

Creation: Days 2 and 3

Genesis 1:6-13

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Introduction

Solomon tells us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. How we react to God reveals who we are in relation to God Himself. I am convinced that people who call themselves Christians (and are not truly) do not think highly or enough of God despite the fact that He is the Creator.

The Genesis account of creation is simple and straightforward; however, what it does not mention is the amount of power and sheer complexity of creation itself. How does God do it? When we think about how God does it and think of the immense power and intelligence behind creation, it sobers us to fear Him. We see His work of creation today, and we should be in awe of Him.

Genesis tells us that God created everything out of nothing on that first day. In other words, God created the raw materials and elements out of nothing. Then on that same first day, He created light and separated light from darkness. He did this in a 24-hour period. Then the next two days of creation, He shows His power and intelligence in creation.

I. Day 2 (1:6-8)

Genesis 1:6-13 *Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 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. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.*

- Firmament (or expanse)
 - Heavens (NIV—sky)
 - Separation of heaven from earth
 - Space
 - Atmosphere created and oxygen rich
- Separation of waters

Job 26:7-10 *He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing. 8 He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it. 9 He covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it. 10 He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness.*

- Waters below
- Waters above

Psalms 148:4 *Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!*

- What are waters above?
 - Scripture does not say or clarify
 - Possibilities
 - Canopy theory
 - Taught in some churches
 - Possible support from Scripture

Genesis 2:5-6 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; **6** but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

- Thick vapor covering the earth
- Possible reason for people living a long time
- However, **Genesis 2:5-6** does not say there is a canopy around the earth
- This is not supported by Scripture
- Water and elements sent into vastness of space and used for shaping stars, planets, and moons
- We just do not know because God does not tell us
- It was so
 - Repeated in **verses 9, 11, 15,** and **24**
 - But not in **verses 3-5**, why?
 - It was so = finished, and unchanging
 - Light source in day 1 was not yet finished (sun had not been made)
 - The light source will be transferred to the sun
- God does not say that it was good
 - Yet—Earth is not yet livable

II. Day 3: Land (1:9-10)

Genesis 1:9-10 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. **10** And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

- Dry land appears
 - Simple sentence of separation of water and land
 - Infinitely complex occurrence
 - Instantaneous creation
 - Possibility
 - Crust, mantle, core created during this time
 - Perfectly balanced earth—core heating the interior of the earth and mantle being fluid to allow for crust to float on it

Psalms 104:5 You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever,

- It was so

Job 38:8-11 Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb; **9** When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band; **10** When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; **11** When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!'

Proverbs 8:29 When He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth,

- There is nothing new to add to the Earth—perfectly fine-tuned
- It was good
 - Land and sea—Earth is ready to support life

III. Day 3: Plants (1:11-13)

Genesis 1:11-13 *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. 12 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. 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day.*

- Vegetation
 - Seed bearing plants (flowers, grass, etc)
 - Trees—fruit-bearing seeds (apples, berries, etc)
 - Made those first as food for animals and man
 - They were fully grown and mature
- Of their own kind
 - Most important distinction of creation
 - Animals and plants can only produce after their own kind
 - Evolutionary theory contradicts with this
 - Because different animals cannot produce other species different from them
 - Example: Cats and dogs cannot breed together
 - Dogs cannot breed with another dog and have a new species
 - Plants are the same way
- It was good