

UNIT 2: God's Creating Work

Section 5: Genesis 1:14-25

A Book Review From:
The Battle for the Beginning
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INTRODUCTION:

- Q1: Why did God create all of the heavenly bodies?**
Q2: What does the Bible have to say regarding Evolution?
Q3: What can we learn about God from analyzing the world He has made?

Remember Genesis 1 presents a correlation between days 1&4, 2&5, 3&6... **Unmistakable parallels.**
Remember: Gen 1:2 might give us the reason for this pattern... formless and void... forming and filling!

Phase 1	Phase 2
Day 1: Light	Day 4: Luminaries (sun, moon, stars)
Day 2: Firmament and Waters Below	Day 5: Birds and Fish
Day 3: Dry Land & Vegetation	Day 6: Land Creatures

Everything from day 4 on is finishing work... God fills and populates the structure He designed.

Day 4 God Created the Luminaries/Lights in the Heavens

Genesis 1:14 “Then God said, ‘Let there be **lights** in the expanse of the heavens to **separate the day from the night**, and let them be for **sign and for seasons and for days and years**; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to **give light on the earth**’; and it was so.”

Naturalistic science has always struggled with the following questions:

- How could so many stars and planets evolve out of nothing?
- How did the stars get scattered across such a vast expanse of space?
- Why is there so much diversity among them?
- What set the stars ablaze? Where did the planets come from?

The Bible gives a simple and clear answer: God made them all.

- Their vastness, complexity, beauty, and sheer number reveal the glory and wisdom of an all-powerful Creator!
- **Psalm 8:3-4** “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?”
- We see repeatedly, once again, that everything is made by “fiat” – God speaks everything into existence by His Word alone... no evolution or creative process over billions of years.
- **Psalm 33:6-9** “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

God creates light-bearing bodies that would perpetually shine their light on the earth at the proper intervals and seasons. The Bible explains **3 reasons** for the lights...

I. Separate Day from Night v14

- “to divide the day from the night”
- The Sun radiates light, while the moon reflects light, but from an earthly perspective both are light sources.

A. The Sun

1. General Facts

- 865,000 mile diameter (take more than 1 million earth’s to fill the sun if it were hollow)
- If the sun was a bowling ball, the earth would be the size of a poppy seed.
- 70% Hydrogen, 28% Helium, 1.5% carbon, nitrogen, oxygen
- Surface is 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, Core estimated at 27 million degrees Fahrenheit [if this were changed a couple percentage points either way, life would end here on earth...]
- Distance from the earth to the sun: 93 million miles [8.5 min for light to travel here]
- Solar flares can cause electrical storms here on earth

2. Some Scientists have theorized that the other planets spun off the sun...

- Problem: 98% of the sun is Hydrogen and Helium... less than 1% of the elements on the other planets are these.
- Each planet is UNIQUE in composition [Venus, Uranus, Pluto spin opposite direction from the other planets]
- The sun is a “yellow dwarf” (by comparison it is small to other stars)
- Supergiants- one called Betelgeuse pulsates (so varies in size), at least 600 times larger than our sun.

B. The Moon

1. General Facts

- Temperature Range: 215 to -243 degrees Fahrenheit
- Moon travels complete full orbit around earth in 27.3 days
- Same side of the moon always faces the earth
- Ocean Tides are caused by the moon’s gravitational pull
- 3 minerals have been discovered on the moon that are unknown on the earth

2. No real consensus among scientists/evolutionists on the question of how the moon formed—even though they’ve spent 20 billion dollars trying to answer how it evolved.

