

This is Our Father's World

Genesis 1:14 – 25

Proposition: First God formed the earth with light, air, water and land. Starting on day four He filled the earth with plants, fish, birds, and animals.

Application: As God filled His creation with life, let Him fill your heart with His Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit let us shine as stars in a spiritually dark world.

Biochemist Dr. Michael Behe once said: *The more we know about life the more we know about Biology, the more problem Darwin has, and the more design becomes apparent.* The Bible is not a science textbook, it is not a history book, or a book on geography, but it is a book inspired by the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit refers to a subject, be it science, history or geography, He does so without error. The creation account is described from a human vantage point. If it was written from God's vantage point we would not be able to fully describe it. It would be too massive. If Moses described the whole of creation from God's vantage point, he would still be writing about it today. Even though the creation account is written from a human point of reference, even though it is not an exhaustive description of all that God has made, it is inspired by the Spirit of God and therefore, it is without error.

Over the first three days, God formed the earth with light, air, water and land. Starting on day four, God filled the expanse with lights and the earth with plants, fish, birds, animals.

I. God Fills the Sky (1:14 – 19)

Luminaries (1:14, 15): For first three days, God caused light to shine from a source other than the sun. Now on day four, the sun, moon and stars take over the role as a light source. On day one God said *Let there be light* on day four He said *Let there be lights*. The Hebrew word *lights* differs from the Hebrew word for *light* in 1.3. *Lights* suggest objects that produce light. On day one God created light now He creates objects that emit light. According to evolution, the sun came before earth. According to Genesis earth comes before the sun. This dispels any notion that space dust formed the earth.

Lights Dividing Day and Night: God made lights in the expanse to emit light during the night and the day. We too are light bearers in a dark and sinful world. As God's children we stand out like stars in the night sky. We are to let our light shine unhindered in a spiritually dark world (Phil 2:15).

Lights Serve as Signs: Stars serve as navigational signs not astrological signs. Stars guide sailors

along the seas at night, but they do not act as guides for our lives. They also serve as signs to remind us of the perpetuity of Israel. Israel remains, as long as the lights in the expanse remain (Jer 31:35, 36). Whether Israel is faithful to God or not, God restricts the nations of the world in their attempt to wipe Israel off the face of the earth.

Lights in the expanse serve as signs for navigational purposes. They remind us of the perpetuity of Israel. They also serve as signs of God's judgment. When lights in the expanse cease to shine, that is a sign of God's judgement (Isa 13:10, 11a). Lastly lights in the expanse bring glory to God. Even though the heavens do not speak a language, they do display God's glory. Being amazed at what we see, we are compelled to praise God (Ps 8:1, 3, 4, 9).

Lights Measure Seasons: Lights in the expanse also serve to measure time. There is a season to plant, a season to reap, even a season for birds to migrate. In 325 AD, the Council of Nicaea decreed that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first Full Moon on or after the vernal equinox. Lights in the expanse measure seasons. They also measure days and years.

Lights Measure Days and Years: Since seasons and years are literal, it stands to reason *days* are also literal. On the first three days of creation, days were measured by the earth's spin around its axis relative to God as the light source. Days are now measured by the earth's spin around its axis relative to the sun. Years are measured by the amount of time it takes for the earth to orbit the sun. In Scripture, months are measured by the amount of time it takes for the moon to orbit the earth. With great precision, the sun, moon and stars allow us to find our bearings and allow us to measure time.

Lesser and Greater Lights (1:16): Notice the sun is first on the list. It is first because it causes life to thrive through the process of photosynthesis. The moon is second in importance. Then the stars since it is mentioned last. In Scripture, a *star* is any light bearing object in space – such as *planets, comets* and *meteors*. The lights in the expanse are not classed according to size, because many stars are larger than the sun. *Greater* refers to the degree of light the earth receives. The moon gives a more intense light than stars even though stars are much larger.

There maybe more stars in space than insects on earth. Yet the mention of stars is almost an after thought. Two words in Hebrew describe the creation of stars. By way of contrast, God used twenty chapters to describe the building of the tabernacle. The pagan view is that stars are astrological signs guiding the fate of the world. The fact that stars are only briefly mentioned is a tacit rebuke of astrology. The sun, moon and stars are entities not deities (Deut 4:19).

The number of things God made on the fourth day is stunning. He put billions of lights in their exact place.

Lights in Perfect Location (1:17 – 19): Until the New Heavens and New Earth, sun, moon and stars will remain in the orbits in which God placed them. The phrase *it was good* means it could not be more perfect. Had the sun been larger, we would burn up. If the sun had been further away, we would freeze. The fine tuning of the cosmos proves there is a God. And He can be known!

Day one to three God forms. Days four to six He fills. God finished filling outer space with greater and lesser lights, now He fills water and air with fish and fowl.

II. He Fills the Water and Air (1:20 – 23)

Living Fish and Fowl (1:20, 21): For the first time in Scripture, the word *living* is used. The Hebrew for *living* is *nephesh*, translated in Greek as *psyche*, translated in English as *soul*.

