

Genesis 1:20-23

Day 5 – The Land Animals

I. Introduction –

- A. So far, we have studied the first 4 days of creation: Day 1 God created Light (day and night); Day 2 God created the firmament (atmosphere); Day 3 God created dry land, trees, and plants; Day 4, God created the lights in the sky (astrosphere).
- B. Remember, the clear testimony of Scripture is that God spoke the world into existence in 6 literal, 24-hour days.

II. Day 5 – Sea Creatures and birds (vv. 20-23)

- A. This marks the appearance of the first **living** creatures on earth.
 - 1. The earth is now ready for living creatures: light, air, water, soil, plants, fruits.
 - 2. **Is. 45:18** – God, “Who did not create it empty, who formed it to be inhabited.”
- B. Again, we see God speak and the waters **instantly** abounded with creatures.
- C. Sea creatures – Literally, “Let the waters swarm with swarming things” (vv. 20-21)
 - 1. “Living things” (*Nephesh*) is a technical Hebrew term used for things with a consciousness, and is translated “Soul” in the KJV. It means “that which breathes”.
 - 2. This is the first time that “**life**” occurs in Genesis, and its first time on Earth.
 - 3. Notice – The waters would “abound with an abundance...”
 - 4. “Great sea creatures” and “every living thing” were both created.
 - There are currently about 210,000 different species of marine life, and approximately 160 more species are being discovered and cataloged every year.
 - 5. The word for sea creatures is literally *tannin*, meaning “dragon” or “serpent”.
Psalms 104:24-26 (Job 41:1)
 - **Isa 27:1** – “In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; and He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.”
 - **Ps 148:7** – “Praise the LORD from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps...”
- D. Birds (vv. 20, 22)
 - 1. Again, this speaks of the **immediate** creation of every flying creature: pink flamingos, parrots, peacocks, cranes, pheasants, cockatoos, hawks, eagles, humming birds, finches, sparrows, pigeons, doves, condors, etc...
 - **Matt 10:29** – “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.”
 - 2. Both the sea creatures and birds are said to have been created “according to their kind” – This phrase is used every time procreation is mentioned in Genesis 1 – Living things can produce only creatures **similar** to themselves.
- E. “Von Neumann Machine” (John Von Neuman) – All species have these three properties: self-sustaining, self-repairing, self-producing.
 - 1. Self-**sustaining** – They can sustain their own life: nourishment, breathe, defend.
 - 2. Self-**repairing** – They have the means to heal themselves if injured.
 - 3. Self-**producing** – They have the means to reproduce after their own kind.

4. Modern science can't produce a machine which possesses these 3 characteristics.
5. Yet every cell in your body possesses **all** of these capabilities.

- F. "According to their own kind." – It is mentioned 8 times (**vv. 11,12,21,24,25**)
1. The more science understands genetics the more it seems a genetic impossibility.
 2. Genetics is relatively a new science, and was fathered by George Mendel, who's theories came well after Darwin. Darwin was totally unaware of genetics.
- G. What about mutations? Mutations can alter or destroy existing information in an organism's genetic code, but they cannot **add** new information. Mutations = genetic mistakes. They can cause microevolution to occur = breeds of dogs/horses
1. Genetics has experimented with mutations for 100 years and concluded all mutations that occur are either harmful to an animal or harmless.
 2. Animals, humans, and marine life have similarities. God created them all.
 3. The DNA of each species allows for a wide variety of individual variations among its species, but not beyond the species itself.

III. Conclusion: Days 5 ends with a fully functioning and fully populated earth.

- A. God not only proclaimed "it is good" he pronounced a **blessing** on his creation.
1. God commanded them to reproduce and never rescinded it. (**Gen 8:17**)
 2. God cares for every sparrow (**Matt 10:29**), and provides for them (**Matt 6:26**)