



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

Jim Hoffman

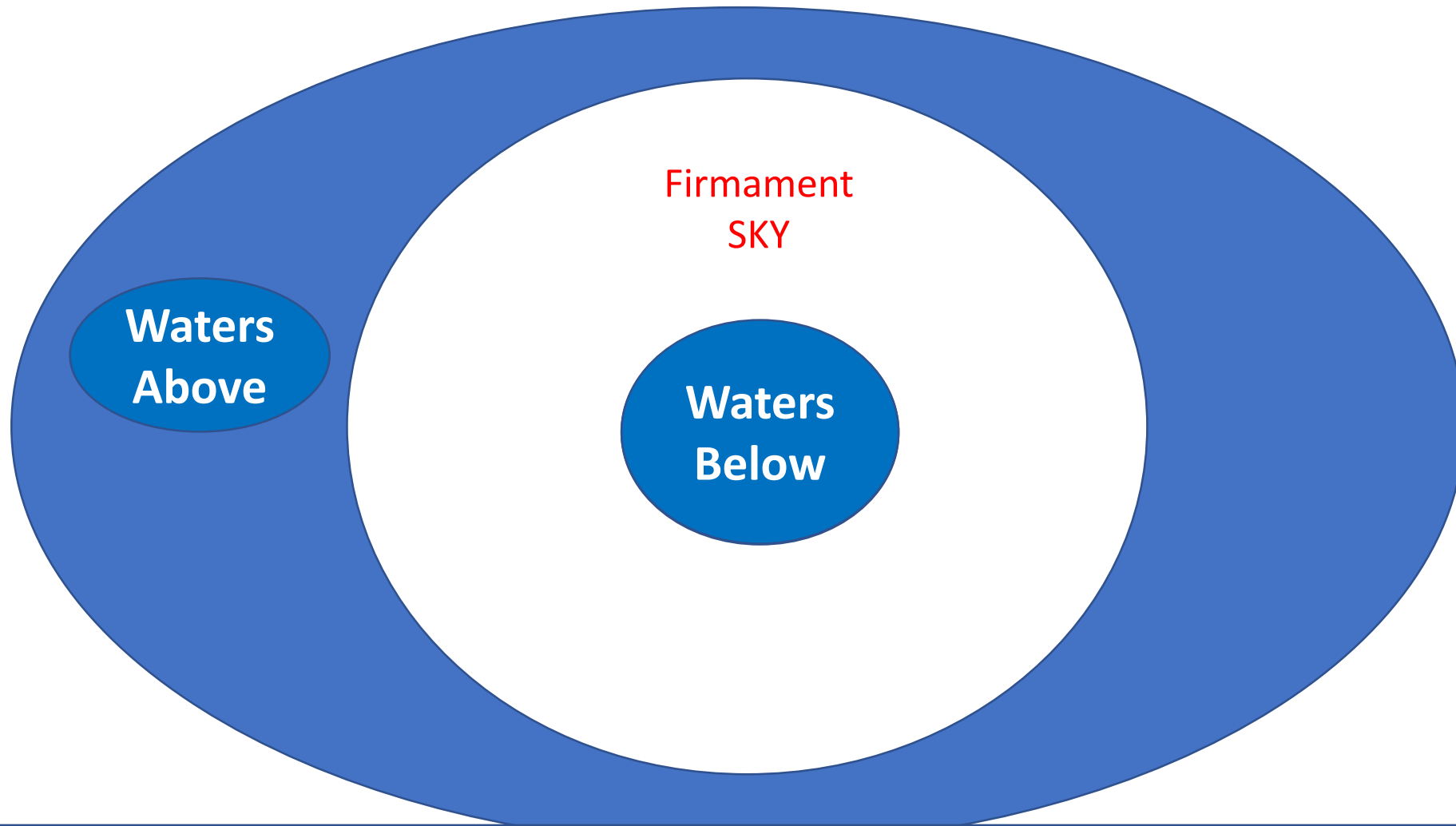
The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- On day #1, God added light and so separated the darkness from the light. (darkness was not removed)
- On day #2, God created a space for life in the midst of the waters by separating the waters into “waters below” and “waters above”.
- On day #3, He will separate the waters from the dry land.



