

February 12th, 2026

PART 3



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HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE BIBLE STUDY
MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL – JEFFERSON CITY



The 2026 Legislative Session: “Man’s word versus God’s Word”
When Vegetarians Ruled!



GOD is good all the time! This is a well-known saying in churches where I have served over the past 18 years, including a year as a youth pastor in Sydney, Australia. We say, “*God is good*”, but what do we really mean? It could be explained by discerning the Biblical interpretation of “*good*”. With regard to our study of creation in Genesis, “*good*” indicates perfection and excellence as God looks with complete satisfaction on His work. So, in those terms when we declare, “*God is good*” we are stating that everything God accomplishes is good, whether or not we think it is.

Isaiah 55:9, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

God is always doing “*good*” to which the pinnacle of good comprises the greatest act of love towards mankind, the giving of His Son Jesus Christ to redeem man from the death sentence of sin.

Ephesians 1:13-14, “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

God is indeed “*good all the time*” for through His Son Jesus Christ He has saved us, sealed us and promised us eternal glory in His Presence.

What needs to be our response to Him for what He has done for us?

“We love because he first loved us”

1 John 4:19

2026 House Representative Weekly Bible Study

EVERY THURSDAY in Room 301 from 7:10 am to 7:55 am

(Hot Breakfast & Fresh Fruit Provided)





THE ATONEMENT A BRIEF WORD STUDY

The verb “to atone” (*kā-pār*) means “to cover over, make amends, pardon, release, appease, forgive”.¹ The root is found in the Hebrew language at all periods of its history, and perhaps is best known from the term “Yom Kippur”, Day of Atonement which is detailed in Leviticus 16. In Leviticus 17:11 we read, “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.” Catapult this truth to a greater and lasting “covering” that was coming and was promised in Gen. 3:15. The sacrificial practice was initiated by God as the first covering, Genesis 3:21, “The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” The noun form of the verb above (*kāp-pō-rēt*) refers to the atonement cover, lid, i.e., the ornamental top of the Ark of the Testimony, as the central place where sins are forgiven under the Old Covenant.² Also known as the “mercy seat” of God where blood would be sprinkled to atone for sin (Lev. 16:15). Linking this to the final blood sacrifice for sin and lasting covering, is Christ, which the apostle John writes in his first epistle, 1 John 4:10 reads, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. The word translated here as ‘atoning sacrifice’ (*hilasmos*) is found in only two places in the NT, both of them in this letter.³ It relates to the removal of guilt because of sin and the removal of sin through sacrifice. This is indeed how we know that God loves us.

1. Vines. 1984 Thomas Nelson, Nashville, TN.

2. Ibid.

3. Kruse, C. G. (2000). *The letters of John* (pp. 160–161). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos.

INTRODUCTION & RECAP

Eisegesis is man using his own preconceived ideas, and ideas outside of Scripture to determine the meaning of a passage.

Their starting point is not God’s Word but man’s fallible word.

They “draw in” a meaning to a passage instead of “drawing out” a meaning.

2 Timothy 2:15, “**Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**”

Let’s look at Man’s word a little closer! Man declares through whatever scientific means, that it is impossible to bring someone back from the dead after 3 days. If you read man’s word into Scripture then the message of the resurrection is false or at the very least, it wasn’t a real event, hence a fairytale.

And of course, if the resurrection could not have been a real event with a real person, then Jesus dying on the cross was not a real event with a real person. The natural progression of logic then dictates that Jesus did not exist in the flesh at all. It’s interesting what the Bible states on this subject.

1 John 4:3 (KJV) “**and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.**”

If you want to bring into Scripture man’s idea of death, then Jesus cannot possibly be real and salvation is a fabrication. But if you read God’s Word plainly with faith then Jesus was real and did indeed die on the cross for sin and rose from the dead 3 days later as

documented by the original eyewitnesses.

Now this makes it clear what the origin of man’s word really is... “*the spirit of the antichrist.*” So, man’s word as it opposes God’s Word is fundamentally opposed to the will of God and demonic in origin.

➔ Why would one believe the resurrection and not a literal six days of creation?

Remember: the only reason people want to deny a literal 24 hr./six-day creation account is because they are trying to fit man’s word of evolution/millions of years into the Scriptures and that didn’t begin until the 1800’s.

Why bring man’s word into Genesis when we have not brought man’s word into the gospel?

