



The Book of Genesis

Lesson Number 3



A MINISTRY INITIATED IN MAY 1993, AND DEDICATED TO STRENGTHENING THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST, BY BUILDING THEIR FAITH, ENHANCING THEIR JOY, AND STABILIZING THEIR HOPE, ENABLING THEM TO WORK OUT THEIR SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING.

TRANSLATION LEGEND: ALT=Analytical-Literal Translation (2005), AMPLIFIED=Amplified Bible (1965), ABP=Apostolic Bible Polygot with Greek Interlinear (2003); ASV=American Standard Version (1901), BBE=Bible in Basic English (1949), DRA=Douay-Rheims (1899), ERV=English Revised Version (1885), ESV=English Stand Version (2001), GNB=Good News (1966), GWN=God's Word (1995), IE= International English (1973), ISV=International Standard Version (1967), JPS=Jewish Publication Society (1917), KJV=King James Version (1611), L.ITV= Literal Translation of the Bible (1976), LIVING=Living Bible (1971), MESSAGE=The Message (1993), MKJV= Modern KJV (1962), MONTGOMERY=Montgomery's New Testament (2001), MRD=Peshitta-James Murdock Translation (1852), NAB=New American Bible (2002), NASB=New American Standard Bible (1977), NAU=New American Standard Bible (1995), NIB=New International Bible, NIV=New International Version (1984), NJB=New Jerusalem Bible (1985), NKJV=New King James Version (1979), NLT=New Living Translation (1996), NRSV=New Revised Standard Version (1989), PHILLIPS=J B Phillips New Testament (1962), PNT=Bishop's New Testament (1595), RSV=Revised Standard Version (1952), TNK=JPS Tanakj (1985), WEB=Webster Bible (1833), WEYMOUTH=Weymouth's New Testament (1903), WILLIAMS=William's New Testament (1937), TYNDALE=Tyndale's Bible (1526), WYCLIFFE=Wycliffe New Testament (1382), YLT=Young's Literal Translation (1862).

GREEK LEXICON LEGEND

LEXICON LEGEND: FRIEBERG = Friberg Lexicon, UBS = UBS Lexicon, LOUW-NIDA = Louw-Nida Lexicon, LIDDELL SCOTT = Liddell Scott Lexicon, THAYER = Thayer's Greek Lexicon, LEH = LEH Lexicon, GINGRICH = Gingrich Lexicon

THE INSPIRED RECORD OF THE BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS: THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, MANKIND, SIN, THE FIRST CHOSEN AND BLESSED NATION, THE FIRST CURSE, THE FIRST PROMISE, AND THE FIRST FAITH.

DISCLAIMER: The quoting of other translations is not to be taken as a condoning of them. My purpose is rather to show the remarkable diversity, and sometimes outright contradictions that exist among these various versions of Scripture. Our understanding of the Word of God ultimately depends upon our comprehension of the Lord Himself and His eternal purpose. Where this understanding is not present, we are shut up to scholasticism and conjecture, both of which are of the world, not of God.

THE FOURTH AND FIFTH DAYS

“ ¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: ¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. ¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. ¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. ²⁰ And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. ²¹ And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. ²³ And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. (Gen 1:23). (Genesis 1:14-23)

INTRODUCTION

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The creation continues with an emphasis on what the Lord “said.” Whether it was the creation, a facet of creation, or the bringing forth of fruit by that facet, it all was accomplished by the Word of the Lord. The greatness of a person is seen in the power of his word. This is particularly true of God, and in a way that not be ascribed to anyone else. On this particular matter it is affirmed that God has “magnified” His Word above all His name (Psa 138:2). While God’s eternal power and Godhead are made

known in the creation (Rom 1:20), the burden of our understanding of God has come through what He has said of Himself. When God showed His glory to Moses, He did not point to the universe, but spoke a word concerning Himself. Among other things, this is what set Israel apart from the other nations: what God said to them in the Law and in the Prophets. His assessment of them, and His promises to them, were delivered in the container of His Word. This was a clear revelation of the manner in which the Lord directs the thinking of His people.

CONFLICT WITH THE EVOLUTIONARY HYPOTHESIS

Contrary to the evolutionary hypothesis, the “worlds” did not result from a natural process. The universe is not the result of a lengthy development that was randomly accomplished. For some, this is a needless controversy, for they have no difficulty bowing the knee to professed science rather than to the Lord. But their insolence cannot be dismissed as the harmless expression of human opinion. There is no room for such opinion on any subject where the God of creation has

The stewards of earth's light were established, and the waters brought forth great whales, fish, and birds – by Given O. Blakely

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spoken.

The general approach to this subject has been entirely too casual among many professed scholars and commentators of Scripture. What the Spirit has said about the creation is designed to provoke a most serious approach to the subject.

- ▶ **IT ALL BELONGS TO GOD!** *"Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is"* (Deut 10:14).
- ▶ *"The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein"* (Psa 24:1).
- ▶ **GOD MADE AND POSITIONED EVERYTHING.** *"I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded"*(Isa 45:12).
- ▶ **GOD MADE THE EARTH TO BE INHABITED.** *"For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else"*(Isa 45:18).
- ▶ **GOD AFFIRMS IT IS HIS.** *"If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is Mine, and the fulness thereof"* (Psa 50:12).

▶ **GOD CREATED IT, EVERYTHING THAT CAME OUT OF IT, AND GIVES BREATH TO THE PEOPLE ON THE EARTH.** *"Thus saith God the LORD, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein"* (Isa 42:5).

▶ **HE TELLS THE CHURCH:** *"For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof"* (1 Cor 10:26).

▶ **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING THROUGH THE PRE-INCARNATE CHRIST, AND IT WAS CREATED FOR HIM.** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without him was not any thing made that was made"* (John 1:1-3). *"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him"* (1 Cor 8:6). *"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ"* (Eph 3:9). *"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him"*(Col 1:16). *"Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds"* (Heb 1:2).

▶ **THE GOD WHO CREATED ALL THINGS WILL BRING TIME TO AN END.** *"And swear by Him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer"* (Rev 10:6).

The creation of the heavens and the earth is a matter concerning which men are not at liberty to express their opinions – or, for that matter, even to imagine a view that contradicts what God has revealed. Additionally, they cannot refuse what God has said without being considered an enemy of God – one that will have to answer to the Lord for not agreeing with Him. Let it be clear that God is going to be justified in all of His sayings, and overcome in every area and saying where men have judged Him to be untrue. As it is written, *"yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when Thou art judged"* (Rom 3:4).

It is further affirmed that *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear"* (Heb 11:3). Those who affirm that things that now appear were developed from things that already existed (for such is essential to the maintenance of the theory of evolution), are guilty of unbelief. That unbelief not only keeps them from accepting what God has said, it also reserves a place for them in the lake of fire. It is written, *"But the fearful, and unbelieving . . . and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"* (Rev 21:8).

