

Genesis 1 – Chapter Study

INTRODUCTION

About 10 billion years ago there was a densely packed point of energy that was infinitely tiny.

In fact, that infinitesimal point of energy was all there was.

In it was contained all space, time, and what would eventually turn in to matter.

For reasons that are still unclear – this *singularity* as it is called, exploded!

Energy radiated outward and congealed into tiny proto-particles, which further combined to form electrons, neutrons and protons.

These combined to form atoms and molecules.

These then began to clump together to form minerals and larger bodies of matter called gas.

These gases and minerals further condensed as they cooled and formed stars and planets.

These stars and planets then began grouping up into clusters called galaxies.

But an interesting thing happened on at least one of the planets circling round one of those stars in one of those millions of galaxies.

As the planet cooled from its superheated state after the explosion of the singularity, on this particular planet, which was the exact distance from its star necessary to allow it, some water formed.

Now liquid water is *unusual* in the universe because it requires a very narrow temperature zone.

Most water is either hard in the form of ice or its hydrogen and oxygen have been split apart by intense heat.

As chance would have it, this planet was just the right distance from the nearest star to allow the formation of liquid water.

Clouds formed, and the rain came down and washed over the rocks, wearing them down into stones, and pebbles and eventually sand and finally dirt.

Then as more stones were carried by the rain down over the dirt, some of the dirt molecules banged together and formed little

square shaped buttons.
As more pebbles banged into the buttons, they etched little numbers on them.
Over a couple billion years, these buttons ended up being bumped into a plastic frame that snapped into a case with diodes, memory chips, & an LCD display.
But wait, it was without a power source.
Not to worry, other rocks and minerals had been banging together to produce *batteries*, which by chance rolled into a slot in the back of the plastic case, and voila – a Calculator!
Ridiculous? Of course! And yet you and I are asked to buy this scenario when it comes to the origin of living things.
Yet the engineering and mechanics of the simplest cell make the technology of a pocket calculator look like a toy!
The human eye, the human brain are feats of complexity and engineering NO EVOLUTIONARY SCENARIO could ever explain!
Now the skeptic would say – “Put in that light, yes, evolution sounds absurd. But here we are – so evolution MUST HAVE OCCURRED!”
Only if you reject the Bible’s account of origins.
You see, it all has to do with one’s *starting point*.
We covered this ground at length in our very first Sunday Sermon on Genesis – “*Square One*.”
Even if we grant the evolutionists their scenario, it still doesn’t answer the ultimate question of origins – it only pushes it back further.
If it all began with the Big Bang – with that singularity that exploded – you’re still faced with the question of where did THAT come from!
Logic demands something which has always been, which owns it’s own existence and which is *greater* than the cause and effect universe in which we live.
The very first verse of Genesis solves that dilemma.

CHAPTER 1

1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Since we've spent three weeks of Sundays on this verse I'll keep my comments on it brief tonight.

As would be expected, the book of Genesis shows us the beginning of many things.

The universe – Life - Culture & Society - Sin & Death – Religion – Nations -

Languages - The Jewish People & Nation of Israel

A fascinating study is to see how what's begun in Genesis is consummated in Revelation.

The heavens and earth are dissolved and superceded by a new heavens and earth.

Sin & Death are brought to an end in the victory and judgment of Christ.

False religion is exposed and only pure religion remains.

The nations are redeemed and made one before the throne where they unite to sing the praises of God.

But there is one thing Genesis does not reveal the beginning of – God!

And that is because God has no beginning.

By the very definition of what we *mean* by God, He's eternal.

If God had a beginning, He would not be God because He would owe His existence to something greater – and *that* would be God.

The word "God" here in v. 1 is "Elohim" which is the *plural* form of the generic Hebrew word for God which in the singular is "El."

Elohim is used for God some 2000 times in the OT!

That's a bit shocking when you realize how *fiercely* the Jews hold to idea of God being One.