Animals possess a *nephesh* whereas plants do not. In that sense plants are not living. Humans also have a *nephesh*. What is *nephesh*? Living creatures have a material and non-material aspect to their being; they are physical and non-physical in their nature. The body is physical, and the *nephesh* or the *psyche* or the *soul* is not physical. We can say creatures are alive if they have a *psyche* according to their kind. A fish *psyche* differs from a dog *psyche*, which differs from a cat *psyche*, which differs from a human *psyche*. Each kind of living creature has its own *psyche*. What distinguishes humans from animals is not so much the *nephesh* but the *image of God*. Only humans are endowed with the image of God

How do we know which creatures have a *nephesh* and which do not? Those creatures that have red blood flowing in their vessels have a *nephesh*. They are not just creatures they are *living creatures* (Lev 17:14).

The late creation scientist Dr. Henry Morris wrote: *The first introduction of animal life was not a fragile blob of protoplasm that happened to come together in response to an electric discharge over a primeval ocean.* Living creatures came into being by divine command. Scripture affirms that living things – composed of body and soul – composed of *soma* and *psyche* – were created *ex nihilo* by God. The Hebrew verb for *created* is *bara*. It always has God as its subject and always means *ex nihilo*. The body and soul of fish, of fowl and land animals were created *ex nihilo* by the power of God.

Notice God created marine animals first, starting with massive ones such as whales. He created their bodies and souls according to their *kind*. The term *kind* suggests a biological limit. That limit is defined by the DNA – the genetic code. The genetic code is complex enough to allow for ample variations within each kind so that living creatures can adapt to ever changing ecosystems. Variation within kinds is often called *microevolution*. But *microevolution* does not lead to *macroevolution*. *Macroevolution* suggests we came from green scum; which then became a paramecium; which then became a tadpole; which then became a fish; which then became a

primate; which then became the people we are today. This happened over eons of time through a process of natural selection acting on random gene mutations. One thing evolutionist forget to tell us is that random mutations always result in a *net loss* of genetic information.

Macroevolution requires a *net gain* of genetic information.

In his book, *My Life and Letters*, Charles Darwin confessed the following: *Not one change in species into another is on record. We cannot prove that a single species has changed into another.* The data from science points to a *fixity of kinds* (see diagram)

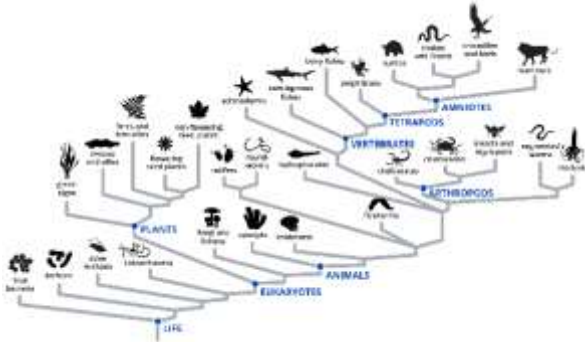


Figure 1 - Evolutionary Tree

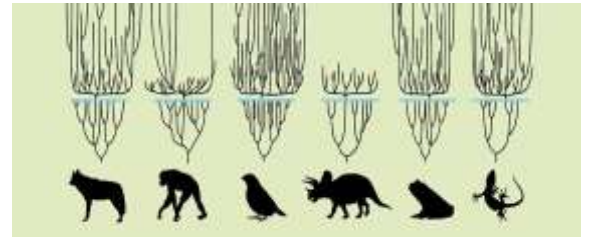


Figure 2 – Variation within kinds

Living creatures were created according to their kind with genetic limits to change. Living creatures were also endowed with the power to reproduce after their own kind.

Loads of Living Creatures (1:22, 23): The Lord endowed living things with the power to reproduce and He blessed them with the desire to reproduce. After the Flood, living creatures will be hunted down by predators so they will need to multiply to avoid extinction. Along with desire comes duty. With the desire to reproduce comes the duty to raise the fruit of reproduction – that is children. Our culture lobbies for the desire to have sex without the duty to raise children.

On day four, God filled outer space with greater and lesser lights. On day five, He filled water and air with fish and fowl. Now on day six He fills the land with animals.

III. He Fills the Earth (1:24, 25)

Land Animals Created (1:24, 25): God made three types of land animals. *Cattle* likely refers to livestock animals like cows, horses and pigs; animals that can be domesticated. *Creeping things* likely refers to creatures that creep on the ground, or close to the surface of the ground, such as reptiles, amphibians, maybe even insects. Lastly *beasts of the earth*, refer to wild animals like *lions, tigers* and *bears*; living creatures that normally cannot be domesticated. God endowed each kind of land animal with its own body type and its own soul. All that God made was good. There were no predator/prey relationships.

Albert Einstein once said: *Of course there is a massive intelligence behind the universe. A man is a fool who doesn't believe that*, and then he went on to say, *but we can never know Him*. If we do not know God, it is because sin has separated us from Him. But we can know the Lord! God leaves nothing that He has made empty. He filled space with stars. He filled the air with birds, the water with fish and the land with plants, animals and people. He can fill your empty heart with His Spirit. Do not leave your soul empty of God. Even as the Lord filled His creation with life, let Him fill your heart with His Spirit. Admit your sin. Believe that Jesus died for your sin and rose again on the third day. And call on the Lord Jesus and be filled with His Spirit. For those who are filled with His Spirit let His light shine through you unhindered in a spiritually dark world.