

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #8

Genesis 1:20-23

The beauty of Genesis 1 is that we do not have to speculate concerning the origin of life, because life, just like the heavens and the earth, the light, the seas, the land and its vegetation and the sun, moon and stars, comes from God!

**GOD IS THE MAJESTIC CREATOR OF ALL EXISTENCES IN THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH INCLUDING ALL LIFE THAT LIVES IN THE HEAVENS, ON THE EARTH AND IN THE WATER.**

To believe that life developed from a single simple cell through a natural process of time over millions and millions of years is to believe something that mocks God and robs God of His glory.

As we come to Creative Day #5, we come to the creation of life. As Dr. Henry Morris says: “The first introduction of animal life was not a fragile blob of protoplasm that happens to come together in response to electrical discharges over a primeval ocean, as evolutionists believe” (Henry Morris, The Genesis Record, p. 68).

**FACTUAL REALITY #1** – God creates life by His word. **1:20a**

The word “life” first shows up in the bible in this verse. The Hebrew literally reads – “Then God said **let the waters teem with “breath” of living creatures**” (my translation). The Hebrew word “breath” is “nephesh” which refers to that which breathes as a living being (B.D.B., p. 659). This language is not used concerning plants and vegetation, but it is used concerning animals and men. There is a real living consciousness to the animal world and the human world.

As with other creative works of God, God speaks life into existence. Although God may choose to use certain substances to create life (i.e. “ground” – **2:19**), it is **only God’s word** that can command these substances come to life.

The creation of life is **only** a prerogative of God. Since Jesus Christ had the power to give life to those physically dead (John 11:43-44) and to those spiritually dead (John 10:10, 16), it is proof that He is God.

Notice that the command is simultaneous for aquatic life and fowl life. This again refutes evolutionary theory that says reptiles were created long before birds.

**FACTUAL REALITY #2** – God create life for the water. **1:20b, 21a**

The creation of aquatic life is clearly a distinct creative work of God. When Moses says “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures” he does not seem to say that the waters produced the life but that God produced the life in the waters.

The Hebrew word “teem” is the Hebrew word used in Exodus 8:3 (“swarm”) and Psalm 105:30 (“swarmed”). The idea is that in the specific location of water and land there was a great number or abundance. The command is not for the water to produce life, but for the waters to house an abundance of aquatic life that God created. Dr. Marcus Dods said: the sea life was “...not by any virtue inherent in the water, but, as the next verse shows (v.21) by virtue of God’s creative energy” (Dods, p.4). Three descriptions of aquatic life described in this context:

**(Description #1) – The Living Creatures. 1:20a**

The word “living” refers to something living rather than something inanimate. The word “creatures” refers to something that has breath and a mind. Drs. Keil and Delitzsch say that this “expression applies not only to fishes, but to all water animals from the greatest to the least” (Vol. 1, p. 60).

God in one command brought all living water creatures into existence. This fact is staggering when one considers that one drop of water from a ditch can hold 500 million microscopic creatures so small that, as Mr. John Phillips said, “...a teaspoonful of water would be to them what the Atlantic is to us. Half a billion infusoria can live comfortably in a single drop. They appear in a thousand species, some are herbivorous, some carnivorous, some have shells and some have none. They possess mouths, teeth, muscles, nerves, and glands. Some species have between one and two hundred sacks or stomachs, connected by an intestinal canal. The thickness of the membranes that line those stomachs have been estimated to be one fifty-millionth part of an inch” (p.44).

**(Description #2) -The great Sea Monsters. 1:21a**

People have wondered about dinosaurs for years and right here in the opening creative Works of God, it is clearly revealed that God created great sea monsters. This Hebrew term “tannin” would, as Dr. S. Lewis Johnson said, “... appear to include all large sea animals” (Study 4, p. 2).

The term “create”, which is connected to all sea life, is the Hebrew Word “bara” (**Genesis 1:1**) which means God creates something majestic out of nothing. God just spoke this marine life into existence.

