

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #9

Genesis 1:24-31

The Declaration of Independence says: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are **created** equal, that they are endowed by the **Creator** with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” This document was signed on July 4, 1776 by men of principle and integrity who did not believe men evolved from “monkey-like creatures.” They believed men were created by God.

That idea of half monkey/half man wouldn't surface for about another 200 years. The man who invented this theory was Charles Darwin in his famous book published in 1859, *The Origin of Species*. The question as to where life began comes down to one truthful fact- God created it. However our public, tax-supported universities indoctrinate future science teachers on that which is contrary to fact and thus today you have two options as to what you may believe: 1) God's creation in Genesis or; 2) Darwin's evolution.

As much as people want to humanistically dismiss God from creation and embrace evolution, evolution is a theory that cannot stand for four key reasons:

- 1) There is no proof that genes can advance up a scale to form a new species.
- 2) There is no proof of the adaptation between species that would need to exist for evolution.
- 3) There is no proof from the biological or geological research that has turned up any transitional life. If evolution is true and it took tens of millions of years for a man to evolve from an ape-like creature, then there should be millions of half-man, half-monkey like creatures in fossil records.
- 4) Genesis 1! Genesis 1 is not human theory, it is Divine fact!

THE MAJESTIC GOD OF THE BIBLE CREATED ALL EXISTENCES INCLUDING THE ANIMALS ON THE EARTH AND MAN TO GOVERN THE EARTH.

When one moves through Genesis 1, there is a systematic gradation to God's creative work: He makes an expanse for life to exist before He makes life; He makes dry land appear before He creates vegetation. The gradation is that God moves from the simple to the complex. He moves from the formless to the formed, from the empty to the filled.

CREATIVE WORK #1 - The creation of earth's animal life. 1:24-25

The language of verse 24 and the commentary of Genesis 2:19 indicate that God commanded this animal life to come from the earth , which means that God used elements of the ground to form this animal life (Gesenius, p. 87).

(Fact #1) - This animal life has a soul . 1:24a

The Words “living creatures” refer to life with a soul. As Dr. C.I. Scofield said, the Hebrew word “creature” (nephesh) usually is translated soul, which implies animals have a conscious life as opposed to plants that do not. Plants have life, but not a conscious life.

(Fact #2) - The animal life has reproduction limits. **1:24b**

The expression “after its kind” indicates God established certain species boundaries and He repeats this point several times in Genesis 1 - 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25. **To accept evolution is to reject the Bible.**

(Fact #3) - The animal life has variety. **1:24c**

Notice the cattle, creepers and beasts. The Word “cattle” refers to large land animals that are more domestic (i.e. cows, dogs, cats) (Gesenius, p. 105). The words “creeping things” refers to smaller land animals that may or may not have legs that creep or crawl on the ground (i.e. mice, lizards, worms, snakes) (Ibid., p. 771). The Word “beasts” refers to wild animals of all kinds, those not domestic (Ibid, p. 274).

CREATIVE WORK #2 - The creation of earth’s human life. **1:26-31**

Notice the major switch from commanding things into existence to “let us.” As John Calvin said God seems to go from commanding to consulting (Calvin, p. 91). Now the question arises as to whom is God addressing in the “let us”? There is really only one answer - the Trinity, as established by the plural noun for God - Elohim. There are three main differences between human life and animal life:

(Difference #1) - Human life is different than animal life according to God’s plan . **1:26a.**

God is obviously consulting with other members of the Godhead in this final creative Work, as Dr. Leupold said, “from every point of view man is seen to be the crown and climax of God’s creation” (p. 86).

(Difference #2) - Human life is different than animal life according to God’s person . **1:26b**

Man is the only life that God created in His image and His likeness. The Hebrew word “image” refers to a likeness, a shadowy image that is in very close proximity to God’s own Person (Gesenius, p. 710). The words “image and likeness” are synonyms, as Kiel & Delitsch observe there is no sharp difference between these words. Both terms point to qualities shared by both God and man. God created man with certain distinctions related to Him that no plant or animal life has. These distinctions, as Dr. S. L. Johnson observed lie with all aspects of human life which are foreign to animal life.

Certainly, we know that there are some noticeable physical differences between human life and animal life, however this cannot be the primary emphasis because God the Father and God the Spirit do not have physical bodies so at best this could only be a one-third physical application to the Trinity. The emphasis in Genesis is that man was given by God an intellect (Genesis 2:19-20); he was given emotions (Genesis 3:6) and he was given a will (Genesis 3:6-7).

(Difference #3) - Human life is different than animal life according to God's purpose . **1:26c**

God had a special purpose for man- He gave him authority over the other forms of life He created. God put man in dominion over other forms of life. **Verse 27** again establishes that God created man in His image, **man did not evolve; He was created by God in the image of God.**

Human Life Blessing #1 - God gave man the blessing of posterity . **1:28a**

The words “be fruitful and multiply” mean God gave man and woman the blessing of propagation, perpetuation and preservation of the human species. God could have, as Calvin said, covered the whole earth with a multitude of men but He chose to allow men and women to enjoy each other and experience the blessing of reproducing children.

Human Life Blessing #2 - God gave man the blessing of position . **1:28b**

God gave man a very prestigious position - authority over the earth and the animals. When one reads this and a text like Psalm 8:5-8, there is no question that man has a God given sovereignty to him. Man was to care for, control, cultivate and direct God's creation.

Human Life Blessing #3 - God gave man the blessing of provisions . **1:29-30**

God provided the food for man and for animals. Both men and animals were originally vegetarian. This obviously must be true because death is a penalty for sin and at this point in time there was no sin so there was no death. Therefore the killing of an animal in order to eat it was not a valid option at this time. This vegetation would have been nutritious, nourishing and plentiful.

God evaluated His work on Creative Day #6 and classified it as “very good” **(1:31)**.

God in six days had creatively worked and His work was majestic. It had His Divine stamp on it.

Man has been made by a powerful, glorious God. He did not evolve. He was a special part of God's creation. This special creation originally brought great glory and satisfaction to God. The real question is does our life do that now?