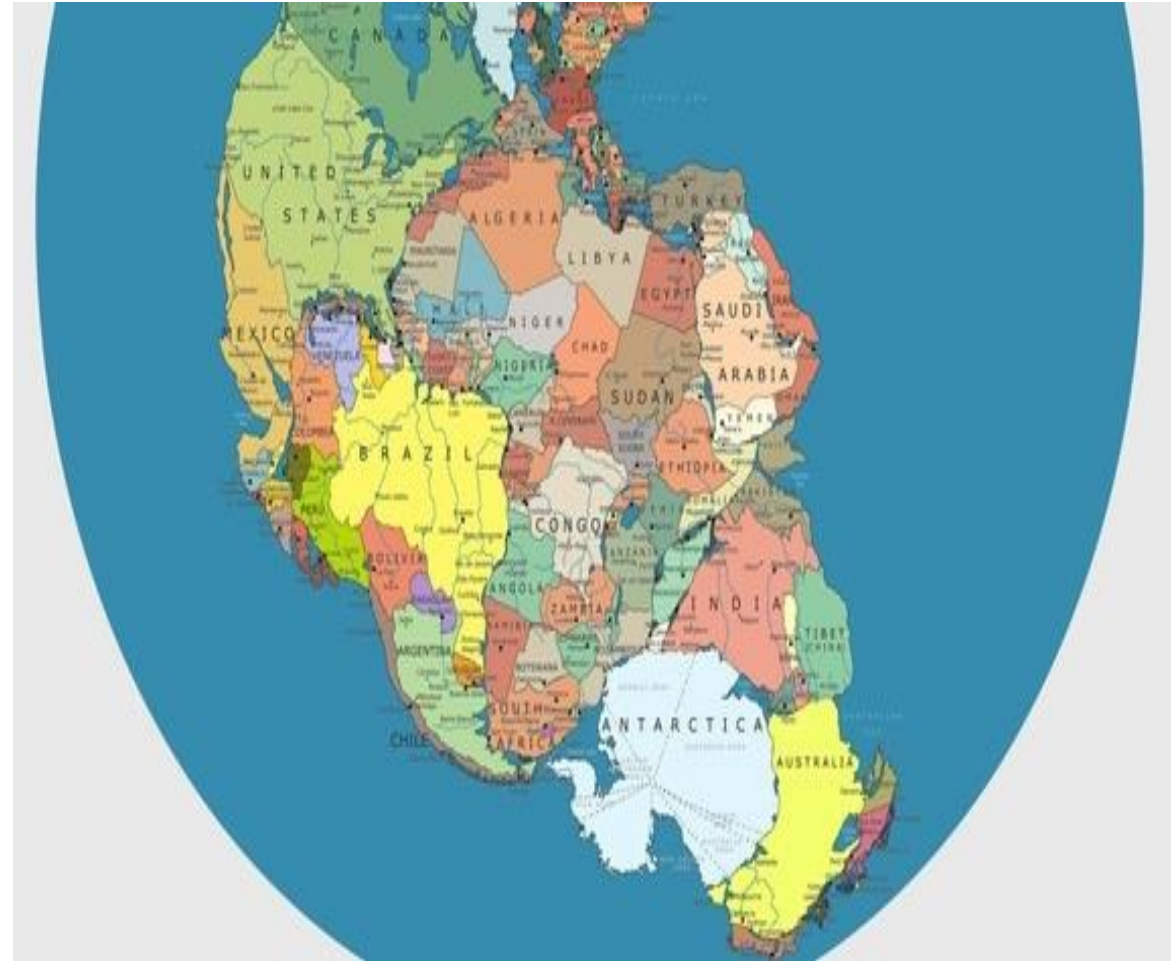




Gen 1:6 Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

In the Beginning

- Gen 1:9 Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened.
10 God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good.



In the Beginning

- Gen 1:9 Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. 10 God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good.
- Gen 1:9 is by far the best text to support a view of the initial creation being one large, in tact, land mass.
- A plain reading of the text “let the waters flow into one place” can hardly be anything but a description of one, in tact, mass of land.



