

On day 5 we are introduced to two important terms that become very important in our understanding of the rest of Scripture.

The first one is a term that will be vital for us to gain a solid understanding of, because it will appear another 70+ times just in Genesis, and hundreds of times in the rest of the Bible.

We see it here in the first chapter of the OT (v.22) and again in a prominent place in the last chapter of the OT.

Then in Jesus' first sermon in the NT Jesus uses this word 9 times in His opening paragraph.

And in the last chapter of the Bible, Rev.22, when John gives us the Lord's final words to us in Scripture, Jesus uses this word twice.

The word is "Blessed."

The idea of blessing dominates not only Genesis but much of the Bible.

The Hebrew word is BERUCH (the first word in the prayer at communion – "Blessed be the Lord...")

What does it mean?

Some may think of a blessing from God as when God causes something good to happen to you. But there is a serious problem with that definition. If you are a believer, according to Ro.8:28, all things that happen to you are ultimately good – including the painful things.

Wenham defined the word this way: a blessing is, very simply, a hoped-for success.

That is an insightful definition, because a blessing isn't just when God does something in your best interests. It's not just when something works out well for you. Again, God uses absolutely everything that happens to you, happens to accomplish His perfect plan for you.

A blessing is when God graciously accomplishes His perfect plan for you *by means of some thing you desire.*

It's when God takes something that seems wonderful from your perspective and uses *that*, rather than using a trial, to accomplish His plan.

Sometimes Christians have used the word "blessing" as a substitute for the word "luck," since as Christians we don't believe there is any such thing as luck.

That's really not a bad use of the word. Blessing from God is when things bounce your way in a way that is favorable from your perspective.

It's used of gaining wealth and riches, of having success in some effort, in having children, etc.

Genesis is a book that describes the way God made everything, and what His intentions were from the very beginning with what He made – particularly for mankind.

And one thing that stands out like a flashing neon sign is that from the beginning it has always been God's desire to bless all of humanity everywhere on the face of the globe.

Another one of the glaring, stark contrasts we see with the Genesis one account and the ancient creation myths is the Creator's affection for the creation – especially for man. That is absolutely unique, and it dominates not only the creation account but the whole Bible.

Look at v.27 of Gn.1, where God first creates human beings.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them

The very first thing God does the split second he makes mankind is bless them.

He could have started out by telling them all the rules.

He could have started out by teaching them lessons about life.

He could have started out by bringing them into life through some painful struggle like the way you and I entered this life – so the first sounds out of their mouths would be crying.

He could have done a lot of things, but the one thing He couldn't wait even one second to do is bless them.

But it's a massive theme in Scripture.

By chapter 6 mankind has become so wicked God has to demonstrate His holiness by wiping all but one family from the face of the earth. But that proves to be so painful to God, immediately afterward He vows never to do that again even if man becomes just as wicked as he became before. (Gn.8:21)

The first thing God does after the flood is bless Noah and his family. (Gn.9:1)

Very quickly the whole world does begin to rebel against God in a united effort, and so God divides them into separate nations after the tower of Babel in ch.11, and then the very first thing that happens after that we see at the beginning of ch.12.

He says to Abraham:

Gn.12:2-3

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Underline that last phrase. Instead of destroying all of humanity, this time God divided them into separate people groups and now He is beginning a plan that will enable Him to *bless* every one of those people groups.

Notice the progression: God says,

I will bless you.

Then I will bless others through you.

I will bless those who bless you along the way

And eventually all humanity will be blessed through you

God couldn't just bless everyone even as they rebel against Him without compromising His perfect justice, so He sets in motion an ingenious plan that will enable Him to bless all of humanity while keeping perfect justice intact.

His desire to do that is repeated again and again. If you think God chose Israel because He wanted to ignore the rest of the world, think again. God chose Israel as the avenue for Him to bless the whole world.

Gn.18:18

Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

Gn.22:18

through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Gn.26:4

through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,

Gn.28:14

All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

So the story of Genesis is that God made mankind and blessed them and put them in a garden paradise.

