

Creation

The First Verse of Genesis declares the Creation of the heavens and the earth, while the Second Verse declares the earth (“*had become*”) waste and void. The Third Verse begins to reveal the Great Creator beginning the work of “renewing” the face of the disfigured earth to prepare it for a dwelling place of Man, in whom He now purposes to fulfill the desire of His Heart. Thus, from the Third Verse to the end of the First Chapter of Genesis we find the progressive revelation of ***the reconstruction of the Earth*** for the presence and the needs of Man, God’s new order of free, created beings.

Following the events of Chapter One of Genesis step by step, one finds the use of the two words – “*created*” and “*made*.” They are two distinctly different words in the Hebrew text. “*Create*” is translated from “*bara*,” and “*made*” is translated from “*asah*.” “*Bara*” refers to a Divine and Sovereign act of bringing into existence *that which was not* – a Divine decree, “*Let it be, and it was so!*”

The Hebrew word “*bara*” is used but three times
in this chapter of “*beginnings*:”

- (1) The Creation of the heavens and the earth – Genesis 1:1
- (2) Animal, or sentient life – Genesis 1:21
- (3) Man – Genesis 1:27

The Hebrew word “*asah*,” translated “*to make*,” means, “*to fashion something out of pre-existing material*” – (as a seamstress “*makes*” a dress).

If one notes the following verses carefully they will see that the word “*made*” (*asah*) is used in connection with the six days work of “*renewing*” the earth’s surface. As the Psalmist declared, “*Thou [God] sendest forth Thy Spirit, they [the heavens and the earth, in the beginning] are created: and Thou renewest the face of the earth*” (Psalms 104:30).

On the Third Day God did not *create* the Earth, but He “*gathered the waters together*” so that the dry land appeared. On the Fourth Day, Scripture does not say God *created* the Sun, but that He *made* (appointed) two “*luminaries holders*” (the word used in the original text); as we would set apart a man to “*make*” him a president. We do not *create* the man, but *appoint* him to an office, just so, God *created* the sun “*in the beginning*,” together with all the celestial bodies (Genesis 2:1), “*all the hosts of them*,” and on the Fourth Day of the work of “*restoration*” God appointed the sun to an office in relation to the renewed Earth and the needs of Man (Genesis 1:16-17).

“Let there be light...” (Genesis 1:3)

Verse 2 pictures the earth as “*darkness upon the face of the deep*.” Imagine darkness so dense that you cannot see a thing, so pitch black that there was not a glimmer of light – not even the tiniest candle, nor the faintest star, could penetrate the gloominess that existed. In your imagination, perhaps you can hear the swishing and gurgling waves on the darkened shore. And then realizing that in the darkness you are not alone. Amid the darkness, emptiness and loneliness, God was still there.

Verse 2 continues, “*And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*” A voice, musical, strong and resounding, unlike any other commands darkness to give place to light and instantly darkness vanishes and light appears.

On the First Day “*light*” penetrated the darkness at the command of God. Job (38:9) very significantly speaks of a “*think darkness (like) a swaddling band for it (the earth).*” The great upheaval, revealed in the second verse, evidently did not affect the heavens; the Earth alone is sad to have “*become*” the scene of desolation and darkness. The rays of the sun were unable to penetrate the blackness that enveloped the stricken planet, but in God’s own Time and Purpose (now to prepare the earth for the abode of Man) the thickly packed layers of darkness were dispersed at His command. “*Let there be light . . .*” Everyone who has been “*born-again*” or “*renewed*” in the image of God has had the same blessed experience. Into the darkness of Sin and Guilt and Broken Communion “*the entrance of Thy [God] words giveth light*” (Psalm 119:130).

Someone asks, “*How could there be light on the first day when the Sun did not appear until the fourth day?*” There was a time when this question was a favorite of critics of the bible story of creation, however, scientists have long discovered “*cosmic*” light, light apart from the sun.

“*Let there be a firmament ...*” (Genesis 1:6)

“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”

The simplest definition of “*firmament*” is “*expanse,*” or “*a space*” – literally, “*a breathing space*” for all life, and an habitation for the fowls of the air. It also provides that Waves upon which Light and sound must travel. When Job of old asked, “*Where is the ‘way’ where light dwelleth?*” (Job 38:19, he was scientifically correct in his question. Because light dwelleth not in a “*place*” but a “*way*” traveling on waves at the speed of 186,000 miles a second.

Few realize how thin is the belt of atmosphere, or ozone, that sustains life on our planet; so vital is the Firmament to our existence that only few thousand feet from the earth’s surface Man cannot exist unless he takes his own supply of oxygen. Most scientists and astronomers agree that because of this very Firmament, or atmosphere, the Earth is the only planet capable of sustaining life, at least, life as we know it.

God said, “*Let it be,*” and breathing space separated “*the waters above*” from “*the waters below.*” The “*waters above*” carried by the wind, provide God’s marvelous system of watering the earth. It is estimated that an average of sixteen million tons of water per second falls over the entire earth’s surface. Water is eight hundred times heavier than air, yet how easily God holds it in the heavens. The never-ending cycle of evaporation and precipitation is God’s wonderful water-works. Psalm 135:7 says, “*He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightning for the rain; He bringeth the wind out of His treasures.*”

Note, that in the account of this second day’s work, the making of the Firmament, there is a glaring omission, which seems significant. This is the *only* day’s work that did not conclude with the words of approval “*and God saw that it was good.*” Could it have been that the moment the Firmament was made, the fallen, rebellious spirits who lost their first estate swarmed into the

earth's atmosphere, led by Lucifer, the Devil, and "*prince of the powers of the air?*" It may well be, for in the day of final reckoning even the Firmament must be purged of every trace of rebellion and discord (2 Peter 3:10-12).

