

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:21

“1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. 6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. 9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day. 14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, & to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day. 20 Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 So the evening & the morning were the fifth day.”

„God Creates Life“

We come this morning to the fifth day of creation and again we have a short text that is both simple and profound! We are going to consider this text and as promised take a bit of time to address the issue of secular evolution: An ancient Greek and medieval Islamic concept which was re-popularized by Charles Darwin one-hundred and fifty years ago.

- A concept that greatly troubles many in the Church today.
- Last week we took the approach that we wanted to know the truth so well that we would clearly see error when it was presented to us.

We were reminded that the personal God who has always existed has revealed Himself to us and presents the true history of creation here in Genesis 1.

We saw how the plain reading of this chapter as the history of God creating heaven and earth in six ordinary days is confirmed by the rest of the Scriptures & saw its importance as a foundational truth.

This week I hope to show how the great truths that are revealed here in the Book of Beginnings can and should confront the great errors of our day and how they should bring comfort and hope in our own lives.

We are reminded by the Apostle Paul in Colossians chapter 4 that we are to, “5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

We must know the truth of God’s Word well AND we must walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, which means that we must have some understanding of what they are thinking and be ready to give an answer for the faith... As Dr. Schaeffer often said, we who have the truth are obligated to give honest answers to honest questions.

So let us consider what our text teaches and see how it stands in stark contrast with the vain-thinking of the world. The fifth day of creation brings forth the amazing diversity of fish and birds that populate our seas and skies AND thus the creation of life. Yes, we come here to the second of the three references to God creating that we find in Genesis chapter one which I mentioned a few weeks ago when we made the case that only God creates in this absolute sense.

On the first day God brings forth all of the time, matter and energy of His creation out of nothing... Or as the writer of the Hebrews puts it, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

The Hebrew word for created that is used there, is now used here again for the creation of life and as we shall see, when I continue in a few weeks with Day Six, that this word is used THREE times when man is created in the image of God. Now it should come as no surprise that God demonstrates His great creative power at exactly the three points where secular man has NO answers:

- Where did all the material & energy of the universe come from?
- How did life come from non-life?
- Why is man unique?

The best that modern man can do with these BIG questions is to simply make matter eternal, make time their god so you can have whatever time it takes to bring life from non-life and then in the end to make man no different in essence from all the other creatures.[*tell the Alliance story*]

I trust you can see that the world has NO adequate answers to these important questions and we will see the dire consequences of believing such lies as we go on in our studies. If we are going to answer these modern skeptics with gracious talk that is seasoned with salt, as Paul commanded then we must be prepared to show that Jesus is the answer!

- And I do mean the answer to these pressing issues, not just a better alternative to their yoga classes.

Paul teaches that Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all there is! It is Jesus who created the heavens and the earth, it is Jesus who created life from non-life and it is Jesus who created man in God’s image!

- And yes, it is Jesus who came to save His people from their sins!

As Paul tells the Colossians, “All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”

Our text says, “So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.”

When we see that all the life in the seas and the birds of the air were created through Jesus and for Jesus it should remind us that we as Christians are the true environmentalists!

We do not worship the things that Jesus created, but rather we worship Jesus by acknowledging Him as their Creator and by being good stewards of those things which He has created for his own glory!

- We will also see what this proper stewardship entails as we move on in our study of this Book of Beginnings.

For this morning I want to take a few moments to show how the simple text before us destroys both the ancient and our modern concepts of evolution in two important ways:

Our text began with God saying, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures” The text goes on to make reference to both the aquatic life and the flying creatures producing after their kind!

- We saw this language in reference to the plants on day three and will see it again on Day Six.

Now I have made the point several times that we will never find anything in the Bible that conflicts with true science.

- So if we as good scientists, went out to explore God’s world with Biblical glasses on, what would we expect to find?

We would expect to see evidence of an abundance of life coming forth and we would expect to find extinct or living creatures, as well as plant life, reproducing after their kind!