Deut. 6:4, what is known as the *Shema*, became the motto and battle cry of faithful Jews - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is ONE LORD."

Anyone familiar with the Bible knows its straightforward teaching that there is only one God!

Throughout most of history Christians and Jews have stood out as unique because while the rest of the world believed in many gods, they professed belief in only one.

So why do we find the plural title *Elohim* used here and in so many other places in Scripture?

The Jews have said that the word *Elohim* is used of God because it points to the *abundance* of His power and majesty.

It's known as the "Majestic 'We'" as when the Queen of England says, "We will have lunch now."

She means, "I will have lunch now" but she says "We" because what she does all of her court does.

Christians see in the use of the word "Elohim" a clue to the Trinity or the *triunity* of God.

As we track through the Scriptures we see that while there is indeed only One God, this God manifests Himself in Three distinct Persons, The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

We'll get into this more later.

u

The word "created" is the Hebrew word "bara" and means 'to create out of nothing.'

In Rom. 4:17 Paul writes – "God calls those things which do not exist as though they did."

That's what God did in the creation – He called, He spoke, and the universe leapt into existence.

In Heb. 11:3 we read – "The worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

Another word is used in Gen. 1 for God's creative action.

It's the word "asah" and is translated as "make."

It means to fashion something out of pre-existing material.

Some of God's creation was merely a molding of what was already there; that's asah.

But occasionally God brings something completely new into existence; that's bara.

Man can only "asah," he can only take what already is and fashion it into something different.

Only God can "bara."

Again, we covered this ground in the message, "*Square One*."

The word "heavens" is the Hebrew word "shamayim" and can be translated 'space.'

"Earth" is "erets" and means "ground."

"In the beginning" translates the Hebrew "bereshith" and speaks of that which is first.

The beginning here is the first of *time*.

As I mentioned Sunday, the Bible isn't a science textbook, but when it speaks to issues of the physical universe it is scientifically accurate.

Based on Einstein's *General Theory of Relativity*, modern science refers to the universe as the space-matter-time continuum.

Astrophysicists now understand that the universe came into being at a fixed point, and that space, matter and time are all intimately linked to one another.

Genesis 1:1 affirms that and shows it's origin in the creative act of God. **u**

2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

V. 1 gives us the raw creative power of God while verse 2 shows us the inception of His fashioning work.

God is not a deity of chaos and disorder.

His nature is order and symmetry – so after speaking the basic constituents of the physical universe into existence, He set to work *shaping* them into an orderly arrangement.

The order and complexity of the physical universe is something that modern science has only lately come to an solid appreciation of.

In fact it's this branch of scientific inquiry which has seen a large number of one-time agnostic and atheistic scientists coming to faith in the God of the Bible.

Here in v. 2 we see that at first matter was *formless*.

There was no light – meaning there was no energy.

But then the Spirit of God began to move and shape the matter.

As with v. 1, the words used here of the Spirit's creative work carry a deeper meaning than their simple English translation.

We read that **“the Spirit hovered over the face of the waters.”**

The word *hovered* is an interesting choice because it pictures a unique action of moving back and forth.

A good modern translation would be “vibrated.”

“In the face of” means in the *midst* of something.

And the word for “waters” is even more obscure; it refers to

something *juicy* or *soupy*!

What we have in v. 2 is the Spirit of God taking the basic un-energized constituents of the universe from v. 1 and energizing them so that they begin to form into the shapes, structures and forces of our universe.

3Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

In Hebrew – the language is even simpler.

“Elohim said – Light be! Light was!”

One of the primary forms of energy God created was electromagnetic energy – light!

Though it may not be obvious in a casual reading, these first 3 verses of the Bible reveal The Trinity.

In v.1 we have the Father *birthing & initiating* the universe out of nothing.

In v.2 we see the Spirit *energizing & shaping* the raw stuff of the new creation into something useful.

