (v 12) is used of the *earth* "bringing forth" land animals.

- a. Of course, it's not the ground per se that brings forth plants either. It's seeds from plants.
- b. But the ground is the *matrix* for plant life just as the sea is the *matrix* for fish.
- c. The land/ ground/ earth is the *matrix* for land animals in the same way. The land is where land animals *live*.
- d. The meaning is, "The land will be the place where land animals multiply and live."

B. What God made:

- 1. "*The* living soul" (8x, Gen 1, 2, 9- 3x, and Ezek 47:9).
 - a. Same phrase in v 20 of the fish.
 - b. "Soul," same as we have and God has, Lev 26:11, 30; Ps 11:5; Isa 1:14; 42:1.
- 2. Do animals have *spirits* as well as souls?
 - a. Eccl 3:21 attributes "spirits" to them, but that they go "downward" at death.
 - b. To be no more? *Or* to be *reincorporated* in the New Heavens and New Earth?
- 3. Three categories of "living souls":
 - a. "Beasts"
 - b. "Gliders"
 - c. "Lives of the earth"
- 4. Let's take those one at a time

Kid-speak: On the sixth day, what did God make first? Animals. Do animals have souls? Yes.

VII. The "Living Souls": Two Broad Categories and Their **BROADER** Category

A. There are *three* names listed,

- 1. but the *third* one seems to be a **restatement** or definition of the first *two*.
- 2. So let's start *there*: "lives of the earth."

B. "*The* life of the earth."

- 1. Literally, "its life, earth": a little *more* literally, "his life earth."
 - a. This phrase only occurs here. (Compare in VII.B.2. below)
 - b. If "life" can be taken as construct: "its life of the earth."
 - c. Most translations interpret the word a bit, leaving out any reference to "life."
 - d. The root word is "life," same as it is for "living souls" heading the list.
 - e. This particular construction of "life" only occurs ↓ **9x** (root word, "life" 504x).
- 2. The form of "life" in our verse is usually paired with a **HABITAT**:
 - a. "its life, forest," Ps 50:10; 104:20; Isa 56:9; animals that live in the forest;
 - b. "its life, field," Ps 104:11; Isa 56:9; animals that live in the field;
 - c. and "its life, nation," Zeph 2:14; animals peculiar to a nation (Nineveh, Assyria).
 - d. Each of ↑ those speak of animals.
 - e. The other couple of times, the construction simply means "his" or "its" life.
- 3. So "beasts and gliders: that is [lit., "and"], *the* life of the earth."
 - ☼ a. "Earth" is the **BROADEST** of the four habitat pairings above.

- b. It is a fitting phrase here, then, to more broadly name the “beasts” and the “gliders.”

Kid-speak: God already made water animals and sky animals. What kind of animals did God make on the sixth day? Animals that would live ON the earth, same as us.

VIII. “Beasts”

- A. Heb., *buhheyamah*, 190x. (The word “animals” crosses over to other categories.)
1. The KJV splits between “beasts” and “cattle” in translating this word: probably about as well as it can be done.
 - a. It’s not domesticated animals every time (e.g., Prov 30:30), so “cattle/ livestock” is not a universal fit.
 - b. Also Ps 147:9; 50:10.
 2. Many translate it “cattle” here, versus “wild animals” for the “life of the earth.”
- B. What are “beasts?”
1. Ps 73:22, “I was like a beast before you”; hence, not mindful of God, per se; Ps 32:9.
 - ☞ a. It is therefore a great privilege to be made in God’s image and likeness,
 - b. despite the huge burden of responsibility it carries.
 2. Ps 147:9, Creatures God cares for.
 3. Creatures *we* are to care for, Prov 12:10 (“soul of his beast”).
 4. Eccl 3:18-20, Creatures from whom our *earthly life* cannot be easily distinguished: we *both* live and die on earth and return to the earth.
 5. Co-inhabitants, Jer 27:5. Partners in some ways, cf. Exod 20:10; Jonah 3:7-8.

OUTSIDE THE WORD *BUHHEYMAH* ITSELF
 6. Lev 26:22, Instruments of God’s judgment on man.
 7. Models for us, Prov 28:1 (lions); Matt 10:16 (serpents, doves).
 8. Figures for the wicked, Ps 22:20-21. (Including lions; so both negative and positive lessons)

Kid-speak: Since land animals live on the earth with us, what can we call them? Our neighbors!

- C. Thus, the first category of our closer neighbors on earth provide a broad range of INSTRUCTION for us!

1. Behemoth, plural of our word, Job 40:15 ff, is the “foremost of God’s ways,” Job 40:19, with a tail like a cedar tree, 40:19.
 - ☑ a. Combining this creature with the Leviathan of Job 41 was God’s final argument to Job, sufficient to bring him to his senses! Job 42.
 - b. But God had *tried* to reach Job with samples from all across the animal world, Job 38:39 – 39:30, ten animals (See insert). Animals whose secret ways *only God knew*.
- ◆ 2. Are *we* listening to what God is saying via the animal world? Including and most obviously His superior wisdom and power?