When we look honestly at what true science has discovered we see just that! In fact, what they call the Cambrian Explosion is one of the biggest embarrassments and challenges for the secular materialists.

We can look at the Cambrian explosion in light of our text and say that it appears to be just what we would expect if Genesis gives a true account. Because secular evolutionists do not want to give up on their theory of how we all got here without God... They have simply changed the theory: In my younger days, evolution was believed to be a slow steady process over hundreds of millions of years...

They now talk about punctuated equilibrium where things go along for millions of years and then suddenly there is a burst of evolutionary activity! They have done this shift not only in an attempt to explain things like the Cambrian Explosion, but also to address the lack of transitional forms of life in the fossil record.

This brings us to the other important point in our text and all of Genesis chapter one: God created all plant and animal life & did so in such a way that they reproduce after their own kind. God did not want us to miss this point because we find that phrase, “after its own kind” ten times in these first thirty-one verses of the Bible! Again the evidence of this found by true science is so overwhelming that even the secularists see it at times! *[explain the National Geographic piece]*

Again, when I was young, they were searching for ‘the missing link’ between man and his ancestors as the final prove for evolution...

- However, the truth is that ALL of the links are missing!

These modern secularists in their arrogance claim that evolution is the foundation for all biological science. If they continue to do so they will be building on a foundation of sand and sadly we saw some of the consequences of this in the 20th century.

As we discuss these issues with people whom God brings into our lives, it is important to remember that while we talk about facts in science, there are no brute facts as Dr. Van Til often pointed out: All facts are interpreted facts!

Whether you look at a series of fossils arranged from the simplest to the more complex or ponder the genetic code that we are learning more and more about each year they must be interpreted, and they will be interpreted by our world view.

As a creationist, I look at the similarities in the animals, whether it is their physical appearance or genetic code and see evidence of a common Creator.

An evolutionist looks at the same things and sees proof that all of life evolved from simple life to more complex life over time.

As we do in most cases, we see what we want to see, however, when it comes to the fossil record they have to do a lot more dancing around to make their case because it is NOT what really happened.

We have the same situation when it comes to the question of the age of the earth and I want to spend a few moments here because their arguments appear to be very strong if you don't rightly consider what they are saying. Just as was the case with the fossils, there are dozens of ways to measure how old we think the world is and some give very old ages and most give a very young age.

- **Obviously we vote for the young ones & the evolutionists must insist on the old one, because as I said, time is their god.**

However, we are commanded to be ready to give a defense of the faith and just as Paul said we would be ridiculed and persecuted, that is what you find in the academic settings today...

So a Biblically foolish college professor confronts a young Christian with a rock that has been dated by proven methods using radioactive decay rates. He tells the lad that since the rock is billions of years old there is no way that these early chapters of Genesis can be true. Such thinking gets reflected in the popular media over time and has destroyed the faith of many. Should we hide from it or confront it?

Paul says to give a defense... BUT not by just saying,

"I don't care how old that rock is, I choose to believe the Bible" is not a powerful, nor wise response.

Such an answer just confirms in the mind of that foolish professor that Christians are not reasonable and more importantly it has planted a seed of doubt that could in time undermine this believer's confidence in the Scriptures.

- **So how do we go about giving an answer as Paul commanded us?**

First we need to try and understand why this professor actually does believe that the rock is billions of years old. [yes, there was a reason I brought this hour glass... let me discuss how it works and what we assume.] Now such assumptions make the hour glass very reliable one hour at a time.

What if I had a glass with enough sand and slow enough rate of flow to measure a year? How confident would I be that a year had passed when I came back?

So, going back to our foolish professor, we should ask him why he is sure of the age of this rock. He will be more than happy to explain the 'proven' dating process, with just enough fancy words to make sure that you know your place. I would then politely point out that he needed to make some basic assumptions for this age to be accurate:

- 1) He had to know the make-up of the rock at the beginning**
- 2) He had to know that the rate of decay was constant for all that time.**
- 3) He had to know that nothing impacted the make-up over time.**

Even if we grant him a constant rate of decay the other two assumptions leave a LOT of room for error.

