

Creation Order – By Design – Part 2

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Genesis 1

I. **A Starting Point**

- a. When I preached two weeks ago, I raised some questions in our current culture that are addressed when considering God's creation work as recorded in Genesis
- b. I then spoke on the first four days of creation which knowledge works not only to clarify confusion, but elicit wonder and awe towards God who created all things
 - i. Genesis tells us that on the first day, God who is self-existent, that is, He has the power of being within Himself, called everything else into existence from nothing
 1. Also on the first day He created light, which then setup a pattern of evening and morning marking days
 - ii. On the second day He created the atmosphere
 - iii. On the third day He created the plants
 - iv. On the fourth day He created the sun, moon, and stars
- c. But after four days of creation, there remain some questions about those things not yet created
 - i. Those things not yet created include animals in the water, in the air, and on land, and of course man
 - ii. Did fish evolve into land dwelling animals as is taught in many schools?
 - iii. If so, did any return to the sea as some believe?
 - iv. Did birds evolve from dinosaurs?
 - v. Were there many or few animals?
 - vi. Did people co-exist with dinosaurs?
- d. More significantly, there is confusion about what man is, with many saying he is so far the most complex being of a random evolutionary process starting with inanimate matter and never ending as we develop into higher level beings as the transhumanists imagine
 - i. If that is the case, then he has no ultimate significance and no external moral code
 - ii. If man evolved, then he is no better than animals, or plants, or dirt for that matter

- iii. He is just a chance co-location of atoms that will some day become disordered enough that he will die and disintegrate back into his component elements
- iv. So is life just a different arrangement of atoms from non-life with no significance whatsoever?
 - 1. That is the necessary position of the atheist
- v. Or, if life evolved, then there is nothing special or distinct about any particular type of life as one organism can transform into another organism over time
 - 1. There is a necessary confusion that arises from such thinking
 - 2. By the way, some Christians believe in what they call Theistic Evolution, or God-directed evolution
 - a. Such an idea cannot rid itself of the confusion just mentioned, and we know that God is a God of order, not confusion
 - b. Furthermore, to believe such an idea, a Christian would have to disbelieve the clear teaching of Genesis
- e. In order to move from confusion to praising God, we need to take some time to think about the creation account of days five and six in the book of Genesis

II. **The Fifth Day**

- a. Earlier in the week God created the realm of waters and set their boundaries
 - i. The abundance of liquid water was created supernaturally, but it is so familiar and normal to us that we assume it ought to be there naturally, and we cannot imagine the earth without it
 - 1. In fact, it is so rare that there is nowhere else in the universe where we know for certain that liquid water exists in any significant quantity
 - ii. But as wonderful as that fact is, and though the waters exhibit a wondrous beauty in so many ways, a realm without life is ultimately a desolate realm, unable to be enjoyed, just merely existing

1. Such a realm is akin to the pictures we receive back from Mars rovers showing us only rock and dust, without any life
 2. Now, although God is glorious in His creation of such large quantities of water, and the varieties of the movements of that water, He was preparing that realm to be the habitation of a huge variety of complex life
 3. Think of salmon, lobsters, clams, seahorses, starfish, coral, and so many others
 - a. Each one is so exquisitely designed in great detail, each one serving its purpose
 4. Think too of dolphins and whales that breathe air, but live in the sea
 - a. Some try to make them out to be products of random evolutionary processes stating that fin structures are sort of like legs
 - b. But random processes cannot develop such creatures, and the structures they have are well suited to the purposes those animals fulfill
 - c. I can only guess that God made them air breathers so they would have to be visible to us regularly in order for us to marvel at them
 5. I wonder too at this creation moment when God created the great Leviathan to which He could point when explaining His power to Job
 6. So too, in His infinite knowledge, God had Jonah in mind, as well as Peter, James, and John as He created the various creatures to dwell in the waters
- iii. Now God wanted not a just a few fish and other water creatures, but His creative call is, “Let the waters teem (or swarm) with swarms of living creatures...” Genesis 1:20
1. It is the blessing of the Lord that brings abundance, and God’s creation design is for abundant life in the waters
 2. So when fish and other water creatures are diminished, it is a sign that something has gone wrong – something is not operating according to God’s design

3. We read of such a case in Hosea 4:1-4. Listen for the cause and effect regarding the fish (Read passage)
4. So as people reject God in various ways, creation order is disrupted and things no longer operate fully as they were designed
5. So when we see a diminishing of water life, we need to ask what is wrong, and certainly consider that God may be trying to get our attention that we may turn from our sins
6. From the abundance of creation to the scarcity caused by sin, we can understand better Romans 8:19 which reads, "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God."
7. When Jesus comes, there are many things that, having departed from creation order, are being set back in order as God designed them
 - a. Every time He healed a person, Jesus was taking their sin ravaged, disordered bodies and bringing them back in line with God's original design
 - b. But back to the fish, let's read John 21:3-6 which takes place after Jesus rose from the dead (read passage)
 - c. You see, in their fallenness, in their own strength there was desolation and scarcity
 - d. But when Jesus, who is God, spoke, the disciples found great abundance
 - e. There was a supernatural abundance that came, indicating that the One who spoke in creation, "Let the waters team with swarms of living creatures," was the One speaking now and they were experiencing the result firsthand
 - f. This sudden abundance was but a foretaste of the new creation which Jesus is bringing about
- b. Back to Genesis, also earlier in the week God had created the expanse of the atmosphere

