

GENESIS 1-3
Message 8

INTRO: Turn to Genesis 1:9-12 (read). This morning we are going to look at the creation of vegetation. In the past week, it happened to me that I gained a new insight into the Word. I marvel again and again at the Word of God. This time, in my reading through the Scriptures in my daily reading, I came to Chronicles. It is difficult reading because of the genealogies, but somehow as I read those genealogies this time through, I marvelled at the genealogies. For the first time that I can recall, it struck me how important those genealogies are to the Word of God. The continuity and credibility that it gives to the Word of God. I just marvelled at the Word of God.

And so as I thought of it, I tried to think of what the Bible would be like without Genesis 1-3. I cannot imagine it. The gap would be so vast if the Scriptures did not have Genesis 1-3. I'm looking forward to going through these chapters. Young people, sometimes some of this is just not real exciting, but I want you to pay attention to these chapters. If you understand these chapters and have them settled in your hearts, it will help you in many areas of life. If you have these settled in your hearts you would be safe in our colleges and universities. Places that are otherwise unsafe.

So we are looking at day three of creation which is Tuesday of our week. We saw that first the waters were gathered together into one place, which happened when God put gravity in force. It is interesting that God created out of nothing in the beginning. And then He created out of things He had already made. It is so with us. Someone has said God cannot do anything with us until He can make something out of nothing. Then once God has made something, then He begins to work in our lives and to bring forth that which He wants. Well, God called the dry land earth and the gathering together of the waters He called seas and we notice in the text, in the end of verse 10, that God saw that it was good. Then God named the dry land and the gathering together of the seas.

3. The third event of day three (1:11-12)

a. Classification of vegetation

And now we want to look at the third event of day three. We're looking at vegetation. It is interesting how God in these six segments completes creation and creation is not complete until man is made. Man completes creation. Man is the crown of creation. That will be the main title of our second chapter. So let us look at this third event of day three in verse 11 (read). We have here first of all the classification of vegetation. There is a large field of study in education we call biology. How many of you have taken biology classes? How many have not? I fall into that category.

Well, biology is a vast field of study that studies living organisms. And it is broken down into two smaller fields of study. Does anyone know what they are? Well, they are botany and zoology. Botany deals with the study of things like this plant here, which is rooted into the ground and cannot move about.. Zoology studies living organisms that can move about. They are not rooted into the ground. So it is the study of living things classified into those two areas. Now botany studies living organisms that are inanimate. They don't move around as we do. And within these two large fields of study, there are specialty studies. For example in botany there is the specialty study called taxonomy. Taxonomy classifies everything into its families and groups etc... So it is the classification of things. Notice in Genesis 1:11 we have botany and taxonomy.

Now here is a question you might ask a botanist: Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable. Yes it is a debated question. So in these verses we deal with this type of thing. Now notice that the classification given in God's Word is grass, herbs and trees. Now those classifications do not necessarily fit our modern botanist classifications. But if you should go to school and find they do not fit modern classifications, modern classifications of plants are based on evolution. What evolves

from what? Now they do not know, so we do not have to be too intimidated by that. In Genesis 1:11 we have a practical and useful classification of all vegetation; grass, shrubs, herbs and trees. Now I want to make a practical application out of that classification. This passage is rich in application and we want to look at some of those as we move through this passage. In the area of vegetation, we find it classified into three kinds. When we come to mankind, and mankind's spirituality, we classify man into two kinds. There are the saved and the unsaved; the justified and the condemned; there are the sheep and the goats; the good and the evil and so on. We have classified man into two kinds. This morning, you may be classified as saved or unsaved; just or unjust; evil or good.

Now let me sound a warning: There is in our day a fast growing doctrine of tolerance. Tolerance does not like classification. It does not like people to be classed into the kinds of groups mentioned earlier. The new doctrine is not classification but unity. And it is growing. Mankind no longer wants to be classified; the very thing that God did here to vegetation. For instance, there is the development of the ETC. It is the Evangelicals and Catholics together. I have been asked in this community if the Catholic church is an evangelical church. Now we must understand that the Catholic church has not changed since they were stringing up Mennonites. I have been amazed that this question is being asked. But there is a movement abroad today that is uniting Evangelicalism and Catholicism. We do not want classification, we want unification. We are moving into the last times where we will bring about the one world church.

