

The God of Creation, Days 5&6, part 1

Genesis 1:20-31

(preached Pine Grove 2/18/18; Sunday PM)

Introduction

3 weeks ago, Satyapal Singh, the minister of education in India caused quite a stir when he said this..

“I have a list of around 10 to 15 great scientists of the world who have said there is no evidence to prove that the theory of evolution is correct,”

“Darwin’s theory is scientifically wrong. It needs to change in the school and college curriculum.

“Since man is seen on Earth, he has always been a man. Nobody, including our ancestors, in written or oral, said they ever saw an ape turning into a human being.”

Now, Singh is not a Christian...

He is in fact a Hindu, who wants to make Hinduism the national religion of India..

But even he sees the foolishness of the idea of a fish turning into a man over time...

But guess what?

The response to his comments were immediate and threatening.

Scientists in India were filled with outrage and called for Singh's removal from his post, saying that there is quote...

“Plenty of undeniable evidence that monkeys and apes and humans had a common ancestor.”

The outrage from the scientific community was so great that Singh's superior in the Indian government publicly reprimanded him, saying that Singh should refrain from making any further statements on his views...

Yet, this is the common response to anyone who challenges Darwin's theory of evolution...

They are attacked by the majority of people in the scientific community and they are silenced by their superiors...

This is how far people will go to protect a 150 year old scientific theory that isn't even good science...

And the reason that people defend Darwin is not that they love him, but rather they hate God...

That is why you see outrage and backlash when someone attacks the theory of evolution or the big bang theory...

These theories allow for a world where God doesn't exist and that is music to the ears of the sinner...

Because if it possible that God doesn't exist, they can continue in their sin...

So they are always looking for ways to eliminate the existence of God...

And that is why they throw up their protests when someone attacks the theory of evolution...

It isn't so much an attack on science as it is an attack on their sin and unbelief..

Well, we know that the theory of evolution isn't valid...

We believe in that God created the heavens and the earth in 6 literal days and rested on day 7..

We believe that God created plants and animals after their own kind so that an monkey can become a man...

And a fish can't become a dog....

And a bird can't become a lizard...

No we acknowledge that there can be change within a species..

Birds can have different beaks...

Moths can have color variations...

Humans can even have darker skin and lighter skin in different parts of the world...

There are small changes within a species but there never is and never has been one species changing into another species...

Birds may have different beaks but they don't turn into a tiger...

Moths can change colors but they don't become a fish...

Humans may have different shades of skin color but they won't turn into a chicken..

And we believe that because God created the heavens and earth out of nothing and then he filled the heavens and earth with the sun, moon and stars and plants and animals and people...

Tonight, we have arrived at days 5 and 6 of creation.

96 hours or four days have passed since God created a lump of clay on day 1 and began to shape into the earth and the universe around it...

We have watched a ball of water covered in darkness become a ball of water that has an atmosphere and outer space around it on day 2.

Then, we have watched as God took that ball of water and made land appear in it and then brought forth life in the form of plants and trees on day 3..

Last week, we examined the 4th day of creation where God made the sun, moon, and stars and hung them in space to give light to the earth...

And I ended up last week talking about how the earth is seen as the focus of these days of creation....

The sun and the moon and the stars were created to give light to earth...

God doesn't tell us the details of how Saturn is made or Mercury or Venus..

He doesn't give us great detail about the storms and mountains on Jupiter...

And why is that?

They are not the focus of creation...

They are simply heavenly bodies that bring glory to Him as we view them from earth..

Earth is the center of God's creation...

Now, we are thrown off by this due to the fact that we revolve around the sun, so people say...

“Well, we are not even the center of our own solar system, so how can we be the center of the universe?”

Simply put, we are the center of the universe because God designed the universe in that way..

The sun was made too light..

The moon was made to light the earth.

The stars were made to light the earth.

The universe was made as water was pulled in all directions off the earth...

And now on day 5 and 6 of creation, the focus is clearly on the earth..

We have a land and water on the earth..

WE have vegetation on the earth in the form of trees and plants, but now it is time to add more to the earth...

So, let's see how this goes by looking at day 5 of creation in verses 20-23 of Genesis 1...

XI. Day 5 - God is the Sustainer of Life (20-23)

20 Then God said,

Let me stop right there for a moment...

Remember this is how God creates...

He creates through his word...

God says and things happen...

And that wasn't just true in regards to God's creating the world...

Jesus spoke and people regained their sight...

Jesus spoke and paralyzed limbs began working again...

And look, this still happens in the world today...

That is why we preach and teach the Bible...

There is power in the word of God.

We may be amazed at the power of God's word in creation, but think about how God can use his word today to bring about the creation of new people when they are saved.

I was brought to salvation through the word of God...

A pastor gave me a tract containing a few verses of Scripture about sin and holiness and judgment and salvation...

And as I read the word of God, it worked to bring me to life...

I am a new creation today because of the power of God's word...

That is why churches should preach and teach and do ministry based on the word of God...

The power is in God's word because it came from Him..

It is when we get away from the word of God that we lose power to change lives...

Pastors who write sermons based on their own thoughts and agendas and political leanings have no power in their messages to change lives...

