

In the Beginning

A Study Through the Book of Genesis



Lesson 3: Chapter 1:9-23

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

I. The Third Day of Creation (verses 9-13)

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.

- A. God gathered the waters under the firmament (heavens) together.
- B. God made the dry land to appear.
- C. God called the dry land "Earth" – from the Hebrew word *erets* meaning dry ground.
- D. God called the gathered waters "seas."
- E. God created vegetation.
 - 1. "According to its kind" – there are 2 types of vegetation: 1: plants that produce seeds, and 2: plants with fruit whose seed is in itself. The seed production remains as God created it.

II. The Fourth Day of Creation (verses 14-19)

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16 Then 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. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 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. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

- A. God commanded the lights of the expanse to divide the day from night.
- B. The reading from the original Hebrew reads like this: "Let the lights in the expanse separate day from night."
 - 1. This gives the thought that the lights in the expanse were already created.
 - 2. This suggests that the sun and moon were created on day 2 of creation when God created the heavens.
 - 3. This also suggests that God announced their God-given roles for signs, seasons, days, and years.
- C. These lights rule over the day and night.
- D. They divide light from darkness.

III. The Fifth Day of Creation (verses 20-23)

Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." 21 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 God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

- A. God created the living creatures in the waters.
- B. God created the birds to fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.
- C. He created the sea creatures and winged birds "according to their kind."
- D. "Great" creatures of the sea – "great" is a Hebrew term *gadol* that means "of honor or greatness." This honor and greatness comes from the fact that these creatures have life in them. God created life.
- E. Here is the first created thing that God blesses. The term "blessed" here means that God is pleased with, or happy with this creation.
- F. God commanded them to multiply and fill the earth.