

The Bible account of the creation of the Earth and its surrounding galaxies, details the power, wisdom, and love of God. The Creation also highlights God's original purposes for humankind and the rest of His creation. His true character of love, and His ultimate plans for humanity and the world are conveyed in the rest of the Bible. The creation account, first spoken to Adam by God, was passed down orally from generation-to-generation until revealed to His prophet Moses, who penned the miracle.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
Genesis 1:1

The first verse of the Bible gives cause for introducing the first of several literary tools and devices to be presented in future studies. This first principle is:

Summary, Followed by Detail: The Bible's first verse provides a complete summary of the creation account. The details follow in subsequent verses of chapters 1 and 2. This literary technique and principle is foundational, and is seen in several other instances of the Bible.

Day 1: *"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that [it was] good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."* Genesis 1:2-5

The Bible identifies God, God's Spirit, and the Word of God as

Those responsible for the creation process (John 1:1-4, 14, Ps 33:6). The Bible describes the earth as being in darkness, without form and void, comparable to a blank canvass awaiting a master artist to produce a masterpiece. The *Spirit of God* was said to hover above the watery expanse as if awaiting the command to action with power, bringing forth all things. At the sound of the **Word of God**, light was called forth from darkness and given bounds, called **Day** and **Night**, respectively (Daniel 2:22). The Bible defines the evening, darkness, followed by the morning, light, as a day.

Day 2: *"And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day."* Genesis 1:6-8

God created the firmament, or the earth's atmosphere, that divides the waters under the firmament from the waters that are above the firmament. The Bible concisely describes our very complex atmosphere that was designed specifically to support life. The atmosphere, made up primarily of water, also includes an array of gases combined in perfect measure to both support life below, while serving as a shield against harmful elements above the earth's atmosphere. God uses the term **heaven** to describe three distinct things:

1. The earth's atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8; Job 38:28, 29)
2. Outer Space – place of sun, moon, stars (Job 38:31-33)

3. The dwelling place of God (2 Chronicles 6:21, 30)

When reading the Bible it is important to determine the context of the verse to identify the usage of the term.

Day 3: *"And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry [land] appear: and it was so. And God called the dry [land] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that [it was] good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, [and] the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed [is] in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, [and] herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed [was] in itself, after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good. And the evening and the morning were the third day."* Genesis 1:9-13

God called forth the dry land, which He named **earth**, as a single mass out of the waters. The waters He called **seas**. He then brought forth vegetation on the earth, namely grass, plants, flowers and trees, all bearing seed within themselves to reproduce *after their kind*. The act of calling forth vegetation and commanding that it remain upon the earth explains the sustainment of plant life yearly, through the changing seasons. Should God explicitly withdraw this command, only then would vegetation cease to appear.

Day 4: *"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let*

them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: [he made] the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that [it was] good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day."

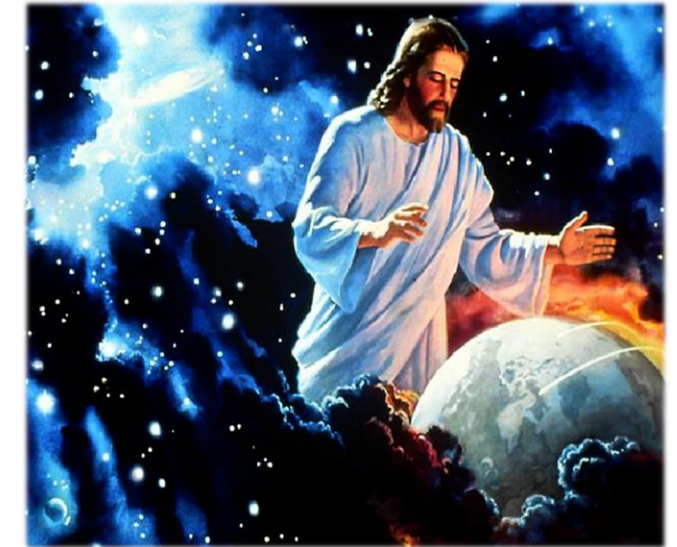
Genesis 1:14-19

God created the sun, moon, and all the stars of the galaxies to provide light upon the earth and to establish the ordinance of time, namely "seasons, days and years". God appointed the **sun** to rule the day, and the **moon** and **stars** to rule the night. Note however, vegetation, which requires light to grow, predates the creation of the sun, moon, and stars by a literal day. God would have all men know that it is He Who brings forth life and causes the things of earth to grow, not the sun, moon, nor stars. These celestial objects were also ordained for *signs*, of which God, in His love, would make known prophetically to men His future works.

Day 5: *"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl [that] may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply*

The Creation

Genesis 1 [Based on Genesis 1, 2:1-7]



Lesson 2

in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day." Genesis 1:20-23

God's divine order and loving care for His creation are first noted in the creation of birds of the air and sea creatures. Birds and sea creatures require light, warmth, air, vegetation, and activity followed by rest all to live. Therefore, we see God's provision for His creatures in giving the ordinance of days for activity and nights for rest; making a perfectly balanced atmosphere to sustain life; calling forth vegetation upon the earth for food; and providing the sun and moon to warm and give light upon the earth. God also ordained, by means of a blessing, that birds and sea creatures reproduce to propagate their species *according to their kind*. This principle establishes the true and divine **origin of species**. God made each species as He intended them to be from their creation.

Day 6: *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and*

God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:24-31

God created classes of land-dwelling animals: cattle, "clean" animals (Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14:3-21); beast of the earth, "unclean" animals (Jeremiah 15:3); and creeping things. He ordained by means of a blessing that they should reproduce and sustain their species *according to their kind*.

The crowning act of God's creation however, was the creation of humankind. Speaking among Themselves, the Godhead purposed to create humanity in Their own image and after Their own likeness. Further, They ordained that humankind should have dominion over the earth and all of its inhabitants, just as They have dominion. Unlike all other created objects and beings that were called forth by the *Word of God*, the Bible states that *"the Lord formed man [off] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Genesis 2:7)*. This reveals God's personal

care and preference for this creation above all others upon the earth. Being given intelligence, free will, the ability to reason, and the blessing to procreate, humankind, unlike the animal species that were commanded to procreate, were *counseled* by God to reproduce and fill the earth. God appointed herbs and fruit for food to *all* the creation, purposing that death never enter His perfect world.

Day 7: *"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." Genesis 2:2, 3*

God, Who neither sleeps nor tires, ceased from His labor of creation and rested on the seventh day (Ps 121:4; Isa 40:28). By example, God established an ordinance, later codified and memorialized as the **Fourth Commandment**, that humankind and all creatures, like their Creator, should rest on the seventh day (Ex 20:8-11, 31:12-17). Further, God pronounced a blessing upon that particular 24-hour period within the weekly cycle in which men would find special communion with Him, making both man and the time holy, even as He is Holy (Ezek 20:12; Ex 3:1-5; Lev 11:45). As the grass grew at the command of its Creator, and will continue to grow until explicitly commanded otherwise, we too, honoring God as our Creator, must heed the command to rest each seventh day. The Creation truly reveals the wisdom, power, and provisions of a loving God (Ps 104)!