They rebelled and had to be ejected from the Garden, but God blessed them again with offspring.

They rebelled again and brought upon themselves the flood.

He blessed them again and they rebelled again and brought upon themselves the judgment at Babel.

And so then God sets in motion His plan to bless humanity that this time cannot be thwarted.

It's the story of God tenaciously, relentlessly insisting on blessing man.

Isa.30:18

the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion.

And, of course, the end of the story is that through Abraham comes Israel, and through Israel God brings Jesus Christ into the world, who is God in human flesh.

And in the opening sermon of the NT Jesus, right out of the hatch pronounces nine different blessings on those people who are in His kingdom.

These people are still sinners, but He can bless sinners, because in His death on the cross He paid what we owed and satisfied God's perfect justice. And on the basis of His perfect life and infinite worthiness, anyone who is in Him can freely receive all of God's blessing.

So right after Jesus ascended back into heaven following the resurrection, the Church was born, and Peter gave the crowds this explanation of what was happening:

Ac 3:24-26

"Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. 25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, `Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' 26 When God raised up his servant (Jesus), he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

You are being blessed by God in a plan that enables Him to bless you because it deals with the problem of your wickedness, and it's all part of His plan to bless **all people on earth**.

Gal.3:14

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the nations through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

That promise of blessing to Abraham that was directed to the nations of the world from the very

beginning has now finally come to all nations through Christ's death on the cross, so that anyone who has faith can receive it.

So in Eph.1:3 Paul says, **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.**

So that's a brief summary of the concept of blessing in Scripture. It is a very major theme, and we see the word for the first time on day 5 of creation.

Tanin

Notice the reference in v.21 to **the great creatures of the sea**

The Hebrew word for **creatures** is *tanin* (actually it's plural here – *taninim*)

The best translation would probably be “sea monsters.”

The people knew there were huge sea animals, and they referred to them as monsters, because they didn't know anything about them.

We do the same thing. There are creatures that are very monster-like, but we don't call them monsters because we know about them. But there is something in Loch Ness that we do call a monster.

It could be a plesiosaur or it could be a log. It has never harmed anyone or threatened anyone – we call it a monster just because we don't know what it is.

It was the same way for them. They might have occasionally come in contact with a whale, or whale shark, or sea-going dinosaur, and thought of it as a monster.

But whatever it was, the significance of it is not what specie of animal it was, but what it represented.

If this is referring to a specific specie it would be unique, because the rest of the creation account only talks about broad categories.

Most likely it's not talking about a certain animal, but rather is a reference to the mythical sea monster that terrified the people of the ancient world. They called it *Tanin*, and it was believed to be in rebellion against the gods. It was their archrival and their greatest threat.

And they associated that embodiment of evil with those giant, mysterious, ominous creatures out there in the sea.

That's not surprising - We are fascinated with dinosaurs, but the biggest creature by far that we know about that has ever been on the earth is still alive today - Blue whales get up to 100 ft. long.

So that's the prevailing thought about *Tanin*.

And so that becomes very significant, because the God of Genesis one *creates* the *tanin*!

Gn.1:20-23

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds

increase on the earth." 23And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

On days 1,2&3 God made the **heavens**, then the **oceans** and sky, then the **land**.
Then on days 4,5&6 he fills the **heavens**, then the **oceans** and sky, then the **land**.

So this is the day when God fills the oceans and the sky. That's why the land animals don't come until day 6.

And so God filled the seas and skies.

There are more birds in the United States than there are people on the globe.

And any estimation of the number of fish in the ocean would only result in a lot of numbers too astronomical to even have meaning to us. How about this to get you started: In one spawning season, a single cod fish lays 9 million eggs.

20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures and let birds fly (The piel means to swarm) above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

Teem is an excellent translation for the word that describes the creatures in the sea. It's a word that implies great numbers and quick movement.

