
Genesis Foundations - Day Three of Creation: Land, Seas and Life

Genesis 1:9-13 ⁹ Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear"; and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was good*. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹² 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 God saw that *it was good*. ¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day.

I. God's Power

A. Separating water and dry land

Waters under the heaven – remember in verse 8, God called the firmament “heaven.” So the waters under the heaven are the waters which are on the face of the earth.

Gather together – be collected. This could have been done by raising the the land in places, by lowering the sea beds in other places, or by a combination of both. The Bible does not give us the details how God accomplished this.

Dry land - יַבֶּשֶׁת - yabashah - dry land, dry ground

Exodus 14:16 ¹⁶ "But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea.

Exodus 14:21 ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided.

Exodus 14:22 ²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry *ground*, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Jonah 1:9 So he said to them, "I *am* a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry *land*."

Appear – comes from the Hebrew root “to see.” (Niphil) – causative – to make to be seen.

And it was so – again, God shows His power, that when he commands, it happens as He commands it. There is no hesitation, there is no questioning. God commands the dry land to appear and it is there.

God names the dry land and waters-

- Dry land is called earth - אֶרֶץ - erets - earth, land

- The waters is called seas - יָם – yam – sea

Psalm 104:5-8 *You who laid the foundations of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever,* ⁶ *You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains.* ⁷ *At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.* ⁸ *They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them.*

B. Creating plant life

God does not stop with creating dry land on day three.

God lists three types of plant life:

1) Grasses

שֵׁבֶלֶת - deshe - grass. A generic term for grasses.

2 Samuel 23:4 ⁴ *And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, Like the tender grass springing out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.'*

Psalm 23:2 ² *He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*

(Grass, weeds, etc.)

2) Herb that yield seed

עֵשֶׂב – esev - herb, herbage -- *herb, herbage*, in oldest use oft. gen. (therefore incl. grass [שֵׁבֶלֶת]); hence עֵשֶׂב as food for cattle; but as human food.

A generic term for all herbaceous plants, such as corn, vegetables, and other plants which seed pods are formed.

Genesis 1:29 *And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.*

Exodus 9:22 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt -- on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt."*

Exodus 10:12 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they*

may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land -- all that the hail has left."

Deuteronomy 11:15 'And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'

(Grains, veggies, hay)

3) Trees that yield fruit

עץ – ets - tree, trees, wood

- whose seed is in itself.

Not only fruit trees, but all trees and shrubs, bearing fruit in which there is a seed according to it's kind.

(Trees, berries, bushes, etc.)

We do not see plants created anywhere else, except on day three, so we should understand that all plant life was created at this time.

Keil and Delitzsch – “Moreover, we must not picture the work of creation as consisting of the production of the first tender germs which were gradually developed into herbs, shrubs and trees; on the contrary, we must regard it as one element in the miracle of creation itself, that at the word of God not only the tender grasses, but herbs, shrubs, and trees, sprang up out of the earth, each ripe for the formation of blossom and the bearing of seed and fruit, without the necessity of waiting for years before the vegetation created was ready to blossom and bear fruit.”

II. God's Plan

God's plan for creation is being revealed and we can see that there is a direction where creations is headed. This is not some haphazard, thrown together, spur of the moment endeavor, but a logical, purposeful plan of God.

- Space, Matter, Energy
- Atmosphere
- Land
- Plants

III. God's Provision

A. God provided a place for us to live

Genesis 2:8 ⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

B. God provided food for us to eat

Genesis 1:29-30 ²⁹ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit

yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is life, I have given every green herb for food*"; and it was so.

Genesis 2:9a ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.

Genesis 3:17-19 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of it* All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return."

Genesis 9:3 ³ "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.

IV. God's Purpose

A. According to it's kind

God designed creation to work a certain way. Evolution states that we all came from single cell organisms which changed over time. God's word states that each species was created separately and that each species reproduces organisms of the same species.

(Baby – what are you having?)

(Apple tree in my parents backyard)

(Look around in nature)

The Law of Life (Biogenesis)

There is one well-known law of life: the law of biogenesis. This law states simply that life always comes from life. This is what observational science tells us: organisms reproduce other organisms after their own kind. Historically, Louis Pasteur disproved one alleged case of spontaneous generation; he showed that life comes from previous life. Since then, we have seen that this law is universal—with no known exceptions. This is, of course, exactly what we would expect from the Bible. According to Genesis 1, God supernaturally created the first diverse kinds of life on earth and made them to reproduce after their kind. Notice that molecules-to-man evolution violates the law of biogenesis. Evolutionists believe that life (at least once) spontaneously formed from nonliving chemicals. But this is inconsistent with the law of biogenesis. Real science confirms the Bible. – From Answers In Genesis Website – “God and Natural Law”

B. God saw that it was good.

Twice in this passage God calls what He has created “Good.” It should not be a surprise that what God creates is good. Why does he say that it is good twice here? First, when the dry land appears, the earth is ready to support life. This is a good thing. Second, when plant life is created, God has finished with the plants and ready to move on to the next step. This part of creation is good.