- i. Here too the Lord wanted to populate the realm of the air as He calls out in Genesis 1:20, "...and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."
- ii. This statement, "let birds fly," is akin to "let there be light"
 - 1. When God speaks in this way, He is calling the thing into existence and it happens immediately
 - 2. As God spoke, the various bird kinds in all of their beauty and complexity were formed right then with the ability to fly, eat, reproduce, and even sing
 - 3. Such thoughts ought to elicit from us greater and greater praise of our God who is magnificent beyond words
- iii. Some years back, when I visited my aunt and uncle in Australia, I saw in their back yard, just outside their door, these wonderfully colorful birds
 - 1. I thought them strikingly beautiful and pointed them out to my aunt
 - 2. She hardly even glanced up and told me those are just normal visitors as if to say there was nothing particularly special about them
 - 3. This is what we often do with God's creation
 - a. For those things that become familiar, we quickly consider them mundane and lose the sense of wonder at such marvelous creatures
 - 4. To some it is a tedium to be around little children, but to those children everything is new and thus interesting and even exciting
 - a. They have a wonder that we ought to retain, or at least be reminded of when around them
- iv. Another consideration is that when God created the birds, He had in mind many things that would come to pass, even long after the fall of man
 - 1. He thought of the dove Noah sent out from the ark to look for dry land
 - 2. He thought of the ravens feeding Elijah in 1 Kings 17
 - 3. He thought of the eagles soaring as we read in Isaiah 40

4. He thought of the poor having something to sacrifice as we read in Leviticus 5
5. He even thought of the pleasantness for us of hearing songbirds sing and fly about as we enjoy the outdoors
6. He thought of the Wright brothers watching the birds for hours each day so they might learn from them how to make their own means of flight
 - a. In light of that statement, consider there are many who believe such animals came about by random chance
 - b. And yet the Wright brothers had to study the birds and their acrobatics, and go through many engineering processes, to design a craft that could allow them to fly
 - c. Nobody in their right mind would believe the Wright brothers acted by chance to assemble their aircraft, and yet it was far simpler than the vastly more complex structures and biological systems of birds
 - d. Consider for one the hummingbird
 - i. With great precision it can fly, stop suddenly in mid-air, hover, eat precisely from a flower, move up, down, forward, backward, sideways all at will
 - ii. To say such a marvelous creature evolved by chance is to stretch the limits of credulity, and rob God of His glory
7. It is not to be missed that from the creation of birds we get to the Wright brothers, and from there to the planes we have today that are able to take people all over the world, some even bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to lands far distant from their own
- c. With the creation of sea creatures and birds, God saw that it was good
 - i. And here along with the fish, God spoke of abundance
 1. In Genesis 1:22, having seen that His work was good, He spoke to those animals with the command to “Be fruitful

and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth”

2. What is good, God wants multiplied
3. He wanted His creative work shown in the sea creatures and the birds would spread across the earth and bring Him glory

III. The Sixth Day

- a. Having filled the realms of water and sky, God on the sixth day turns his attention to the realm of the land
- b. We read that God made beasts, and cattle, and creeping things, each after its kind
 - i. Cattle would likely refer to those animals that people would later herd, and then beasts would be all of the other animals above a certain small size
 - ii. God made such a large variety of beasts in size and shape that we may marvel at His power, wisdom, and creativity
 1. He made majestic animals such as that described in Job 40:15-24 as Behemoth
 - a. There is an immensity and invincibility to this creature
 - b. The description is much like a large dinosaur
 - c. The point is that if God made such a large and powerful creature, He Himself is even greater
 2. We also see the majesty of God displayed through His creation of lions
 3. And God made powerful and beautiful animals such as the horse and the tiger
 - a. The power and beauty displayed in such creatures then tells us that their creator is even more powerful and more beautiful
 4. He made playful animals and loyal animals
 5. Every beast He made according to its kind and there is no way for a beast to evolve into a different kind
 - a. Now though the animals cannot change kinds, God made them with means to adapt to different environments

- b. They can change to a degree within their kind, but they cannot become a different kind
 - c. Many of us were taught in school that the environment puts pressure on animals, then mutations in their genetic code occur, and then nature selects the ones for survival who are most suited to their environment
 - i. Then on it goes until one kind of animal changes into another kind
 - d. One icon of evolution is a picture of Darwin's Finches, the finches of varying beak size in the Galapagos Islands.
 - e. It was theorized that the finches were evolving based on available food sources
 - f. Later, in the 1970's there was a drought that limited the food supply, and the finches with thicker beaks were more likely to survive
 - g. Successive environmental pressures, as the theory goes, would cause enough biological change to make the finches evolve into something else over long periods of time
 - h. However, in subsequent years, as the rains returned, average beak sizes returned to what they had been
 - i. There was no evolution at all, but simply enough genetic variety to allow the finches to adapt, as finches, to changing environmental conditions
6. More recent research by the Institute for Creation Research has led to a hypothesis of something called Continuous Environmental Tracking or CET
- a. The idea is that God made living creatures with sensors, logic mechanisms, and genetic responders that allow various creatures to sense their environment and change more rapidly in a purposeful way to enhance their survival, rather than, as it were, by chance mutations over time

