

# THE 7 DAYS OF CREATION



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# THE 7 DAYS OF CREATION

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## *INTRODUCTION*

When considering the origin of the universe and man, Dr. George Wald, a Nobelist from Harvard, best summarized the choice of possibilities as follows; *"When it comes to the origin of life on this earth, there are only two possibilities; creation or spontaneous generation (evolution). There is no third way."* In March, 2003, the New York Times published a poll that stated *"48% of Americans believe in creationism and only 28% in evolution, and Americans are more than twice as likely to believe in the devil (68%) as in evolution."* If there are only two possibilities for the origin of the universe and man, and a clear majority of Americans believe in creation as the only choice, then why is the current media and academia aggressively selling evolution? Additionally, when reading current secular magazines, watching the Discovery Channel, History Channel, PBS, or news stations, have you noticed that evolution and its companion of billions and millions of years of age are presented as fact? The choice between evolution and creation can present a dilemma to the Christian (and their families) who believes the Bible is the inerrant word of God that presents a creation account of the universe and man that is significantly different than the theory of evolution. As a result of this dilemma, some Christians and a majority of Christian colleges accept evolution as fact (after all, science has proved that evolution is factual, the universe is about 15 billion years old, the earth is 4.5 billion years old, man evolved about 1 million years ago, and dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago – right?). So, the first two chapters of Genesis are discounted, while the rest of the Bible is accepted as truth. During a recent meeting of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities,

a leader of the group complained to the college presidents in attendance that the number one problem facing Christian colleges today is (not promiscuity, not situational ethics, not the loss of biblical authority).....*"the attack of the young-earth creationists!"* Interestingly, the choice between evolution and creation presents an interesting problem; either the Bible is the inspired word of God and is true from the first verse in Genesis to the last verse in Revelation, or evolution is true as delineated by science. Obviously, God would not give us a book that is partially true (if this were the case, then what parts are true and false, and ultimately, is the resurrection true?) as this would question the deity and omnipotence of God; so it is clear there is a major problem. Therefore, a Christian must choose one of the two previous options; (1) accept the entire Bible as inspired truth, (2) accept evolution as a method that has been proven by science, or, formulate a third option of combining the two options by accepting the scientific account of evolution and stealthy slide it into the first several verses of Genesis with some alternative definitions to a few key words which conveniently then allows the theory of evolution to be an integral part of Genesis.

With these thoughts in mind, let's look at few facts that might surprise you, as the alleged scientific account of evolution that is presented in the media is not as interesting (or as factual) as the facts that are **not** presented by the media. Initially, let's briefly define evolution and creation. First, the biblical account of creation as found in the first chapter of Genesis is simple and straightforward, and clearly states that *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* Genesis then goes on to say that God created the universe and man in six days, and then rested on the seventh day. Period! End of sentence! You must either accept or reject it. If this sounds rather straightforward, that's because the Bible is straightforward and has not changed since it was written! When reading the Bible, remember three basic concepts. The first concept is the inerrancy of the entire Bible as outlined in 2 Timothy 3:16, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* This verse tells us that **ALL** scripture is inspired by God and is suitable for instruction and equipping us in our daily lives. The second concept is the principle of simplicity and goes something like this; *"We ought to take what God says and understand that if God said it, that's probably what He meant, or else He would have said it a different*

way." This principle comes from a simplistic perspective that means God *"Said it so we can understand it."* The third concept also comes from a simplistic approach but is taken directly from scripture and is known as the principle of straightforwardness; *"All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverted in them. They are all straightforward to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge," Proverbs 8:8-9.* This principle is similar to the first and second principles as it focuses on the straightforward truth of scripture.