In comparison to the theories of men, the Word of God reveals the following:

- ▶ That God created all things.
- ▶ That He created them through the pre-incarnate Christ.
- ▶ That He created all things for Christ.
- ▶ When He created all things.
- ▶ How He created all things.
- ▶ Why He created all things.
- ▶ That at the conclusion of six days, all things were created, were good, and were working in an orderly and ordained

To question the reality of the creation is to cast the shadow of doubt upon how the creation came into being, by why what means it was brought into being, and why it was created.

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To question the reality of the creation is to cast the shadow of doubt upon how

the creation came into being, by why what means it was brought into being, and why it was created. Those are serious transgressions, and will not be treated by

God as though they were inconsequential. We are dealing with serious matters.

LIGHTS TO DIVIDE THE DAY FROM THE NIGHT

^{1:14} *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years. ¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so."*

AND GOD SAID

"*And God said . . .*" The Scriptures attest to the power of the voice of God. The extent of which His voice is used is staggering to consider. The expression "*the voice of the Lord*" is found fifty times in Scripture. Its is a key expression. When Adam and Eve had sinned, it was "*the voice of the Lord God*" that they eventually heard (Gen 3:8-9). An arresting voice, indeed. No one in all of creation has ever knowingly heard that voice without trembling and quaking! Before the Law was given, Moses warned the people, "*If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee*" (Ex 15:26). That voice frightened the Israelites so much that they pled God would no longer speak directly to them: "*Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die*" (Deut 5:25). Repeatedly Moses told the people to hearken to the voice of the Lord (Ex 15:26; Deut 13:18; 5:5; 28:1,2,15; 30:10). Joshua reminded the people that multitudes of them had been destroyed "*because they obeyed not the voice of the Lord*" (Josh 5:6). Samuel warned the people, "*But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers*" (1 Sam 12:15). Samuel told king Saul he was rejected as king "*Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the Lord*" (1 Sam 28:18). We read that the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive "*Because they obeyed not the voice of the*

LORD their God" (2 Kgs 18:12).

The twenty-ninth Psalm is devoted to the subject of "the voice of the Lord," declaring things that are accomplished by a word from God. In that Psalm David declares "*The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty:* (Psa 29:4). He appeals to the domain of nature to confirm this.

- ➔ The voice of the Lord breaks in pieces the mighty cedars of Lebanon (29:5-6).
- ➔ The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire by making lightening flashes (29:7).
- ➔ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness (29:8).
- ➔ The voice of the Lord makes the hinds (deer) to calve (29:9).

Isaiah wrote, "*through the voice of the Lord shall the Assyrian be beaten down*" (Isa 30:31).

Eventually, the eternal destiny of every personality will be determined by the Word of God (Matt 25:21,23,30). It should not surprise us that the creation of the worlds was effected by the Word of the Lord!

LET THERE BE LIGHTS

" . . . Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven . . ." Other versions read, "*Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens,"* ^{NASB} "*Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky,"* ^{NIV} "*Let there be lights in the dome of the sky.*" ^{NRSV}

This further identifies the immensity of the firmament. Celestial luminaries spangled this vast space. Later they will be specified as the sun, the moon and the stars.

DIVIDE THE DAY FROM THE

NIGHT

" . . . to divide the day from the night . . ." Other versions read, "*separate the day from the night,*" ^{NASB} "*for a division between the day and the night,*" ^{BBE} and "*to identify the day and the night.*" ^{LIVING}

Earlier the text states that God separated the light from the darkness, calling the light day, and the darkness night (1:4-5). Now, God further defines both night and day by the measure of light that is allocated to both. **The division of day from night commenced on the first day, but was brought to its culmination on the fourth day.** From this point on, when Scripture speaks of "*day*" its is referring to a period of light, illumination, and enlightenment. When it speaks of "*night*," it is referring to a time of darkness, obscurity, and ignorance.

LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS

" . . . and let them be for signs . . ." Nearly all versions read, "*signs.*" The Amplified Bible reads, "*signs and tokens [of God's provident care].*" The word "*signs,*" as used in this text, means "*DISTINGUISHING MARK.*" ^{STRONG'S}

This accents the absolute precision of the celestial luminaries. As the earth moves about its orbit at a staggering rate of speed, the entire universe remains in synch with its movement. The precision is so exact that it cannot be measured precisely in seconds. For that reason we have what is called "leap year," which occurs every fourth year, "**A YEAR IN THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR CONTAINING 366 DAYS**

EARTH'S ROTATIONAL SPEED

While there are varying views on this subject, the following speed is fairly consistent with most scientific findings.

"THE EARTH ROTATES ON ITS AXIS ONCE EACH DAY. SINCE THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE EARTH AT THE EQUATOR IS 24,901.55 MILES, A SPOT ON THE EQUATOR ROTATES AT APPROXIMATELY 1037.5646 MILES PER HOUR (1037.5646 TIMES 24 EQUALS 24,901.55 MI (1669.8 KM/H))." ^{ABOUT.COM}

WITH FEBRUARY 29TH AS THE EXTRA DAY.” This makes up for the theoretic time lost owing to a slightly flawed manner of time-measurement.

To avoid getting lost in the clutter of purported scientific facts, it is enough to say that remarkable precision is reflected in the movements of the entire universe, of which earth is only a small part.

This being true – and there is no question about it in the minds of intelligent students of nature – the notion of varying time periods being used in the creation falls to the ground. Varying measurements cannot be used as consistent measurements. If God established certain heavenly bodies to be for signs for all of time, they could not be noted for varying and erratic movement.

LET THEM BE FOR SEASONS

“ . . . and let them be for . . . seasons.” Other versions read, “signs to mark seasons,”^{NIV} “for marking changes of the year,”^{BBE} “signs for festivals,”^{CSB} “Will mark religious festivals,”^{GWN} “the fixed times,”^{NAB} “indicate festivals,”^{NJB} “the set times,”^{TNK} “shall bring about the seasons on the earth,”^{LIVING} and “times.”^{ABP}

- ➔ “Seed time” (Gen 8:22).
- ➔ “Harvest” time (Gen 8:22).
- ➔ “Summer” (Gen 8:22).
- ➔ “Winter” (Gen 8:22).
- ➔ “Rain in due season” (Lev 26:4).
- ➔ “First,” or “early rain” (Deut 11:14).
- ➔ “Latter rain” (Deut 11:14).
- ➔ “New moon” (Psa 81:3).
- ➔ “The time of the firstripe figs” (Num 13:20).
- ➔ The “appointed season” of the Passover (Num 9:2).
- ➔ “Fruits in their seasons” (Matt 21:41).

