

# GENESIS 1:20-31

## DAYS FIVE AND SIX

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Have you ever watched a sunrise? I don't mean simply that you were awake when the sun rose, but were you there just watching it? Were you aware of the birds as they began to sing as the day was starting? Watching a sunrise just for the sake of taking in all that happens is something in and of itself.

If we had been there at dawn on the morning of the fifth day, we wouldn't have heard the birds or the crickets for there weren't any. Each day of the creation week was a day of firsts, for sure. But dawn on the fifth day was more different than any had been thus far.

Try to picture yourself lying in a field. Fresh grass is under you. Trees are all around, but you have managed to find a clearing whereby you can see the sky. Millions of twinkling lights are in the "firmament" above you. The moon is there ruling over all the others. Then, over the horizon, a faint haze of yellowish orange breaks. As the haze grows, the brightness of the moon and stars decreases. As you contemplate what you are seeing, for it is actually the very first time it occurred, you notice something else. Another of your senses kicks in and you hear a strange sound so you get up and begin walking towards it. It gets louder as you draw closer. Then, all of a sudden, your foot feels funny. You have moved from walking on grass to sand. You look down and contemplate this new sensation only to feel your self being continuously drawn toward that sound. It's rhythmic, pulsing; it's the lapping of waves against the shore. As the day becomes brighter and brighter you realize you are standing on a beach. And though the waves are coming in and going out, there isn't much else happening.

And there you are, in another quiet moment of contemplation, just trying to take in all that you see, hear and smell. Yes, you now smell the water and even taste it on your tongue though you haven't reached down to cup any of it in your hands. And though your brain is reeling with the stimulation of all

these new things, there is still this funny feeling that you are alone. There are no birds in the trees. There are no people milling about in the fields. There are no squirrels jumping from one tree to the other. There is only you and at this point you are only an observer – a ‘fly on the wall’, as it were because mankind has yet to be created. But if you can place yourself there, at that particular place at that particular moment in pre-history, that is what you would see.

So, as you stand there watching and hearing the waves – very faint waves at that: more like ripples, the water begins to boil! It begins to move! You retreat from the beach as bubbles rise to the surface! Then you stop, trying to figure out just what is happening! Then a large fish leaps from the water while smaller fish numbering in the millions swim in schools that move as one. You then hear something else. Something is singing! And as you turn your head you see flying creatures! Birds of all shapes and sizes! What has happened? The answer is that Genesis 1:20 has happened! God is beginning to fill what He has formed. And He is filling His creation, which He has formed with life made from that which He has already brought into existence by *divine fiat!*

***20 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.” 21 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. 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 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.***

In the first four days, God created three different “spaces.” They were the land, the seas and the expanse of the sky. He filled the second heaven with the luminaries – the Sun, Moon and stars. Now He is filling the seas with aquatic life and the sky (first heaven) with birds!

***Psalms 104: 24,25***

***24 O Lord, how manifold are Your works!***

***In wisdom You have made them all.***

***The earth is full of Your possessions—***

***25 This great and wide sea,***

***In which are innumerable teeming things,***

*Living things both small and great.*

The phrase ‘sea creatures’ is translated ‘great whales’ in verse 21.

The reference to “**great whales**” is the Hebrew word **tannin** and is translated elsewhere as dragons. The question is often asked, “Why are dinosaurs not mentioned in the Bible?” First of all, the word dinosaur wasn’t a word when the King James Version was translated. The term was coined over 100 years later. Until that time dinosaurs were known as dragons. Read the descriptions of **leviathan** in Job 41:1-34 and Isaiah 27:1 and see if it doesn’t sound like a Plesiosaur. Read Job 40:15-19 and see if it doesn’t sound like a Bracheosaurus. We should also note that giraffes aren’t specifically mentioned in the Bible either, but no one questions their existence at the time of creation. Therefore it should be understood that the use of the word tannin refers not only to whales but also to the great marine reptiles that inhabited the seas of that time.

And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

THE SIXTH DAY

So far the skies and the seas are inhabited, but the dry land isn’t. God now comes to the culmination of His creative acts on the sixth day.

***24 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. 25 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.***

On the sixth day God creates the land animals. The term “**cattle**” refers to more than just the cow that comes to mind. Here it refers to all domesticated animals, especially the larger ones. This would include horses, dogs, pigs, etc. The term “**creeping thing**” refers to smaller animals, and probably also refers to insects. The “**beast of the earth**” would be all non-domesticated animals. This includes the dinosaurs although it is possible some of them were domesticated. Notice that everything reproduces after its **kind**. This principle was instated at

creation and had never been rescinded. It is diametrically opposed to evolution. As was stated in reference to the plant kingdom, God allows tremendous room for variation within a kind, but that is only on the horizontal plain, not the vertical one. For instance, there are many different kinds of chickens. You can crossbreed them and come up with many different varieties, but you still have a chicken. You will never get a cat or a horse. All breeds of fowl/ animal that can reproduce are in the same kind. If they can't crossbreed then they aren't of the same kind. When two different animals can't crossbreed you have reached the boundary that God set. You are no longer dealing with the same kind.