Next, and significantly different than the creation account, evolution is defined from two perspectives; micro and macro evolution. Micro evolution is defined as change within a species (as an example, there are numerous varieties of dogs, cats, birds, etc). Is micro evolution true? Absolutely! Macro evolution is defined as change between species (ape to man, etc). So, is macroevolution true? Absolutely not! In fact, macro evolution violates all of the observed processes of the universe and nature (and the Bible). Why therefore, is evolution presented as fact and creation as a religion that is not scientifically acceptable? According to noted Theologian Dr. Clark Pinnock, *"The reason evolution is believed and taught as fact is not due to the evidence for it, but rather due to the need for it!"* This statement means that evolution does not hold anyone accountable for anything as you are nothing more than an evolving animal! Opposed to this viewpoint is a creator who created man and holds him/her accountable to God. Most people are unwilling to submit their lives to God, and there you have the whole debate in a nutshell!

Although there are numerous reasons why evolution is scientifically impossible, the evidence against evolution constantly increases as science continually makes new discoveries that further validate the accuracy of the Bible (both in creation and archaeology). A prime example is the Law of Biogenesis that can be found in most Biology textbooks. This law clearly states that life can only come from pre-existing life, yet evolution asks that we believe that somehow, someday, chemicals bonded together in a pre-biotic ocean and created life. If the Law of Biogenesis is correct, then evolution is a false assumption. Additionally, a Christian can know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Bible is accurate from a scientific perspective if the evidence is examined without the input of the current



secular scientific bias. The difficulty with this perspective is that 1 Peter 3:19 says “*And always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is within you, with meekness and fear, having a good conscience.*” The obvious problem with the application of this verse is that Christians do not hold a PhD. in the sciences, so how do you have a basic understanding of the why and how God created the universe in 7 days, and the biblical account is accurate (Fig1)?



***Fig 1: Defending the Bible from a scientific perspective can be challenging unless you have done some homework***

This seminar will overview the biblical account of the 7 days of creation with the goal of giving you a better understanding of what God said He did during those 7 days. Remember, He was the only one present during the creation, therefore, He is the most qualified to give an account of how creation actually happened. So, let's take a close look at each day of the 7 day creation account as outlined in chapters 1&2 in the first book of the Bible; Genesis. *Note: All following biblical quotes are taken from the New English Translation (NET Bible) unless otherwise noted.*

## SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION

### GENESIS 1:1

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

- This is the title to chapter 1
- What is the how, when, and why of this verse?
  - How:
    - God spoke it into existence
    - 6 literal days
    - pattern of work for 6 days, 1 day of rest (Ex 20:11)
  - When:
    - about 6,000 years ago
  - Why:
    - display his glory (Rev 4:11)
    - eternally be praised and glorified (Isa 43:7&21)
    - display redemption (Gal 4:4-5)

### GENESIS 1:2

*Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.*

- This verse provides information about the state of things when God spoke
- The next verse (v3) begins the narrative sequence proper

Now, let's go back and look at verses 1&2 and consider a major translation problem that is prevalent in the church and Christian academia today:

### GENESIS 1:1-2

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.*

- When this verse is read as written, it appears to flow from the beginning of verse one to the end of verse two. However, there are some alternative viewpoints that translate this verse as follows:

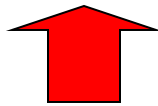
*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

- Then, in the next verse the word “*was*” is retranslated or changed to the word “*became!*” So, the next verse (v2) would then read as follows:

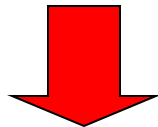
*The earth became without shape and empty; and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.*

- This subtle change allows a gap of time to be inserted between the first and second verse depicted as follows:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*



## GAP THEORIES



*The earth became without shape and empty; and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.*

- Why? Because billions and millions of years can then be inserted between these two verses which allows for the billions and millions of years that evolution requires! This basic viewpoint is known by various names such as the Gap Theory, Ruin Reconstruction Theory, Day Age Theory, and so on. Currently, the most popular viewpoint is known as the “Progressive Creation” movement, but the basic idea of a gap between the first and second verses is still the same. From a simplistic viewpoint, all of these theories can be summarized with some or all of the following beliefs:
  - gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2
  - retranslate “*was*” to “*became*”
  - Satan fell, God judged with a catastrophe (this allegedly caused the gap)
  - the six days are a recreation