Kid-speak: What does God use the animals to do? To teach US.

IX. “Gliders”

- A. “Gliders,” noun, are the second type of “living souls” which are “*the* life of the earth”; that is, who live out their lives on the earth
- B. We already had the *verb* form of this word in v 21, of “each gliding, living soul which swarms the waters.”
 - 1. So would that have been lobsters and such that walk on seabeds? Creepers.
 - 2. Or would it simply describe *all* smaller marine animals (as opposed to the “huge tannim”) that “glide” in movement?
 - 3. And now we have the ‘official’ “gliders” on land.
- C. Morris has these as any animals *low to the ground*: insects, most reptiles, small mammals (mice, etc.)
 - 1. The *noun* is only used 17x, of which, ten are in Gen 1 (3x), then 6-9.
 - 2. The *verb* also occurs 17x, ten in Genesis, chap 1 (4x), then 7-9.
- D. So- what stands **higher** off the ground is a closer neighbor to man?
 - 1. The gliders are ‘down there’.
 - 2. (Not to rule out their flying abilities. Btw, Matthew Henry puts insects on Day 5.)

Kid-speak: What other land animals did God make? Animals that **scoot** along on the ground.

X. “According to its kind,” said of the beasts, now the gliders.

- A. God put their reproductive mechanisms in them.
 - 1. Which we now know (?) works via DNA, messenger RNA, etc.
 - 2. Working similarly to computers in carrying information.
- B. Where can INFORMATION come from in DNA, in a cell?
 - 1. This is utterly baffling for an evolutionist.
 - ☞ a. By natural processes of mere chemicals (assuming *their* natural formation), information would never have become a natural part of matter.
 - b. Information as an *ordering process* must be imposed on proteins and amino acids.
 - 2. That’s why evolutionists *now* say (in their continual moving of the goal posts) that some *replicating RNA* is their basal starting point.
 - a. Some replicating RNA had to just be floating around, then somehow found its way into some protoplasm, like a hermit crab into its shell, and- presto! A cell!
 - b. *Please take that in!* It’s essentially a total concession! Life had to start WITH information, though there’s no natural/ material way for it to get there.
 - c. Enter space aliens seeding our planet. And their DNA came from...?”
 - c. “Well, we just *know* it’s true, because it’s science, not religion. We know religion is made-up, so science is the only alternative.”

- d. Except when the facts don't back 'science'.
- 3. As with computers, encoded information had to come from an intelligent encoder. In the case of DNA, a mind-bogglingly intelligent encoder.
 - a. The minute DNA was discovered, it should have been, "That's OK. We're scientists. We just follow the facts. Back to the drawing board, boys! Let's see what we find. If it's God. That's OK."
 - b. But God is out of the question. *Plus* all that \$ in university science departments!

Kid-speak: Who's the only one who can make it where people can have people babies and animals have animal babies? God!

Gen 1:25 And God made **earthly life** according to its kind, yes the **beast** according to its kind, and each **glider** of the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

XI. Implementation

- A. As on previous days, God's creative *intent* is laid out, followed by its *implementation*.
- B. "Earthly life" is Heb. "life of the earth," a grammatically more ordinary form of the odder form in v 24, which we translated "*the* life of the earth" (Heb., "its life, earth.")
 - 1. But, as "life of earth" in v 24, many take this as a term for wild animals.
 - 2. Contrasted again in v 25 to the *buhheyamah*, or "beast," meaning domesticated.
 - 3. I still like "earthly life/ life of the earth" as a broader category.
 - 4. This Heb. for "earthly life" occurs 5x: here, Gen 1:30; 9:2, and 2x in 9:10.
 - 5. The second occurrence in Gen 9:2 especially seems to use "earthly life" as an all-encompassing category.
- C. "Glider of the ground" is literally "glider of groundward/ earthward."
- D. "And God saw that it was good." Exact phrase as in v 10, 12, 18, and 21.
 - 1. If we like our animal neighbors, thinking them good, we're in agreement with God!
 - 2. God gives us easy ones like that to prod us on to seeking further agreement with Him!

Vision: One day, the animals will once again be at peace with us, Hos 2:18. Until then, the land animals, as our closest neighbors, have been doing their job in instructing us. But we use our superior wisdom (Job 35:11), not to listen, but to deny their lessons!

It's not that we don't understand. The animals' secret ways point to their Creator, but we will not follow the arrow. When their moral lessons chastise us, we disdain their inferiority. We see the ant's diligence (Prov 6:6), but we are sloppy or exhausted workers in mining the Word.

The Word's power to liberate us (Jn 8:32) lies in our making its habitation within us (Jn 8:31). God wants to make our superior wisdom (Job 35:11) a boon to us, honoring us and filling us with joy. Let the ant at our feet teach us the diligence to make it so.