
Genesis Foundations – Days Five and Six – God Fills the Sea, the Skies and the Earth

Genesis 1:20-25 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. 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.

I. God Created

A. Sea Creatures

1. Let the waters abound

שָׂרָץ , sharats - swarm, teem

“Again, it is not stated that only a single pair was created of each kind; on the contrary, the words ‘let the waters swarm with living beings,’ seem rather to indicate that the animals were created, not only in a rich variety genera and species, but in a large number of individuals.” (Keil and Delitzsch, p.61)

2. Living creatures

שָׂרָץ נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה , sherets nephesh hayah – “swarmers with breath living”

nephesh – breath, soul, life.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living **being**.

Nephesh is often used to mean “soul” as in the Psalms:

Psalms 25:1 To You, O LORD, I lift up my **soul**.

“The noun refers to the essence of life, the act of breathing, taking breath. However, from that concrete concept, a number of more abstract meanings were developed. In its primary sense then noun appears in its first occurrence in Gen. 1:20: ‘the moving that hath life,’ and its second occurrence in Gen 2:7: ‘living soul.’” (Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, p. 237).

The verbal form means to breath.

Verse 21 indicates “sea monsters” and “every living thing that moves.”

This may indicate two categories: Large sea creatures (such as whales, sharks, etc.) and everything else.

Henry Morris talks about 10 categories of creation (Grass, Herbs, Trees, Sea Monsters, Other Sea Creatures, Birds, Cattle, Creeping Things, Other Land Animals, Mankind).

3. That moves

רָמַשׁ , ramash - creep, move lightly, move about

This is the first creation of anything that moves under its own power. Previous to this, creation has been inorganic (non-living) or plant life which is confined to basically stay where it is planted. Now God has created something which will be able to walk, swim, fly, migrate, relocate, etc.

B. Birds

1. Above the earth, across the face of the firmament.

Firmament here refers again to the atmosphere (“The sky where the birds fly”).

2. Every winged bird.

עוֹף , yoph - flying creatures, fowl, insects

Leviticus 1:14 ' And if the burnt sacrifice of his offering to the LORD *is* of **birds**, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or young pigeons.

Leviticus 11:21-23 'Yet these you may eat of every **flying insect** that creeps on *all* fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. ²² 'These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind. ²³ 'But all *other flying insects* which have four feet *shall be* an abomination to you.

Yoph comes from the Hebrew word “to fly.”

Isaiah 6:1-2 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he **flew**.

What are the “birds” which God created on day 5? It seems that God created all the creatures with wings to fly. Does that mean God created bats on day 5. I am inclined to believe so.

C. Land Creatures

1. Cattle

בְּהֵמָה , behemah - beast, animal, cattle.

2. Creeping things

רֶמֶשׂ , remes - creeping things, moving things.

3. Beasts of the earth

וְחַיֵּי-אֶרֶץ , vchayito erets – living things of the earth.

“Sea and earth are filled with living creatures; and the word of God now goes forth to the earth, to produce living beings after their kind. These are divided into three classes. בְּהֵמָה , *cattle*, from בָּהֶם , *mutum, brutum, esse*, generally denotes the larger domesticated quadrupeds, but occasionally the larger animals as a whole. רֶמֶשׂ (*the creeping*) embraces the smaller land animals, which moves either without feet, or with feet that are scarcely perceptible, viz. reptiles, insects, worms...*the beasts of the earth*, i.e. the freely roving wild animals.” (Keil and Delitzsch, p.61).

Day five is the first time we see living creation that moves and breathes.

- According to their kind

Kind - מִיֵּן , miyan - kind, species

Genesis 6:19-20 ¹⁹ "And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰ "Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive.

Deuteronomy 14:10-18 ¹⁰ "And whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it *is* unclean for you. ¹¹ " All clean birds you may eat. ¹² "But these you shall not eat: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, ¹³ "the red kite, the falcon, and the kite after their kinds; ¹⁴ "every raven after its kind; ¹⁵ "the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the seagull, and the hawk after their kinds; ¹⁶ "the little owl, the screech owl, the white owl, ¹⁷ "the jackdaw, the carrion vulture, the fisher owl, ¹⁸ "the stork, the heron after its kind, and the hoopoe and the bat.

1 Corinthians 15:38-39 ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. ³⁹ All flesh *is* not the same flesh, but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, *and* another of birds.

“The creation model, on the other hand, recognizes only the kind as the basic created unit...Many kinds of dogs have been developed from one ancestral dog “kind,” yet they are still interfertile and capable of reverting back to their ancestral form.” (Morris, *Scientific Creationism*, p.180).

“The scriptures are very clear in their teaching that God created all things as he wanted them to be, each with its own particular structure, according to His own sovereign purposes...even though there may be uncertainty as to what is meant by ‘kind’ (Hebrew, *min*), it is obvious that the word does have a definite and fixed meaning. One ‘kind’ could not transform itself into another ‘kind.’ There is certainly no thought here of an evolutionary continuity of all forms of life, but rather one of definite and distinct categories. Furthermore, the sense of the passage is that a great many different kinds were created...” (Morris, pp. 216, 217).

- And it was so

We once again see God’s power, that when he speaks, creation obeys. There is no hesitation, not questioning. God speaks and creation immediately responds.

II. God Blessed

Bless - בָּרַךְ , barak - kneel, bless.

2. *God blesses a. men. b. things:* sabbath; field; bread; work.

“*Bārak* occurs about 330 times in the Bible, first in Gen. 1:22...God’s first word to man is introduced the same way...Thus the whole creation is shown to depend upon God for its continued existence and function.” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary, p. 18).

Psalm 104:27-30 ²⁷ These all wait for You, That You may give *them* their food in due season. ²⁸ *What* You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. ²⁹ You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. ³⁰ You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

A. Be fruitful

פָּרָה , parah - bear fruit, be fruitful

Genesis 17:6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

Exodus 1:7 But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

B. Multiply

רָבָה , ravah - become, much, many, great

Genesis 8:17 "Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that *is* with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

Genesis 9:7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth

abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

Genesis 26:4 "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

Other places it is used:

Genesis 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

Genesis 7:17-18 ¹⁷ Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters.

C. Fill

מִלֵּא, male - be full, fill

(Full – overpopulation – Lake Winnebago – 2' x 2' square, whole pop. of the world could stand).

Almost every environment in the world is populated by living creatures. In the tundra and in the desert and everywhere in between, God has placed life.

"The word of blessing was actual communication of the capacity to propagate and increase in numbers." (Keil and Delitzsch, p. 61).

III. God Saw

It was good – God creative plan is being revealed and at each step, He evaluates and sees that what He has created is good. Twice God claims that creation is good. The first time is at the end of the fifth day when He creates the sea and air creatures. The second is after the land creatures are created. Each time a portion of creation is finished. Here in the middle of day six, God is now ready to create His final act of creation.