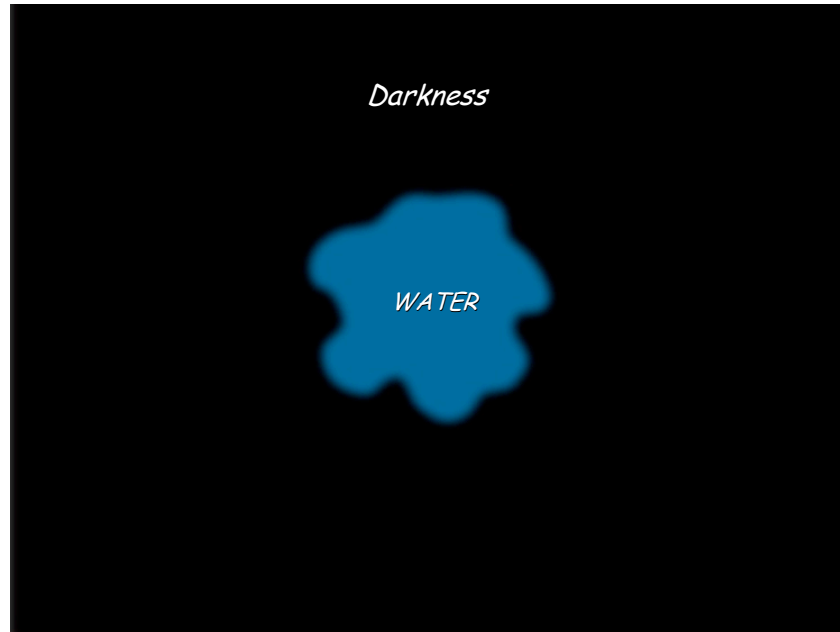
- earth and universe are billions of years old
- creation days are long periods of time
- death and bloodshed existed before Adam and Eve
- and finally, the Noahic flood was local, not global
- Although these viewpoints are contrary to scripture, they have, nonetheless, become very popular as evolution can become an integral part of the creation account. However, consider the following verse and quote:
  - “For this is what the Lord says, the one who created the sky; He is the true God, the one who formed the earth and made it; He established it, **He did not create it without order, He formed it to be inhabited**, I am the Lord, I have no peer.” Isa 45:18
  - *“Probably, so far as I know, there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Genesis 1-11 intended to convey to their readers that creation took place in a series of 6 days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience, and Noah’s flood was understood to be worldwide”*

*James Barr, Regis Professor of Hebrew, Oxford University*

- Now, let’s go back to Genesis 1:1-2, and read it (without any modern and/or scientific help) the way it was originally written, and consider some of the meanings of the original Hebrew text:

***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.***

- *In the beginning God*: This is the beginning of space, time, energy, and matter as we know it. The Hebrew word “God” means God of Gods
- *Created*: God created something new, fresh, and perfect
- *Heavens and the earth*: Characterized by fixed laws; Jer 33:25
- *Without shape and empty*: Unbounded mass of water (Fig 2)
- *Darkness*: Symbolizes what opposes God; sin; Isa 45:7
- *Watery deep*: Abyss like deep! Surrounds and underlies the earth; Gen 7:11
- *Spirit of God moving over the surface*: God was personally involved!