In the arrangement of seasons, the

refreshment, and renewal that He would bring to His people. Thus we read that “*the times and the seasons*” for certain works have been placed in the hands of the Father (Acts 1:7). There are also “*times and seasons*” that are related to the coming of the Lord and the end of the world (1 Thess 5:1). Additionally, there are “*times of refreshing*” that are said to come “*from the presence of the Lord*” (Acts 3:19).

As these are reflected in nature, they are associated with Divine precision and exactness. Blessings are not random or erratic. There was a certain “*fulness of time*” associated with the coming of Jesus into the world – precise and exact in every detail (Gal 4:4). The astrological time was in perfect synch with the determined purpose of God. The grand conclusion of God’s work of salvation in the earth is also associated with “*the dispensation of the fulness of the times*” (Eph 1:10). There are also “*the times of the Gentiles*,” which will be fulfilled (Lk 21:24). While the dates of such determinations are not the primary point, those determinations will be perfectly reflected in the appointed means of marking time.

None of these times, or seasons, are on a sliding or varying scale. They are at least as precise as the movements of nature, and even more exact than that.

Mature spiritual thinking gravitates to Divine exactness, leaving the realm of randomness and happenstance.

LET THEM BE FOR DAYS

“ . . . and let them be for . . . days . . . ” The heavenly bodies are employed for the definition of a “*day*.” That is provision made for earth, which, so far as God’s eternal purpose, is the heart of the universe. The first three days of creation were just as

evening and the morning were the . . . day” (Gen 1:5,8,13,19,23,31). The same means employed in the of the Divine measurement of the first day, was used to measure the final day of creation – the sixth day. It was an absolutely unvarying standard that continues to this day.

LET THEM BE FOR YEARS

“ . . . and let them be for . . . years” This was the fourth creation day, and the duration of a year was fixed at this time by the solar bodies. This was for the purpose of men, so they might mark time with the ultimate objective of confirming the work and purpose of the Almighty. We know from the language employed at the conclusion of every day of creation that the Divine standard for a day was set from the very first: a day consisted of “*the evening and the morning*.” If the details measuring time was fixed, there could not have been a differing period introduced for the purpose of measuring years. Further, there is not a shred of evidence, or even a suggestion, that the standard for a “*year*” was different on the first day than it was on the fourth. **The standardization of a year was the formalization of a period that already existed.** The truth of the matter is that there was no such thing as “a year” prior to the fourth day, or until the passing of a solar year. Thus the notion of the various creation days consisting of a staggering number of years falls to the ground. Further, those who take the position that each creation day consisted of a lengthy period of time insist on measuring that length in terms of years – millions, and sometimes billions of years. However, in Scripture, a “*year*” is a consistent period of time that can be broken down to consistent days and months.

TO GIVE LIGHT ON THE EARTH

“ . . . And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth . . . ”

Here again, so far as a zone outside of heaven is concerned, the earth is seen as the center of Divine activity. The created “lights” were not an end of themselves. They were not intended to be the objects of research and endless study. Their purpose was not to draw attention to the universe, but to lighten the earth.

In this arrangement we see the Divine propensity to work in the light, and carry forth His purpose in the domain of illumination. It is generally true that wherever moral darkness prevails, the works of God are maintained at a minimum

In the arrangement of seasons, the Lord prefigured certain times of blessing, refreshment, and renewal that He would bring to His people. Thus we read that “the times and the seasons” for certain works have been placed in the hands of the Father

Lord prefigured certain times of blessing, precise as the days that followed them: “*the*

level – at least so far as participation is concerned. The Lord is still at work, maintaining the work of His hands, and holding all things together. He is still moving forward with His purpose, working salvation in the midst of the earth. However, where spiritual ignorance and darkness prevail, these marvelous works are neither seen nor understood.

AND IT WAS SO

“ . . . and it was so.” This is the result of God speaking. What God said came to pass. This was true of the creation and the re-creation. It is true in the physical universe, and in the moral and spiritual one as well. What God calls into being comes into being, whether it is the population of the celestial realm with heavenly bodies, or the preparations and opening of the heart. The only question is whether men participate in what God is doing or not.

In the Genesis narrative of the first six days, the words “and it was so” occur six times (Gen 1:7,9,11,15,24,31).

The same words will be fulfilled when, following the passing of the present heavens and earth, the following words are spoken.

- ➔ “Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matt 25:21,23).
- ➔ “Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities” (Luke 19:17).
- ➔ “For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 1:11).
- ➔ “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God” (Rev 2:7).
- ➔ “He that hath an ear, let him hear what

the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it” (Rev 2:17).

- ➔ “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name” (Rev 3:12).
- ➔ “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Rev 3:21).

Until that time, what God speaks takes place immediately. As it is written, “I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for He will speak peace unto His people, and to His saints (Psa 85:8). That is the Divine manner, and we praise God it is so.

THE RULERS OF DAY AND NIGHT, AND THE STARS ALSO

“¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.”

Here we will see the Divine manner to distribute authority and responsibility. In this, God does not relinquish any of His authority and power. The distribution of authority does not mean that God Himself ceases to work. Rather, He works through appointed means. Throughout the history of the church there has been seasons when this has been very difficult for some to grasp. In the 21st century, we are living in such a season. Because of this circumstance there is to be more frequent affirmations of the power and Divinity of God, particularly as it is made known in Christ Jesus.

TWO GREAT LIGHTS

“And God made two great lights . . .” Other versions read, “two bright lights,” ^{GWN} “two great luminaries,” ^{YLT} “two huge lights, the sun and moon, to shine down upon the earth,” ^{LIVING} and “two powerful lights,” ^{CEV} “two larger lights.” ^{GNB}

This is not speaking of the size of these

two heavenly bodies, but of the amount of light they shed upon the earth. So far as the stars are concerned, there are many that are much larger than the sun. Astronomers tell us there are stars that are 700 times larger, for example, than the sun. However, they are farther away, and have not been given the stewardship over the great light shed upon the earth.

We learn from this that greater matters are those that have a bearing upon us – particularly upon our eternal destiny. Novel things that really have no bearing upon the formation of our character or our eternal destiny should not occupy the majority of our time.

Keep in mind that in the creation, the earth was the fundamental part. The importance various aspects of that creation was determined by its relevance to mankind. The failure to see this resulted in the pursuit of idolatry among the sons of men (Deut 17:3; 2 Chron 33:3; Jer 8:2; Zeph 1:5; Acts 7:42; Rom 1:25).

THE GREATER LIGHT

“ . . . the greater light to rule the day .

. . .” Other versions read, “govern the day,” ^{NASB} “to be the ruler of the day,” ^{BBE} and the greater light (the sun) to rule the day” ^{AMPLIFIED}

It is understood that “the greater light” refers to the sun, even though the word “sun” does not occur in Scripture until Genesis 15:12).

