

INTRODUCTION

1. We now come to Day Five of Creation in our study of The Genesis Record, so please open your Bibles to Genesis chapter one.
2. Today were looking at verses 20-23.
3. Genesis 1:20 (NASB) 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.” 21 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. 22 God blessed

them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

4. Up to this point in the Creation account, God has been preparing the earth for habitation.
5. Isaiah 45:18 (NASB) says, “For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), “I am the Lord, and there is none else.”
6. The first four days were for this purpose.

7. So the fifth and sixth days are devoted to this final work of creation where He populates the earth with sea creatures and birds then animals and man.
8. To recap, on the first day God created the earth, space, time and light.
9. On the second day He created the atmosphere.
10. On the third day He created dry land and plants.
11. And on the fourth day He created the sun, moon and stars.
12. And now we come to the fifth day in verses 20-23 where God creates living creatures.

13. It is estimated that there are 8.7 million species.¹
14. About 1.2 million have been described, but we really have no idea how many there are.²
15. “Globally, our best approximation to the total number of species is based on the opinion of taxonomic experts, whose estimates range between 3 and 100 million species.”³
16. An international team publishing in PlosBiology has come up with another way of tallying species unaccounted for.

¹ <https://answersingenesis.org/natural-selection/speciation/number-estimated-species-reaches-million/>

² <https://answersingenesis.org/natural-selection/speciation/number-estimated-species-reaches-million/>

³ Camilo Mora et al., “How Many Species Are There on Earth and in the Ocean?,” *PLoS Biology* 9, no. 8 (August 23, 2011): [doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1001127](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.1001127).

17. They write, “In spite of 250 years of taxonomic classification and over 1.2 million species already catalogued in a central database, our results suggest that some 86% of existing species on Earth and 91% of species in the ocean still await description.”

18. Now out of the 8.7 million species, there are only 228,450 known species in the ocean.⁴

19. Scientists estimate that 91 percent of ocean species have yet to be classified, and that 95 percent of the ocean remains unexplored.⁵

⁴ <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ocean-species.html>

⁵ <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ocean-species.html>

20. As for birds they say there are approximately 18,000 species of birds.⁶
21. Now verse 20 begins the same way as the other creation days with “Then God said.”
22. And in verse 20 we hear God say,
“Genesis 1:20 (NASB) 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.”
23. And as we have already seen in the previous days of creation, when God says something it happens.
24. So...

⁶<https://www.amnh.org/about-the-museum/press-center/new-study-doubles-the-estimate-of-bird-species-in-the-world>

LESSON

I. God Created Sea Creatures (vv.20-21)

First we have in verse 20 God saying, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures.”

The words “teem” and “swarms” is a literary device in Hebrew (paranomasia) that speaks of redundancy.

You see it best in the ESV where it translates it “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures.”

This is a different form of the same word repeated for emphasis.

This form is also used in verse 11 where it

says, “Let the earth sprout vegetation” or more literally with this form, “Let the earth vegetate vegetation.”

“Living creatures” in verse 20 is a comprehensive term used here of water creatures, in v 24 of land animals, in 9:10 of birds and land animals, and 9:16 of man and animals; in other words, of all animate creation in which there is “the breath of life” (נפש חיה; 1:30).⁷

So verse 20 is a summary of the fifth day of creation, God created sea creatures and birds.

First...

A. Great Sea Monsters (v.21a)

⁷ Wenham, Gordon J. Genesis 1–15. Vol. 1. Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1998. Print. Word Biblical Commentary.

Verse 21 says, “God created the great sea monsters.”

1. Verse 21 says, “God created”
2. The Hebrew verb is bara, which always speaks of direct creation. It explicitly rules out the possibility that these creatures evolved through some ages–long process. Together with the description of how God decreed their existence by speaking the command, it demands that we understand the origin of these creatures as an act of fiat creation, not an evolutionary process.⁸

⁸ MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning: The Bible on Creation and the Fall of Adam. Nashville, TN: W Pub. Group, 2001. Print.

3. The KJV says “great whales” but the Hebrew word is tannin, which can refer to any large creature, or it can mean “dragon” or “sea-serpent,”⁹ which would have been a sea-dwelling dinosaur-like animal.
4. People are confused when it comes to dinosaurs and the Bible.
5. They can’t recognize them in the Bible because the word dinosaur is not used.
6. That’s because the word dinosaur wasn’t first used until 1841.
7. The word dinosaur literally means “terrible, powerful, wondrous

⁹ Ibid., MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning.

lizards."