*Fig 2: Unbounded mass of water surrounded by darkness*

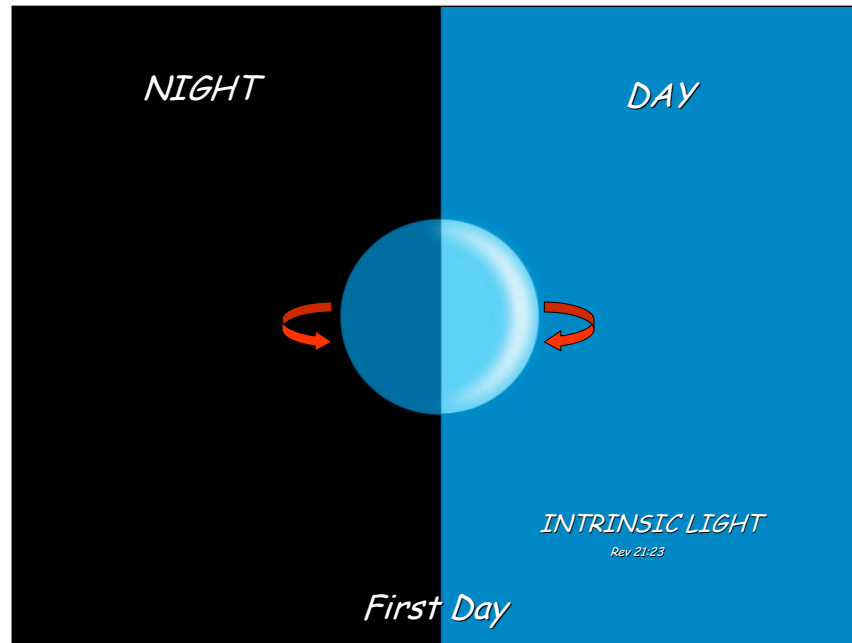
## SUMMARY

- Genesis affirms everything as the product of God's creative act
- God spoke it into existence. Earth was originally all water
- Marked the beginning of space, time, energy, and matter (as we know it)
- God was actively involved, fixed laws that remain today

### Genesis 1:3-5

*God said, "Let there be light." And there was light! God saw that the light was good, so God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day", and the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning, marking the first day.*

- *God said:* Introduces the law (commandments that must be obeyed)
- *Let there be light:* Light spectrum and associated laws. Includes gravity, electromagnetic spectrum, etc
- *And God saw the light, that it was good:* Reflection. Only light was good
- *God separated light from darkness:* Light was created to dispel darkness (Fig 3)



*Fig 3: Light separated from the darkness*

- The Hebrew word for day is “*yom*” which can be defined as various periods of time. However, *yom* always means 24 hours when any of the following are present (also see Ex 20:11):
  - preceded by a numeric
  - with evening and morning
  - associated with night
- In a biblical context, the word day means 24 hours. So, if the 7 days of creation are seven 24 hour days, how long ago did creation take place? The answer is about 6,185 years ago (the exact time for the Egyptian Sojourn and the Israelite Monarchy is not known, but is likely in the hundreds of years, if at all) and is figured as follows from biblical chronology (going backwards):
  - 2007 years since present to BC/AD
  - 2,170 years from BC/AD to Abraham
  - 352 years from Abraham to the flood
  - 1,656 years from the flood to creation

- In the context of creation being approximately 6,000 to 7,000 years old, the following quote is more than interesting:

*“There isn’t much in the way of observational evidence in astronomy to conflict with a very young age for the sun and earth; less than 7,000 years”*

*Evolutionist John Eddy, one of the world’s leading Astronomers*

## SUMMARY

- Earth was round (Prov 8:27, Isa 40:22)
- Earth was rotating, cyclical (evening and morning)
- Intrinsic light (light was good)
- God separated light from darkness
- Word “day” is used

### Genesis 1:6-8

*God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters and let it separate water from water.” So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. It was so. God called the expanse “sky.” There was evening, and there was morning, a second day.*

- This portion does not give the specific distance/location of the upper waters. As a result, there is a significant amount of conjecture on this section of scripture. The vapor canopy version is currently the most popular
- *Expanse*: Expanse of air pressure between the surface of the sea and the clouds; separating the water below from the water above (Fig 4)
- *“Sky”*: The name God gave to expanse. Sky like a molten mirror, shiny (Job 37:18, Dan 12:3, Ezek 1:22). Vapor canopy version (Fig 5)
- *“It was so.”* Indicates that it happened the way God designed it (word and event)

## SUMMARY

- Shore less ocean
- Absence of the word “good”
- Waters divided (above and below)
- Expanse (sky)