THE SUN

THE SUN'S DIAMETER IS 864,938 MILES (1,391,980 KM). THIS IS ALMOST 10 TIMES LARGER THAN THE PLANET JUPITER AND ABOUT 109 TIMES AS BIG AS THE EARTH. THE VOLUME OF THE SUN IS 1,299,400 TIMES BIGGER THAN THE VOLUME OF THE EARTH; ABOUT 1,300,000 EARTHS COULD FIT INSIDE THE SUN . . . THE SUN'S MASS IS ROUGHLY 1.99 x 10³⁰ KG. THIS IS ABOUT 333,000 TIMES THE MASS OF THE EARTH. THE SUN CONTAINS 99.8% OF ALL OF THE MASS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM. ENCHANTED LEARNING/ASTRONOMY

As I have stated before, the sun was not the origin of light, but a custodian of it – particularly for the earth. The next verse will clarify this matter.

The period during which the sun

lightens the earth is *"the day."* The sun does not cease to be after the day, but can no longer be seen, even though it exists and its properties continue to yield benefits to the earth. The heat emanating from the sun does not ease, nor does the reason for its existence.

ANOTHER TYPE

In this, a type of both God and Christ is seen. It is affirmed that *"God is light"* (1 John 1:5). That is foreshadowed by the creation of light on the first day (Gen 1:3).

Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word (John 1:13), is prefigured by the sun, which sheds the light upon the earth. Like all types and shadows, the parallel is not precise. For example, the exalted Christ is also "the light" of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem (Rev 21:23). Even there, in the eternal environs, He will be the means through which God is known.

THE MOON

THE DIAMETER OF THE MOON IS 3,474 KM. NEED SOME COMPARISON? THE DIAMETER OF THE EARTH IS 12,742 KM ACROSS. THAT MEANS THAT THE MOON SIZE IS ROUGHLY 1/4TH THE SIZE OF THE EARTH.

THE VOLUME OF THE MOON IS 2.195 x 10¹⁰ KM³. THAT SOUNDS LIKE A HUGE NUMBER, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY ONLY 2% THE VOLUME OF THE EARTH. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU COULD FIT 50 MOONS INSIDE THE VOLUME OF THE EARTH.

THE SURFACE AREA OF THE MOON IS 37.9 MILLION SQUARE KILOMETERS. HOW BIG IS THAT? JUST FOR COMPARISON, THE SURFACE AREA OF ASIA IS 44.4 MILLION KILOMETERS. IF YOU COULD UNWRAP THE MOON, IT WOULDN'T QUITE FIT INSIDE ASIA.

THE MASS OF THE MOON IS 7.347 x 10²² KG. ONCE AGAIN, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BIG NUMBER, BUT THE MASS OF THE MOON IS ONLY 1.2% THE MASS OF THE EARTH. IF YOU HAD A GREAT BIG SCALE, AND PUT THE EARTH ON ONE SIDE, YOU'D NEED A PILE OF MOONS STACKED 81 HIGH TO MATCH THE MASS OF THE EARTH. UNIVERSE TODAY

THE LESSER LIGHT

"and the lesser light to rule the night.. ."

In an act of mercy, God did not allow the night to equate to *"outer darkness"* (Matt 8:12), or the kind of darkness that came upon Egypt in the ninth plague that came upon Egypt (Ex 10:21-23). That was a darkness that could be *"felt,"* and is described as a *"thick darkness"* that kept the Egyptians

confined to their dwellings for three days. That darkness apparently did not yield to any form of artificial light – like a candle or a lamp. For the Egyptians, no light could penetrate that thick darkness. No fire, whether in a place reserved for heat, or that which emanated from a lamp, could penetrate that darkness. Men would call it *"pitch darkness."*

It is written that during that time *"all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings"* (Ex 10:23).

Where it not for the establishment of a lesser light to rule the night, that is the kind of darkness that would cover the earth when the daylight concluded.

Only an especially created light – a *"lesser light,"* could make the darkness tolerable.

ANOTHER TYPE

Here we have another type. Those who are true followers of Christ are called *"the light of the world"* (Matt 5:14). However, like the moon, they are *"lesser"* lights. They do not rule the day, but the moral night that has descended upon humanity. Like the moon, they reflect the illumination that comes from the *"greater"* light, who is Jesus Christ, the true *"Light of the world."* In a most pointed statement of this fact Jesus said, *"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world"* (John 9:5). In His Person, the world was beholding *"the true light,"* who *"enlightens ever man"* NASB (John 1:9).

THE STARS ALSO

" . . . He made the stars also." Other versions read, *"and the stars,"* NRSV and *"as well as the stars."* CSB

The manner in which the creation of the stars were created might suggest to some that their number is incidental. However, this is not at all the case. Men can only guess at the number of stars, for a telescope has not been invented that even hints at the end of our universe. However, based upon the size of stars, and the manner in which they have been seen, the estimated numbers are beyond imagination.

This creation of this staggering number of stars, probably a vast understatement of their actual number, is described in the words, *"He made the stars also."*

THE STARS

ALMOST ALL THE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE ARE COLLECTED TOGETHER INTO GALAXIES. THEY CAN BE SMALL DWARF GALAXIES, WITH JUST 10 MILLION OR SO STARS, OR THEY CAN BE MONSTROUS IRREGULAR GALAXIES WITH 10 TRILLION STARS OR MORE. OUR OWN MILKY WAY GALAXY SEEMS TO CONTAIN ABOUT 200 BILLION STARS; AND WE'RE ACTUALLY ABOUT AVERAGE NUMBER OF STARS.

SO AN AVERAGE GALAXY CONTAINS BETWEEN 10¹¹ (TEN TO THE ELEVENTH POWER) AND 10¹² (TEN TO THE TWELFTH POWER) STARS. IN OTHER WORDS, GALAXIES, ON AVERAGE HAVE BETWEEN 100 BILLION AND 1 TRILLION NUMBERS OF STARS.

NOW, HOW MANY GALAXIES ARE THERE? ASTRONOMERS ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 100 BILLION TO 1 TRILLION GALAXIES IN THE UNIVERSE. SO IF YOU MULTIPLY THOSE TWO NUMBERS TOGETHER, YOU GET BETWEEN 10²² (TEN TO THE 22TH POWER) AND 10²⁴ (TEN TO THE 24TH POWER) STARS IN THE UNIVERSE. HOW MANY STARS? THERE ARE BETWEEN 10 SEXTILLION AND 1 SEPTILLION STARS IN THE UNIVERSE. THAT'S A LARGE NUMBER OF STARS. UNIVERSE TODAY

God once challenged Abraham to make an effort in counting the stars (Gen 15:5). It was a hopeless assignment, and was not intended to be viewed as a human duty. It rather was designed to assist Abraham to think of God as doing things that extended beyond the abilities, or even imaginations, of mortals.

