



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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In the Beginning

- According to R.C. Sproul there are only four options for the existence of the universe.
 - Option #1, the universe is an illusion. It doesn't exist.
 - Option #2, it is self-created.
 - Option #3, is it self-existent and eternal.
 - Option #4, it was created by someone who is self-existent and eternal.



In the Beginning

- Gen 1:20 Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.” 23 And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.



In the Beginning

- On day #3 we had the formation of dry land and the creation of vegetation.
- On day #4 we had the creation of the sun, moon, stars, and other planets.
- On day #5 we have the filling of the seas and skies with thousands of bird and sea life species – all created in a mature, fully grown state.



In the Beginning

- So just like on day #4 when the creative works of God moved to a higher plane, on day #5 His creative acts elevate even more.
- Plants and trees are “living” in the sense that they can reproduce and they can die, but they are not conscious in any sense.
- On day #5, God creates birds and sea life that are actually conscious – meaning they can move, respond to stimuli, and interrelate to a degree.



In the Beginning

- So we move from unconscious life to conscious life. On day #6, with the creation of man, God will add self-conscious life to the mix.
- Plants do not move or respond to stimuli – you cannot yell, “boo” and have a tree or a plant jump in fear.
- With birds and sea life, you can cause them to react and move out of your way by making loud sounds or sudden movements. (they are conscious)



In the Beginning

- On day #6, when God adds ground animal life, they too will be conscious life – they are able to move, respond to stimuli, and interrelate to an even higher degree than birds and sea life.
- However, the only creation of God that is self-conscious is mankind.
- Birds, fish, and animals do not know they exist, or even give a single thought to where they came from, or to the meaning of life.



In the Beginning

- Only mankind is self-conscious and possesses reasoning abilities to make moral judgments and to consider what it means to be alive.
- Mankind can plan and make decisions based upon things bigger than “how can I eat today”.
- Mankind is also the only eternal creation of God – this is the best news ever for those who trust Jesus, and the worst news ever for the lost.



In the Beginning

- “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life.”
- Perhaps not considered here is the fact that all of the waters were gathered together into one place in verse #9 on day #3.
- Gen 1:9 Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.”



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- The implications of what happened in verse #9 and the creation of sea life are considerable.
- Today, we have a separation of salt water life and fresh water life so how is it possible that God created all sea life on day #5 together in one type of water, and was that water salt water, or fresh water?
- Most species of sea and water life can only survive in one type of water or the other – few can live in both.



In the Beginning

- One possible answer is that God made all water to be fresh water – after all, the ocean is fed by rains and all rain is fresh water.
- But this doesn't answer how salt water life and fresh water life all existed together unless there was a “divine mechanism” to allow fresh water fish to be able to switch to salt water.
- Think “human baby in the womb” that experiments with breathing amniotic fluid for 9 months and then suddenly switches to oxygen.



In the Beginning

- So how did we go from a planet of fresh water to a planet that has mostly salt water?
- The Answers in Genesis people believe it happened at the flood of Noah's day where the "great deep" was broken up and millions of tons of red hot minerals were injected into the waters from the center of the earth.
- The answer is not known for certain, but the question only serves to increase our awe for all that God has orchestrated.

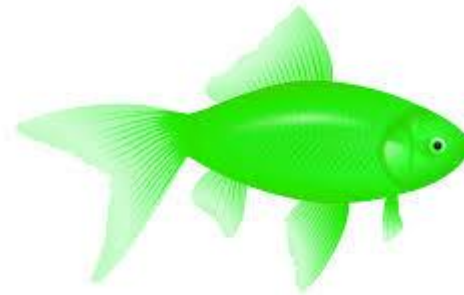


In the Beginning

- As for species of fish and other sea life, we have an estimated 32,500 different species of fish in the world.
- Although fresh water accounts for only about .003% of all water, there are about 15,000 (of the 32,500) species of fresh water fish.
- Perhaps even more evidence that all water was once fresh water.



In the Beginning



In the Beginning

- “So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water”.
- So we actually have more than fish created on day #5 –the “great sea creatures” and things that “scurry” in the waters as well. (move is probably a better translation than scurry)
- So what are those? Well, there are some fish that move in schools or swarms.