If our professor is a clever secularist he will at this point throw up the argument that sadly we see in many Christian circles: Are you saying that God deceived us by creating things with the appearance of age?

Here we come back to the reality of the Creator/creature distinction...

- **Our professor is not going to like this, but it is needed! [pre-evangelism if you like]**

The reality is that we cannot truly know the age of anything that we did not make ourselves unless we are told something about it.

Think about it this way: Suppose I teleport you back to the Garden on day eight and you see Adam and Eve and the garden that God has planted for them.

How old would you think they were? Adam? The trees? The waterfall?

Unless God told you that He made it all in the past week, from your experience you would think they were much older.

Now if you saw that Adam had no belly-button and that the trees had no growth rings you might suspect they were younger but how would you know how much younger without being told?

- Our secularist professor has the same problem because he is also a creature: Something he refuses to submit to on moral grounds!

If we could teleport him back to about five minutes after his supposed big bang, would he be able to date the elements that he found there?

Again, since there would be no stars or planets he would suspect the universe was much younger, but still how could he know if we did not tell him at what point in history we sent him?

Would he KNOW that those elements had been around for just five minutes or could he think it had been five billion years?

For a simpler example, think of the wine that Jesus made at the marriage feast at Cana: If the servant had given you a drink, would you have thought it was a well-aged wine?

- Was Jesus being deceitful?

I am sure we can have many more conversations about such what-ifs but we must remember that our confidence lies in the one who created the earth and who knows exactly how old it is!

- AND He has told us just how old the earth is in the Scriptures!

We began with the Apostle Paul's admonition to "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

I want to come back to that thought with the further encouragement from the Apostle Peter as we consider the battle that lies before us in this modern world:

I Peter 3: "12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

[Our first priority is to be on the Lord's side!]

13 "And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?"

[Our 2nd priority is to remember who is in control!] 14 "But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

[Our 3rd priority is to be anxious for nothing!]

15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."

[Our 4th priority is to conduct ourselves well!]

Being ready to give a defense when someone asks about the reason for the hope that is in you means that we must understand the darkness that has grown over our modern world...

- **BUT being ready also means having that hope in our lives which others should see and ask about!**

In other words, there should be a very practical difference in believing and trusting the eternal, Triune, personal God who created heaven and earth and putting our trust in 4.5 billion year old rocks!

- **One leads to the hope which Peter talks about and the other leads to our modern day despair.**

I hope and pray that these messages from the Book of Beginnings will put us on the proper foundation so that our hope shows through.

It must shine through in very practical ways: When Paul admonishes us to be anxious for nothing it puts our faith in the one who made heaven & earth to the test...

- **Can the one who filled the seas and skies with living creatures in a single day take care of whatever problem you or I are worried about this week?**

We know that there will be very dire consequences when a fed chairman thinks he can create \$85 billion in new money out of thin air each and every month...

- **But do we honestly think or act as if he can cause problems too big for our God to solve?**

It all goes back to the basic question that we started with: Do we believe God when He reveals Himself to us and tells us the real history of how He made the heavens and the earth?

- **This is the Jesus that we have put our faith in to save us from our sins: As we were blessed to see Job do this morning!**

This is Jesus our Savior, who made all things for Himself and who with the Father and the Spirit rejoices in what they have done!

This is Jesus our Savior, who sustains His creation day by day and who has promised never to leave us or forsake us.

- **And yes, this is Jesus our Savior, who not only created life but came to bring life and life abundant to all those who put their faith in Him.**

Communion Meditation: Psalm 121

“A Song of Ascents.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills-- From whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from Jehovah, Who made heaven and earth.

**3 He will not allow your foot to be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.**

4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5 Jehovah is your keeper; Jehovah is your shade at your right hand.

**6 The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night. 7 Jehovah shall preserve you from all evil;
He shall preserve your soul.**

**8 Jehovah shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth,
and even forevermore.**