As if we were not challenged enough with the assignment of counting the stars, we are reminded that God *"telleteth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names"* (Psa 147:4). The Amplified Bible reads, *"He determines and counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names."* That is, He determined how many stars that would be created, knows the [precise number of them, and has given names to every one of them. Now, that is a great God!

OUR TIMES

One of the great deficiencies of our times is small thinking – particularly when it comes to the matter of the almighty God. People tend to think of God within the context of their own preferences and perceived needs. This is a most serious deficiency. Unless the thinking of people is brought to perceive God in the proper light, any adequate perception of salvation or what God has purposed becomes impossible.

Ponder the statements that are made

concerning the God of our salvation.

- ➔ "Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee" (Neh 9:6)
- ➔ "For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations." (Psa 22:28)
- ➔ "I have declared, and have saved, and I have showed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God. Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?" (Isa 43:12-13)
- ➔ "God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness." (Psa 47:8)
- ➔ "He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah." (Psa 66:7)
- ➔ "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Psa 75:6-7)
- ➔ ". . . His kingdom is an everlasting

kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation." (Dan 4:3)

- ➔ ". . . He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Dan 4:35)
- ➔ ". . . He is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end" (Dan 6:26)
- ➔ ". . . with God all things are possible"

ever. Amen." (Rom 11:36)

- ➔ "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph 4:6)

The immensity, precision, and consistency of the creation attests to both God's character and power. Those who attempt to explain the creation on the human level demean God, and drive an even larger wedge between God and man. Such have sought to obscure the greatness of God, and in so doing have diminished the possibility of receiving His great

The immensity, precision, and consistency of the creation attests to both God's character and power. Those who attempt to explain the creation on the human level demean God, and drive an even larger wedge between God and man. Such have sought to obscure the greatness of God, and in so doing have diminished the possibility of receiving His great salvation.

(Matt 19:26).

- ➔ "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for

salvation. It is a serious thing to understate God, or attempt to sift Him through the wisdom of men. God is transcendent to man, and our vocabulary should reflect that.

THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FOURTH DAY

"¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And the evening and the morning were the fourth day."

GOD SET THEM IN THE FIRMAMENT

"¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heaven . . ." Other versions read, "in the expanse of the heavens,"^{NASB} "in the dome of the sky,"^{NRSV} "the arch of heaven,"^{BBE} "in the sky,"^{GWN} "the vault of heaven,"^{NJB} and "the heavenly sky."^{MESSAGE}

The immensity of "the firmament" is seen in the staggering number and size of heavenly bodies that populate it. They are far beyond an discernible number. This is one reason why, in my judgment, terms like "expanse,"^{NASB} "dome,"^{NRSV} "vault,"^{NJB} "sky,"^{MESSAGE} and "arch"^{BBE} are wholly inadequate. The ordinary rules of language are sometimes deficient when it comes to Scriptural expression. That is the reason why early translators would often invent new English words, transliterating the Hebrew and Greek expressions. The words were then opened up by exposition rather than by definition.

The word "firmament," as used in this text, leaves us with the idea of

unimaginable largeness. Yet, this largeness is characterized by a precision and order that is so exact one can hardly put it into words. That is the kind of impression that must be allowed to stand, leaving us with a more honoring view of God and His work.

The attempt to put the text of Scripture within the grasp of the carnal or natural mind is questionable, to say the least. **The fact that the Jews had their own language suggests there is a message contained in Scripture that is not intended for the masses of the disinterested.** Jesus confirmed this by speaking in parables to the multitudes, deliberately hiding the truth from them (Matt 13:11-15).

The diminished spiritual vocabulary that has been created by varying versions of Scripture, coupled with the juvenile expressions found in popular songs, and the "earthy" preaching of pretended proclaimers, has so greatly distorted the idea of God that is mind-boggling. **Within the professed church there can hardly be found an adequate expression of the Living God.** This is largely owing to the popularized attempt to explain God and His revelation intellectually, as opposed to spiritually. There is a vocabulary that is more suitable, and it is one that consists of words "*which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual*" ^{NKJV} (1 Cor 2:13).

If we will allow the text to do so, the

"And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness . . ."

Other versions read, "*to govern . . . to separate,*" ^{NASB} "*to have rule . . . and for a division,*" ^{BBE} "*dominate . . . and separate,*" ^{CSB} "*preside over . . . and separate,*" ^{NET} "*ro oversee . . . and to divide.*" ^{MESSAGE}

The natural day and night have rulers. They determine the extent of each period, and perform their ministry during its duration. **The earth is the reason for their existence.** It is their existence that formed the formal separation of the day from the night. Both of these rulers could not exercise dominion at the same time. When

13), and during Hezekiah's day, time went backwards (2 Kgs 20:9 = 11); Isa 38:8). In Jonah's day a storm was raised (Jonah 1:4), a special fish was prepared (Jonah 1:17; 2:10), and a comforting gourd was caused to grow up suddenly, only to whether as quickly as it grew (Jonah 4:6-7). During the time of Moses, the Red Sea conducted itself in an unusual way (Ex 14:21-22), and in Joshua's day the River Jordan was caused to act contrary to its nature (Josh 3:13; 4:7). During the ministry of Jesus, a fig tree was cursed (Mk 11:13,20), and darkness prevailed at noonday (Mk 15:33). Jesus calmed storms and seas, and they obeyed His word (Mk 4:39). **But no course or aspect of nature has ever rebelled against the Lord, or conducted itself in contradiction of the will of its Creator.**

Men can learn a lot from nature!

IT WAS GOOD

"...and God saw that it was good..."

Everything associated with the orderliness of night and day was good, meeting the precise objectives assigned by the Lord.

A PICTURE OF SPIRITUAL REALITIES

There are such things as spiritual day and spiritual night. The first is identified by illumination, clarity, and understanding. The second has the traits of vagueness, ambiguity, and ignorance. The first is the domain of truth, and the second is the realm of the lie. These two dominions are headed up by a head under which they each operates. The Lord Jesus Christ, who Himself is the truth, is over the sphere of truth, which is characterized by light – insight, understanding, and discernment. Satan, under whom the "*rulers of the darkness of this world*" function (Eph 6:10), rules the moral and spiritual night.

Wherever spiritual understanding prevails, we are being exposed to the domain of spiritual light. The place where spiritual ignorance exists is the realm of spiritual darkness.

THE FOURTH DAY

" . . . And the evening and the morning were the fourth day."

The fourth day was characterized by the creation of a staggering number of heavenly bodies.

At this present time, these celestial stewards are under the grip of the "bondage of corruption." They even groan under this weight, for they were not made subject to vanity because of something they did. They are groaning in travail, looking forward to being released from their bondage into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

Genesis narrative of the creation will enhance our perception of God, and accent the greatness of His salvation. As great and precise as the natural creation is, it is dwarfed by a salvation that is even greater. If we have a stunted view of the creation, we will also have such a view of the "**so great salvation**" that is not to be neglected (Heb 2:3).

