

Series: Order vs. Chaos

Title: The Days of Creation

Genesis 1:1-31

Introduction

The book of Genesis begins with these words, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

(Genesis 1:1-2 NKJV)

In the beginning, the Earth wasn't suitable for life. It was "formless and empty," dark, and covered with water. We don't know how long the Earth remained in this state. Some say it was only a few moments; others say it was a long time. We also don't know why God didn't speak the Earth into existence fully formed instead of taking six days to prepare and furnish it with life. Maybe God worked and rested as an example and model for the humans He planned to put in charge of the Earth.

Terraforming is the idea of transforming a lifeless planet into one that can support life. It occurred when the Holy Spirit "hovered over the waters" in verse two. This "hovering" is like the hovering of an eagle over her nest as she cares for her young (Deut. 32:11).

The presence of God's Spirit indicates that God is ready to act. The presence of God inspires spiritual and material creation. Creation doesn't occur apart from the presence of God.

Day 1: Light

The first step God took in preparing the Earth for life was to shower it with light. Verse 3 says, "Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day." (Genesis 1:3-5 NKJV)

God spoke, and light filled the dark Earth. Paul referred to this event in 2 Corinthians 4, saying, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6 NKJV)

There isn't a hint of a gradual process. God spoke, and it was done.

Light is one of the attributes of God's presence. Psalm 104:2 describes God as covering Himself with light as a garment. Even before God created our world, light existed because God existed.

John's Gospel says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (John 1:1-5 NKJV)

The Bible also refers to the existence of other beings who saw the creation of our world. Job 38 says, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4-7 NKJV)

Lucifer had already sinned and fallen when Eve met him, impersonating a serpent in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-7). It was the Earth, not the universe, that was dark. The light that filled the universe could only have come from God Himself. 1 John 1:5 says, "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5 NKJV)

Light is associated with God's presence. Revelation 21 says that God's glory illuminates the New Jerusalem in the future restoration of heaven and earth, and there is no need for Sun or moon, and that the Lamb is the light. (Rev. 21:23) Jesus' statement in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world," may be more than a metaphor.

The organisms God planned to create needed light, so God created it and declared that the light was good! God didn't need to fashion light with His hands, He merely spoke the words, and there was light. The Hebrew says, 'Light be: light was.'

And think of this, light, day, and night each existed before the Sun and moon were created on the fourth day (Genesis 1:14-19).

There won't be any sun or moon in the new heavens and the new Earth; God Himself will be the light (Revelation 22:5)?

Always remember this, God can take the darkness and chaos of any situation of your life and shed His light upon it so you can see His goodness.

So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Day 2: An Expanse

On Day 2, God spoke again and separated the waters above the firmament from those below. Verse 6 says, "Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day." (Genesis 1:6-8 NKJV)

This is the creation of what in the Hebrew is called the “expanse” and in the Latin the “firmament.” Dr. Terry Mortenson of Answers in Genesis says that the expanse can be described as 1) outer space, 2) where the birds fly and the clouds float in the “face of the expanse,” and 3) the “waters above” as the outer boundary of the universe. The expanse includes our atmosphere, where water is stored in the clouds, where the birds fly, and also includes where the Sun and Moon appear.

The Hebrew word for “expanse” describes how God separated the waters above from those below. God separated these waters on the second day of Creation week, and the atmosphere is what still keeps them apart. Our atmosphere provides one of the most crucial requirements for life—a supply of oxygen.

Ours is the only known planet with oxygen levels needed for humans and other land animals to survive. To be suitable for life, Earth must have an atmosphere.

God wants to provide the right atmosphere for you to become all that He created you to be. Jesus can create the right balance in your life. When you feel that you’re in a toxic environment that is destroying your peace and sense of security, get in touch with Jesus and find a Christian atmosphere that helps you experience God’s peace and direction.

The proper levels of oxygen and nitrogen in Earth’s atmosphere, the rarity of toxic gases, and the atmosphere’s interaction with the physical environment—all bear witness to divine design.

