

The Book of Genesis
Genesis 1:20-23: The Creation of the Sea and Air Creatures
09/18/2019 Wednesday PM

Introduction

- So far in our study of Genesis we have covered Creation Days 1-4.
- God has created the heavens and the earth, created light, stretched out the “heavens” and created the atmosphere and space, gave form to the surface of the planet by separating the water from dry ground, began to fill the earth by creating plants, and created the sun, moon, and stars to now provide light on the earth.
- As we saw last week, the luminaries were created on Day 4 in order to “serve as sign to mark seasons and days and years...and to give light on the earth.”
- We know how to tell time by looking at the luminaries. Without the sun and moon, we would not be able to.
- Days are marked by the earth’s rotation in relation to the sun, months are marked by the moons orbit around the earth, and years are marked by the earths orbit around the sun.
- By God turning over the “light bearing” responsibilities to the luminaries, he was creating the “laws of nature.”
- Ever since God completed his creative acts after Creation Day 6, the “laws of nature” have been in place and they operate according to how God created them. For instance, after Day 3 plants reproduced from the seeds that they contained, God does not actively create new plants as he did on that Day.
- So just as he created the entity of light on Day 1 and started his creative works, on Day 4 he gave us the luminaries to serve the purposes of marking time and location from that point onward.
- God has now made planet earth habitable for living and breathing creatures by creating the atmosphere, the separation of water and dry ground, plants for food and oxygen production, and the luminaries to provide the right amount of gravity, heat, and the like.
- Tonight, we will be discussing **The Creation of the Sea and Air Creatures.**

Genesis 1:20-23

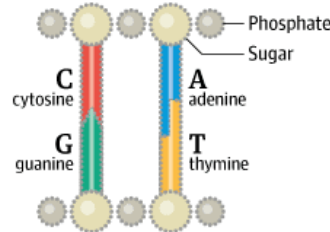
²⁰And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³And there was evening, and there was morning-the fifth day.

- **V.20** – Here we see a familiar pattern of how God created, it says, “And God said, “Let the water teem...””
- It is clear here that God was creating from his spoken word, he said it and it was so.
- Here we see God creating the first “living creatures” which is Hebrew is *nephesh chay or chayah*. This was not used for plants.
- The first of these “living creatures” were the water animals and then God created the birds and other air creatures.
- **V.21** – This verse gives us a little more detail as to what God actually created. Here the NIV says, “great creatures of the sea.” The KJV says, “great whales.” The NASB says “great sea monsters.”
- The Hebrew word in question here is *tanniyn* which means - a marine or land monster, i.e. sea-serpent or jackal: dragon, sea-monster, serpent, whale.
- It should not be limited just to a whale, because it would also include the great which shark, giant squid, and more
- That is why most other translations just the English word “creatures” or “monsters.”
- What we know, is that on Day 5, God created “every living and moving thing with which the water teems.” This would have included what we today would refer to as “dinosaurs” like the mosasaur and other extinct animals.
- The verse tells us that God created the sea creatures “according to their kinds.” This means that he would have created every necessary animal that it would have taken to over the years produce the vast array of marine animals that we see today. He did not on Day 5 specifically create every type of fish, whale, crab, shrimp...
- It goes on to tell us that God also created, “every winged bird according to its kind.”
- The Hebrew word here translated “bird” is *owph* and is a generic word for “flying creatures.”

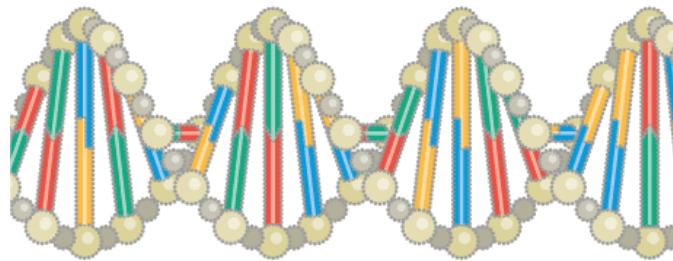
- It is not true, that this word only referred to animals with feathers, it referred to animals with wings.
- We see again that God created them according to their “kinds.”
- He made the right bats, birds, pterosaurs, and all the rest so that they would produce what we now see today.
- If it flies or lives in the water, its kind was made on Day 5.
- God ends this verse by looking at what he had just made and for the 5th time, declaring that it was good.
- **V.22** - God blesses the animals he just made and says, “Be fruitful and increase in number...”
- Just like the plants, the animals are to reproduce “according to their kinds.”
- Living organisms can do what man-made machines cannot, which is make copies of themselves.
- Natural Selection would require that there were pre-existing entities that could pass on any information that was selected. In order to make any copy, whether it is a better or worse copy, you must first have the original.
- DNA stands for “deoxyribonucleic acid” and it is definitely God’s amazing message molecule.

Structure of DNA

The famous double helix is two intertwined sugar and phosphate chains, linked by four kinds of chemical ‘bases’ - a, c, g and t - which make up the genetic code



Base pairs ‘C’ always pairs with ‘G’, and ‘A’ with ‘T’



- Living things are enormously complex machines that actually contain the ‘instruction manual’ or ‘recipe book’ that was required to build them, within themselves. DNA is this ‘instruction manual’ or ‘recipe book.’
- When it comes to storing massive amounts of information, nothing comes close to the efficiency of DNA.
- A single strand of DNA is thousands of times thinner than a strand of human hair.
- One pinhead of DNA could hold enough information to fill a stack of books stretching from the earth to the moon 500 times!
- Although DNA is wound into tight coils, your cells can quickly access, copy, and translate the information stored in DNA. DNA even has a built-in proofreader and spell-checker that ensure precise copying. Only about one mistake slips through for every 10 billion nucleotides that are copied.
- All of this information contained in the DNA strand is needed to build cells and thus any living organism.
- **Video:** There has to be something to decode the DNA information so that a cell can be formed.
- The origin of the cell’s information, and its decoding machinery, is a huge problem for atheists.
- A computer cannot write its own software.
- However, it makes perfect sense to believers, because as the Scripture says, God created everything and within all living things he wrote the DNA code that would be required for us to reproduce “after our kinds.”
- Now that the first plants, sea creatures, and flying creatures are made by the end of Creation Day 5, God does not have to make any more of these organisms. The DNA messaging system within them has the instructions that He wrote to continue making “copies.” We can make copies, but we cannot make the original!
- **V. 23** – He ends this passage by saying yet again, “And there was evening, and there was morning-the fifth day.”
- This is the 5th day, not the fifth period or eon, the fifth *yom* which is normal-length day.

Next Week’s Study: Genesis 1:24-31