TO GIVE LIGHT ON THE EARTH

" . . . to give light upon the earth . . ."
Other versions read, "*to shine upon the earth,*" ^{GENEVA} "*shed light upon the earth,*" ^{NAB} "*to light the earth,*" ^{LIVING} and "*to light up earth.*" ^{MESSAGE}

The sun, moon, and stars are not ends of themselves. They are not to be the object of our attention. They are all serving the earth, shedding light upon it so that it does not dwell in darkness. **If it were not for the earth, the locus of Divine activity in Christ Jesus, there would be no need for the sun, the moon, or the stars.**

RULE AND DIVIDE

one commences its rule, the other receded into the background.

At the Present Time

At this present time, these celestial stewards are under the grip of the "*bondage of corruption.*" They even groan under this weight, for they were not made subject to vanity because of something they did. They are groaning in travail, looking forward to being released from their bondage into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. This will occur what the sons are made "*manifest,*" at the coming of the Lord (Rom 8:19-22).

Even though it is suffering for the transgression of humanity, the creation continues faithfully its various assignments. In some way it knows that it will not always labor under this weight. Already, for over six thousand years it has continued faithfully in its course. The only interruption has been brought about by the word of the Lord. The flood was a time when it was asked to endure an extra measure of labor (Gen 6:17; 7:24) Joshua was allowed to interrupt the course of the sun (Josh 10:12-

- ➔ Lights were called into being in the firmament of the heaven.
- ➔ They divided the day from the night.
- ➔ They were for signs.
- ➔ They were for seasons.
- ➔ They were for days.
- ➔ They were for years.

- ➔ Two great lights were created to rule the day and the night.
- ➔ God also made the stars.
- ➔ These luminaries were set in the firmament to give light to the earth.
- ➔ They were to divide the light from the darkness.

- ➔ God saw that everything was good, fulfilling its function to His glory.

Once again, no intelligent argument can be presented that would substantiate that these first four days were of varying length. **Order, which is the opposite of variableness, characterized the whole of the creation.** This is because God Himself has "no variableness" (James 1:17). Therefore, what comes from His hand cannot be noted for being erratic, disorderly, or random.

LET THE WATERS BRING FORTH ABUNDANTLY

"²⁰ And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.²¹ And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good."

Now we enter into a distinctive phase of the creation. Before this, things were summoned into being by the word of the Lord: "Let there be light^{1:3} . . . Let there be a firmament^{1:6} . . . Let there be lights in the firmament."^{1:15} And again, "God made the firmament^{1:7} . . . God made two great lights . . . He made the stars also."^{1:16}

living creature is mentioned – something that was animated, as distinguished from vegetation and astronomical bodies. In plant life germination was set in place. On the fifth day generation was set in order, and commenced its work immediately.

In this case, the waters, which had no power of themselves, were enabled to bring forth both fish and fowl. This is no more difficult to believe than that light could come out of darkness, and reproductive seed from a plant.

In God's great salvation, there would be spiritual seed (Lk 8:11; 1 John 3:9), and the generation, or regeneration, of life as well (Tit 3:5). These conditions were prefigured in the creation.

LIFE

" . . . the moving creature that hath life . . ."

Here is an aspect of life that carries forward into the realm of the spirit as well. **Living creatures are moving creatures.** They move from place to place, and often at specified times. One of the aspects of death is motionlessness.

And how were the waters able to bring forth an abundance and diversity of life, both fish and fowl? How were they able to accomplish such an assignment upon a command from the Lord?

The answer is really quite simple. The Word of God has power. With it comes the ability to do what it requires. For mankind, it requires faith to take hold of that fact. Apparently, nature had no difficulty in responding to the Lord. Immediately it set out to do what it was commanded.

The earth was not created to be idle, uninhabited, or a mere spectacle. Even the sea was filled with living creatures of all kinds of life in unimaginable proportions and measures.

FOWL THAT MAY FLY

" . . . and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven . . ." Other versions read, "Then God said, "let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens,"^{NKJV} "And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky,"^{NIV} and "let birds fly over the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."^{AMPLIFIED}

This is the first time the creation of a living creature is mentioned – something that was animated, as distinguished from vegetation and astronomical bodies. In plant life germination was set in place. On the fifth day generation was set in order, and commenced its work immediately.

LET THE WATERS BRING FORTH

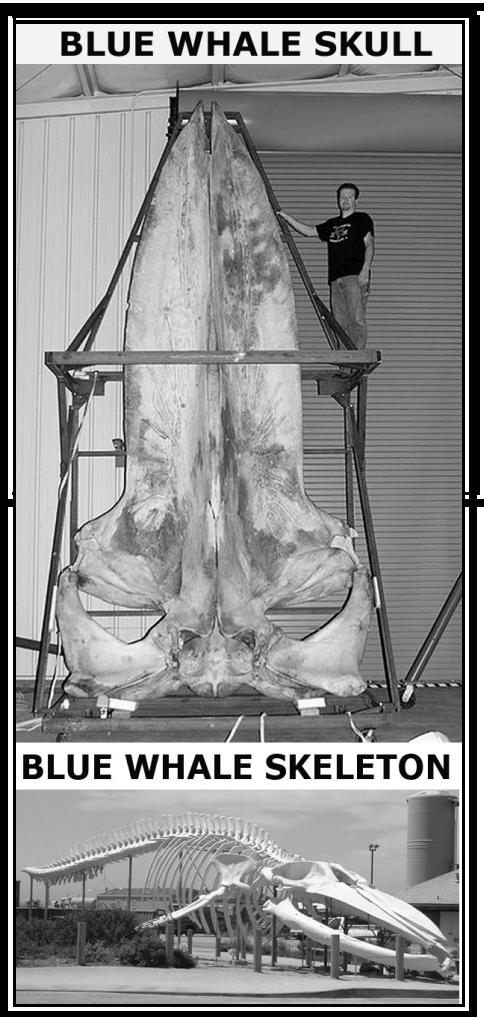
"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly . . ." Other versions read, "abound with an abundance of living creatures,"^{NKJV} and "Then God said, Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures."^{NASB}

Everything did not reproduce! Light did not reproduce. The firmament did not reproduce. The sun moon and stars did not reproduce. These aspects of creation were fixed, and not intended to multiply. Life, on the other hand, was intended to multiply, and perpetuate itself by the power of God.

This is the first time the creation of a

MOVING CREATURES THAT HAVE

The Fowl Brought forth from the Water



The Type

The language employed to describe the creation prepares us for the new creation, which is characterized by abundance. Jesus said, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it **more abundantly**"* (John 10:10). The Genesis record of creation equips us to think in a more befitting manner of God's great salvation. There is a marked tendency in men to think small when it comes to the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. This tendency must be overcome if men are to grow up into Christ in all things.