The word **teem** is a term that normally is used only of very small creatures (Cassuto p.48), but here it includes the largest creatures in existence – whales. The idea is that from God's perspective even the most massive creatures on earth swarm around like little gnats.

The word translated **creatures** is NEPHESH (souls). The fish are called **living souls**.

But that's not to say they have immortal souls like people do.

A soul, in this context, is something that breathes and can move around at will, a conscious creature with appetites.

Isa.5:13-14

Therefore my people will go into exile for lack of understanding; their men of rank will die of hunger and their masses will be parched with thirst. 14Therefore the grave enlarges its appetite NEPHESH) and opens its mouth without limit;

Dt. 23:24 **If you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat all the grapes you want, (lit. you may eat according to the satisfaction of your NEPHESH) but do not put any in your basket.** (If it meant "desire" it would include what they would want to put in a basket. Here the word only refers to physical hunger at the present time).

Ps. 78:18 **They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved. Lit. demanding food according to their NEPHESH**

Jer. 2:24 **a wild donkey accustomed to the desert, sniffing the wind in her craving-- in her heat who can restrain her?**

The human soul has the capacity for an appetite for God. (Ps.42:1, 63:1, 84:1, 119:20,81)

So it's not that they go the heaven. Calling them souls just means they are animated beings.

By this point in the creation account we are getting used to the fact that the God of Israel had supremacy over the most powerful pagan gods.

But what about *Tanin*? Will God at least have a little bit of struggle trying to subdue him?

21 So God created the great *taninim* of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them

created

This is the first time during the 6 days we have seen this word. God created everything, but the word is used here to imply a greater directness. Life is seen as coming directly from the hand of God.

We find that God doesn't struggle at all. He doesn't have to subdue the *taninim*. God created the *taninim*.

And then it even goes a step beyond that

God blessed the *taninim*!

Can you imagine, the great enemy - the only force more powerful than your gods, the great sea monster with the powers of chaos, and Moses says, "Oh, that? That's just *Tanin* - God made it and blessed it so it could continue to exist."

Isn't that great? What is the greatest, scariest, most intimidating threat facing you right now? Is there some person out there who could really harm you – do some real damage in your life? (Boss, family member, etc.)

Whoever it is, do you realize that for that person to so much as take his next breath requires the blessing of God – the same God who is in charge of caring for you?

They can't do anything that He doesn't enable, and He won't enable them to do anything that isn't in His ultimately perfect plan for you.

In Isa.10 the king of Assyria is pictured as an ax in God's hand that God is using to judge Israel. And He makes that point so the Israelites don't get to thinking that this king that is destroying them is somehow out of God's control.

Isa.54:16-17

"See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc; 17no weapon forged against you will prevail,

Isa.10:15

Does the ax raise itself above him who swings it, or the saw boast against him who uses it?

The theology behind Genesis one is so absolutely crucial for an understanding of God and how we should view life.

TT 2 Sam.16 and I'll show you an example of someone who understood this.

This is the account of David during Absalom's rebellion when David the king was running for his life from his son.

2Sa 16:5-14

As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. 6He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. 7As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you man of

blood, you scoundrel! 8The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood!"

9Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head."

10But the king said, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

11David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to."

David saw what he was getting from Shimei as coming from the hand of the Lord. This was happening only by God's permission.

Does that mean David enjoyed it? Does that mean he didn't wish it would stop? No.

David wanted things to improve from his perspective, but instead of thinking that would come through David eliminating his struggles, he thought "If I endure this struggle perhaps God will bless me."

David was more concerned about seeking blessing from God than he was about doing anything to Shimei.

12 It may be that the LORD will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today."

13So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt.

Back to Gn.1.

Some have theorized that evil already existed at this point – that Satan has already fallen and that there is already death, disease and suffering.

And we have seen that that cannot be the case, because God keeps on calling the entire creation "good" and at the end of day 6 calls it all "very good."

And this is another reason why it's doubtful whether evil existed yet.