In the Beginning

- Imagine what was set in motion by God's command, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear."
- At His command tremendous energy was set in motion to elevate the ground beneath the seas.
- God only knows (literally) all of the changes that had to occur for this happen, but at His command the waters began to move and the ground began to shift, and form, and to elevate.



In the Beginning

- Prov 8:27 I was there when he established the heavens, when he drew the horizon on the oceans. 28 I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established springs deep in the earth. 29 I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth's foundations, 30 I was the architect at his side. (perhaps applies to the events of creation AND to the flood of Noah's day)
- “Great earth movements got under way. Surfaces of solid earth appeared above the waters, and an intricate network of channels and reservoirs opened up in the crust to receive the waters retreating off the rising continent.” Henry Morris



In the Beginning

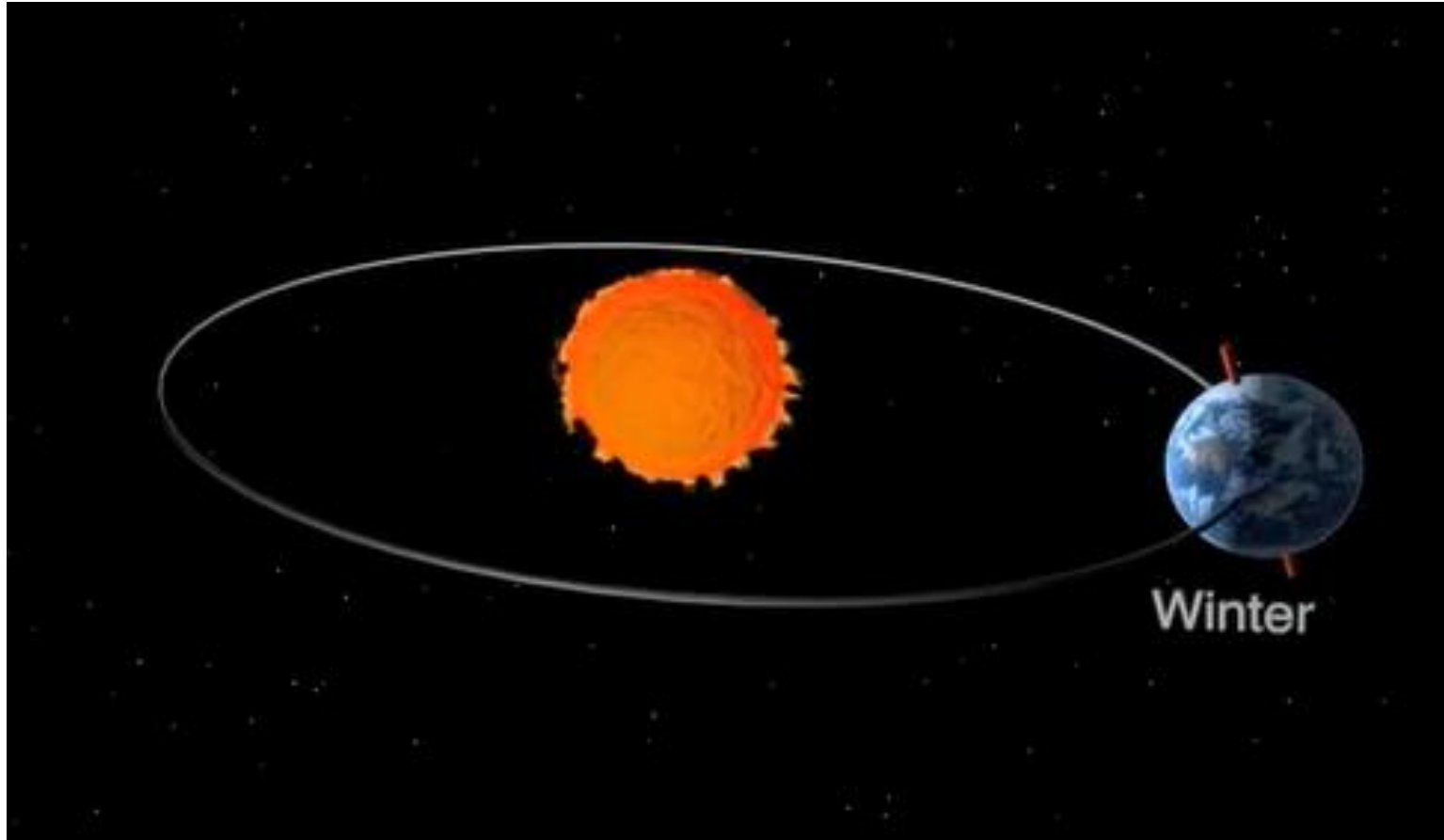
- When the waters all gathered to one place and the land pushed it's way upward to appear and dry out there was great potential for a scientific, or perhaps engineering problem – balance.
- Imagine this sphere that is now rotating suddenly becoming out of balance by all the shifting of water and land.
- Unless care is taken, the earth wouldn't wobble exactly as it does and that would disrupt life itself and even the earth's eventual orbit around the sun.