And in v.3 we find the Word of God, the Son *illuminating* the creation. **u**

Listen now to John 1:4-5 -

4In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

I need to stop at this point and say that there’s a popular view of the first 2 verses called the *Gap Theory* which I don’t buy.

The Gap Theory arose as a result of an attempt to harmonize the Bible with geologic & evolutionary theory which holds the world to be billions of years old.

The Bible only accounts for between 6,000 to 10,000 years.

So, how do we reconcile all the apparent evidence for an earth which is much older?

The Gap theory arose as one way to account for the apparent old age of the earth.

According to the Gap Theory, there’s a huge span of time between v. 1 & v. 2.

Those who follow this theory say that verse 2 ought to be translated as “The earth BECAME without form and void.”

They point to Isaiah 45:18 which says –

“For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD, and there is no other.”

They say, “See, God did not create the earth formless and void as it says in Genesis 1:2. It *became* that way.”

They say that God created a perfect creation in v. 1 – a pristine universe that was occupied by a whole arrangement of plants and animals.

But then Satan and his demons fell and ruined the physical creation.

They ravaged it and left it formless and empty.

The devastation of this satanic ruin is found today in the fossils and the apparent old-age of the earth and universe.

But then, in v. 2, we find a re-creative work of the Spirit reforming and re-shaping the earth and getting ready for a new act of creation that is then spelled out in the following verses.

Several things work against this interpretation.

First - to translate ‘was’ in Gen. 1:2 as “became” is simply improper.

The word is always translated ‘was.’

‘Became’ shows a *change of state* and a *different* word is used in Hebrew.

Second - Isaiah 45:18 squares *perfectly* with Gen. 1:2 in that God's whole *purpose* in creation wasn't to leave it void but to fill it with life; specifically to create man, which is what Isaiah 45:18 is referring to.

Third - the Gap Theory proposes there was a whole creation *before* the creation of Gen. 1 and that it was all destroyed.

So now we have death BEFORE the Fall in Ch. 3.

This is contrary to the rest of scripture which speaks of death entering the Creation through the rebellion of Adam and Eve.

Fourth - in Hebrew, each verse begins with the Hebrew word ‘waw’ which is translated as ‘and’ showing a *sequential flow* to

creation.

This is not rendered in the NKJ but is in the Old King Jimmy.

So – regarding the Gap Theory . . . **u**

4And God saw the light, that *it* was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

We will now see the process of creation divided into *days*.

Some consider these to be literal 24 hour days.

Others see them as pre-scientific descriptions of long ages of time; epochs of earth history.

Those who see the *days* of Genesis 1 as *epochs* usually try to fit some kind of evolutionary scenario into them.

Let me be up front and say that after a lot of study and actually switching positions on this, I believe what we see here are literal 24 hour days.

My reasons are simple –

1) The text is really pretty straightforward!

It's obvious the author *intended* his readers to take these as *literal days* because he repeats the formula again and again that we see here in v. 5 –

“So the evening and the morning were the first day.”

2) Most day-age views are driven by a perceived need to reconcile the theory of evolution to the Creation account of Gen. 1.

They're an attempt at accommodation to a godless theory, an attempt to harmonize secular science with what ends up being merely a poetic mythology of creation.

I have spent a lot of time researching evolution; at one time I was preparing to be a geologist and so have invested a good deal of time in the secular education of origins, and I can say categorically that the theory of evolution is simply really **BAD SCIENCE!**

So to bend and twist scripture to accommodate it is a vain pursuit.

Dr. Hugh Ross has gained a lot of attention and support for his theory called progressive creationism.

This view holds to the day-age theory.

Here is how Ross himself defines Progressive Creationism – “The hypothesis that God has increased the complexity of life on earth by successive creations of new life forms over billions of years while miraculously changing the earth to accommodate the new life.”

Ross *rejects* the theory of evolution, but he says that the earth has seen many different periods of God’s creative action in setting the world stage, and then bringing increasingly complex flora and fauna, plants and animals onto that stage.

One stage arises, then dies off and God starts over again.