If there is any candidate for the personification of evil it would be *Tanin*. When Nebuchadnezzar or Pharaoh are portrayed as the personification of evil they are called *Tanin*. (Jer.51:34, Ez.32:2)

So *tanin* was basically the ancient equivalent of the devil in their thinking. And yet even the *Taninim* at this point are favored and blessed by God.

I think that another pretty clear indication that evil does not yet exist.

So God filled the seas with **every living and moving thing with which the water teems**
That's another merism - the huge creatures and little ones and everything in-between.

The variety of fish in the sea boggles the mind. The variation in size and shape and color defies description.

And they really do fill the waters. They are in oceans, lakes, raging rivers, underground streams...

Some fish spend most of their life buried in sand on the bottom of the ocean. Some fish are able to survive for months in dried-up riverbeds.

There are 6 different species of fish that can shoot bugs off of leaves above the water by using their mouths as squirt guns.

They have eyes that are specially designed to be able to adjust for the bending of the light so they don't miss the bug.

And the amazing thing is they have the capacity to feed like other fish. They seem to shoot the bugs down just for sport. (How did that one evolve? Survival of the fittest?)

There are bioluminescent fish at the bottom of the ocean, where it is pitch black, who have their own headlights.

One such fish is the angler fish, that has a fishing pole as one of the limbs of its body. The fishing pole hangs out in front of them and has a little light on the end that serves as bait, and they catch fish the same way we do.

Do we have any scientific evidence that that kind of complexity somehow evolved?

Let's take a trip down to the bottom of the geologic column to the Cambrian layer where we find some of the earliest and most simplistic of the mammals.

There we find the primitive trilobites, which are now extinct. Scientists agree that these were among the earliest animals. Evolutionists tell us they arrived about 570 million years ago at the very early evolutionary stages of life on earth.

Recent study of these critters has shown that it turns out they are perhaps the most complex of all invertebrate animals.

They had legs that required very complex muscle systems. And scientists who study trilobites have said they had the most sophisticated eyes of any organisms we know of that have ever existed, including humans or any animal live today.

It was an aggregate schizochroal eye, which is a compound eye, made up of many lenses designed to correct for all the distortions of light in water, so that when they look through the water they see a clear, undistorted image.

Their eyes also employed Fermat's principle, Abbe's sine law and Snell's laws of refraction.

And they could compensate for the optics of birefringent crystals.

Birefringence is The resolution or splitting of a light wave into two unequally reflected waves by an optically anisotropic medium such as calcite or quartz. Also called *double refraction*.

I don't know what that means, but it's got to be pretty good for an un-evolved little invertebrate down at the bottom of the Cambrian layer.

Keep that in mind next time someone tries to tell you that only simplistic organisms are found at the bottom of the geologic column.

There is absolutely no hint of any possible ancestor in the layers beneath those that contain the trilobites. They just appear in the geological record fully formed with astonishing complexity.

Will more time explain it? That tends to be the evolutionists' explanation for every problem. If you demonstrate that something is scientifically impossible, they will say, "Given enough time..."

And everything gets pushed so far back into the past that they can overcome the problem of people applying common sense to the theory.

People will think "It may sound ridiculous, but if you have billions and billions of years, sooner or later anything could happen."

Does more time help? Does the impossible become possible if you have enough time?

No. The more time, the greater the chaos.

If you drop millions of letters of the alphabet from an airplane - will they land in order to make an encyclopedia with all factually correct articles? Of course not.

Well, what if you add more time? Suppose you drop the letters from a much higher altitude. Now is it more likely? No, more time makes it worse. All you get is a bigger jumble of letters.

It shouldn't take much intelligence to understand that the longer you scramble the egg, the more scrambled the egg gets.

Someone has referred to evolution as "Getting rich by going broke slowly." That's a great way to describe it.

In the process of mutations, the gene pool is in the process of going broke. If you are losing assets, it doesn't help to add time. The longer the time, the "broker" you get.

