

Genesis 1:6-13

Day 2-3: God Creates the Atmosphere & Oceans

Sunday, June 13, 2010 Pastor Stuart Fraser

- I. Introduction:** On days two and three God created the atmosphere and the oceans.
- A. We have talked about some of the arguments for the existence of God & why we should reject the day age theory & uniformitarianism.
 - B. We talked about the unnecessary pressure Christians feel to integrate geological ages into the Genesis account.
 - C. Scientific Method – 1) Ask a Question 2) Do Background Research 3) Construct a Hypothesis 4) Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment 5) Analyze Your Data and Draw a Conclusion 6) Communicate Your Results (www.sciencebuddies.com)
 1. Scientific Theory – “principles and procedures for the systematic pursuit of knowledge involving the recognition and formation of a problem, the collection of data through observation and experiment, and the formation and testing of hypothesis.” (Webster’s Dictionary, *Merriam-Webster.com*)
 2. Evolution violates true science because a hypothesis requires observation, experimentation, & repetition.
- II. Days 2-3 of creation.**
- A. Day 2 – God Said, “Let there be a firmament...” (**vv. 6-8**)
 1. “Firmament” (*Reqiya*) – “Expanse or spread out thinness.” Used to describe hammering gold into plates (**Ex 39:3**). “Thin, stretched out space.”
 2. What is this? It is something that separated the waters above from the waters below. God called it “heaven” (**v. 8**)
 3. According to **Gen 1:1** the heavens (outer space) had already been created.
 - Our planet is the only planet who has both an atmosphere and hydrosphere.
 - God created a mixture of gasses that we breathe today – The atmosphere is primarily composed of Nitrogen (N₂, 78%), Oxygen (O₂, 21%), and Argon (Ar, 1%). A myriad of other very influential components are also present which include the water (0-7%), "greenhouse" gases or Ozone (0-0.01%), Carbon Dioxide (0.01-0.1%).
 - Prior to the flood the earth was covered in a massive blanket of water (**Gen 2:5**) that was either liquid or crystallized water. (**Gen 7:11-12**)
 - This invisible layer of water created a greenhouse effect all over earth.
 - B. Day 3 – God said “Let the waters...be gathered...and let dry land appear.” (**vv. 9-13**)
 1. This day the waters were gathered into sections (seas) and dry land called (earth).
 - Our planet is called “earth” (*Erets*) because God *created & named* it that.
 2. Evolution cannot explain reasonably how life could come from the inanimate.
 - Biochemist Michael Behe – evolution can deal only with “systems that are already working...It would have to arise as an integrated unit, in one fell swoop, for natural selection to have anything to work on...”
 3. “Whose seed is in itself” – The vegetation was created mature & capable of reproduction (**vv. 11-13**). It was able to reproduce itself from inception.
 4. Notice also that if we do not see day as meaning 24 hours these plants would not receive light for another million or so years (sun on 4th day).
- III. Conclusion:** The earth now had light, atmosphere, dry land, seas, and plants that covered it. “It was good – a perfect environment for life, and a paradise for the creature God planned to make in His own image.”