



Genesis Chapter 1:1-31
The Creation Week
God Creates Living Creatures! (Lesson #4)

20 And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." 21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its 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 birds multiply on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

The **atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, biosphere**, and even **outer space** are now formed and finished. **God has now created a proper tent for man to dwell in.**

It is formed and it is about to be filled!

He has placed this **privileged planet** at **exactly the right distance** from our **newly created sun** to support **life**.

God has created the perfect conditions to **sustain life**. He has placed us in a **perfect position** within the **Milky Way** (spiral galaxy) to not only **survive**, but to **observe the creation that God has made**.

Having completed all that is necessary by way of non-living materials of the creation, God is now ready to advance and create things that have in them the "breath of life."

The creation is no longer *tohu wabohu* (unformed and unfilled), rather it is formed and ready to be filled with life! **Formed, it is now, on days five and six ready for God to fill!**

Once again, God speaks and instantaneous, supernatural creation occurs, this time, for the first time, it is **physical life**, things that have a mind and whose behavior can be unpredictable. **LIFE**.

Now we need to pause here and make sure we all fully appreciate what we just read. It took seconds to read, but what God just did is amazing, no, breathtaking in its complexity!

Current evolutionary theory goes something like this:

A long, long, long, time ago, there was our planet and on the face of our planet, water that was located in various lakes, rivers or ancient oceans. Within that water and the primitive atmosphere, processes occurred and amino acids were able to form, those amino acids drifting around in this "primordial soup" were able to bond together and form proteins, those proteins as they drifted in the primordial soup were able to be surrounded and secure by a cellular membrane and thus in that protective membrane we have the birth of the first cell, over more and more time, this cell was able through chance and time create various machines including DNA and RNA, and then at some point, this cell, was able to replicate itself and thus the single replicating cell was born that would lead to all life on the planet!

This is the story according to evolutionary theory.

How do we approach a story like that? It has been said that the cell is the building blocks of life!

OK, so let's talk about the cell. Here is a typical animal cell.

OK, that got deep really quick, let's see if we can back this up a bit, what are the basic building blocks of cells? Cells contain a number of different things, we saw that, but the basic building blocks for a cell are carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids.

OK, now we are talking! A basic protein is constructed of 150 amino acids, with complex proteins being hundreds of amino acids.

What is the statistical likelihood of creating a single, simple protein comprised of just 150 properly sequenced and bonded amino acids? That seems like a pretty straightforward question. Let's start there!

So, at the very start we seem to be stuck in an impossible situation. Creating just one simple (150 amino acid) protein through time and random process is impossible.

But, it actually gets much worse than that! Turns out the problem is much worse and much larger than simply creating one protein by chance.

But it gets even worse than just the issues with creating a cell. It is all the amazing complexity that exists within a cell. How did these molecular machines arise out of simply chance and time?

It is unimaginable to picture any condition where lifeless chemical are converted to the needed 20 amino acids, that then bonded into complex proteins, hundreds of them, that then end up being surrounded by a cell wall, all through chance and naturalistic processes.

NO, What we see here is the amazing complexity of life. What we see is the fingerprint of the living God.

Dr. Stephen Meyer *"No serious scientist believes that life happened by chance."*

Francis Crick *"An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have to had to have been satisfied to get it going."*

Michael Denton *"Although the tiniest bacterial cells are incredibly small, each is in effect a veritable micro-miniaturized factory containing thousands of exquisitely designed pieces of intricate molecular machinery, made up of 100,000,000,000 (100 billion) atoms, far more complicated than any machine built by man and absolutely without parallel in the non-living world."*

You and I should stand in awe when we consider what our amazing God did when He created life!

Vs 20 - Two things I want you to take with you:

- This is the first time the word נפש (nephesh) is used (life or living or soul).

- In the Biblical sense **plants** do not have life (soul)(consciousness), like the animals do. **Here God creates life and he starts in the oceans.**

In my mind, I picture the calm oceans of the earth, and then, at the command of God the waters begin swirling and life being created **instantaneously, supernaturally**, and the **oceans are filled with life!**

Teaming with life in a second. This is not one tiny single celled organism that advances over thousands or millions of years to become a multicell organism to continue to advance to more and more complex organisms. This is not one organism dying to continue to hopefully advance the march to a more complex organism.

No, this is a sovereign supernatural God. Speaking and in a moment in time the **waters of the planet are teaming with life.**

One minute, it was empty oceans, may there was algae. But now life, all forms of aquatic life in an instant!

Next, we read, still in **verse 20: *let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.***

What did this look like? I can only imagine. **Birds**, filling the heaven, one minute nothing and now birds all over the place, **full grown, fully functional**, and **able to fly** in the expanse of the heavens.