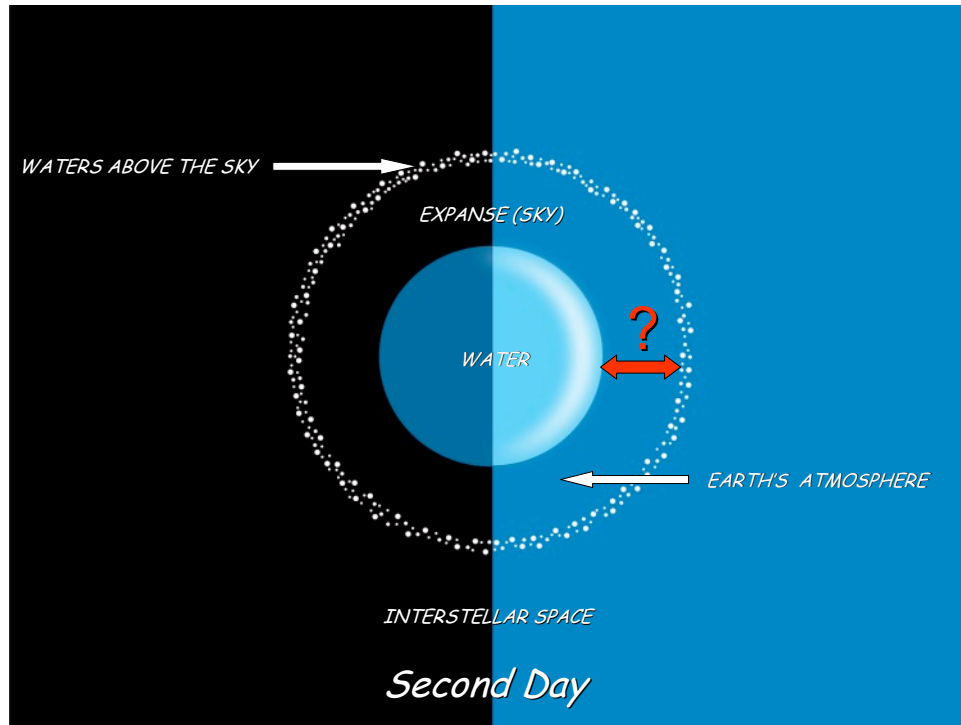


Fig 4: Waters are separated

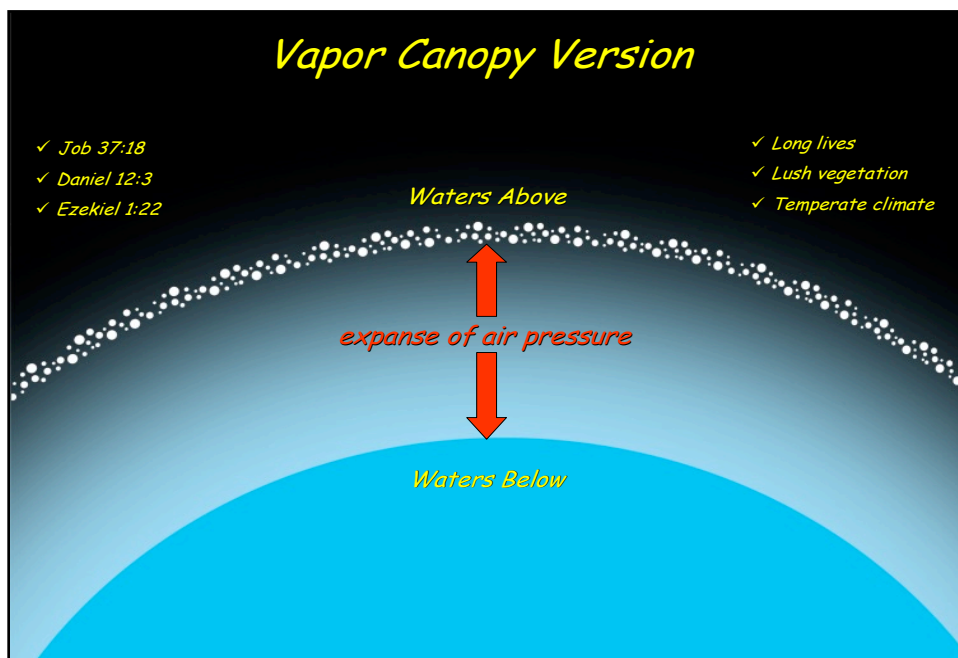
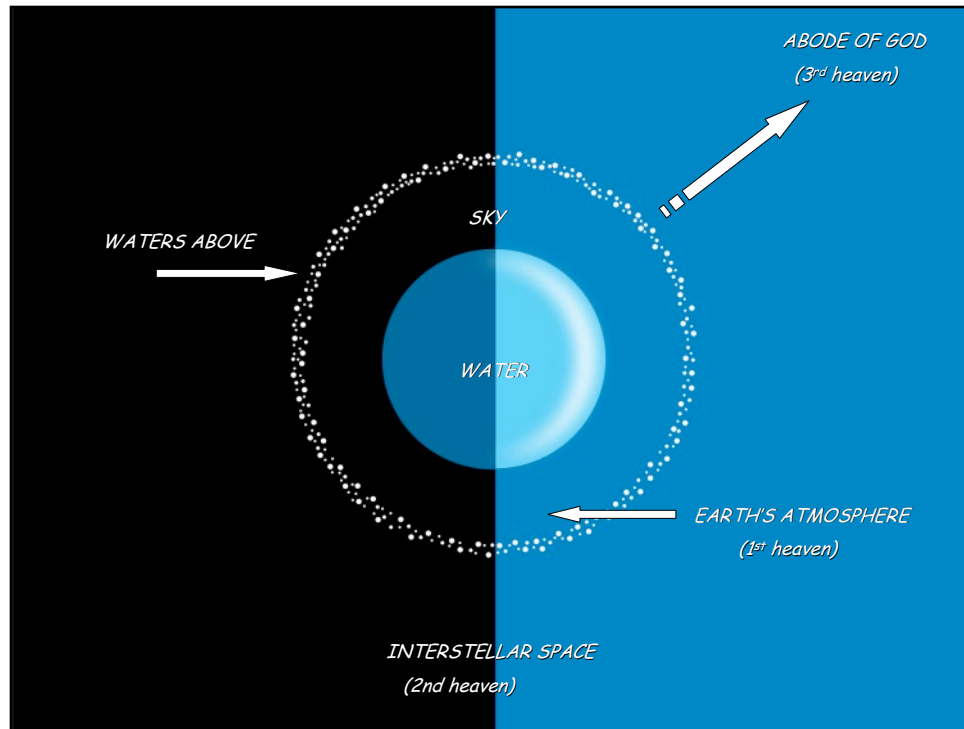


Fig 5: Vapor canopy version





**Fig 6: Three heavens**

- 3 heavens (2 Cor 12:1-4, Fig 6):
  - earths atmosphere
  - interstellar space
  - abode of God

### Genesis 1:9-13

*God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place and let dry ground appear." It was so. God called the dry ground "land" and the gathered waters he called "seas." God saw that it was good. God said, "let the land produce vegetation: plants yielding seeds according to their kinds." It was so. The land produced vegetation – plants yielding seeds according to their kinds, and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. God saw that it was good. There was evening and morning, a third day.*

- *Dry ground appear*: God named this "land." Land is singular
- *Gathered waters*: God named this "seas." Seas are plural (Fig 7)

- *Vegetation*: Grass, plants, and trees. Stresses abundant productivity God created
- *Plants, trees, seeds, and kinds*: Introduces DNA