The effectiveness of ministry and evangelism and growth comes from the word of God...

So God once again speaks on the 5th day, and here is what happens...

Verse 20 again...

20 Then God said, "Let the waters [ad]teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth [ae]in the open [af]expanse of the heavens."

On day 5, the waters and the earth's atmosphere are filled with life...

The waters are the first to be filled with swarms of living creatures...

We normally think of a swarm of bees, but marine life swarms as well...

If you have ever taken a look under the water, fish hang out in schools often packed tightly together to avoid being eaten by bigger fish...

But if you look below the surface of the water, there are millions of living things in both our oceans, seas, fresh water lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, etc...

If you consider just the oceans of the world, there are 228,500 different species of marine life..

And it estimated that there are probably 2 million more species that haven't been discovered yet in our oceans...

228,500 different species...

And then multiply those species by hundreds or millions of that kind of animal and the ocean is swarming with life...

And God created it all and put it there on day 5 of creation...

The species of animals in the sea didn't start as one animal and then change into 228 thousand different kinds of animals over millions of years..

6000 years ago, God simply spoke all the known and unknown species of the waters into existence in an instant...

But he wasn't done on day 5 with that..

Take note of the last half of verse 20...

let birds fly above the earth [ae]in the open [af]expanse of the heavens."

So the waters of the earth are filled, and now it is time to fill the atmosphere of the earth...

And so the birds are spoke into existence by the word of God on day 5 as well..

Now, the birds don't swarm the skies like the fish in the sea...

And my wife would yell a loud amen to that because if birds swarmed the sky, she would never leave the house...

Birds simply are created in the space of earth's atmosphere, which is simply called the expanse of the heavens here..

Now, we know that birds don't fly all the time, but since God has already made trees for them to live in, they are brought into the earth now..

So we have fish and birds, but then we get to an interesting verse in verse 21...

21 God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Now what in the world is this?

Well, part of day in the creation of marine life and birds of the sky is the creation of some rather large species of each of them..

It seems that God created some really big sea creatures and most likely some really big birds on day 5...

Animals so large that they probably looked intimidating to the people of the earth, but God was clear her that even these large animals of the sea and of the air were created by Him..

He evens says at the end of the verse that these large creatures were good...

And they were good because they were created to eat people at first...

Every creature is going to be a vegetarian at first...

That is why the trees and plants had to spread because there was going to be a great need for them to serve as a food source for all these living things that God was creating...

Therefore even the sea monsters and bird monsters were good in the very beginning...

Now a lot of people ask the question?

Were fish vegetarian at first?

And the answer is clearly yes.

All animals were vegetarian to begin with..

So there was clearly vegetation on land and in the sea to serve as food for these giant creatures...

Most marine life are now meat eaters, but there still exist large fish that live on tiny microscopic plant and animal life like the whale shark...

So none of the large creatures of the sea or of the air were a threat to people because God declared them very good..

Let's continue further with day 5 in verse 22...

22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

Once God has put these creatures in the water and in the air, their job is to reproduce..

In fact, God hard wired reproduction into his creatures...

They will mate and have offspring even under difficult circumstance...

I used to do a lot of bass fishing...

And a largemouth is an incredible creature...

He is hard to catch and even learns over time to avoid some artificial lures...

But guess what a largemouth is going to do every year?

He is going to reproduce...

And often times, it makes him or her very easy to catch...

But guess what?

Largemouth bass continue to be fruitful and multiply even if it puts them in great danger of being caught and eaten...

Bass will even stick around to guard their offspring for a while...

And is that because they are so noble creature?

No, not at all...

It is simply because they are made in such a way to obey God's purpose for them and that is to multiply and fill the earth...

The same is true of a bird..

A bird is at risk when it builds a nest because it has to hang around an area for a while and cats and snakes learn to strike nesting birds...

But does the threat of being killed stop a bird from making a nest?

No, he or she has been made to reproduce and they will reproduce even though they make themselves an easier target for enemy while they mate.

This is how God has made the world...

The birds and fish multiply and fill the earth, as the Lord commanded them to do..

And they have been doing it for 6000 years...

When we stop and think about that, it is incredible...

Sure animals have gone extinct and the populations of some species go up and down, but the majority of fish and birds have survived for an incredible amount of time...

You know I was reminded of this a few weeks back when it was so bitterly cold for a few days...

Lows in the morning were in the teens and low 20s and the weathermen were urging us to bring our pets in...

And that is all well and fine, but not a single person brought a bird in on those cold mornings, but guess what they survived and ate and made it..

And this spring they will build a nest and the next generation will be born...

God simply made some very durable creatures on day 5...

Now what do we see in God in terms of who He is on day 5?

We have seen some incredible attributes of God in the first 4 days, but what do we see on day 5?

XI. Day 5 - God is the Sustainer of Life (20-23)

God does not simply create and tell the fish and birds, "Good Luck. Hope you make it."

God creates these creatures, but he has also created their food and assured their survival by blessing them with the ability to reproduce...

The nature of God is that He creates life, He supplies the needs of life life food, and then he sustains that life by blessing life with the ability to make more life...