Day 3: Dry Land and Vegetation

On Day 3, God causes the dry land to appear. Verse 9 says, “Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear”; and it was so. And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was* good. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. So the evening and the morning were the third day.” (Genesis 1:9-13 NKJV)

Again, God speaks, and the waters part, and the continents rise above the level of the sea. The Earth’s crust moves, ocean basins are formed and filled with water, and land is exposed. And God declares it good. The land and waters are well suited to the needs of the diverse living creatures God intends to create.

Earth has enough water to cover the entire planet to a depth of more than one mile. Dry land exists because of differences in the composition of the rocks that form its crust. The continents are mainly made of granite, sandstone, and shale, which have a lower density than the rocks that comprise the sea floor.

Among the most remarkable properties of water is that it can exist as a solid, liquid, or gas at temperatures where life can survive. Water's high-heat capacity helps prevent wild temperature swings where it exists in sufficient quantity. Because ice floats, aquatic life can survive in the liquid water beneath the ice floating on lakes and seas. Because water is transparent, it enables light to reach depths of up to three hundred feet, expanding the productive zone of the oceans. Ocean water also helps stabilize carbon dioxide levels by absorbing and releasing it. And water is an excellent solvent, which means it can transport materials from place to place.

Separating the sea and the dry land was an essential step in making the planet a suitable habitat.

Sometimes you find yourself in such deep waters that it feels like you'll drown. But God knows how to separate life's harmful stress from the needed stress of purpose and can always help you get back on solid ground.

On Day 3, We see God's design in the rocks of the Earth and the remarkable properties of water. On Day 3, God also commands the earth to bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* produces fruit according to its kind, resulting in vegetation that would sustain and nourish living creatures.

Life does not spontaneously sprout from the ground; it does so at God's command. There is a vast difference between what's living and what isn't. There is no hint that one or a few simple plants evolved into the diversity seen today over long ages. By the end of that third day, the plants were in place. Three days later, God gives them to humans and land animals for food.

Jesus said in Matthew 6, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25 NKJV)

God has promised to provide the food we need if we just put our trust in Him!

Animals cannot survive without plants. Both play important roles in the oxygen cycle. In the chemical process called photosynthesis, plants produce the oxygen animals must have.

Animals use this oxygen, producing carbon dioxide from it, which, in turn, the plants take up and convert back to oxygen.

And once more, God was satisfied with His creation and pronounced it good. Many scholars see a pattern in the sequence of creation events. The first three days were devoted to forming the world, while the second three days were devoted to filling it.

Day 4: Lights

On the fourth day, God makes the Sun, Moon, and stars. In verse 14, God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them

be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then 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. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 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. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day." (Genesis 1:14-19 NKJV)

There was no need for another light source as long as God was present. The stars are also mentioned in the description of Day 4.

The text says, "God made . . . the lesser light to govern the night, and He also made the stars" (1:16). The Moon would govern the night with the stars. The Sun and Moon are not named in Genesis 1 but merely referred to as the "greater light" and the "lesser light." Both the Sun and the Moon are also designed to support life.

Sunlight can travel a great distance through space, providing energy and carrying signals to the inhabitants of the distant Earth. The main energy output of the Sun is strong enough to supply life on Earth but not so strong as to injure life.

The Moon is also designed for life. The Moon functions as a time signal, dividing the year into lunar months. It also produces the ocean tides, which provide signals that regulate the behavior of many organisms. The reproductive behavior of sea turtles, certain fish, certain worms, and many other marine creatures is regulated by changes in the Moon's position and its gravitational effects on the tides. The tides also help create beaches and move materials onto and away from them, effectively cleaning them.

Both the Sun and the Moon provide evidence that Earth is designed to support life. On day 4, we really begin to see the order and discipline God builds into His creation. It gives credence to the fact that each of us needs order and discipline in our lives to maximize God's created purpose.