3. The Bible tells us: God created it on day 4 & put it in orbit around the earth

II. Permanent Signposts v14

- “let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years”
- They are given to set our calendars.
- Side note: Used for navigation as well... but not purpose given here

A. Reason for Seasons

- Earth is tilted on its axis, so the sun’s rays strike different parts of the earth at different angles throughout the year... this produces the seasons
- Vital for rejuvenation of life, growing crops, flourishing the earth.
- Blesses humanity with a variety of seasons

B. Length of days and sleep patterns

- If the earth rotated at 1/3 the present speed, days would be 3 times longer... we would be forced to stagger our sleep patterns... sleep during day, work during night...
- Life is perfectly suited for a 24hr day
- The same Creator who made all living things also determined and fixed the length of our days

C. What determines a week? (review from last time)

- Rotation of earth on axis- **Day**
- Rotation of moon around earth- **Month**
- Rotation of earth around sun- **Year**
- God's Decree of Creation in Genesis 1 - **Week**

III. Illumination v15

- “And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth.”

A. Nature of Light

- Almost every segment of the light spectrum is essential for sustaining life
- UV rays are vital for photosynthesis [“lungs” for the planet]
- How the sun generates light is debated by scientists (constant flux), in contrast to Scripture which NEVER changes! Amen!

B. God's Creativity

- Interesting to note the economy of words God uses... “He made the stars also”
- Each star in the heavens is different from all others
- Like fingerprints and snowflakes, they reveal the vast diversity reflected in God's creative wisdom

C. Final Question

- If the earth is no more than 10,000 years old, how can we see light that theoretically should have taken millions of years to reach us?
- Answer: When God created the stars to illumine the earth, He also supernaturally enabled the light to traverse those vast expanses of space immediately
- If He can create the stars, He most certainly can get the light across the universe to accomplish His purpose in placing them there.
- Some creationists who are trained in physics believe it is theoretically possible for a dilation in time to enable light to travel those vast distances instantly.

D. Our Response

- When we gaze into the heavens and consider the stars, our hearts ought to be moved like the Psalmist's to praise God for the glory of His creation!
- **Psalm 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork.”
- **Psalm 8:1** “O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!”

Day 5 God Created the Birds and Fish

Genesis 1:20 “Then God said, ‘Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let bird fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.’”

Now begins God's creative work of filling the earth with living creatures!

Plants, of course, are biological organisms—living things in that sense. They have genetic structures, biological systems, and reproduce, but they do not have conscience life.

- V11 “let the earth vegetate with vegetation”
- V21 “let the waters swarm with swarming things”

“**Nephesh**”- soul, living thing, that which breathes, living creatures

I. Creation

- Again, God spoke them into existence (fiat creation, not evolution)
- God populated the sea and sky

A. Sea Life

- **Gen 1:21** “So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind...”

1. Archerfish

- Live mostly in Southeast Asia
- Have unique ability to spit jets of water at insects resting on plants above the water
- Force gills shut, use grooved upper palate by pressing tongue up against the roof of their mouths... AIM accurate up to 5 feet
- Even have an instinctive ability to compensate for refraction of water's surface

2. Sea Horse

- Scales are fused into body armor plate making them unappetizing to predators
- Reproduce by role-reversal... Female deposits eggs in a womblike pouch in the male
- Male gives birth and raises the offspring

3. Hermit Crabs

- They borrow used shells from various gastropods
- Migrate from shell to shell... don't make one of their own
- Crab's legs are designed for it, with one claw serving as a door
- Have a symbiotic relationship w/ anemones which have stinging cells that repel most creatures, but hermit crabs have partnerships with them
- The same anemone will switch shells w/ the hermit crab
- The anemone feeds off leftovers, and crab is protected by anemone!

4. Sea Cucumbers

- Spineless, sluglike sea creatures w/ 5 rows of tube feet that run lengthwise
- Pearlfish takes shelter in them at day and feed on its internal organs
- Sea Cucumber not harmed by this because it regenerates those organs
- This also serves as its defensive mechanism... expels its own internal organs
- Another defense: secretes a glue-like substance.

5. “Great Sea Monsters”-- God created everything!!