8. The word became popular after biologist and paleontologist, Sir Richard Owen coined the term "Dinosauria" in 1841.
9. The word dinosaur derives from two Greek words (deinos) "terrible, powerful, wondrous" + (sauros) "lizard" and it means "terrible lizard."¹⁰
10. Prior to 1841, they were called "dragons."¹¹
11. Henry Morris says, "The frequent references to dragons in the Bible, as well as in the early records and

¹⁰ <https://www.forbidden-history.com/dinosaurfacts-owen.html>

¹¹ <https://www.forbidden-history.com/dinosaurfacts-owen.html>

traditions of most of the nations of antiquity, certainly cannot be shrugged off as mere fairy tales. Most probably they represent memories of dinosaurs handed down by tribal ancestors who encountered them before they became extinct.¹²

B. Living Creatures that Moves (v.21b)

“God [also] created...every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind.”

1. The Hebrew noun in the expression “every living thing” is nephesh, the same word translated “soul,” in the King James Version of Genesis 2:7:

¹² Morris, Henry M. *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976. Print.

“the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

2. Nephesh literally means “that which breathes.” It speaks of soulish life, creaturely life, as opposed to the merely organic life of plants. And it is used in Genesis 1:21 for the very first time.¹³
3. “After their kind” is the same phrase that occurs in verse 11 when referring to the vegetation and trees. Each species stays within their own species.

¹³ MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning: The Bible on Creation and the Fall of Adam. Nashville, TN: W Pub. Group, 2001. Print.

4. Henry Morris again says, “Like the various plants, the actual biochemical reproductive systems of the animals were programmed to assure the fixity of the kinds. Physically and chemically, animals are similar to plants. Modern genetics has shown that all replicating systems function in the framework of the marvelous information program in the DNA molecule. The DNA for each kind is programmed to allow for wide individual variations within the kind, but not beyond the structure of the kind itself.”¹⁴

C. The Wonders of Sea Creatures

1. The Archerfish

¹⁴ Ibid., Morris, Henry M. The Genesis Record.

- a) They live in freshwater and ocean estuaries
- b) They live mostly in Southeast Asia
- c) They spit jets of water at insects
- d) Their aim is accurate up to five feet
- e) They are shaped and colored with a natural camouflage that makes them nearly invisible from above

2. The Seahorse

- a) Sea horses are a kind of fish, but they are unlike any other

- b) They have no neck and cannot turn their heads
- c) Their scales are fused into a bony armor plate that makes them unappetizing to predators
- d) Their jaws are fixed and they are toothless, so they eat by sucking in tiny shrimp from the sea water
- e) They swim vertically in the water and can grip with their tails to hang onto kelp in order to avoid being carried away by currents
- f) Most amazingly, they reproduce by means of an unusual role–reversal

- g) The female actually deposits her eggs in a womblike pouch in the male-and gestation therefore takes place in the male's body
- h) When the eggs hatch, he goes through labor and gives birth to live seahorses
- i) The male then nurtures the young the way females do in most species

II. God Created Birds (vv.20-21)

In verse 20, "Then God said...let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."

Verse 21, "God created...every winged bird

after its kind.”

Again, this speaks of the immediate creation of every variety of flying creature.

As clearly as possible, the biblical text states that all of them were created together by the Lord’s command; not one species evolved from another.

A. The Number of Birds (about 18,000 species)

About 10 years ago, two scientists decided to estimate the total number of birds on the planet. The number they came up with was 200 to 400 billion individual birds. Compared to 5 billion people, this amounts to about 40 to 60

birds per person.¹⁵

B. The Type of Birds

1. Cockatoos

- a) Are native to Australia, Indonesia, New Guinea, the Philippines, and Solomon Islands
- b) Are parrots
- c) Live upto 60 years or longer
- d) Eat assortment of seeds
- e) Some eat insects and their larva
- f) Known to raid farms

¹⁵ <https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/earth/ask-a-scientist-about-our-environment/how-big-is-the-bird-population/>

- g) Monogamous - mate for life from December to March
- h) The female lays one or six eggs, and both parents take turns sitting on them, turning them and keeping them moist during the incubation period. The eggs hatch in about 30 days¹⁶

2. Chickens

- a) A study done in 2003 estimated that there were over 24 billion chickens in the world. Not only do chickens outnumber people more than 3 to 1, but there are more chickens than any other kind of

¹⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/animal/ostrich>

bird in the world.¹⁷

- b) They can live up to 20 years under the right conditions¹⁸
- c) They are omnivores, which mean they eat both plants and meat
- d) The average hen will produce about 265 eggs in a year. Most hens have two productive years of egg laying and taper off as they age. Therefore, the average hen will lay about 530 eggs throughout her lifetime.¹⁹
- e) They lay one or sometimes more unfertilized or fertilized eggs a

¹⁷ <http://www.cherrycrestfarm.com/The-Amazing-Fun-Time-Blog/10-Interesting-Facts-About-Chickens/>

¹⁸ <https://www.mypetchicken.com/backyard-chickens/chicken-help/How-long-do-chickens-live-H106.aspx>

¹⁹ <https://animals.mom.me/number-eggs-given-chicken-its-life-cycle-9646.html>

day until they have collected a clutch. If you continually collect eggs daily they will continually lay eggs because their goal is to have a clutch. A clutch usually is about a dozen eggs.²⁰