I was teaching in Spy Hill prison on one occasion. Seated around the room were many natives and off to my left here was a rather large native. And I was teaching as I always did that there is only one way to God. And if

you are not on that way, you are on the way to hell. Well, I find it is offensive to teach that there is only one way. This native is sitting off to my left here and he jabbed me in the shoulder like this and he said, "Hey, are you my brother?" I knew what he was getting at. The brotherhood of mankind. I turned and looked at him and said, "Are you a Christian?" And he said, "No." So I said, "Then you are not my brother." I thought I had started third world war in that room. Both the whites and the natives were upset at this classification of mankind. Now it was not because he was native and I was white. It was because I had Christ and he didn't. That is the reason for the classification. Today we are trying to do away with this classification.

b. Laws regulating vegetation

Well, look in this verse at the laws that God put in place regarding vegetation (v. 11). Consider the words, "...that brings forth after its kind." God put in place biological laws that determine that everything will bring forth after its kind. As a matter of fact, this phrase occurs some ten times in this first chapter. Everything will bring forth after its kind. I did some grammatical studies on this rather difficult verse. I was thinking of offering \$50 if someone here might diagram verse 11 for me. But in my studies I concluded that, "...everything brings forth after its kind" modifies the grass; the herbs and the trees. All of these will bring forth after their kind. It is significant that this phrase should occur ten times, a number that is significant in Scripture. Everything produces after its kind.

We want to look at this law as it relates to vegetation. I do not know of a law that man has tried to break more than this one. Man has tried to break the law that every thing brings forth after its kind. And man has tried to cross the kinds. It is amazing what man has

come up with but to date, this law has not been defied. They have tried and spent millions trying, but to date they have not been able to do that. Now within certain families you can cross certain types of plants and get a different type, but it must be within the same family. You cannot go outside the family. One can cross various types of apples, but you still have apples, but they still bring forth after their kind. So the laws God put in place are so sure that you can count on them from year to year and millennium to millennium.

Let me make an application from that this morning. Everything brings forth after its kind. That is a scary thought as well as a comforting one. The Lord uses an illustration of this in a graphic way. Turn to Galatians 6:7-8 (read). I wonder how many here sow canola in the spring and expect wheat in the fall? I wonder how many sow peas in the garden and expect potatoes? This is a law so sure, that God has taken it over into the spiritual realm. Let me warn you again. When we sow, we will reap. When we do things that are wrong, we are sowing and we will reap. It is amazing that we expect that we can sow without reaping. I think this morning, and I am deeply grieved, that among our own people we would have things like head shaving. But it is not the head shaving I am concerned about. It's the seed. It's the identification point. You cannot sow without reaping. When we sow there is only one way we can take care of it. That is to say, "I'm sorry Lord. I did wrong."

As I prepared for this message I had heard, and am deeply grieved that among our young people there should be those who listen to rock music. I tell you in no uncertain terms, you cannot sow without reaping. And what kind of fruit will these bring? Will we reap godly fruit from this? Let me warn you about TV, that what you let in is sowing. I warn about videos this morning. I am not saying you cannot do these things, I'm only saying,

"Watch what you let in." Videos, TV, magazines; some of these are such traps. And they get a hold of you, and they bring fruit. I firmly believe, I have walked with God for over 20 years, and I think I'm getting to know God a little; I firmly believe that if you live in these types of things without repentance, that when you have children you will bring forth after your kind. The thing that concerns me is they seem to get worse and worse. I trust God will speak to you this morning and cause you to reconsider the things we do, see, hear etc...

c. Reproduction of vegetation

I want us to notice the reproduction of vegetation (11, read). You will doubtless have heard this question: What comes first, the chicken or the egg? Well, what comes first? Well, Genesis 1 answers this question. It is answered here in vegetation and in the animal kingdom because both have their same progress. We will see later that the development in the animate realm is the same as we have here in vegetation. So let us ask the question like this: What comes first, the grass or the seed?, the herb or the seed; the tree or the seed? Yes, the plant. It is not the seed. Did you notice that God did not make the seed and then put it into the ground? He made the plants with the seed. The seed will not go into the ground until man has been created. We will see this later as we study it. So from now on you can answer this question: What comes first, the chicken or the egg?