Yet, God is not quite done with creating life...

The 6th day of creation will be quite a day of adding more life to this planet...

We will begin day 6, but we won't quite finish it tonight...

Let's begin by simply reading what the day is like...

XII. Day 6 - God is Authoritative (24-31)

24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after [ag]their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after [ah]their kind”; and it was so. 25 God made the beasts of the earth after [ai]their kind, and the cattle after [aj]their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the [ak]sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the [al]sky and over every living thing that [am]moves on the earth.”

29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the [an]surface of all the earth, and every tree [ao]which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the [ap]sky and to every thing that [aq]moves on the earth [ar]which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so.

31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Let's go back to the first part of day 6 in verse 24...

Once again, God creates by speaking...

24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after [ag]their kind:

This time, the creatures aren't in the water or in the air.

Instead, they will be found on the land of the earth...

And again, we note, these creatures of the land are created after their own kind...

God didn't create a rat and then bring all the other land animals from the rat over millions of years...

No, in an instant at the speaking of God's word, an incredible number of species of animals were put on the dry land of this super continent..

And then notice a system of classifying all these land animals in the middle of verse 24..

24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after [ag]their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after [ah]their kind"; and it was so.

What you see is three simple categories of land animals...

First is the cattle...

Some translation simply say livestock.

The category is simple, - these are animals that can be domesticated or tamed...

Cows, sheep, pigs, dogs, cats, etc.

And the reason that they can be domesticated is that man will use them for his purposes...

Whether is the milk from a cow...

A ride from a horse...

Or an ox that could plow..

These creatures of the land are tamable and usable.

The second category are creeping things...

Makes me itch just to say creeping things, but this would include insects, snakes, lizards, etc.

The Hebrew word suggest any animal close to the ground or with short legs..

This category could even include the mouse or rabbit or squirrel..

The final category are the beasts of the earth...

Elephants, rhinos, giraffes, dinosaurs or dragons would also fit in this category..

They are simply the untamable animals of the world..

Now look at verse 25...

25 God made the beasts of the earth after [ai]their kind, and the cattle after [aj]their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind;

Didn't God just say this in verse 24?

But notice that he says it in reverse order..

Why is that?

Because some people in the Christian community come to verse 24 and suggest that the animal kingdom evolved by stressing the order of verse 24..

Their views says this....

First, there were domesticated animals that evolved into creeping animals, which eventually evolved into the beasts like the gorilla which eventually evolved into humans..

Yet, what do we see in verse 25?

A different order!

Here it is the beast, the cattle and the creeping things...

But notice what is the same in verse 25?

The repetition of the phrase after its kind..

Once again, God is stressing to us that animals cannot jump from one category to another even over supposed millions of years...

Rather, species will reproduce their own kind...

The original spots in the giraffe may change to camouflage them over time, but a giraffe will always be a giraffe.

And then we see this very important phrase at the end of verse 25,....

“and God saw that it was good.”

At this point in creation, everything is good in the universe...

Outer space is good..

The sun, moon and stars are good..

The entire universe is good..

And earth is good as well.

Now what does this mean for the marine life, birds, and animal life?

No death!

No injury!

No predators!

The food chain and natural rivalries among the animals will only come about after sin enters the world...

This world is good, including every animal and plant and tree..

No deformities.

No mutations.

No sickness or disease.

In other words, there was no need for a veterinarian and no shots for the dogs or cows or any other animal...

The fish were swimming together..

The birds weren't fighting in the air..

And guess what, the lamb was lying down right beside the wolf...

Do all that harmony sound familiar?

Yes, if you know the Bible because guess what?

The earth is heading back to this harmony when Christ returns to rule the earth...

Listen to Isaiah 11...

***1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.***

2

***The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.***

3

And He will delight in the fear of the Lord,

*And He will not judge by what His eyes see,
Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;*

4

*But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.*

5

*Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins,
And faithfulness the belt about His waist.*

6

*And the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
And the calf and the young lion [a]and the fatling
together;
And a little boy will lead them.*

7

*Also the cow and the bear will graze,
Their young will lie down together,
And the lion will eat straw like the ox.*

8

*The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra,
And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's
den.*

9

*They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the sea.*

10

Then in that day

*The nations will resort to the root of Jesse,
Who will stand as a [b]signal for the peoples;
And His resting place will be [c]glorious.*

I mean you hear stories of how some cats and dogs become best friends...

But generally speaking that isn't the case...

And that certainly isn't the case for wild animals...

Put a sheep in the wolf's den and see how long he lasts...

And people wonder about Genesis 1 and if there were no natural enemies in the animal world before sin?

And the answer is clearly yes.

And if you want to know what that looks like, repent and trust Christ and you will see it in His kingdom during the 1000 year reign...

Conclusion

The bottom line is this.

Sin ruined all of what God wanted to do, but sin will not win forever...

There is coming a day when the conditions of the world before the fall of Adam and Eve become a reality again...

In a sense, salvation takes away our sin now, but it also going to reward us by putting us back into the world that God intended all along..

Pretty exciting to me...

Hope that is true for you as well..

Let us pray.