- f) The color of a hen's egg is determined by the breed of chicken—and the color of their ears! Generally speaking, chickens with red earlobes will lay brown eggs, and chickens with white earlobes will lay white eggs. The color of the chicken's feathers have nothing to do with the color of the egg. Surprisingly enough, there are no known nutritional benefit to brown eggs over white eggs (or vice versa),

²⁰ <https://patch.com/washington/gigharbor/bp--why-do-chickens-lay-eggs-daily>

so it seems to be all in the personal preference!²¹

3. Ostrich

- a) Native to Africa
- b) If frightened can run 43 mph
- c) Adult males grow up to 9' tall
- d) Adult females grow up to 6' tall
- e) Males weigh up to 250 lbs
- f) Females weigh up to 220 lbs
- g) They eat vegetation and insects

²¹ <http://www.cherrycrestfarm.com/The-Amazing-Fun-Time-Blog/10-Interesting-Facts-About-Chickens/>

- h) Breeding males emit lionlike roars and hisses as they fight for a harem of three to five hens²²
- i) They do not bury their heads in the sand²³

4. The Woodpecker

- a) Woodpeckers have tongues that wrap around their skulls.
- b) These bones/muscles run over the brain, around the side of the head, under the lower jaw, and into the mouth, where the two bones meet to form the tongue. A woodpecker's tongue wraps

²² <https://www.britannica.com/animal/ostrich>

²³ <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/animal-myths-busted/>

around its head.²⁴

- c) A woodpecker can peck up to five hundred times per minute, striking the wood with a tremendous force at a rate of eight times per second.²⁵
- d) The bird's beak hits the wood at a speed of about thirteen miles per hour.
- e) The woodpecker's head is constructed with a built-in shock-absorbing system that cushions the brain.
- f) The average lifespan of a wild woodpecker can be from 4-12

²⁴ <https://infinitespider.com/woodpecker-doesnt-bash-brain/>

²⁵ Ibid., MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning

years, depending on the species. In general, larger woodpeckers typically have longer lifespans, and may live up to 20-30 years in ideal conditions.²⁶

C. God's Pronouncing of Good (v.21)

“And God saw that it was good.”

His own goodness is reflected in what He made. Even in our fallen state, we can see His goodness when we observe how carefully and flawlessly He designed what He made.

He made all these marvelous creatures for His own good pleasure, and He continually oversees every detail of His creation by a loving, sovereign

²⁶ <https://www.thespruce.com/fun-facts-about-woodpeckers-387095>

providence. Jesus said not even one sparrow falls to the ground apart from His Father's will (Matthew 10:29).

So God creates sea creatures and birds and gives them...

III. The Blessing (v.22)

Genesis 1:22 (NASB) God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

This is the first occurrence of the word "bless" in Scripture.²⁷

The blessing of God is one of the great unifying themes of Genesis.

²⁷ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

God blesses animals (1:22), mankind (1:28), the Sabbath (2:3), Adam (5:2), Noah (9:1), and frequently the patriarchs (12:3; 17:16, 20, etc.).

God's blessing is most obviously visible in the gift of children, as this is often coupled with "being fruitful and multiplying."²⁸

God tells the sea creatures to "fill the waters of the seas."

He tells the birds "to multiply on the earth."

In mammals and virtually all other animals, the male carries XY chromosomes, and females have XX chromosomes. Thus in most species, it is the male who determines the sex of the offspring. But in birds (as in moths and butterflies) the situation is

²⁸ Wenham, Gordon J. Genesis 1–15. Vol. 1. Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1998. Print. Word Biblical Commentary.

reversed, so that female birds carry the XY chromosome and males have the XX configuration.²⁹

IV. Day Five Completed (v.23)

“There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.”

CONCLUSION

1. Once again we sit in amazement!
2. Psalms 104:24-31 (NASB) O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your possessions. 25 There is the sea, great and broad, in which are swarms without number, animals both small and great. 26 There the ships move along,

²⁹ Ibid., MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning

and Leviathan, (dinosaur) which You have formed to sport in it. 27 They all wait for You to give them their food in due season. 28 You give to them, they gather it up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good. 29 You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire and return to their dust. 30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the ground. 31 Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; let the Lord be glad in His works.

3. Psalms 148:7 (NASB) Praise the Lord from the earth, sea monsters and all deeps.

4. Sea creatures and birds did not evolve, God created them.
5. They can't cross from one species to another.
6. God gave them boundaries to reproduce "according to their kind."
7. You can either believe the Bible or evolution, which is a lie.
8. And if evolution is true then we cannot trust the Bible.
9. And if we cannot trust the Bible then we cannot know what happens when we die.

10. But the Bible tells us the truth and about this and the next life.
11. Do you know the Savior?
12. You can and you can know if you have eternal life.
13. Trust Him now!
14. Let's pray.