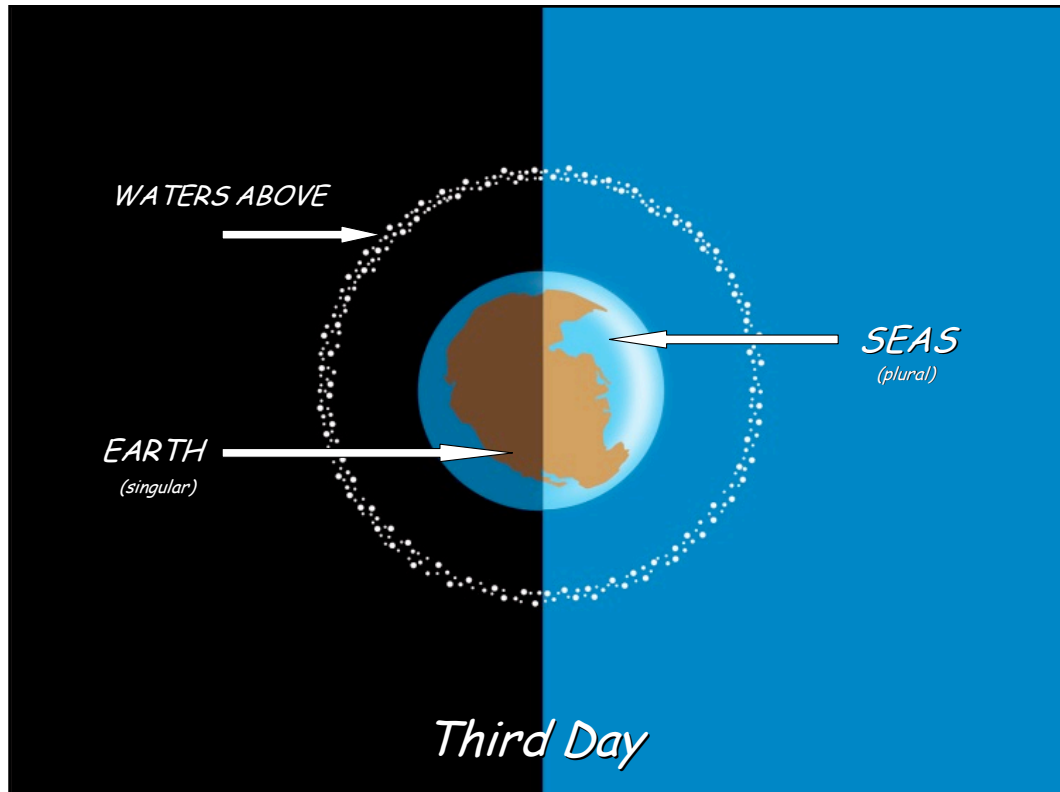


Fig 7: Land is singular, seas are plural

## SUMMARY

- First day, water based earth, light divided from darkness
- Second day, waters were divided
- Third day, land divided from lower waters
- Ground/land is singular (probably one continent, Pangaea)
- Grass, herbs, trees. Made full grown, “apparent age” (seed was in themselves)
- Mentions kinds (DNA). Order not chaos; boundaries
- Vegetation does not have the “breath of life”

### GENESIS 1:14-19

*God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs to indicate seasons and days and years, and let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights – the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night. He made the stars also. God placed the lights in the expanse of the sky to shine on the earth, to preside over the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good.*