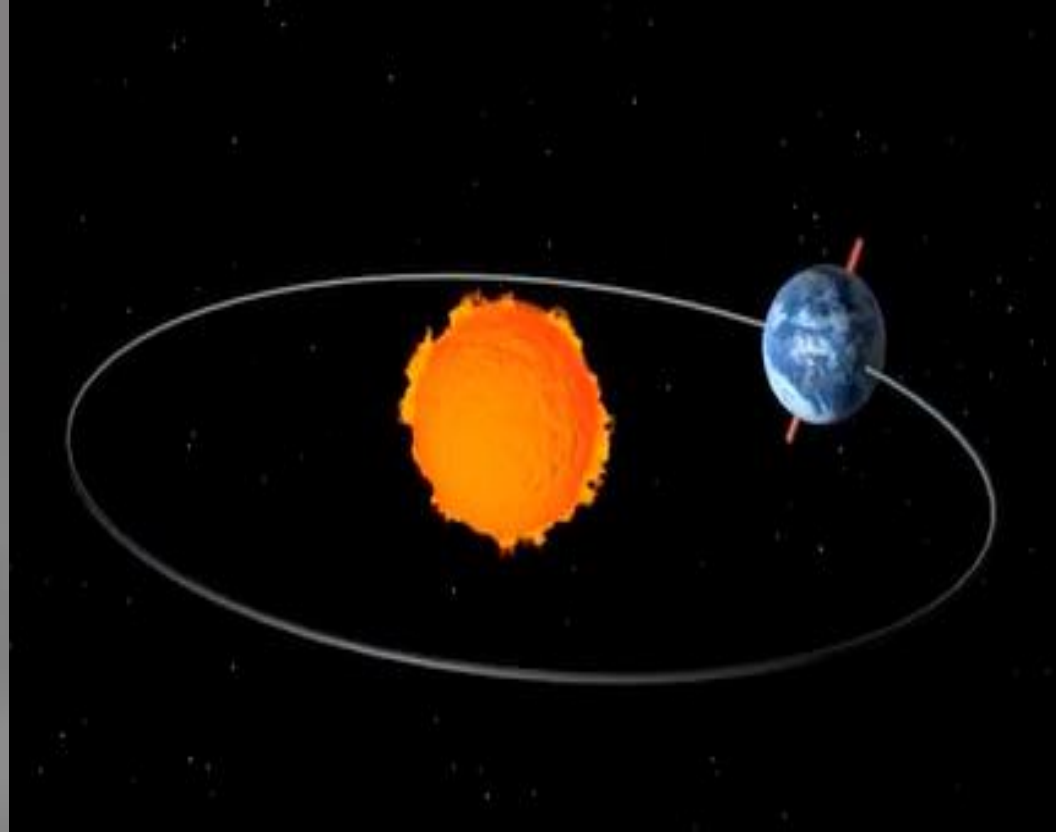
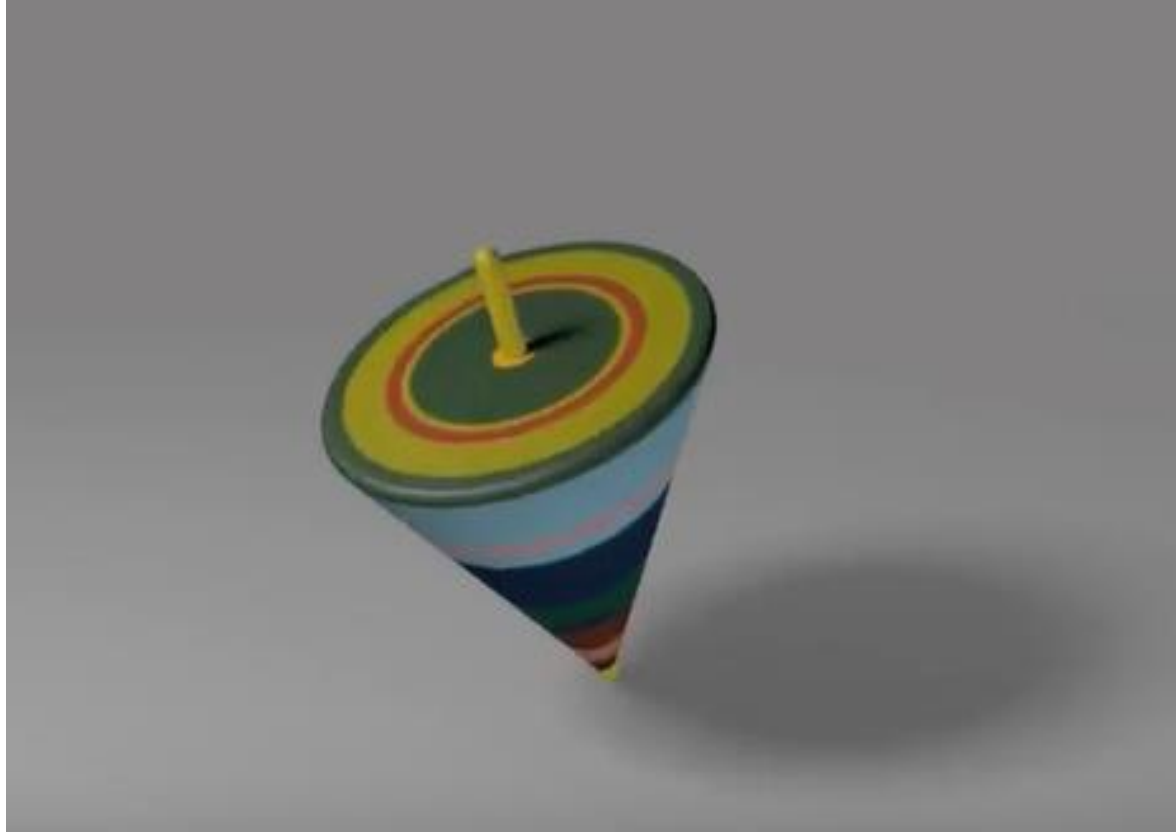
The earth is tilted at a 23 degree angle.