This all takes place over billions of years.

Of course, this makes the straight-forward reading of Genesis 1 a meaningless pursuit because there’s no correlation between the scenario of the progressive creationist and what we find here!

Thus, the Genesis account of Creation is reduced to the place of poetic myth.

And when you do that, then you cut the heart right out of the gospel because the work and message of Christ is all based on the *events* of Genesis 1-3 being literally true.

Am I saying then that the earth is really only about 10,000, maybe 15,000 years old instead of the billions of years modern science claims?

In a word – Yes! That’s what I’m saying.

In fact, that’s the position many secular scientists are finally coming around to as well.

We’ll get in to the evidence for a young earth as we get deeper into the book.

Let me just share this before we move on.

One of the clear evidences for the young age of the universe is the earth-sun system.

Our sun losses about 1,200,000 tons of mass *every second*.

If you chart that back over billions of years the sun would be too big and too hot to allow the *existence* of the earth, let alone *life* on earth. **U**

Here in vs. 4 & 5 we see God dividing the light and the darkness.

These two things He separates into two phases and calls them ‘Day’ and ‘Night.’

Since we have a period of light and a period of dark we can infer the earth is now spinning around an axis and there's some kind of light source shining on earth.

6Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”

7Thus 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.

The word *firmament* simply means *expanse*.

This refers to the *atmosphere*, which is the way the word “Heaven” in v. 8 ought to be understood – *sky*.

These verses speak of the firmament standing *between* the waters.

There were waters above & beneath it.

The *waters beneath* would be the oceans and seas.

The *waters above* refer to the vapor canopy that existed above the atmosphere at that time.

It is this vast and dense shell of water we'll see collapse in ch. 6 that produces the torrential downpour of the Flood.

One of the things that appears almost mythological in the early chapters of Genesis is the super long ages of people; some living to be over 900 years!

Yet immediately after the flood, the lifespan of man declines to about a hundred years.

Why the major difference in life-expectancy?

Well, interestingly, the vapor canopy that existed prior to the flood would have had a number of significant positive effects on earth.

The atmospheric pressure would have been significantly higher – leading to more oxygen in the blood stream of humans and animals.

The higher pressure would also have retarded the growth of viruses, thus reducing disease.

The vapor canopy would have shielded the earth from all the harmful effects of solar & most cosmic radiation.

The canopy would have acted like a greenhouse ceiling,

allowing for increased plant growth.

Prior to the flood man and animals were *vegetarians*.

But the canopy allowed sufficient plant growth and nutrition to support all animal life.

In fact it proliferated in abundance, as the fossil record and the world's oil reserves reveal.

⁹Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear”; and it was so. ¹⁰And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was good*.

¹¹Then 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. ¹²And 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*.

¹³So the evening and the morning were the third day.

On the 3rd day we see the emergence of dry land and vegetation. **U**
It should be noticed that God created plants as fully formed things.

The plant was first, with its fruit and seed and coming from it.

If God had simply planted the seed in the soil of the earth, it would not have been ready for the birds to eat in 2 days when they were created.

Of course, this doesn't apply to just the dry land vegetation.

This also applies to the sea plants as well; fish will also be created in 2 days from this point.

But wait, we've just mentioned two things that ought to give us a clue as to something about the creation –

1) When God created plants, He made the plant, not the seed first.

That means He drew up out of the soil a whole plant.

If one of the trees was cut – how many rings would there be in it? Who knows!

When Adam was created, how old did he look? Don't know, but he wasn't an infant.

The point is this – at this stage of the creation, God created the first things with an apparent age to them.
They were mature and complete – perfect in their creation!
2) In fact, as we just saw, the plants were grown in *soil*.
But what is soil; where does dirt come from?
It's the product of the weathering of rocks – a process which takes hundreds of years by normal aging.
All of this leads us to the conclusion that though the earth is in fact young, it may at points appear aged simply because necessity demands it to.
God could have created the earth with the *appearance* of age.
In fact, He did that with the plants and animals and parts of the earth.

14Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night;

“The firmament of the heavens” here is the expanse of space – what we call *outer space*.

and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so.

¹⁶Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made* the stars also. ¹⁷God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was good*. ¹⁹So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

On the 4th day God created the celestial lights, the stars, planets and the moon.

Now we seem to have a problem because vs. 3-5 told us there was light on day 1 before the creation of the sun on day 4 in v. 16.
Where was the light coming from *before* the creation of the sun?
Quite frankly, we don't know because we're not told here.
But it's possible that before God formed the sun into it's present form on Day 4, it existed as a light emitting gaseous cloud.

And even better explanation is that prior to the formation of the sun, God Himself was the light of the World.

This would be a nice fulfillment of John 1:4 and would coincide with God being the light of the new heavens and earth.

Notice in v. 14 that the celestial lights were given not only to light the earth but to be for signs and seasons, for days and years.

The ancients looked to the heavens as their primary time-piece.

The calendar was kept by watching the heavens.

This was crucial because they were an agricultural economy and the seasons of sowing and reaping were their life-blood.

All the ancient cultures had elaborate & accurate records and procedures for calculating the time of year.

Because their economy was tied to the time-piece of the skies, astronomy became the first science.

It also became one of the first religions for it wasn't much of a leap in the fallen heart of man to see the stars as exerting *power & influence* over their lives.

The relationship between science and false religion is closer than we realize.

And this may account for the fact why God waited till the 4th day to create the heavenly lights!

They aren't first, but later, *after* the creation of plants – because God wants to impress upon man that they are just tools He's created, signs to be used – not deities to be worshipped!

It's interesting to discover that the calendar of the ancients was based on a 360 day year.

This calendar worked fine – it had to!

Imagine if it was off what a problem that would be in just a few years to their planting cycle.

We see this reflected even today in the 360 degrees of a circle and the 60 seconds of our hour. **U**

But a change occurred at some point that added an additional 5¼ days to our year.

What happened that may added these days to the original calendar we'll discover later as we get deeper into Genesis.

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.” ²¹So 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*. ²²And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

On the 5th day we see the creation of marine life and the birds. Note that in v. 21 we have the word *created*; this is that specific & rare word *bara*.

We find this word used here because God is doing something totally new and unique – He is creating *conscious* animal life. Notice as well that God blessed the sea creatures and birds and told them to *reproduce* – filling the earth with their presence.

God is in to LIFE!

And a part of life is the production of *more* life.

This is why God blessed the animals, because He wanted them to know His favor as they became a part of His revelation of life!

Now we come to the 6th and final day of creation -

²⁴Then 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. ²⁵And 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*.

Now we see the land creatures created.

The words here describe everything from insects to reptiles and mammals.

But notice the emphasis on *kinds* we see throughout this chapter.

As God creates the plants and living creatures, He creates them according to their “kinds” and tells them they are to reproduce according to their kinds.

This is the Holy Spirit’s answer to the theory of evolution which has

simpler life forms giving rise to higher and more complex life forms over long periods of time.

According to *Evolution*, life moves from a state of lesser complexity to higher complexity. One species gives rise to another through the process of mutation and the mechanism of natural selection.

According to *Biblical Creation*, God created plants and animals in fixed *kinds*.

You may have an abundance of variation within a kind, but it will remain fixed within that basic creature.

For instance, there are lots of different kinds of dogs. But a dog is a dog; they all possess the ability to inter-breed.

A dog never becomes a cat.

And in the fossil record we see no transitional forms between a dog and a cat.

There are no dats, no cogs.

When Charles Darwin first proposed his *Theory of Natural Selection* which gave rise to the modern theory of Evolution, the science of paleontology, the study of fossils, was young and the fossil record was sketchy.

What was lacking was the *transitional forms* that evolution demands as proof that one species gives rise to another through mutation and adaptation.