Now that the animal kingdom is well on its way, there is one thing lacking, man. As we will see later, man is the purpose for this entire creation. He is created last because everything had to be in place for him. God finished man's surroundings before He placed him in the finished product.

***26 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." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.***

There are some that would say all life is the same. But we see here that that isn't the case. Plants are alive in the most basic sense, but the plant kingdom is different from the animal kingdom, which is different from humankind.

Plants possess a body, animals have a body and a consciousness, but man is created in the image of God. Man has a body, a consciousness, and the image of God, an eternal spirit that allows him to commune with God. Man (Adam) is referred to as becoming a 'living soul' when God breathed the breath of life into him. It is this, among other things, which separates us from the animal kingdom. God seeks a relationship with us. That will be seen later in the account. When we, as humans are referred to as part of the animal kingdom, God's image is being besmirched.

So, what does it mean when it says that man was created in the '*image of God?*'

***Mt. 16:17***

***17 Jesus answered and said to him, " Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.***

***John 4:22***

***24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."***

It is this fact, that God is Spirit and those that worship Him must do so in Spirit and truth that makes it necessary that man be separated from the animals. Otherwise, we could not worship our creator.

We have been given a personality, a mind with which to think, emotions with which to feel and a will with which to make decisions.

Have you ever wondered why mankind has always worshipped someone or something? No matter where you go on the planet and no matter how far back you go, man has always had a desire to worship. Atheism is a rather young premise. The need to worship arises from the fact that deep inside of us is the image (spiritual image) of God. It is like a faint flicker of a flame. And when the Holy Spirit breathes life BACK into us, that flicker blazes into a bonfire!

***Eph. 4:17-24***

***17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.***

***20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the***

*spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

***II Peter 1:1-4***

***1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:***

***2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***

In verse 26 the plural “**us**” is used as God collaborates with Himself, the Trinity, not angels. Man wasn’t created in the image of angels.

Verse 27 states that God created man in His own image. He created Adam directly, the rest of mankind are descendants of Adam and Eve. The last portion of verse 27 states that He created **them** male and female. The word for **man** is **adawm** and it means man, or mankind. The repetition of the phrase simply means that all of mankind was created in the image of God. This includes all so-called racial groups, ethnic groups and both sexes.

***28 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.”***

Man is to have dominion over the rest of creation. The word dominion here means to subjugate. Man is to be a steward over the entire creation. This means the earth and the animal kingdom. Everything was put here for man’s use, and is to be taken care of by man.

Now man is told to be fruitful and multiply. The word replenish has been discussed in the previous chapter, but it simply means to “fill” not “fill again.”

The term “*subdue*” means to *conquer* or *subjugate*. Once again, we should see ourselves as stewards over God’s kingdom.

*All of creation had the same original diet.*

**Genesis 1:29-30 ( KJV )** <sup>29</sup>And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so.

All of creation was vegetarian in the beginning. There was adequate nourishment in the plant kingdom then. There was also not to be any death.

**Rom. 5:12**

***12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—***

The question has been asked in the past, how death could not have existed prior to the fall of man if people and animals had to eat. The answer is that, first of all, there were no carnivores prior to the fall of man. Therefore no animals were killed for food, whether they were to be eaten by man or beast. That question and answer is then usually followed by something to the effect of, “But what about the plants and fruit that died as a result of human and animal consumption?” We have already answered that question. Because plant life does not possess a consciousness, (*nephesh*) it is not considered to be “alive” in the same way an animal or human is.

Eventually, everything will be restored to this condition.

**Isaiah 11:6-9 ( KJV )** <sup>6</sup>The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

At this point God is finished with His creative acts. All that is necessary for the universe is in place and up and running.

Everything God saw was VERY good. After man, the pinnacle of God's creation was placed in the garden God saw things as being VERY GOOD! And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

John Piper puts it this way:

***“A godly life is lived out of an astonished heart – a heart that is astonished at grace. We go to the Bible to be astonished, to be amazed at God and Christ and the cross and grace and the gospel.”***

***I would add that we are to be astonished at the creation account. Some may ask how this type of study is relevant or applicable to their own personal life.***

As another writer has put it:

***God's Word is for Seeing.***

***“The kind of application most important to pursue in encountering God's Word is such astonishment. (Referring to Piper's statement) Press the scriptures to your soul. Pray for the awakening of your affections. Bring the Bible home to your heart.***



*As we're freshly captivated by the grandeur of our God and His Gospel, we become what we behold: "we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another." (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

*And so we come away from our Bible intake with a more satisfied soul.*