B. Sky Life

- **Gen 1:21** “... and every winged bird according to its kind...”
- Birds come in such a wide array of colors and contrasts... beauty and diversity!
- Bright-pink flamingos, Radiantly colored parrots, Thick-plumed peacocks, long-legged cranes, spectacular long-tailed pheasants, fancy-plumed cockatoos

1. Pelicans

- Wingspan of 6.5 feet... long bill w/ expandable pouch
- Bill can hold up to 3 times more food than the pelican's stomach
- Designed to scoop through the water like a net, trapping food, letting water escape

2. Albatross

- Wingspan of nearly 12 feet (largest of all nonextinct birds)
- A young albatross might circle the world up to 7 times before ever touching solid earth
- An albatross can drink seawater, it excretes the excess salt through its nasal passages.

3. Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

- Has 4 strong toes to grip on to long-leaf pine trees
- Biggest predator: Rat Snake

- It may take a single bird 3 years to excavate a home
- It drills small holes above and below its nest hole... which causes resin to seep out of the tree and ooze down it.
- A rat snake that comes in contact w/ the resin gets its scales gummy and it can't climb the tree
- In order to keep the resin flowing, the woodpecker must maintain the resin holes on a daily basis
- Also, the woodpecker helps the tree by feeding on insects and carpenter ants that otherwise would destroy the tree

II. Migration

- Birds migrate long distances every year w/ uncanny precision
 - This navigation happens mainly by the stars
 - How did they get these abilities?? God put these instincts in the birds
 - God made all of these wonderful, marvelous creatures for His own good pleasure!
 - He continually oversees every detail of His creation by a loving, sovereign providence.
 - **Matthew 10:29** “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.”
- **MOODY video on MIGRATION of Butterfly and Salmon**

III. Procreation

A. All living organisms have 3 amazing properties:

- (1) They are *self-sustaining*
 - Have the means by which to sustain their own life
- (2) They are *self-repairing*
 - If injured, they have means to heal; if fatigued, can get strength by rest
- (3) They are *self-reproducing*
 - Have built into them a means by which to propagate and produce more organisms of their own species.

B. Science has not yet been able to develop a truly self-sustaining, self-repairing, self-replicating machine! The difficulty and complexity involved is beyond modern science.

C. Yet, every single living cell has these capabilities!

D. “according to its kind” – occurs 10 times in Genesis 1

- Underscores the truth evolution denies: when living creatures reproduce, they can reproduce only creatures similar to themselves.
- Every scientific principle in genetics supports the Biblical account
- Science has never observed, and never will observe, the evolution of one new species into a new life form. Genetic impossibility!
- The genetic structure of every living organism limits that organism to what it is—no more, no less. No NEW genetic information is made in procreation.
- Mutations can alter or destroy existing information in DNA, but not add new information

E. Definitions...

1. Micro-evolution → Characteristics of a species are slightly altered
2. Macro-evolution → theoretical (false) process by which whole new species are formed

F. Examples

- Giraffe's neck- determined by genetic code, not stretching
- Breeders cutting off cocker spaniel's tails... won't result in puppy born w/o tail!

- Random noise never will produce a Bach cantata
- The human brain is made up of at least 6 million functioning parts... far more complex than NASA's space shuttle... no one believes the space shuttle evolved by chance from nothing, why do people have this view of life itself?

Day 6 God Created the Land Creatures

Genesis 1:24 "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: **cattle and creeping things and beasts** of the earth after their kind'; and it was so."

Now we move to God's work on the land...

- "let the earth bring forth"... reminds us that creatures God made are composed of the very same elements as the earth.
- **Genesis 3:19** "... for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

