



TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

Talk Genesis 1:24-27: The Work of God on Day Six of Creation Week

Lesson 4

Background Notes

Let's read verses 24 through 27 of Genesis 1. In these verses we have the work of God on the sixth day of creation week including the formation of the land animals, and the crowning work of creation week, the creation of man. Genesis 1:24-27 says, *"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind'; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*

Let's begin with some background notes for this section of the creation account. We believe the Bible teaches that creation week was a week of literal days. The days were of 24 hours duration earth time. Now believing this does require faith, but remember we are talking about creation week. God was at work in the creation of matter and life, and here in the creation account of Genesis God tells us that He did it all in one week. Psalm 33:6 says, *"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth."* Psalm 33:9 says, *"For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."* Yes, this requires faith, as we have seen in Hebrews 11:3 *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."* The Lord said in Matthew 18:3, that those who are of faith must "become as little children." Little children don't have a problem with a creation account. We must become like little children in matters of faith, not only for salvation, but also for accepting many things in the Word of God --particularly when we have been so brainwashed by our secular culture! I have had Christians tell me that God is so wonderful and powerful that they believe God could have created the whole world in a split second if He wanted to, and that they would believe this if God said so in the Bible. So far so good, but then they turn around and accept some Christianized version of the Big Bang theory, or some other geologic day = age theory. Wait a minute -- something is wrong here! If they can believe that God could do it in a split second, and they'd believe it if He said that in the Bible, why can't they accept what He does say quite clearly in the Bible -- that is, He did it in six literal days with mornings and evenings.

Now here is an interesting fact. If you were to consult the writings of unbelieving Hebrew scholars concerning this creation account, you would find that they agree with us that the writer was trying to convey that God created this universe and everything in it in six literal days. Of course they don't **believe** that He did! They don't believe that the

biblical creation account is the truth. They are unbelievers, and they don't believe this is God's Word. In fact, some of these "scholars" don't even believe in God. But -- they have **no** doubt that the writer (or writers, as they would say) meant to convey that the universe came into being by creation, and creation week was six, literal, 24 hour days, not six geologic ages. Now that is something to think through, right?

Doctrinal Points

1. God created plants and animals according to their kind.

Back in verse 1:12 of Genesis we read, *"And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind."* And in Genesis 1:21 we read, *"So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind."* And now in verse 24 and 25 we read, *"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind'; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."*

So plants and sea creatures and birds and insects and bees were created **"according to their kind."** In other words, God did not create every single variety of dog that we have today, but one or more dog "kinds." And these basic kinds would have had a gene pool with the genetic capability of producing all the varieties of dogs that we have today – terriers, collies, beagles, retrievers, and German shepherds. We know, for example, that the German shepherd dog has been bred over the last couple of hundred years. This, by the way, is not evolution -- this is genetic variation. For evolution to take place, new genetic information must come into being. In genetic variation, you start with all the genetic material already present in the different "kinds" that God created. Then, over time, you can get different varieties of plants, sea creatures, insects, birds, bees etc. etc. -- because the genetic capability for variation is already there! So the well-known example of the peppered moth in your high school science textbooks is not an example of evolution, but of genetic variation.

How many of you know what I am talking about here?! Back in the time of the industrial revolution in England, the peppered moth went from light-colored to dark-colored. The dark-colored moths were able to escape longer from their natural predators because they were more camouflaged against the dark, soot-laden trees and buildings. This was the "survival of the fittest" principle, and "adaptation to the environment" principle. Was this an example of evolution? No! Wrong! This was simply genetic variation! No new genetic material was added. The peppered moths were still moths, and they are still moths today. Today, because the pollution has been cleared up, the light-colored moths are back. This is not evolution -- this is genetic variation! In the original moth kind or kinds that God created, there was a gene pool large enough for different varieties of moths, including dark colored peppered moths and light colored peppered moths. So God created plants and animals "after their kind."

2. God created man in His own image.

Verses 26 and 27, *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all [the](#) earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'" 27*

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Why did God say, "Let Us make man in our own image," not "Let Me make man in My own image?" Is this proof of the trinity? No, it's not proof of the trinity, but it certainly paves the way for the doctrine of the trinity to be unfolded in the rest of Scripture. Most likely the emphasis here in the "Let Us" is what's called the plurality of God's majesty. However, it certainly opens the way, paves the way for the doctrine of the trinity to be fully developed in the rest of Scripture.

How is man created in the image of God? We don't believe this refers to anything physical, because John 4:24 says that "*God is Spirit....*" We believe the image of God stamped upon man has to do with the spiritual side of man. This is what makes people different from animals. Animals were not created in the image of God, but man was created in the image of God. Animals have emotions, and appetites, and even personalities to a certain degree, but man has more. Man has a spiritual capacity. Now all that is associated with the human spirit is hard to pin down precisely, but on the authority of Scripture we can say for sure that God-consciousness and moral-consciousness are associated with the spirit. Animals do not have these qualities, but people do. Man is not just a higher form of animal. He is unique, made in the image of God! Now man's moral conscience may be dulled and seared, but it is there. Man has a sense of what is right and what is wrong. And man's consciousness of God may be distorted and may need to be awakened, and even redirected away from idolatry, but it's there. This is true of all people around the world. This is the way God created man. He created him in His own image. Notice the end of verse 27, "*male and female He created them.*" Adam and Eve were both created in the image of God. Plants and animals were created after their kind, but man was created in the image of God.

Practical Application: Do you have fellowship with God?

Why did God create man in His own image? One reason for sure was so that God could have fellowship with us. God does not have fellowship with rocks. God does not have fellowship with plants. God does not have fellowship with fish or birds or insects, but He can have fellowship with people, because people were created in the image of God.

Do you have fellowship with God? If you are here this morning and you are not a Christian then you don't have fellowship with God. You *can* have fellowship with God, but you don't *yet* have fellowship with God. You don't even have a *relationship* with God, let alone fellowship. You say, "Well, how can I have a relationship with God? How can I have fellowship with God?" Answer: acknowledge your lost and sinful condition before God and accept Christ as your personal Savior. You will not only receive salvation, and have a relationship with God, but you will have fellowship with God as well.

If you are here this morning as a Christian, but you are not walking with the Lord, let me assure you that have not lost your salvation -- but you need to have your fellowship with the Lord restored. This is really the bottom line for joy in the Christian life. Listen to the words of 1 John 1:3-4, "*that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.*" Do you have joy in the Lord this morning? You can, if you have fellowship with God.