- b. If such is true, it would point to an amazing God who engineered His creatures to adapt to various and changing environments throughout the earth's existence
- iii. God also made a variety of cattle
 - 1. Whether bulls and cows, or oxen, or sheep, or goats
 - 2. I think the distinction of cattle from beasts here is to help us understand that God made some animals specifically for herding and care by man, and made others to roam freely
 - 3. God created these herding animals to give us pictures of various creatures working together, as well as to point to our relationship with God
 - a. Think Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd"
 - 4. Or to point to our behaviors one day
 - a. Think Isaiah 53:6, "All we like sheep have gone astray"
- iv. Now to the great consternation of many, we read in verse 25 that God made "everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good."
 - 1. So if God even created creeping things, His fingerprints must be on them as well
 - 2. I understand that many would like to squish creeping things, but even the smallest bug contains magnificent complexity, whether in colors, eye structures, wings, leg joints, or other features all as a careful organization of specialized cells with detailed structures within each cell
 - 3. You can search the internet for close up pictures of insects and you will find scores of pictures of many different types of insects
 - a. The colors are brilliant, the detail is exquisite, and the variety seems endless
 - 4. God created this variety long ago having in mind that we would one day be able to see such detail and beauty
 - a. So will we rob God of His glory by waving our hands and saying, "Isn't evolution amazing?"

- when the very evidence shows evolution to be woefully inadequate to form such creatures
 - b. Or will we look at these varieties of creeping things and glorify God that He even placed beauty in these tiny creatures, and He gave each of them a purpose to fulfill
- c. By sometime on the sixth day of creation God had filled the realms of water, air, and land with a large variety of living creatures
 - i. However, there was not an animal that could rule over and steward creation
 - ii. None of them could worship God for who He is or what He has done
 - iii. None could commune with Him
 - iv. So God created man
 1. Note that other living creatures were created after their kind, but that was not said of man
 2. Rather, we are told he was created in the image of God
 3. There is something distinctly and categorically different about man – he is not fashioned like any other animal
 4. God was not lonely, but rather He wanted a being with whom He could fellowship and to whom He could display His magnificent power, glory, wisdom, and beauty
 5. He wanted a creature who could experience the love relationship already present between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
 6. These ideas are revealed to us in John 17:23-24 when Jesus is praying to the Father about believers:

“I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.”
 - v. So the idea that man evolved from apes is an affront to God

1. Such an idea denies the special relationship God has with man different from any other creature
2. It also denies the fact that God had a particular and special purpose in creating man in His image
- vi. Not only is the idea an affront to God, but it is entirely fictional
 1. For years it was said that human DNA and chimpanzee DNA differed by only 1%
 2. More recent and more extensive testing and research has revealed the DNA of the two differ by at least 11 to 14%, and the DNA of the Y-chromosomes differs significantly more than that
 3. These numbers are far too high to be able to argue that man evolved from the chimpanzee
- vii. All of that said, we have not yet heard specifically of the creation of woman
 1. We are told that detail in Genesis chapter 2
 2. Men as men tend to be experiential learners, especially when younger
 3. To be clear, you can tell boys and young men something, but they often need a tangible experience to convince them of the truth of your statement
 4. So God did not simply make the woman and bring her to Adam and say, "Here, this is what is best for you."
 5. Instead, He brought to Adam all the various animals so he would understand in a visible way that none were entirely suitable for him as a mate
 6. There was an incompleteness to creation
 7. Once Adam realized this truth, God created Eve from Adam's rib and brought her to Adam
 8. At that point Adam could recognize immediately that she was of his kind
 - a. She too was made in the image of God as is made clear in Genesis 1:27
 9. God then blessed the man and woman and gave them command to "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over

the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- d. God then commanded that every green plant be given to the man, woman, and all of the animals for food
- e. Thus creation was complete
 - i. There was provision for living
 - ii. There was an abundance designed into the system
 - iii. There was purpose for the animals as well as for the people
 - iv. “And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.”

IV. **The Seventh Day**

- a. Then God rested on the seventh day and blessed it and sanctified it
- b. Thus God in creation established the pattern of a week being 7 days
 - i. Every week we have a reminder of God’s creative power
- c. This pattern of seven days is part of creation order
 - i. Some tried to change the week to 10 days during the time of the French Revolution, but it met with disaster
- d. So when you pass another week, or see beasts, or cattle, or creeping things, or birds, or sea creatures, think of God’s great wisdom, creativity, and power
- e. When you see another person, consider that God made people in His image, not after some animal kind
- f. When someone tells you there is no God, point them to the creation around them and have them explain how they think such has come to be
- g. When someone tells you there is no significance in life, point them to the God of creation and let them know that yes there is, for God made us to be in relationship with Him and revel in His glorious work