There is no wonder our youth grow increasingly disillusioned by the day when they are taught the religion of humanism and evolution/millions of years in schools and universities.

➔ What is the correct way to interpret and study Scripture?

It has always been **Exegesis**, which is the critical interpretation of the biblical text to discover its intended meaning. There are no less than 12 steps in determining the correct meaning where the further application can be arrived at, which falls into the study of hermeneutics which is the “*art of understanding*”.

Now the New Testament writers inspired by the Holy Spirit taught from a literal view of Genesis and quoted Genesis. “*There are at least 165 passages in Genesis that are either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the N.T.*”



Many of these are alluded to more than once, so that there are at least two hundred quotations or allusions to Genesis in the New Testament.”¹

When we begin to declare these facts, we catapult into the study of “apologetics” which is the art of logically defending the Christian faith. The church has dropped the ball on equipping our youth with the necessary tools to be effective.

➔ How crucial is it that your home church teaches apologetics?

As a sound definition, *Biblical apologetics is the field of Christian Theology by which a legitimate and valid defense or justification is made for our beliefs*, on a reasoned, biblical and evidential basis. In it the faithful Christian seeks to debunk the assumptions and presuppositions behind faithless positions related to salvation and Biblical inerrancy.

RECAP OF DAY

The word translated to “day” in Genesis is *yôm* and is used in Genesis to indicate a 24-hour day. It is always translated as a 24hr. day when it is accompanied by some combination of morning, evening and a number, which is exactly what we have in Genesis.

2 Peter 3:8, “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” While this verse has nothing to do with the creation account in Genesis, it is also worthy to note that “thousand” is another name for “families” or “clans”.

DAY FOUR OF CREATION

On the fourth day God created the celestial sphere of the stars

and planets surrounding them and illuminating the terrestrial sphere. That which illuminated creation on “day one”, has now been replaced with “lights” plural.

Time, that is day/morning and evening, which was established on Day 1 from the initial light has now been taken over by the creation of lights on day 4. The universe did not evolve, but as the Scriptures states, the universe as we observe today was created as fully functioning. What’s to be clearly recognized is that the narrative stresses the lights function as servants, subordinate to the interests of the earth. The purpose is to differentiate day and night and to distinguish the seasons, days, and years.

As the historical narrative in the Genesis account indicates, we must retain that *the earth is the center of God’s creation and humankind is the apex of God’s creation, for only we are created in the image of God.*

➔ *Who would want to erode this Biblical understanding?*

The passage also contradicts some common pagan misconceptions of worship of the celestial heavens. In *verse 16*, the usual Hebrew terms for “sun” and “moon” are avoided; they are described as the “greater” and “lesser” lights.

Genesis shows that the sun and moon are not cosmic deities worthy of reverence; the stars are no more than light-bearing bodies that are subservient to the needs of the earth.

Compare this with the ominous warning in the New Testament.

Romans 1:20, “For since the creation of the world God’s

GENESIS 1:14-25

And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years,¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so.¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth,¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.²² God 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.”²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so.

²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.”

¹ Morris, Henry M. Page 21 “The Genesis Record” 1976 Bake Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



THE CREATION MUSEUM

7C'S OF BIBLICAL HISTORY

CREATION – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). God tells us He created everything in six days, and it was very good.

CORRUPTION describes the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden. “But you shall not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Gen. 2:17).

CATASTROPE – Described in chapters 6-9 in Genesis is Noah’s flood, where God destroyed all animals with the breath of life in them.

CONFUSION – The disobedient descendants of Noah decided to stay in one place, building a tall tower that they hoped would help keep them all together. The Creator scattered them over all the earth which was the birth of many languages.

CHRIST – God’s gift to us is Christ Jesus who is fully God and fully human. Jesus was born to a virgin over 2,000 years ago in a town near Jerusalem called Bethlehem.

CROSS – Jesus our Savior willingly went to the Cross to pay the penalty for sin and to be the covering for sin, granting forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe.

CONSUMATION – When Jesus returns (reappears) He will make a new heaven and a new earth one day—one which we can’t even begin to imagine (2 Pet. 3:13). In this new place there will be no death, no crying or pain (Rev. 21:4).

(Teaching from Ken Ham & Creation Museum, KY)

invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without “excuse” (no defense against God).”

Accountability – *The stars of the night’s skies attest to the beauty and benevolence of God.*

➔ *When was the last time you gazed at the night’s sky?*

Psalm 19:1-4 reads, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ²Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³They have no speech; they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.”

