

LESSON 4
Days Five and Six of Creation Week
Genesis 1:20-25

BEFORE WE BEGIN the story of God's creation on days five and six, we may want to ask: "How did God create the fish, birds, and animals? How did He bring them out of the earth?" The answer is that we can never fully understand, for it is a great wonder. All we can do is believe it by faith.

LESSON OUTLINE

A. Day Five

1. God's orderly work

a. Before we study how God created the fish and birds on the fifth day and the animals on the sixth, we will find out what the ungodly world thinks about the beginnings of the fish, birds, and animals. Not only do they say that our world just grew and developed by itself through millions of years (we learned that in Lesson 1), but they say that life just started – all by itself.

b. They teach that all life came from one small cell, which developed into tiny forms of plants. Then plant life gradually developed into the tiniest of animals, and after millions of years these tiny animals in the seas became fish, those in the air developed wings and became birds. Of the land animals, the lower kinds became higher kinds, and finally the highest kind of animal (possibly the monkey) became a man.

c. All of this took, not six creation days, but billions of years. What a horrid idea! These unbelievers will not receive God's Word by faith*, because God does not give them faith. They believe only what they see or think they see. God lets us figure out from His Word how old the earth really is: about 6,000 years old.

Discuss in class
these ungodly ideas of evil men.

b. It is true that God did create the living things in His creation in the order of lower, simpler kinds to higher, more intelligent kinds. We could think back to yesterday's lesson and call the plants which God created on day three living beings: they can not move and cannot think or understand anything. On days five and six God created living souls.

The fish and the birds of day five could move: they swam and they flew. These creatures are higher than the plants. We often say that God gave them simple minds, but when we remember what they can do, we would do better to say that God gave them wonderful minds.

Read Genesis 1:20, 21

2. From the waters and from the ground
 - a. God spoke His powerful Word to the waters and they brought forth the fish, all the kinds of fish from whales (sea monsters) down to the lowly minnows. Fish are some of the lower kinds of creatures, farthest from people in looks. They are flat, without arms or legs. They are farthest away in their surroundings. They cannot live on land. God did not tell the fish to develop fins and gills for a million years so they could survive in the water. No, He made a rule for the fish: because He created them with fins and gills, they must stay in the water in order to live.

Read Genesis 1:20 and Genesis 2:19

- b. Did you notice that God called the birds from the waters and from the ground? The meaning is that possibly God called them from both land and water. It teaches us that birds belong to the earth, to the land or to the water. Though they fly in the firmament, they are tied to the earth for getting their food and making their nests. God's rule for birds is that they do not swim under water, but live on the land and fly in the air, and some swim on the surface of the water. Birds are a little closer to people than fish are. In what ways?

Read Genesis 1:24 carefully,
noticing the kinds of animals.

B. Day Six

1. The creatures closest to man
 - a. Did you notice that God created three kinds, or classes, of animals?
 - 1) The creeping things: insects and small creeping creatures such as lizards. These are the most unlike people.
 - 2) The beasts of the earth: the wild animals, who are somewhat closer to people in shape and size.
 - 3) Cattle is the word the Bible often uses for tame animals, especially those we have as pets, and those who live nearer to us.
 - b. Animals are higher forms of living souls: they can crawl, hop, jump, and run. They can also hear, smell, taste, touch, and respond to other

animals and to people. They care for their own young, and often show love, anger, or faithfulness; not by instinct, which is a natural reaction, but by using the senses God gave them.

c. Once more, God furnished His house. He was not stingy, but gave us a wide variety of living souls for our use: for beauty, for pets, and for food.

2. God blessed His living creatures

a. He told them to multiply after their kind, verse 21. That means a mother robin will have a baby robin, not a baby hawk, or a baby cat. God's Word knows nothing of one animal developing into another.

Read Genesis 1:30

b. God gave plants for food for the animals He had made. Why not meat? Because in Paradise there was no death, no killing, and therefore no meat from dead animals. They ate grass and herbs in perfection, with no fighting, no killing, and no curse.

3. Animals as types

a. God created some of the animals to be pictures (types*) of Christ. Think of the lamb for sacrifice, a picture of the Lamb of God.

b. God tells us that the animal world will be represented in heaven. Read Isaiah 65:25 in class and tell how the animals will be different in heaven.

DO NOT FORGET that although the living souls are wonderful creations of God, they cannot know and understand God. Only His people, to whom our Father gave minds and hearts and wills to understand, and grace* to believe, can know Him.

WORD STUDIES

1. faith – to know and to trust and to believe with a whole heart
2. type – an Old Testament picture of a New Testament reality: for example, a lamb as a picture of Jesus.
3. grace – God's favor and goodness to us, while we do not deserve it