Dividing the Earth From the Sea

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so" (Genesis 1:9-10).

On the third day, at God's command, the whole planet must have been the scene of rushing waters pouring into the receptacles, prepared for them; revealing the mountains and the valleys of the earth, and setting forever the boundaries of the mighty deep. Had the earth been perfectly smooth there would have been no place for the seas to be gathered. Realizing what took place certainly causes one to re-echo the words of the Psalmist, "*Marvelous are Thy works, oh God!*" (Psalm 139:14).

Psalm 33:7, speaking of God's mighty works, says, "*He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses – [receptacles].*"

Isaiah, in referring to God, asks, "*Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?*"

God provided the right depth of the receptacles and he right amount of water carefully weighed and measured; that by the process of "*evaporation and rainfall*" the Bounds, or Tide, are constantly kept "*thus far and no farther.*"

In a later study we will see the different worlds – **before** and **after** the great flood!

On the Third Day, God spoke a second time. The dry land was now called to "*yield*" and cover itself with a garment of Grass, Herbs, and Fruit-bearing Trees, whose "*seed is in itself, upon the earth*" (Genesis 1:11-12).

"And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew" (Genesis 2:5)

God's acts on day 4 was the divine regulation of the solar system (Genesis 1:14-18)

"Then God said, 'Let bright lights appear in the sky to give light to the earth and to identify the day and the night; they shall bring about the seasons on the earth, and mark the days and years.' And so it was. For God had made two huge lights, the sun and moon, to shine down upon the earth--the larger one, the sun, to preside over the day and the smaller one, the moon, to preside through the night; he had also made the stars. And God set them in the sky to light the earth, and to preside over the day and night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God was pleased. This all happened on the fourth day" (Living Bible).

The 5th day's act was bringing new living creatures into existence for the earth and for man's benefit (Genesis 1:20-23).

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters teem with fish and other life, and let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.’ So God created great sea animals, and every sort of fish and every kind of bird. And God looked at them with pleasure, and blessed them all. ‘Multiply and stock the oceans,’ He told them, and to the birds He said, ‘Let your numbers increase. Fill the earth!’ That ended the fifth day” (Living bible).

The 6th day act, God, divinely formed a body for man – (Genesis 1:24-31).

“And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth every kind of animal--cattle and reptiles and wildlife of every kind.’ And so it was. God made all sorts of wild animals and cattle and reptiles. And God was pleased with what he had done. Then God said, ‘Let us make a man --someone like ourselves, to be the master of all life upon the earth and in the skies and in the seas.’ So God made man like his Maker. Like God did God make man; Man and maid did he make them. And God blessed them and told them, ‘Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it; you are masters of the fish and birds and all the animals. And look! I have given you the seed-bearing plants throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. And I've given all the grass and plants to the animals and birds for their food.’ Then God looked over all that he had made, and it was excellent in every way. This ended the sixth day” (Living Bible)

The material used in the Creation of Man was “*dust*” for the body and “*breath*” (also translated “*spirit*”) for the life. Two elements: the physical (of the earth, earthy), and the spiritual; thus Man was aligned with two worlds – Earth and Heaven. With “*the inbreathing of God*” – the combination of the physical and the spiritual, the body and “*the breath of God*” **produced a third element** – “*Man became a living soul.*” Scripture says,

“Man became a living soul!”

Man did not just possess a soul, he became “*a living soul.*” So, we cannot rightly say “*Man has a soul*” – he ***IS*** a soul! The simplest definition of “*soul*,” – is ***YOU*** – one’s personal consciousness that thinks, wills, decides and is responsible for the affairs of both body and spirit. Briefly then:

- The spirit is the quickening. Animating, life-principle inbreathed by God.
- The body is the tabernacle of the spirit, which is the life and support of it.
- The soul is the conscious result of the two, a living, personal, being.

The soul of Man is his proper being, his truest self, the Man within the man.

The Creation of Eve

Genesis 2:20 records, “...*but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*”

There was a higher order of Angels and a lower order of the Animal Creation, and man was created between the two. The creatures of neither world could suit the nature of his soul, nor

satisfy its just desires, or be “*the answer to*” of his heart’s affection, for Man is a special creation, and “***there was not found an help meet for him.***”

*“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam
...and He took of his ribs...and...made He a woman.”
(Genesis 2:21-25).*

Thus, woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam – not made out of man’s *head* to rule over him, nor out of his *feet* to be trampled upon by him, but out of his *side* to be equal with him, *under his arm* to be protected, and *near his heart* to be loved. Man and Woman were individuals in their personalities and tendencies, yet ***the answering to each other*** in love’s true longing; the essential meaning of *mating* and *marriage*. A beautiful type of the Church, the Bride of Christ, formed from the riven side of the Second Adam.

Two names are given the created “*helpmeet*.” The Hebrew word translated “*helpmeet*” is translated from literally means “*a helper*” – or – “*fills a need*” – or “*compliments*.” The idea seems to be “*one who helps fill up Adam’s life*” – ***as the two of them make a whole!*** The first name, “*Woman*,” comes from the Hebrew word, “*Ishshah*” – literally meaning “*man-ess*.” She was called, “*Ishshah*” because she was taken out of “*Ish*,” or Man (Genesis 2:22). “*Woman*” is not strictly a given name but a generic name, as later she is designated, “*the mother of all living*,” The second name given to her by her mate was “*Eve*” – translated from the Hebrew word “*hawwah*,” meaning “*life*” (Genesis 3:20).