As we have already discovered, life is based on encoded information. The information encoded in DNA. If the information in the DNA of one of your cells were in type-written form would fill the Grand Canyon 50 times.

The theory of evolution is that all that information resulted from mutations.

And if you are wondering what a mutation is, we have a word for it:: birth defects.

The evolutionists believe that we went from non-living matter in the primordial slime to animals to human beings ("From goo to you by way of the zoo") all as a result of a long series of birth defects.

But that can't happen, because a mutation (or birth defect) is like a typo in your DNA.

It's an error and a corruption of the encoded information.

Do typos add information to your document? They may, by some fluke, actually spell out some word, but that word has no meaning.

I gave you the frog experiment last time. Let me give you another way to test evolution.

Suppose you wanted to pursue a PhD by doing nothing but writing papers composed entirely of nothing but typos.

You allow natural selection to take place, by throwing every paper that gets a bad grade into the garbage.

I hate to disappoint you, but the thesis will never emerge. The more millions of years that go by, the bigger garbage can you will need – that's all.

That's the theory of evolution. Your DNA started as a blank piece of paper, and the only changes that have ever been made have been typos, and now here we are.

Are trilobites primitive? Yes. They were there at the very beginning. In fact, they predate man by a full two days.

But did they create themselves? No. Is there any natural process we know of that could have created them? No.

That's why some have called evolution as fact-free science.

Don't be intimidated when people make dogmatic statements about the fossil record. The evolutionists' level of confidence in their ability to interpret the fossil record is extremely exaggerated.

A great example of that are the fossilized imprints of the coelacanth (SEELECANTH).

For years the evolutionists dogmatically assured us that they knew for sure that the coelacanth has been extinct for millions of years... until a fishing trawler caught one - alive. Since then more than 100 living coelacanths have been found, and, according to the encyclopedia, they are "remarkably unchanged since the Cretaceous period," (the period when they existed).

It reminds me of the Dead Sea scrolls. It used to be the earliest copies of the Hebrew OT were from almost 1000 years after Christ. The liberals said, "Over all that time the text has certainly been hopelessly corrupted. There's no telling what the original OT said."

Then they found some copies of the Hebrew OT that were written over 100 years before Christ, and they were amazed to discover there has been no change.

It's the same way with the Coelacanth and every other kind of animal.

They are "remarkably unchanged" because God created them **according to their kinds**,

Again we see the emphasis on distinctions and separation. God won't let the colors on His canvas run together.

We apply the statement about according to its kind to reproduction, because that's what is under attack in our day. But the text isn't focusing on reproduction. It says God *created* them according to their kind.

When God created plants and animals, He had a blueprint in mind – a **kind**. He could have made every single animal different. He could have made it so that there were no two animals in the world who were the same specie.

But as part of His ordered, structured world He was preparing for man to live in, in His infinite wisdom He made categories of animals and plants. That enables us to learn about characteristics of various kinds so we can farm, and carry out our dominion over the animals.

Throughout this study we have repeatedly seen the phrase **and it was so**. There is a little more to that than meets the eye.

Some people have been puzzled at that phrase, because it appears to be redundant. It says, "**And so God made...**" and then it says "**it was so.**"

If it's already been done, then of course it was so. So why is that thrown in? And why doesn't it appear after the creation of light and day and night?

We get help on this from the Jewish scholar Umberto Cassuto: He points out that the idea is one of being fixed and established.

It's not just that it happened, but that it was made permanent and continuous. So the idea is not just that it *was* so, but that it *shall be* so.

That's why we don't see the phrase after the creation of light and days, because those come and go on an alternating basis. They are not fixed.

So the repetition of the phrase **it was so** highlights the stability of the creation. The creation was not made as a seed to develop. He made it as He wanted it, and designed it to remain fixed.

What you see today is basically what God created. The only differences are those things that resulted from the curse.

And so to this day when we look around we see animals divided into distinct kinds. If evolution were true there would be countless millions of variations. Instead there are clear distinctions.