Every 365 days the earth orbits the sun and the 23 degree tilt causes the seasons in the northern and southern hemispheres to come and go in an orderly fashion.



The earth actually wobbles as it orbits the sun – the axis spins, but the 23 degree angle never changes.



In the Beginning

- At some point it borders on insanity to uncover the wonders of creation and conclude that “this just all sort of worked itself out somehow”.
- When God said, “let dry land appear” there was a lot of engineering going on in the deep and the dark to have this sphere tilt by the weight of the elements shifting around so that it would tilt at 23 degrees at all times.
- What kind of a mind can command such a thing and cause it to happen – and happen in a way that harmonizes with all of creation?



In the Beginning

- Psalm 104:5 You placed the world on its foundation so it would never be moved. 6 *You clothed the earth with floods of water, water that covered even the mountains.* 7 *At your command, the water fled;* at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away. 8 *Mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels you decreed.*
- So on day #3, God separated the waters below from the land below the waters and earth is now ready for life.



In the Beginning

- Gen 1:11 Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. 12 The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.



In the Beginning

- Vegetation is a general category of creation with two distinct parts – plants and trees.
- The primary difference, according to the bible, is that plants have their seed in the plant itself (clover), and trees have their seeds in their fruit (apple trees).
- Check out Gen 1:29 - Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”



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- So at this point in creation we have the first “living” things created – plants and trees.
- This newly created category has some unique properties – they can reproduce and sustain themselves indefinitely.
- They will soon become food for people and animals and will therefore need to be able to reproduce else they would be consumed and used up.



