

“... God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” Genesis 2:3

Creation Week

Pre-First Day Conditions

You will remember that in the “Ground Rules” we will try to understand Scripture just as it reads. The first two verses of Genesis describe the conditions that existed at a period in time, the beginning of Creation.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1,2, KJV)

As stated, the earth had no form and was void. To have a form some substance or matter must exist, but there was no form, so nothing existed. Also it is stated that it was void, which means nothing there.

We find that the heaven and earth that God created are explained within the same chapter. On the second day of creation God placed the firmament to divide the waters which were above and below it. We read in verse 8 that God called the firmament, Heaven. This would indicate that the “Heaven” referred to, is in relationship to this earth.

We also need to know what “earth” actually means. We read ahead on the third day and find that “dry land appeared” and God called it “earth”. This gives us the meaning of earth.

Continuing in the same verse we know that darkness is the absence of light, but what does “deep” mean?

Darkness covered the face of the "deep", used here as a noun. The Hebrew describes the deep as a sea of waters. The dictionary indicates an immeasurable expanse or abyss in the deep of space.

The third member of the Godhead, the Spirit of God, moved on the face of the waters. One Hebrew meaning of "moved" is to hover. This would indicate that the Spirit of God was available, to go into action, in the beginning of creation, the first day.

First Day

"And 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 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

"And the evening and the morning were the first day." (Genesis 1:3-5, KJV)

First there was darkness, then God said, "Let there be light and there was light." God divided the Light and the Darkness calling the Light, Day, and the Darkness, Night. This sequence, darkness first and then light, fits in with God saying that the evening and the morning were the First Day.

At this point let it be said that Faith is needed to accept the record of Creation in God's Word, but more secular faith is needed to accept the illogical theory of Evolution, that everything just happened!

Faith in the Creator strengthens as we study evidence that surrounds us, and is "us", the human body itself, the most powerful exhibit.

Second Day

"And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 "And 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.

"And the evening and the morning were the second day." (Genesis 1:6-8, KJV)

The Hebrews considered the "firmament" to be a vault or something solid supporting waters above. God divided the waters, some above the firmament and some below the firmament.

What a day that was! The waters were separated into two bodies, on the earth and above the earth. The waters stayed in that same relative position until:

"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 "And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered." (Genesis 7:11,12,19, KJV)

Water is a mighty force on our planet Earth. Think of the Lakes, Seas, Oceans, Rivers, how torrents of water cascade over the Niagara Falls year after year. The rivers keep flowing. How dependent we are on water. Without it we or vegetation could not survive.

But there are times it becomes deadly, as during the great Flood, just referred to. We have a taste of that Flood when unmanageable waters from above fall to the earth.

Not only do floods come from rain, but storms and earthquakes disturb the oceans and cause great tidal waves, flooding coastal shores, recently Asia's deadly Tsunami.

Following this was one of the greatest natural disasters to strike the United States, when Hurricane Katrina unleashed wind and wave on the Gulf Coast, obliterating miles of habitation along the coast line; breaching levees, allowing the water of Lake Pont Chartrain to level in New Orleans, leaving a city hardly fit for habitation. And then just weeks later, Hurricane Rita, re-flooding New Orleans and rending damage and flooding in the western Gulf Coast Area.

Asia's Tsunami was not like "a drop in a bucket," but more like a "drop in an ocean," as compared to Noah's Flood. Perhaps this helps us to visualize a little of what the great Flood did to the earth.

We are reminded of man's inability to control the powers of nature.

Third Day

"And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto 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 called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

11 "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree

yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

13 "And the evening and the morning were the third day." (Genesis 1:9-13, KJV)

God had one more move with the "waters". He gathered them together to make room for the "dry land". This would have been mud, had it been contained in the waters. The dry land came into existence, it appeared.

As previously mentioned, this dry land, God called "Earth". He called the waters, "Seas".

At this stage the basic topography of the earth was ready for vegetation—grass, herbs yielding seed and trees yielding fruit. All this God called into being and called it good.

This, in a few words, sounds simple, but think of the many fruit trees bearing apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, oranges, grape-fruit, tangerines, bananas, papaya, mangoes, avocados, walnuts, pecans, each tree with its own leaf shape, configuration and characteristics. Then the plants having seed—tomato, cucumber, okra, squash, pumpkin, grape and even the prolific zucchini.

In addition to food-bearing vegetation, God made many beautiful trees, both flowering and non-flowering and plants with gorgeous flowers also ferns. From the evergreens to the seasonal leaves, from the cool of the mountains to the tropical beaches, an array of vegetation for the enjoyment and sustenance of mankind.

Fourth Day

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

16 "And 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 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

19 "And the evening and the morning were the fourth day." (Genesis 1:14-19, KJV)

The far distant Sun is so bright we cannot look at it, so hot that it will blister our skin. It provides our earth with its life-giving energy, keeping life alive, setting apart the day and the night with glorious sunsets and sunrises, beauty which man cannot begin to match.