The evolutionists will try to tell you they pretty much have evolution proven, and it's just a matter of time before they find the missing link.

They aren't missing a link. They have a link. What they are missing is the rest of the chain.

There simply are no clear transition forms. And if evolution were true there should be trillions.

The stability of a kind is really an amazing thing if you think about it. What has been added to you since the time you were a microscopic little cell? Just food and water!

But you are not composed of 99% food and water. You are 100% you. God put amino acids inside you that convert everything you eat into more of you.

You can eat chicken amino acids as much as you want, but you aren't going to grow feathers and start clucking. All you get is more and more of you. (Some of us have more of us than we care to have).

But every bit of it is unmistakably you. It has your DNA and no one else's. They say you are what you eat, but that's not true. What you eat turns into what you are.

1Co 15:39

All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another.

God put limitations on the amount of variation that can occur within His designs.

And the **it was so** has implications beyond just the kinds of animals. That is said of the rest of the creation as well.

God made things function a certain way and then set those patterns to give us a fixed frame of reference from which to live our lives. Those patterns are what we think of as the laws of physics.

He made the world function in a consistent, predictable way so that we could understand it, survive in it, subdue it, and utilize it for His work.

And that's also an important point, because that's the basis for wisdom.

Wisdom is skill at decision making. It's the ability to observe the way life generally goes, and to make good decisions in light of those patterns.

So God set up fixed trends and tendencies – not only in the physical realm but also in society.

For example,

- a soft answer tends to turn away wrath.
- an evil man tends to become trapped by his sinful talk
- when words are many, generally sin is not absent
- a man who commits adultery will tend to have continuing shame

Those are all observations of the general patterns of life that can be utilized by a wise person to enable him to make good decisions in life – just like the scientist who uses observations about the natural world to enable him to build an engine or cure a disease.

and every winged bird according to its kind. This term includes anything that flies. Birds (and fish) have a lot of important functions (control insect, rodent & snake population, food chain, pollination, etc.), but primarily their function is to fill the waters and skies.

And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said: "Be fruitful and increase in number

Again we see God blessing and expressing of His favor toward the creation.

And here is the blessing: **"Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."**

The writer is always careful to point out that the ability to procreate is a blessing. (here, man in 1:28, Noah in 9:1 and many times to the patriarchs and their wives). He doesn't want us to pass off procreation as just being natural - we are to view it as a special favor. The same goes for every good thing.

God's blessing is an expression of favor. God likes the sun and moon, and the earth and sky and oceans and land and plants (all TOV), but He seems to especially like the animals, because he blesses them.

Plants are good, but animals are better.

And since we are God's children, and we reflect that same attitude. Some people really fall in love with their pets - more often than with their plants.

I think from this we should learn to respect animals. If God favors them, we ought to as well. It is wrong to mistreat or torture animals. Dt.25:4 **You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.**

One of the marks of a righteous man is that he tends to care for animals. Pr.12:10 **A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.**

We don't want to get carried away with that, because we can see from that very proverb that while caring for an animal is an act of kindness, it is only a very minor act of kindness – nothing like caring for the needs of people.

People are more important than animals. But there is something to be said for showing kindness to animals.

God was kind to them and blessed them. God favors His creation and enjoys it, and so we should have the same attitude.

There is a middle ground between those who are just destructive to the environment and those who worship the environment. And the balance is very simple: dominion, not destruction.

23 And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

What are the lessons of day 5?

1. God is eager to bless His creation
2. Even the greatest threats out there are helpless without His blessing
3. We should take advantage of the fixed patterns of life
4. If God favors and blesses His creation, we ought to as well.

Benediction: Nm.6:24-26 **The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."**

Review Questions:

1. What does "blessing" mean?

Blessing is when God causes things to go well for you from your perspective.

2. What role does blessing play throughout the unfolding of the rest of Scripture?

The whole Bible is the story of God devising a plan to bless man.