In the Beginning

- As God moves on to create more living things we will see that He continues to build the same reproduction properties into all living things.
- What is said about creation on day #3 sort of answers the “which came first, the chicken or the egg?” question.
- God did not create seeds – he created fully grown, fully mature plants and trees.



In the Beginning

- In like manner God did not create infantile animals that needed to be nursed and nurtured – how could a baby calf take care of a baby mouse?
- And so it was with mankind – Adam was not created as newborn baby who would need to be cared for until he matures.
- God created vegetation, animals and man as fully grown, fully mature entities with “seeds” within themselves.



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- In order for plants and trees to reproduce they must produce a seed and have the seed dispersed.
- For example, acorns do not do all that well when they germinate and sprout beneath the mother tree – not enough sunlight.
- An interesting part of the creation is that within it are some systems that God uses to sustain His work.



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- These systems are used in seed dispersal so that seeds are scattered to new and better growing conditions.
- The systems God created and uses for seed dispersal are the wind currents, the waterways, and even the systems within animal life.
- Birds eat seeds, digest parts of them, and then deposit pre-fertilized seeds all over the countryside. 😊



In the Beginning

- In Gen 1:12 we are introduced to an important phrase and a word that will be mentioned 4 more times in the creation account.
- The phrase is “of the same kind” with the most important word being “kind”.
- The Hebrew word for kind is “Oin” pronounced meen. The Bible does not mention “species”, it only deals with “kinds”.



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- **From Strongs Concordance** - Groups of living organisms belong in the same created "kind" if they have descended from the same ancestral gene pool. This does not preclude new species because this represents a partitioning of the original gene pool. **Information is lost or conserved not gained.** A new species could arise when a population is isolated and inbreeding occurs. By this definition a new species is not a new "kind" but a further partitioning of an existing "kind".



In the Beginning

- We will see as we move forward that plants can only reproduce plants that are of the same kind. A green bean plant cannot produce a coconut tree.
- Animals can only reproduce after their own kind – a tiger cannot produce a sheep. They are of different kinds.
- This limitation of only being able to reproduce after its “kind” precludes any possibility of evolution.



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- “Implanted, in each created organism was a seed programmed to enable the continuing replication of that same organism. The modern understanding of the extreme complexities of the so-called DNA molecule and the genetic code contained in it has reinforced the biblical teaching of the stability of kinds. Each type of organism has its own unique structure of the DNA and can only specify the reproduction of that same kind. There is a tremendous amount of variational potential within each kind, facilitating the generation of distinct individuals and even of many varieties within the kind, but nevertheless precluding the evolution of new kinds. A great deal of horizontal variation is easily possible, but no vertical changes.” Henry Morris



In the Beginning

- So at this point we can make these BIG statements about what God has done thus far –
- On day #3 God caused the dry land to appear and He created vegetation, plants and trees.
- And when He created His first animate entities He placed within them the ability to reproduce.



In the Beginning

- Within the reproduction properties of His creation, plants and trees at this point, He placed structure and limits.
- They could only reproduce “of the same kind” so as to allow for a continuous and orderly sustainment of the entities.
- He did not allow anything, plants, trees, animals or men to reproduce a population of freaks via cross reproduction like one might see in a Hollywood film.



In the Beginning

- Gen 1:13 And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.
- This is mentioned six times in Genesis chapter 1 and is more than just a poetic way of changing from one scene of creation to the next.
- God was revealing and reinforcing that He created all there is in six solar days – that is the plain reading of the text.



In the Beginning

- Job 26:10 “He created the horizon when he separated the waters; he set the boundary between day and night. 11 The foundations of heaven tremble; they shudder at his rebuke. 12 By his power the sea grew calm. By his skill he crushed the great sea monster. 13 His Spirit made the heavens beautiful, and his power pierced the gliding serpent. 14 These are just the beginning of all that he does, merely a whisper of his power. Who, then, can comprehend the thunder of his power?”
- What science is still exploring, God set in motion from the beginning and we will spend all of eternity probing the depths of all that He has done and can do.



Questions