GOD CREATED GREAT WHALES

" . . . And God created great whales . . ." Other versions read, *"great sea creatures,"* ^{NKJV} *"great sea monsters,"* ^{NASB} *"great creatures of the sea,"* ^{NIV} *"great sea-beasts,"* ^{BBE} *"great sea animals,"* ^{LIVING} and *"huge whales."* ^{MESSAGE}

Even with the probable destruction of many of these giant sea monsters during the flood, there remain about 80 species of whales alone. Blue whales have been found that weighed 170-190 tons, and were up to 89 feet in length. The largest blue whale weighed accurately was 195 tons. Lengths have been up to 148 feet. ^{NATIONAL MARINE MAMMALLABORATORY}

The variety and size of these sea monsters goes far beyond the natural capacity of human understanding. Considerable research has been made in this area based upon fossil records and the actual discovery of some strange sea creatures. There are also Scriptural references to some of these creatures. Although, owing to the current status of creation, they are somewhat vague, enough information is provided to enable us to have an intelligent, yet God-glorifying view of the creation.

All of this remarkable sea-life came into being in a single day – in a sudden burst of life that followed a command from God. It is something one might expect the **LIVING** God to do. Not only did the creation of the fourth day involve a staggering number of creatures, but an unimaginable variety as well. It was all a marvelous commentary on the becoming greatness of God's *"eternal purpose"* – of which this magnificent creation was but an introductory type. After beholding and believing this record of creation, no thinking person will expect salvation to be minuscule, bounded by routines and carnal ordinances.

Just as there were sea creatures of great immensity, so there are pivotal realities that support God's great salvation that are of great size and measurement. They are also beneath the surface, and rarely, if ever, seen by those who traffic in small thinking.

EVERY LIVING CREATURE THAT MOVETH

" . . . and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly after their kind . . ." Other versions read, *"and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind,"* ^{NASB} *"every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds."* ^{NIV}

THOUGHTS ON SEA MONSTERS

WHICH THE TARGUMS OF JONATHAN AND JARCHI INTERPRET OF THE LEVIATHAN AND ITS MATE, CONCERNING WHICH THE JEWS HAVE MANY FABULOUS THINGS: LARGE FISHES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY MEANT, AND THE WHALE BEING OF THE LARGEST SORT, THE WORD IS SO RENDERED. AELIANUS, FROM VARIOUS WRITERS, RELATES MANY THINGS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SIZE OF WHALES; OF ONE IN THE INDIAN SEA FIVE TIMES BIGGER THAN THE LARGEST ELEPHANT, ONE OF ITS RIBS BEING TWENTY CUBITS; FROM THEOCLES, OF ONE THAT WAS LARGER THAN A GALLEY WITH THREE OARS; AND FROM ONESICRITUS AND ORTHAGORAS, OF ONE THAT WAS HALF A FURLONG IN LENGTH; AND PLINY SPEAKS OF ONE SORT CALLED THE "BALAENA", AND OF ONE OF THEM IN THE INDIAN SEA, THAT TOOK UP FOUR ACES OF LAND, AND SO SOLINUS; AND FROM JUBA, HE RELATES THERE WERE WHALES THAT WERE SIX HUNDRED FEET IN LENGTH, AND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY IN BREADTH BUT WHALES IN COMMON ARE BUT ABOUT FIFTY, SEVENTY, EIGHTY, OR AT MOST ONE HUNDRED FEET. SOME INTERPRET THESE OF CROCODILES, (SEE EZEKIEL 29:3) SOME OF WHICH ARE TWENTY, SOME THIRTY, AND SOME HAVE BEEN SAID TO BE AN HUNDRED FEET LONG. THE WORD IS SOMETIMES USED OF DRAGONS, AND, IF IT HAS THIS SENSE HERE, MUST BE MEANT OF DRAGONS IN THE SEA, OR SEA SERPENTS, LEVIATHAN THE PIERCING SERPENT, AND LEVIATHAN THE CROOKED SERPENT, ISAIAH 27:1) SO THE JEWS; AND SUCH AS THE BISHOP OF BERGEN SPEAKS OF AS IN THE NORTHERN SEAS OF A HUNDRED FATHOM LONG, OR SIX HUNDRED ENGLISH FEET; AND WHO ALSO GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF A SEA MONSTER OF AN ENORMOUS AND INCREDIBLE SIZE, THAT SOMETIMES APPEARS LIKE AN ISLAND AT A GREAT DISTANCE, CALLED "KRAKEN"; NOW BECAUSE CREATURES OF SUCH A PRODIGIOUS SIZE WERE FORMED OUT OF THE WATERS, WHICH SEEMED SO VERY UNFIT TO PRODUCE THEM; THEREFORE THE SAME WORD IS HERE MADE USE OF, AS IS IN THE CREATION OF THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH OUT OF NOTHING, (GENESIS 1:1) BECAUSE THIS PRODUCTION, THOUGH NOT OUT OF NOTHING, YET WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF ALMIGHTY POWER.

The fact that the waters were called to bring forth abundantly the living creature that had life – including the fowls of the air, has introduced a problem for some. Genesis 2:19 states, *"And out of the ground the LORD God formed . . . every fowl of the..."* (Gen 2:19). Although this may be an oversimplification, the problem can easily be resolved by seeing the ocean floor as the earth from which the birds came. This, however, is not a matter worth pursuing, for there is no further elaboration provided by the Spirit on the matter.

The staggering number of bird species of our day is most arresting. It is estimated there are over 9,000 known species of birds now. This is the status of things after the flood, when the face and climate of the earth were significantly changed. The number of species of fowls must have been greatly reduced after the flood. This accents how abundant life was in the creation. There was more land, no frigid poles, and apparently no deserts. This suggests that life was abundant beyond imagination.

At the word of the Lord, the seas were filled with swarms of living creatures, varied in kind and multitudinous in number, Today, there are an estimated 24,500 species of fish. ^{ANSWERS.COM} And, this is after the flood, during which the vast percentage of the population of the seas probably perished. The record of the flood makes no mention of the fish being destroyed, or of Noah preserving any of them. After the flood God did deliver *"all of the fishes of the sea"* into the hands of Noah (Gen 9:29).

AND EVERY WINGED FOWL

"... and every winged fowl after his kind..."

The present number of bird species is between 9,000 and 10,000 – a vast variety now, which was infinitely greater at the time of creation – when there were no frigid poles or vast desert wastelands.

