

"IN THE BEGINNING: A Study of Creation"

THE THIRD DAY

Our study of the second day of creation subtly revealed God's omniscience. We also learned the importance of using more than one Bible translation in studying God's Word.

(NIV, Gen 1:9), "And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so."

And again, by the power of God's word, He creates. This verse solidifies and clarifies the conclusions we drew about the firmament created on Day 2. Letting Scripture interpret Scripture is the best way to extract the meaning from a verse. It is important to note that "be gathered" in Hebrew is "qavah" and means "to bind together, collect; (figuratively) to expect: - gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon)."

(NIV, Gen 1:10), "God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good."

This verse makes things perfectly clear...the formation of dry land and oceans/seas. And unlike the firmament on day 2, God saw that the dry land and seas were good. At this point in the narrative, there is a single body of water. Secular geological science initially claimed that long ago there was only one massive continent (called Pangea) and massive ocean and that through the movement of tectonic plates the continents ended up in the configuration they are in today.

A more recent theory states that the Earth's circumference was smaller than its present size and that as the Earth grew in size, the plates split and moved. This is supported by the fact that each edge of each continent perfectly fits together with each other to form a perfect (smaller) sphere. (the trees of northern Asia are the same as found in northern America) This smaller earth was completely covered with water. And as the earth expanded, the water "gathered together" to fill in the depressed areas forming a single continuous body of water. Sound familiar?

(NKJV, Gen 1:11-12), "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."

It is interesting to note that the first living things that God created on earth were plants, trees, and vegetation.

(NIV, Gen 1:13), "And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day."

The events of the previous verses occur within a cycle of a period of darkness followed by a period of light. Now whether or not this "day" is a 24 hour period still hasn't been nailed down. Since the sun has not been created yet at this point in the narrative, our concept of a 24 hour day doesn't really have meaning. Time exists (and existed from the very moment that God created the heavens and the earth) but there still is no means of measuring time yet. The light that exists at this time is NOT from the sun.

There is a logical progression in the sequence, a systematic unfolding of creation and life on earth. The Hebrew word describing the gathering of the water implies a patient process. It doesn't appear to have been instant. God is omnipotent and it could have been instantaneous if He wished, but it doesn't seem to be the case.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Up to this point in our study, do you see creation as being a series of miraculous explosive events demonstrating God's omnipotence or as methodical unfolding or revealing of God's glory? *(just looking for how the Lord is speaking to you)*
- Do you see secular scientific discoveries supporting or refuting the creation events we have studied so far? What about the vegetation similarities of northern Asia and America?
- What are the implications of having recent geological theories support the events recorded in verses 9 and 10?