Day 5: Creatures of the Sea and Sky

On Day 5, creatures of the sea and sky are created. "Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." So the evening and the morning were the fifth day." (Genesis 1:20-23 NKJV)

God spoke, and the waters abounded with many kinds of living organisms. He spoke again, and the flying creatures came into being. The text speaks in the plural of the *kinds* of creatures present from the beginning. There is no support for the notion that only one kind was created in the beginning, and all other kinds evolved from it. The original creation was diverse, with a great variety of kinds of life. Birds

show an amazing ability for flight. Porpoises have an incredible sonar system that enables them to find their way in the darkness of the waters.

All creatures, great and small, are designed for their particular role in the creative story.

Day 6: Living Creatures

On the sixth day, God's creative genius is expressed once more.

"Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind"; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."
(Genesis 1:24-31 NKJV)

Variety and diversity are declared from the beginning. There were different kinds of wild beasts and different kinds of cattle and creeping things. When God created the land creatures, He created them in variety and abundance. He also made the creatures of the sea and sky.

Although our world is greatly affected by sin, we can still see God's design in land creatures, from the elephant to the monkey, and from the lion to the bear. It makes you wonder what they could be in a world free from sin and violence.

The phrase "according to their kinds" in verse 12 is applied to the plants, the sea creatures, the flying creatures, and the land animals. God didn't simply leave His creatures to fend for themselves. He provided them with food in the form of green plants.

In verse 26, God also creates on the sixth day Humans, who He makes in His "own image." And He specifically says that their food included every plant yielding seed and every tree producing fruit.

We are plainly told God created man fully formed, and created him in one day, not gradually over millions of years of progressive evolution. The idea that a slow,

progressive evolution could produce a complex mechanism like the human body just doesn't hold up.

Today, many say there is no real difference between men and women. This thinking is the result of mindless evolution, but it is nonsense to the God who created us. To God, the differences between men and women are not accidents. Since He created humans as male and female, the differences are good and meaningful. Men are not women, and women are not men.

One of the saddest signs of our culture's depravity is the amount and the degree of gender confusion today. It is vain to wonder if men or women are superior to the other. A man is absolutely superior at being a man and a woman is absolutely superior at being a woman. But when a man tries to be a woman or a woman tries to be a man, you have something completely inferior.

The first thing God did for the man and the woman was to bless them. Without the goodness of God's blessing, we cannot fulfill our created purpose. God also gives us a job to do. We are to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and exercise dominion over all the Earth. God says nothing about depopulating the earth. Who's idea was that? The truth is we cannot fulfill God's plan for humanity on the Earth unless we populate it.

God forms the first humans from the dust (Gen. 2:19) and He breathes the breath of life into them. Life in the world God created was characterized by peace and harmony. God speaks the creation into existence, establishes the relationships among the creatures, creates humans in His image, and gives them dominion over His creation and provides plant food for all of them.

Then God steps back to see everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Day 7: God's Rest

On the seventh day, God rested from the work He had been doing. Genesis Chapter 2 begins, "Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." ([Genesis 2:1-3 NKJV](#))

The creation was now completed, and He could take satisfaction in what He had made and so He institutes the Sabbath rest.

The text says God rested from His work of creating (Gen. 2:2, 3).

This doesn't mean that He withdrew from the world. God has continued to work in it, guiding His people (Matt. 28:20) and sustaining the existence of the universe (Col. 1:16, 17). God did not create the world and then leave it to operate on its own as Deism claims. The world has nothing of its own on which to operate.

The goodness of creation can still be seen in part, but the effects of sin have introduced evil into creation, and it can no longer be properly called "very good" as it was originally.

God blessed the seventh day, giving it special and sacred status. Divine blessing indicates God's approval. But, more than that, it reveals His expectation that we will show our respect for Him in the way we treat each other, the animals and other creatures and especially the way we treat the holy Sabbath day.

Divine Design is apparent in each of the features of creation. The Creation days were literal days, forming a literal week of the same length as the weeks we experience today. The original creation was good in that it functioned according to God's plan; it was complete; and it was free of violence, suffering, and death.

God ceased His work of creating on the seventh day and set the Sabbath apart as a continual reminder of what He had done in Creation (Ex. 20:8-11).