DOCUMENTED FACTS ABOUT BIRDS

Present day birds range the smallest known bird, the humming bird, which weighs .056 ounce, and is 2.75 long, with its bill being half that length. The largest known historic bird has been identified Titanus Wallen, which stood nearly ten feet

tall and was carnivorous. The largest flying bird of our time is a species of crane that stands 6' 6" tall. The heaviest flying bird is the Kon Bustard of Southern Africa, Europe, and Asia, which weighs in excess of forty pounds. The Australian pelican has a beak up to eighteen inches long. The flight of a banded bird from Finland was measured at 16,250 miles. A wandering albatross had a measured wingspan of over eleven feet. The skeletal remains of a extinct South American teratoron measured twenty-five feet. The peregrine falcon flies at a speed of up to 168 miles per hour. Although extremely large, the ostrich can run forty-five miles per hour, with a measured stride of as high as twenty-three feet. Ostriches have been measured as tall as 9'9" and weighing 345 pounds. Airplanes have collided with flying vultures at an altitude of 37,000 feet. The largest documented prey taken by a bird and flown to its nest was a 31 pound deer, captured and flown by an eagle to its nest. A pair of bald eagles in Petersburg Florida built a nest nine feet and six inches wide and twenty feet deep. It is reported to have weighed well in excess of two tons. The largest bird of record is the Elephant Bird, which stood 10-11 feet tall and weighed 1,100 pounds. They were found off the cast of east Africa about the

time of Christ, and were documented as being seen as late as 1658.

DOCUMENTED: BIRDS OF A FEATHER, COPYRIGHTED 1997-2011

I have briefly dealt with some interesting facts about birds in order to show the extent of *"after their kind."* When we think of God *"the Creator"* (Eccl 12:1; Isa 40:28' 43:15; Rom 1:25; 1 Pet 4:19), we must not think only of the unusual, but of greatness as well. The creation of God is a kind of index to His character. It confirms that when it comes to His great salvation, we ought not think in terms of smallness, or subscribe to narrow and restricted views.

IT WAS GOOD

"... and God saw that it was good."

Once again, everything that God made was *"good,"* fulfilling the purpose for which they were created, and blending perfectly with everything that had already been created. In this case, what was created was made from something already in place – the waters.

This teaches us that things God requires of us must be accomplished through the use of what has already been supplied to us – *"all spiritual blessings in heavenly places"* (Eph 1:3).

FILL THE WATERS OF THE SEAS, AND MULTIPLY IN THE EARTH

" 22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth." The verse does not suggest that only a sampling of fish and birds were supplied, which would, over a lengthy period of time multiply. This was a commission to be carried out throughout all time. It was no doubt spoken with the Divine awareness of the entrance of death into the world that would occur very soon.

BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY

"... And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply..." Other versions read, *"Be fruitful and increase in numbers,"* ^{NIV} *"be fertile and have increase,"* ^{BBE} The capacity to reproduce was a blessing. Just as the waters brought forth fish and fowl at the word of the Lord, so the multiplication of their numbers was to continue.

Already a tremendous multiplication had taken place: *"which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind"* Gen 1:21), Other versions read, *"the waters swarmed,"* ^{ASV/ NASB} and *"the waters brought forth in swarms."* ^{TNK} This abundance was to continue.

FILL THE WATERS

"... and fill the waters in the seas..."

No part of the sea was to be unpopulated, or without abundance. There was no thought here of overpopulation of the fish in the sea. The waters were made to be filled with life. Further, there is every reason to believe that the initial filling occurred on this fifth day. This also presumes an abundance of sea vegetation and other required food to sustain them.

Here is a valuable lesson to learn: what God creates and/or gives, is intended to increase. It is not to become static, but is to grow and increase.

MULTIPLY IN THE EARTH

“ . . . and let fowl multiply in the earth.”

What the fish did in the waters, the fowls were to do upon the earth – multiply, increase, and become more numerous. Thus the skies would be filled with the winged fowl, and the whole atmosphere of earth filled with life.

A LESSON TO BE LEARNED

Here is a valuable lesson to learn: **what God creates and/or gives, is intended to increase. It is not to become static, but is to grow and increase.**

This is confirmed in our Lord’s parables of the talents and the pounds (Matt 25:14-30; Lk 19:12-27). In both parables, the servant who did not increase what he was given lost his stewardship, and his life as well. What he received was given to another. Nothing that God gave was lost, but was redistributed if not handled aright.

God expects increase in His people (2 Cor 9:10; Eph 4:16; Col 2:19; 1 Thess 3:12; 4:10). Growth is mandated (Eph 4:15; 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18). There are things to be added (2 Pet 1:5-8). Although apparently little known among professing Christians, this is confirmed in the creation account and the apostles’ doctrine. It is plain enough that it ought to be known.

The sterility of the modern church is a reproach to God, a contradiction to His eternal purpose, and confirmation that the knowledge of Christ is very sparse.

THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIFTH DAY

“²³ And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. (Gen 1:23).”

Thus the fifth day of creation concludes. With the expansion of life.

- ➔ The waters were commanded to bring forth abundantly.
- ➔ Moving creatures that had life were called into being from the waters.
- ➔ Fowls that flew above the earth in the open firmament of heaven were created.
- ➔ Great whales and sea creatures were created.
- ➔ Other living water creatures were created in abundance, and after their kind.
- ➔ Winged fowls were created in abundance and after their kind.
- ➔ The living creatures that were created were blessed.
- ➔ They were told to be fruitful and multiply, filling the seas and multiplying in the earth.

Thus were called into being creatures for the sea, and creatures for the open firmament. A productive day, indeed!

CONCLUSION

In the fifth day of creation there is an introduction to the nature of spiritual life. It is a life that is characterized by depths like the ocean, and heights like the firmament. Salvation by grace through faith enables the participant to plumb the depths of what has been revealed, and soar to the heights of spiritual experience. Life can be maintained in both the depths and the heights of the realm of the Spirit. Those who shrink back from these profoundly deep and lofty realms do greatly err. Those professed leaders who fail to draw the attention of the people to them, err in an even greater way. To live shallow spiritual lives is a common transgression, but it is an especially

Our next Hungry Saints Meeting will be held on Friday, 2/11/11. We will continue our new series of lessons on the book of GENESIS. The fourth lesson will cover verses 24-31 of chapter one. "THE SIXTH DAY." This is the final day of creation, and was marked by the highest order of creation – mankind. So far as God's associations and purpose, the rest of the Bible will be about His involvements with humanity. Our meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. You are invited to bring your family and friends for fellowship around the Word of God. Refreshments are served afterward, with a time of extended fellowship for everyone.



2010 Refreshing Waters Renewal, #22

June 14-16, 2011
First Christian Church
Carl Junction, Missouri

**Theme: WHAT JESUS ACCOMPLISHED
IN OUR BEHALF**

**An exposition of the VICARIOUS NATURE OF THE
REDEMPTIVE WORK AND DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST.**

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THE WORD OF TRUTH FELLOWSHIP

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Additional Website for Word of Truth Fellowship: <http://www.forministry.com/USMOINDPTWOTFW>

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