The adjective “great” describes sea life that is strong and gigantic (Gesenius, p. 159). The noun “monsters” speaks of an animal that is monstrous in size, a vast sea animal (Gesenius, p. 869). This term is one that covers large fish such as Whales (Job 7:12); serpents (Exodus 7:9); dragons (Jeremiah 51:34) and crocodiles (Ezekiel 29:3). It would include sharks, dolphins, tuna and other large sea creatures. Any form of large sea life was created by God on Creative Day #5.

**(Description #3) - The creeping Sea Life. 1:21b**

The Hebrew word “moves” is one that refers to sea life that crawls or creeps (Gesenius, p. 771). This particularly refers to the smaller water life that has the ability to move on the ground. This would refer to aquatic animals that can creep on the bottom of ocean floor, reptiles and many believe insects. What Moses is saying is that Elohim is the God who created all forms of life in the waters, that which swims, slithers or walks.

King David, when years later writing about this subject, said that this Water life demonstrates the great wisdom of God (Psalm 104:24-26). He also said that God sees to it that all of this life has necessary food (Psalm 104:27-28) and God is the One who determines when each life lives and when it dies (Psalm 104:29-30).

**FACTUAL REALITY #3 - God creates life for the heavens. 1:20b, 21b**

God also created the bird life to fly in the heavens. The Hebrew word “bird” refers to birds which have feathers that can fly (Gesenius, p. 614). There are more than 9,000 types of birds that have been categorized and God ordained them all (John Phillips, p. 44). There are birds that have their habitation near the waters. There are birds that have their habitation near the fields. There are birds that have their habitation near the forests. There are birds that have their habitation near the wilderness. God made them all.

**FACTUAL REALITY #4 - God controls the genetic reproduction of life. 1:21c**

Notice both the water life and the bird life reproduce “after its kind.” God has set definite species boundaries of reproduction. We now know that these fixed boundaries are controlled by a Divinely created DNA molecule which will not permit advancement variations to another species. This fact clearly refutes any Darwinian theory that suggests one species may advance up a scale in time and become another species. Species reproduction has God ordained boundary limits.

One might ask what would Mr. Darwin say? Fortunately we have on record what he did say. Toward the end of his life Charles Darwin openly admitted in his book, *My Life and Letters*, Vol. 1, p. 210, these words: “Not one change of species into another is on record. We cannot prove that a single species has changed into another.” Darwin ultimately admitted what is revealed right here - there are species boundary lines that cannot be crossed.

**FACTUAL REALITY #5 - God classifies the life. 1:21d**

God saw that His water life and bird life were good. He gave it a “good” classification. It met His Divine specifications.

**FACTUAL REALITY #6 - God blesses the life. 1:22**

This is the first use in the Bible of the Word “bless.” The word “bless” has to do with Divine favor that causes prosperity (Gesenius, p. 143). After creating this life, God pronounced His good blessing on it which included fruitfulness and multiplication. When life is reproduced and multiplied, it is a direct result of a blessing from God! The ability to enjoy all God has made is a blessing of God.

**FACTUAL REALITY #7 - God creates life on Day #5. 1:23**

It is staggering to think that God could create all of the animals for the waters and all of the animals for the sky in one 24 hour day, but that is exactly what God did.

God is the majestic God who created the heavens and the earth and all things in them. He is a God of all knowledge and all power and He is a God who deserves all of our worship.

When Jesus was here on earth, He made some powerful statements about God’s creation. He said that not one sparrow falls to the ground without God caring for it (Matthew 10:29). He said that God sees to it that the birds He created are fed by Him (Matthew 6:26) and flowers are clothed by Him (Matthew 6:28-29).

The reason He brought this up was because He wanted His people to know that God is a God who cares for people and provides for people far more than He does even His birds or His flowers.

If anyone will trust in Jesus Christ, and seek to obey His word, he will discover that he will be the recipient of many wonderful blessings, just as Jesus said seek Him and His righteousness first and “all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).