When the sun is set at the end of each day, in the ensuing darkness we see the myriad of stars and the moon, repeating its phases methodically.

What a powerful God, keeping the heavenly bodies cycling harmoniously so that finite man can predict astronomical events, many years ahead, to the very minute.

Fifth Day

"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21 "And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his 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 fowl multiply in the earth.

23 "And the evening and the morning were the fifth day." (Genesis 1:20-23, KJV)

On the fifth day God directed His attention to the waters on the earth and to the firmament of heaven. First He populated the seas with many creatures from the mighty whale to the smallest tropical fish. Some had to surface to breathe while most had the ability to live entirely under water.

Just to watch a humming bird maneuver with wing movement a blur, to the seagulls as they glide effortless, is but a sampling of the winged fowl. They have no arms and hands but survive and feed their young with beaks, (their mouths).

When we see the various forms of life, how can anyone doubt that there is an Almighty Power, a designer, whose ability we cannot even begin to comprehend.

Sixth Day

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have do-

minion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29 "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 "And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

"And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." (Genesis 1:24-31, KJV)

Inhabitants of the land, sea, and air were created to complete our wonderful world. God made vegetation, sea, air and land-life, in full maturity, all to reproduce its own kind.

After the cattle, the beasts and creeping things were created, God said, "Let us make man in our image. . ." The word "us" is plural. This indicates that God was not alone in Creation. We go to the book of John in the New Testament and find that Jesus was right alongside God in every step of Creation:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-3,14, KJV)

Details of this crowning act of Creation, giving life to Adam and Eve follow:

"And 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." (Genesis 2:7, KJV)

In these few words we are told how God actually formed man from the dust of the ground and as we already have read God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." The plural "us" and "our" lets us know that the likeness refers to both the Father and the Son.

And then we have the creation of the "better half" as we sometimes say.

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." (Genesis 2:15 KJV)

"And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21 "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." (Genesis 2:20-25, KJV)

Yes, male and female were created in the image of God, to have dominion over everything in the sea, in the air and on the earth, with the ability to multiply and fill the earth with inhabitants.

Consider the human body and all that it can accomplish beginning with the brain, our mind, and how it controls the entire body. Man will never invent a computer that will be able to do what our brain can do. Man has made some awesome inventions, but nothing to compare with the human body. Think of the relatively small amount of fuel, the food that provides energy, enabling the human heart to beat continuously day and night, with no electrical connection, circulating the life-giving blood year after year—God's Creation.

What an engineering feat, all the structure and systems of the human body—the skeletal system, the pulmonary system, the nervous system, the circulatory system, the digestive system, the muscular system, the glandular system, the elimination system, and the reproductive system, all working in unison.

On the reproductive system, God made sexual relations a pleasurable experience for two purposes, to be a culmination of love and for procreation of mankind. This sacred experience, an act

of love, Satan has influenced humanity to turn into tawdry relations, with many sexual preferences and all kinds of pornography.

God then started them off with a vegetarian diet, in fact a vegan diet:

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." (Genesis 1:29, KJV)

Who dares to say this all came into being by happenstance. Only God could design the human body and breathe into it the breath of life.

Miraculously when God breathed "the breath of life" into man's nostrils he became a "living soul", a combination of body and breath. Without life-giving breath the opposite is true. Man becomes a "dead soul".

The Psalmist describes what happens if we no longer breathe:

"His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." (Psalms 146:4, KJV)

Not only do we return to the earth from which man came but it is very clear that we no longer know anything for when that happens we no longer have any thoughts.

The knowledge of this is comforting for we know that our loved ones are resting, not in heaven as many think, where they could helplessly see with sadness in some cases, what is going on in our everyday lives.

Our husbands, wives, parents, children, brothers, sisters and friends, rest, as it were asleep, until that most wonderful of all promises comes true:

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, KJV)

Seventh Day

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

3 "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (Genesis 2:1-3, KJV)

What a week! We come to the seventh and last day of Creation and our God, knowing that mankind would need a day of rest, also rested, signifying His work ended, setting an example for mankind. We in resting and recognizing the seventh day, as God has set it apart, are honoring and worshiping our Creator.

It is interesting to note that the plural of "heavens" is used in stating that "the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them". In the first verse of Genesis the singular of heaven is used. Could it be that the plural is used here because all of the universe was finalized at this time?

God "blessed the seventh day". Synonyms for blessed are: holy, consecrated, hallowed, sacred, and sanctified—which is used also in the same verse. Synonyms for "sanctified" are the same as for "blessed". Near synonyms add even more sacredness to "sanctified": adored, glorified, revered, revered, venerated, worshipped, divine, religious, spiritual.

Going to the Hebrew we get more explicit guidance regarding the observance of the Seventh Day. Verbal action is described: to be set apart, to be hallowed, to be honored, to observe as holy—kept sacred.

The first full day of Adam and Eve was the first Sabbath. It was for all mankind.