Well, this study of seeds is a very interesting area. Take for instance the way God has designed seeds with regard to dispersal. I notice our lawn has these beautiful yellow flowers in the spring. In the spring they come in to the kitchen table. But a little later they get white and puffy. Have you seen them? You lift it and blow lightly and the seeds just go flying off. Yes, dandelions. It is very interesting the way God

has designed seeds and the way they are dispersed. Seed dispersal is very amazing, never mind the seed itself. Consider for a moment the abundance of seeds. Some seeds were frozen in the Antarctic. We have spoken of the mammoths that were found there. There was some animal dung found with seeds in it. They estimated that the seeds had been there some 10,000 years. Well, we think according to creation we think it is not quite that long, but at least they have been there several thousand years. They took those seeds, put them in the right conditions and within 48 hours they sprouted. They were thousands of years old. They found a grain seed in the pyramids of Egypt. It had been lying there dormant for several thousand years and put into the right conditions, it brought forth fruit. Life was in that seed all this time.

Let me take a few lessons for our practical life from that. You see, our mind might be likened to a garden in which one might sow good seeds or bad seeds. We have talked about that. These seeds are distributed in various ways. There are good seed and bad seeds that come in. I have warned you of videos. Now they are not all bad but I tell you that more seeds are planted like that than many other ways. It is so that one must watch what goes into the mind because these seeds will bring forth after their kind. Think of Romans 12:1-2 (read). We renew the mind by putting the Word of God into our minds. You see, what we plant in our minds will grow and bring forth after its kind. Maybe you say, "Look, I watch a lot of TV or videos. It hasn't changed me." You see, that is the danger. There may be seeds lying there that have not yet had the right conditions. And you may become older, 10, 15, 20 years later and of a sudden the conditions are right and you do some horrible deed. And we say, "Why did I do that? I can't understand myself. Why did I do that?" You see, the conditions became right and the seed has been lying there dormant all these years. And now of a sudden you bring forth fruit. There is

only one way I know to weed the garden of the mind. That is through the Word of God. When the Word of God reveals something wrong and I say, "Oh Lord I'm sorry" then God pulls the weeds. You see these seeds are distributed in our minds in many and various ways and we must do all we can to watch that they do not come in.

Well, I want to make one more note here in a kind of scientific note that when God created vegetation and animals and man, He created them full sized. He created the trees, so that they were bringing forth fruit. All of biological vegetation was created in this way. So the tree may have appeared like it was 100 years old but it was only a day old. Let me read Genesis 1:11-12 again (read).

4. The conclusion of day three (1:13)

Let me make a concluding point here before we close the message. We find in conclusion to day three, three very familiar clauses or sentences. One, the evening and the morning were such or such a day. This occurs 7 times. Another is, "And it was so..." God said let it be like this and it was so. It is interesting that when God works with inanimate beings like trees or grass or even the animals, when God worked with these He said, "Let it be so and it was so." But man was created with a free will. And now God commanded but it was not necessarily so. Man could go against the laws God put in place. The plants and trees couldn't. When God created the dandelion and told it to bring forth after its kind, that is what it will do from now and from now on. But when He made man He said, "Do this and do that" but man had a free choice and did not have to obey. And man does not obey even to this day. Man has the most awesome capacity to choose.

Then there is another familiar term here, "And God saw that it was good." I wonder if any one remembers the definition of good yet? Yes, anything that lines up with the will and character of God is good. What God made here was

in line with His will and character and He saw that it was good. Now God had said that it was good on several occasions already, I think seven times in the creation account. Now think for one moment of a world without vegetation. What kind of world does it become? You can hardly imagine it right? When God created vegetation, of course it was good. So on day one God made a place for man to exist; on the same day He made light which makes everything visible. On day two He made the atmosphere and mixed it with all the right gases in order that man might exist. On day three God separated the water from the land so that man could exist on the land and on the same day He made the grass shrubs and trees. And this is God's main provision of food for mankind.

Then there is one more familiar term, "And the evening and the morning were the third day." This is repeated again. So let me ask one more question, "Why didn't He say, 'And the evening and the morning were...'" We'll answer that in the future some time.

So three days have gone by in creation so far. Two heavens and the earth have come into existence. Light has been created. The gasses have been mixed. The atmosphere has come about for man's existence. The water has been separated from the land, so man would be able to dwell on the land. And in three short days we are nearing the time when the earth will be ready for the most awesome creation of all: Man. You know that when man went to mars, they expected to find some kind of living beings up there. They're still looking for living beings out there. There has been sound equipment made seeking to get messages from the outer universe trying to pick up messages from living beings elsewhere. So far, only man has been found to live, and that on earth.