I. Cattle

A. Common cattle/Cows

- Digestive system is a wonder of creative design
- 4 stomach chambers
 - (1) Rumen- holds up to 50 gallons of food
 - holds big food particles... ferments one to two days
 - Helpful bacteria aid in digestive process/fermentation
 - Peristaltic action rolls fodder into little balls and passes it to 2nd chamber
 - (2) Reticulum- water flows directly into this chamber
 - digestive enzymes in here and more bacteria
 - the cow regurgitates these soggy balls of fiber to chew more finely
 - **Lev 11:3** "Whatever divides a hoof, thus making split hoofs, and chews the cud, among the animals, that you may eat."
 - (3) Omasum- chewed cud can enter here
 - Excess liquid is reabsorbed into the cow's system
 - Thoroughly chewed cud is compacted while chemical composition is broken down by digestive process
 - (4) Abomasum- thoroughly refined food gets in here
 - Secrets strong acids and digestive enzymes, completing digestive process
 - Nutrients pass into the cow's blood system
- Wonderfully efficient design: converts cellulose (we can't digest) into edibles—milk, cream, butter, cheese... dairy products... and meat!
- They have keen hearing and olfactory senses (can smell scent of to 5 miles away)
- Durable- can live in cold of Canada and heat of Florida
- Useful- almost every part of a cow can be used... milk, meat, leather, bones
- God's gift to humanity! Designed for our needs!

B. Sheep

- Passive, timid, easily frightened, virtually defenseless, no instinctive sense of direction
- Thick wool is magnet for dirt... can get dangerously heavy if not kept clean
- Wool at tail end especially must be kept close-cropped... breeding place otherwise for maggots and other vermin
- BUT... under a shepherd's care, wonderful especially for clothing!
- Wool is warm even when wet—superior in many ways to all other fabrics!

C. Camels

- Able to carry loads of 1,000 pounds or more in the desert w/ little water
- 3 stomach chambers... 2nd holds vast quantities of water
- Can drink up to 30 gallons of water in 10 minutes (would kill most animals)
- Blood cells are capable of swelling to more than 3 time normal size
- Can go for more than 2.5 weeks w/o drinking any water
- Hump is a large mass of fat, acts as a food reserve

II. Creeping Things

- We tend to think of insects and such as repulsive pests, but they were created w/ good purposes and reveal God's glory just as clearly as the stars do!

A. Bombardier Beetle

- Defense mechanism- combines 2 chemicals in separate reservoirs (hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide) which are harmless separate, but explosive when combined
- Shoots the combination out an abdominal turret into predator's face

B. Ants

- **Proverbs 6:6-8** "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest."
- Ants have a proportionally larger brain than almost any other animal
- 10,000 different species have been catalogued
- probably they make up more than 10% of the earth's total biomass
- Queens, Workers (females), Males for fertilization
- *Amazon ants*- cannot survive w/o slaves... make other ants their slaves!
- *Leaf-cutter ants*- cultivate fungus gardens for food... bring leaves to grow the fungus
- *Dairying ants* live off honeydew left by aphids... they even "milk" the aphids by stroking them to get the aphids to release honeydew. Some even keep permanent herds of aphids in their underground nests (aphid feeds on roots, ants harvest the honeydew)
- **Big Function:** maintain the earth's soil. Aerating and Fertilizing, pollinating many plants, performing other ecological housecleaning services.
- If all ants died, it would have catastrophic effects on all earth's land-based ecosystems

C. Chameleons

- Can not only change colors, but can move one eye independent of the other and thus view 2 scenes at once!

D. Basilisk

- Lizard that can literally run on water w/ webbed toes
- He can stand upright and run on his hind legs only, out on to a body of water!

III. Beasts

A. Dinosaurs

- **Job 40:15-19** Behemoth
- What happened to them? God in His providence allowed their species to die out
- Maybe perished as a result of the earth's climate changing severely after the flood

B. Elephants

- Earth's largest land species
- Trunk is a wonder of the animal kingdom

- Typically weighs 300lbs, holds up to 4 gallons of water, 7 feet long, and comprises the elephants nose and upper lip!
- No other animal can grip things or pick up things with its nose!

C. Bears

- Hibernate in some climates for up to 7 months
- He burns stored fat for fuel, but it is as if there is no waste produced by burning the fat
- Biologists still cannot explain that the level of uric acid and other toxins in the bear's blood stream remains essentially the same as when he's not hibernating.

***WATCH** selection from “The Wonders of God’s Creation... Animal Kingdom” (Moody Bible)