This is not one type of animal slowing picking up wings and the ability to fly over thousands or even millions of years. **NO, this is a supernatural God, creating, in a second the diversity we see in the biological class today we call Aves.**

Vs 21 - We see it again: Each **type of organism** had and has its **own unique structure of DNA** and can only reproduce **“after its kind.”**

Here we see clearly that God creates a barrier, a line between kinds of things, if they are of the same kind, they can possibly reproduce, if they are different kinds they cannot reproduce.

This explains an important principle about all the life that God has created. It only reproduces after its kind.

I would add that Moses will repeat this phrase 10 times here in the first chapter of Genesis!

Keep in mind, in the Bible we do not have the traditional ways to draw attention to a particular point:

- 1) Highlighting
- 2) Bolding
- 3) Underlining
- 4) Adding an exclamation mark.

The tool the writer had is repetition. Ten time, God said through Moses, plants and animals reproduce **“according to their own kind.”** What do you think God is trying to tell us?

APPLICATION: Evolutionary dogma that says all living things are connected by a common ancestor **is refuted by the reality we see in our world, the overwhelming evidence from the fossil record, and what God said, as recorded by Moses!**

It is refuted by the evidence, if macro-evolution were true we would find billions of examples of things transitioning, some successful, some failures. We do not, there a handful of debated fossils and that is it!

Here in verse 21, Moses provides some additional commentary. God created **great sea creatures** and every living creature that moves in the water, and notice the waters “swarm” with them.

What comes to mind when you read that God created the “great sea creatures”? **Blue Whales** (up to 100 feet), **sperm whales** (up to 60 feet), **giant squid, giant octopus, massive oarfish.** God is likely talking about these, but I believe he is also talking about other aquatic animals as well.

The Hebrew words:

- 1) The word great is גדול (gadowl), it means great, large, big, or massive.
- 2) The word translated “sea creature” is the word תנין (tanniyn). This word is used a total of **28 times** in the Hebrew bible, rather than explain the word let me show you a few places where it is used:

“You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.” (Ps 74:13 ESV)

“In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.” (Isa 27:1 ESV)

“Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, who pierced the dragon?” (Isa 51:9 ESV)

In the King James, they translated this word “dragon” 21 times and “serpent” 3 times. For the most part the ESV translates this word as serpent or jackal.

I would suggest that what (at least in part) Moses is talking about is some of the greatest sea creatures (dragons) (dinosaurs) that have ever swam in our seas. In the video on dinosaurs, I reviewed one of these aquatic animals in the Bible, Leviathan (Job 41). If that interests you, I encourage you to check out that video. Time permitting this morning we will take a peek at Leviathan!

The sea animals and the birds are each created after or **according to their own kinds.**

We have the declaration that God continues to give us, that he saw that it was good!

When we consider the complexity of life, this is a major understatement by God!

Vs 22-23 - Something new happens here. **God blesses them.** His blessing: *“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”*

Interesting, this is the first time in the creation account that God has **blessed anything.**

Then in verse 23, we have the fifth repetition of the model we have become abundantly familiar with: *“**And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.**”*

The fifth day comes to a close, this planet is now teeming with plant life, birds, and aquatic animals.

24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds — livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

God speaks again: **Vs 24a: Can you even imagine what this looked like?**

Did the earth animals actually emerge out of the ground? Was there a moment nothing, and then instantly something?

Every living creature according to its kind. Here you see the land-dwelling animals mentioned under three broad headings:

Livestock

Creeping things

Beasts of the earth

Now, although the Bible does not say it here, we know about another dinosaur, this one a land-dwelling dinosaur, also mentioned in Job. We will take a look at him.

Let me set the stage, God has showed up and he is rapid firing questions at Job, in fact by the time we get to chapter 40, by my count, God has asked Job **61** rhetorical questions!

So let's look at how this conversation starts:

"1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: 2 "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements — surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?" (Job 38:1-5 ESV)

You can see four rapid fire rhetorical questions here.

Now God shifts to bring up a powerful animal called Behemoth:

"15 "Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox. 16 Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly. 17 He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together. 18 His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron. 19 "He is the first of the works of God; let him who made him bring near his sword! 20 For the mountains yield food for him where all the wild beasts play." (Job 40:15-20 ESV)

I would argue that when you think about land dwelling dinosaurs, it was here on day 6 that they were created, right alongside all other land-dwelling animals.

Vs 25 – We have the fifth declaration: “God saw that it was good.”

Now let's be honest, its not just that it is good. God has created, supernaturally, out of nothing amazingly complex creatures. **It is amazing!**

The world is now fully prepared for God's highest creation, the crown of his creation, man which will be made in His image!