Darwin expressed his confidence that as the fossil record was filled in the transitional forms would be found and the gaps in the record would be closed.

Armed with this positive outlook, a whole generation of evolutionists went out into the field to discover the missing links.

But as the fossil record has grown, the gaps have gotten wider, not smaller.

This is the very opposite of what the theory of evolution demands. In science, when you develop a theory, you devise experiments to test your hypothesis.

You define what your hypothesis will *produce* if it is *true* and what it will produce if it is *not* true.

This is the *principle of falsification* and is part of the scientific method of experimentation.

If Darwinian evolution is true, then the fossil record has to have an

abundance of transitional forms between one species and another – for ALL the forms of plant and animal life we have on the planet today.

This ought to be a massive body of fossils.

If Darwin's theory is *false*, then what we expect to find in the fossil record is a *lack* of transitional forms, and instead we expect to find creatures that just appear fully formed with *no* antecedent forms.

What DO WE FIND? The later!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In fact, because this is what we find in the fossil record, Darwin's theory has had to be updated to what is now called *Punctuated Equilibrium*.

PE says that species go along for long periods without change, and then shazamm – they experience a quantum leap.

When this idea was first proposed many years ago, the man who invented it was ridiculed and made the laughing stock of the scientific community because it is so patently absurd.

Now – it's the currently accepted theory.

It's *terrible* science – but it's the current fashion in the secular scientific community. **U**

Despite all these machinations – the text here is very clear – and it squares perfectly with what we find in the real world – that plants and animals remain fixed within their *kinds*.

How the Biblical idea of *kinds* relates to the scientific field of taxonomy is not clear.

You may remember the divisions of taxonomy: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species.

At what level does a “kind” relate to this system? At the species or genus level?

Friends, never forget that the whole taxonomic chart is man-made and artificial.

The Bible divides the plant and animal kingdoms up into *kinds*.

One of the tricks evolutionists like to use is the example of *micro-evolution*.

We would expect that God would include in the genetic makeup of the plant and animal world the capacity to adapt to a certain degree to its environment.

Just the passage of the seasons would require this.

So an animal might show small signs of adaptation, like skin color, or minor structural changes like increased lung capacity or adding on more fur.

These are what are called *micro-evolution*, small changes that facilitate an animal or plant living in a different environment. But the plant or animal is still in the same species.

Evolutionists use examples of micro-evolution as proof of macro- or cross species evolution.

But they are without foundation for there are simply no examples of this kind of change in the evidence at hand.

The Bighorn Basin in Wyoming contains an unbroken geologic column with a fossil record that spans 5 million years.

Because of this, paleontologists expected the basin to present a clear trail of evolution.

Instead, the fossils do not reveal a single transitional form. (Philip Johnson)

Evolutionist Niles Eldredge wrote, “We paleontologists have said that the history of life [in the fossil record] supports [the story of gradual evolution,] all the while knowing that it does not.”

A study of the history of evolution shows that Darwin was NOT the originator of the idea; he merely developed a mechanism for it and then popularized it in his book, *The Origin of the Species*. **U**

Darwin’s mechanism was “survival of the fittest;” the idea that only the fittest animals survive due to their superiority and winning out over others in the never ending game of competition for food and space.

At first blush, this seems reasonable – a kind of common sense reaction.

But the more time you spend in nature, the more you realize that many things defy this idea.

One simple example is the peacock.

The peahen is attracted to the peacock with the biggest plumage.

Yet the larger the plumage, the more vulnerable the peacock is to predators!

So what gets it the chicks gets it eaten too.

Or consider the whole development of the male and female.

There is simply no evolutionary scenario you can develop that

makes the development of the male and female, along with pregnancy or egg laying an advantage.

We'll return to the subject of evolution & creation in our study next week.

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

This is still on the 6th day but now we get to *the creation of man* and things become more complex.

God says, "Let Us" - Who is He speaking to?

It can't be the angels because man isn't created in the image of angels and we don't see the angels involved in the creative process.