And further reference to stars is found in *Job 9:8-10, “He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea. ⁹He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations of the south. ¹⁰He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.”*

It is essential to believe in the miraculous events of Genesis and the wonder God has completed in our own spiritual walk, in order that we can witness to others.

➔ What wonders has God revealed in your life?

Verse 20 – The word **teem** is a rich verb describing the action of marine life. It indicates swarming, a non-literal darting back and forth, multiplying and being innumerable. It is a figurative extension of the swarming creature such as insect swarms having very great abundance.²

“Birds” – winged creature that can fly; make linear movement through the air, usually by a self-directed use of wings by the object.³

Verse 21

Again, we have “created” = make something that has not been in existence before.

“Great creatures” – In the “Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains”⁴ and “Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon”⁵ the root meaning includes serpent, dragon, sea monster, sea dragon, a serpent like monster that lives in the deep. E.g. Monsters of the past that are now extinct.

Dragon legends all around the world should not be shrugged off as mere fairy tales. Most probably they represent memories of dinosaurs handed down by tribal ancestors who encountered them before they became extinct.

Psalm 104:26, “There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there”.

Job 41:1a, “Can you pull down the Leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with rope?”

A real sound apologetic argument against any form of biological evolution is unearthed in the word “kinds”.

In **v.21**, “kinds” is a type of entity in contrast to other entities.⁶ The Hebrew represents something closer to the “family” level of classification.

Observational science today in the field of DNA study is evidence of the historical science in the Bible concerning “kinds” of animals.

² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Brown, F., Driver, S. R., & Briggs, C. A. (1977). *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (p. 1072). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

⁶ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.



In other words, our understanding of DNA today as observational science will totally debunk biological evolution as Darwin taught.

Modern genetics has shown that all replicating systems function in the framework of the marvelous information program in the DNA molecule. DNA is the carrier of genetic information that is key to each kind.

Creationists today successfully debate evolutionists on this matter to the level that well-known atheist Richard Dawkins is now advocating that aliens brought the DNA code to earth.

The DNA for each kind is programmed to allow for wide individual variations within the kind, but not beyond the structure of the kind itself.

Now in **verses 24-25** the Hebrew word *mîn* (*kinds*) is used **five times**.

There is **NO** room in the Hebrew text for one kind of animal evolving into another kind, because God made each category “after its kind”.

Man’s word Vs. God’s Word

Listed in verse 25, there are three categories, Livestock (cattle), creeping things, and beasts of the earth.

There is no mention of dragon here but there is no mention of any specific kinds of animals, just the fact that God made them “after its kind”.

But this is defiantly the day, according to God’s Word, that he made: “kinds” of dinosaurs (terrible, powerful, wondrous lizard).

“When Vegetarians Ruled” is derived from Genesis that relates to every living thing being only allowed to eat green things.

Genesis 1:30, “And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.”

“Green plants” are any of the various herbs, grasses, seed-bearing vegetation for human or animal consumption.⁷

➔ Does the fact that green things are not living things (don’t have the breath of life) determine how we view or treat the environment?

➔ Do you see “kinds” of dinosaurs alive today?

Opinion: Those animals that were more afraid of us survived, but those animals that we were more afraid of; well, we killed them off eventually, post Noah’s flood.

INVITATIONAL VERSES

*1 Peter 2:24-25, “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”*²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

John 3:36, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.”

I pray that TODAY is the “**DAY OF YOUR SALVATION**” (2 Cor. 6:2)

Seeking to serve Jesus,

Rev. Matt D. Goodsell

Cell/text: 660.238.4341

SALVATION

HOW, WHY & WHEN?

First we must acknowledge God:

Romans 1:20-21: For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

Sin described: Sin is violation of the Ten Commandments of God. *Romans 3:20 says, “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the Law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin”.*

Therefore all have sinned:

Rom. 3:23 says, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”.

AND Sin Equals Death:

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The realization that we have broken God’s law and stand guilty before Him is the necessary broken condition of the heart that paves the way for the Gospel.

God’s Love: *Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Confess and be Saved:

Romans 10:9-10, “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess you are saved.”

Call On His Name!

Romans 10:13, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

A Salvation Prayer

“Dear Jesus, I am a sinner. I repent of my sins. Please forgive me and save me by your shed blood; come into my heart. I want to receive you as my own personal Lord and Savior. Amen”

⁷ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