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

Vs 26 - Here God first speaks to Himself, a conversation within the godhead. Obviously, **He does this and records it, for our behalf.**

Now we find this a few times in the Old Testament where God speaks in the Godhead, for our good. Let me show you two:

"1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." 7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession." (Ps 2:1-8 ESV)

"« A Psalm of David. » The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." (Ps 110:1 ESV)

Let's slow down just a bit, this is you and I, this is different, this is significant.

- 1) **Let us make man...** Here we see the triune God declare, like all of creation, they will together make man. The Hebrew word is אָדָם ('adam).
- 2) **Let us make man, in our image** (after our likeness).
Although like the animals, man has the breath of life. Here in man that breath is eternal, and in this respect man is very much like God.

Man has a moral consciousness, he has the ability for abstract thought, he can appreciate beauty, poetry, emotions, and love. In these and other ways man is like God.

Like his creator he can communicate, and attribute inherited from His God.

As you think about man being created in God's image. It reminds us that God always intended to take on man's image.

God knew the day was coming when the second person of the Godhead would take on the form that He is creating right now:

"And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God." (Lu 1:35 ESV)

“Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;” (Heb 10:5 ESV)

“5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” (Php 2:5-7 ESV)

- 3) **Let man have dominion** over the fish of the sea (day 4) the birds of the heavens (day 4), and over the livestock and over creeping things that creep on earth (day 5).

God had created plants, that are living in sense. Then God had created animals that were living נפש (nephesh) creatures. This included sea animals, birds, and then land animals.

But now, something even greater than simply living (nephesh), man אדם (‘adam) made in the image of God!

Then God gives man (Adam) **dominion over the entire creation:**

Vs 27 - So God created ברא (bara’) man, in his own image, in his own likeness. The word translated man, the Hebrew word (bara) is a generic term that can represent men and women.

So God fashions man’s body the same way he fashioned the bodies of the other land dwellers, **out of dirt.**

Equally, man would have the “breath of life” like the other animals (Gen 2:7 and 7:22).

So man’s structure both physically and mentally would be the same basic essence. Yet, within man there would be something that is **quantitatively greater**, and **qualitatively distinct** from the animals.

Man would be in the image and likeness of God! Man would serve as the King of Kings’ ruler here on earth and his image bearer. **Man and woman!**

Now, we will be provided greater detail of the creation of man, God’s crowning achievement in creation in Genesis chapter 2.

Vs 28 - God blesses them (the man and the woman that he created).

Here is the blessing that the greater blesses the lesser with:

- **Be fruitful** - Bear fruit.
- **Multiply** – To become many, to become numerous, to become much.
- **Fill the earth...** OK, we are talking serious multiplication.

This is the exact blessing that God pronounced at then end of day five.

But now it changes:

- **Subdue the earth...** Bring it under your subjection as the rightful king who has been given dominion by the King of Kings, the creator Himself.
- **Have dominion...** The word means rule. Adam is told to rule over all the animals on the planet.

Man is God’s appointed steward over His new creation. The creation has been prepared for his arrival. **We know how this turns out, but we will wait until we get there to dive into that!**

Vs 29 - Here we are clearly told what man is to eat.

God has provided the plants for man's consumption, they shall serve as food. The fruit of the fruit trees shall serve as food.

This will change, so please tuck this away in the back of your mind.

Vs 30 - Here we find that for every beast, every bird, every creeper, everything that has the breath of life. God has given the plants for food.

So, at the creation, according to Moses even all the animals (at this point) are eating plants.

This too will change, so you should tuck this away in the back of your mind.

Vs 31 - Here God as pictured, as a **master artist**, stepping back from his canvas, stepping back from his work that he has fashioned and made.

God beheld all that he had made, the Hebrew word is עָשָׂה ('asah). He surveyed his work and it was not just good. It was very, **it was exceedingly good!**

Then we come to that repetition that we have seen after God completes his work: *there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*"

One particular commentator made the point that if we take this literally it only accounts for half the day, and worse, only the evening hours "evening into morning" and we call that a day.

I think the paradigm that we should be seeing is the accounting of a full day, God does His creative activity during the daytime, and then there is evening into morning (the termination of God's creative activity) then cardinal number and day. I see the evening and morning as closing of God's creative activity for that day.

Not at this point in the creation I believe this means, there was nothing in the creation that was not good. There was no struggle for existence, there was no disease, no pollution, no mutations, no physical maladies, no physical calamities or disasters. No disorder, no chaos, no sin and above it all... NO DEATH!

"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." (Ex 20:11 ESV)

Equally, I believe that all life is created during this week, and this likely includes the angles. It is possible that they were created before time, but we will save this broader discussion until we get to Genesis chapter 6.

As we come to Genesis chapter 2, there is clearly a shift in style, there is clearly a retelling of what had already been told, and there is clearly a new focus.

The focus shifts from God's overall creative work during the creation week, to focus on the creation of man, God's crowning achievement! This is where we will pick up next week!