God the Father is speaking here to the other members of the Trinity.

Man is unique in God's creation because He bears the image of God.

He is patterned after God in ways the animals are not.

Man has a moral consciousness; he possesses reason & volition.

But man has even more than the image of God, that image is in the "likeness" of God as well.

Man doesn't merely possess a moral conscience – He knows right and wrong, good and evil.

He doesn't possess the intellectual capacity of God but His thinking is in the same vein as the thoughts of God.

Think of it this way –

If I want to draw a picture of you, I could draw a stick figure.

That would be an *image* of you – it would approximate you.

But a *likeness* would take that stick figure and expand on it, adding depth, texture, color and definition.

It's this likeness to God that was marred and all but lost in the Fall.

Man continues to bear the *image* of God, but the likeness has been so distorted, so bent that it is often difficult to discern.

As soon as God registers His intention to make man, He includes that this new thing He is about to create will be *over* the rest of the creation.

It will have *dominion* over all the animal kingdom.
This establishes something *new* in the creation, a ranking of relationships.

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The word “created” here is *bara*. This is only the 3rd time we find the word.

It was used in v. 1 of the physical universe; in v. 21 of conscious animal life, and now of mankind.

So – so far, *bara* has been used only twice – and yet in this verse it is used 3 times!

What’s crucial is that we see that while man may share some of the physiology of the animals he is something new and unique in God’s creative order.

He possesses a level of life and existence that is not shared by the animals.

The emphasis in this verse is on both the *uniqueness* of man’s creation and the fact that man is fashioned in God’s image.

For that reason the final phrase is all the more interesting for it tells us that this image includes both the male and the female.

We could get into some very deep theological waters here that would be really interesting but might leave some of us (like me) in over our heads.

So let me just try to briefly say that what this means is that God possesses all the positive traits and characteristics of both the male and the female that we see differentiated and sorted out in men and women.

In the Bible we see God in primarily the *masculine mold* not because He is more like a man than a woman but because it better captures the flavor of our relationship to Him.

In other words, as Initiator, He is the Father, we are the children.

As the Savior, He is the Groom, we are the Bride and so on.

But God, in His nature and essence is a combination of all the positive traits of male and female.

We see the feminine side of God in such passages as His saying that He would gather His people under His wings as a hen gathers her chicks. [Matt 23:37]

We see it when He refers to taking Israel to His bosom and nursing her. [Isa. 49:13-15 66:13]

We see it in those passages which speak of God giving birth to Israel. [Deut. 32:18 Job 38:28-29 Isa 46:3-4] **U**

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

As we saw on Sunday, this verse lays down God’s mandate for man to engage in science and technology, all governed by the principle of responsible stewardship.

When God blessed man and woman, He told them to be fruitful and multiply, filling the earth.

Here’s one of the fields that we need Christians who think biblically to apply themselves.

We’re told by many secular environmentalists that mankind is a cancer on the planet and that we need to roll back the population lest we damage the environment irreparably.

But God said – “Be fruitful and multiply.”

Who should we listen to?

If man lived by the principles of Biblical justice, equity and stewardship, the planet could easily accommodate several billion *more* people with no problem or danger to the environment.

The threat only comes when people forsake the way of God and pursue their own selfish interests.

29 And God said, “See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food”; and it was so.

As I mentioned earlier, prior to the flood, the diet of man and animals was vegetarian.

It wasn’t till after the flood that God gave man permission to eat a Bacon Swiss Chicken Burger.

31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good*. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

At the conclusion of each step of the creation, God had given a *eulogy*-a good word.

Now as He looks over the entire scope of the creation – He announces His good pleasure with all He sees – it is VERY good.

This reinforces and reminds us of the lesson in last Sunday's message – that the creation is a good thing because it is God's thing.

As His redeemed, we ought to rejoice in its goodness and take delight in it showing a lost world what it really means to be redeemed to the Creator *and* His creation.