In the Beginning



In the Beginning

- And then there are sea mammals like whales, dolphins, manatees, and sea cows that move around in the water and never leave it.
- Some fish do not roam around in swarms (schools), but are large enough to survive on their own.
- So why did God, in His description of day #5's creative acts, sort of separate out "great sea creatures" for us from the rest of the sea life?



In the Beginning

- It seems that throughout history there have been legends about large and frightening sea life, even called “sea monsters” in the NASB.
- Even today, we have the rumors of the Loch Ness Monster – mankind has always been semi-obsessed with such things.
- When Jonah went to Nineveh one of the gods he was preaching against was “Dagon” the fish god.



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- Dagon, the fish god, had statues depicting him as a rather large looking half man, half fish, monster.



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- Some theologians believe that the reason God singled out “great sea creatures” was to anticipate what man would get into in the years to come.
- Since man was going to one day believe that an idea like Dagon would one day be worshipped, He would undermine that notion in advance.
- If the word of God tells us that God made even “the great sea creatures” then they too would be less than Him!



In the Beginning

- “let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens” (from the NASB)
- According to the folks at The Institute for Creation Research, the phrase above is way of pointing to the vastness of the heavens.
- The birds fly but on the very surface of the heaven above us, and some of them fly as high as 7 miles above the earth.



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- So if an object (the heavens above) were to have a surface that is 7 miles thick, how vast must that object be?
- The bible speaks of 3 heavens – the one where the birds fly (Job 12:7), the one where the sun, moon, and stars are (Deut 4:19), and one where God dwells (2nd Cor 12:2-4).
- If the known edges of the 2nd heaven are millions of light years away, then the 3rd heaven, where God dwells is beyond even that!



Third Heaven

Second Heaven

First Heaven



In the Beginning

- Today, about 10,000 different species of birds have been formally identified.
- Today, it is estimated that up to 400 billion birds exist in the world.
- Just like people, there seems to be almost no end to the variety and appearances of birds – *all created by God, fully mature, with just His words, in a single day.*



In the Beginning



In the Beginning

- “Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”
- On day #3, God created vegetation that could reproduce via their seeds and so sustain vegetative life.
- On day #4, God created the largest part of His creation, but gave the sun, moon, and stars no ability to reproduce. While the universe is expanding, it is not reproducing.



In the Beginning

- Now on day #5 we see a new phrase, “be fruitful and multiply”.
- All living organisms, from the fruit fly to man, have three common properties:
 - Self-sustaining
 - Self-repairing
 - Self-reproducing



In the Beginning

- Man has yet to invent anything even close to what God created when He created “life”.
- The most sophisticated cars, computers, phones, and airplanes are incapable of any one these traits.
 - Self-sustaining
 - Self-repairing
 - Self-reproducing



In the Beginning

- And why is that we cannot replicate what God has done in living things in creation.
- Neh 9:6 “You alone are the Lord. You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. *You give life to all of them* and the heavenly host bows down before You.”
- Life cannot be manufactured or invented – it is essential, but a bit elusive, it is real, but hard to grasp.



In the Beginning

- Life is something that only God can supply – it is a property all to itself that cannot be seen, only experienced.
- To be alive is a gift from God – it is a state of being that we cannot take, we can only receive it.
- Acts 3:15 *You killed the author of life*, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!



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- 1st John 5:11 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.*
- John 1:4 *The Word gave life to everything that was created,* and his life brought light to everyone.



In the Beginning

- Life is satisfying, but can be frustrating – life is filled with joy, but always mixed with sorrow.
- Life can seem long to the young, but feels brief to the old – life is defined by more than breathing and a heart beat.
- How is it that life can be eternal, and yet seem to end?



In the Beginning

- John 11:26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.
- And yet it is true that some will die, Rev 20:13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead.
- And, it is possible to really live too! – John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.



In the Beginning

- Next class, when we look at day #6, we will see for the first time the pinnacle of God's creation.
- We will see life at its best – we will see life at its apex where mankind is created in His image, and is able to commune freely with his own Creator.
- We will see that life is more than a body, more than places and things – it is that property that allows for all of God's realness and riches to be ours.



Questions