*There was evening and morning, a fourth day.*

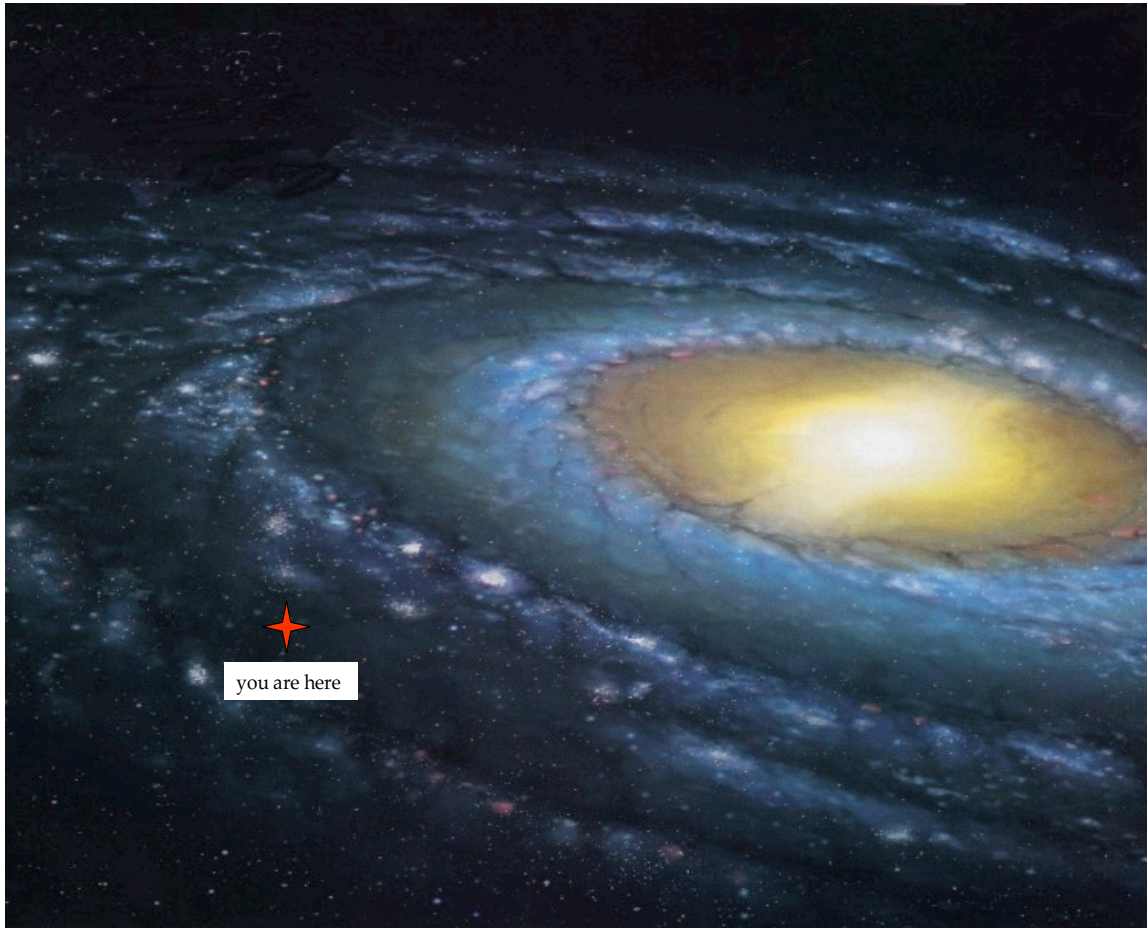
- *Let there be lights:* Light was created before the light bearers
- *Let them be for signs:* The two great lights were important to fix the days and seasons for the worshipping community
- *Two great lights:* Created entities, not deities. Text does not give them names
- *Stars:* Added as a third object of the verb "made"
- *Separate light from darkness:* Light to divide the darkness from the light

## SUMMARY

- Lights are plural here but singular in verse three. Two great lights; not named
- Attaches lights to generators
- Separation, signs, dominate, and seasons
- Days one to three there is a naming by God, days five to six there is a blessing by God. On day four there is neither
- It was so, and it remains so today
- He made the stars also (Fig 8&9).....

*"Look at the sky! Who created all these heavenly lights? He is the one who leads out their ranks; he calls them all by name. Because of his absolute power and awesome strength, not one of them is missing" Psa 40:26*

*"The heavens declare God's glory; the sky displays his handiwork. Day after day it speaks out; night after night it reveals his greatness" Psa 19:1-2*



*Fig 8: The Milky Way Galaxy; our home*

Factors necessary for life on this planet. *Note: This list is steadily expanding:*

- Habitable zone ("Goldilocks Zone")
- Liquid water
- Protected by gas giant planets
- Within circumstellar habitable zone
- Nearly circular orbit
- Oxygen rich atmosphere
- Correct mass
- Orbited by large moon
- Magnetic field and plate tectonics



- Ratio of liquid water and continents
- Terrestrial planet
- Moderate rate of rotation



*Fig 9: The sky as viewed without our atmosphere*

#### GENESIS 1:20-23

*God said, "Let the water swarm with swarms of living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." God created the great sea creatures and every living and moving thing with which the water swarmed, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." There was evening, and there was morning, a fifth day.*

- *Swarm with swarms*: Emphasize the abundant fertility (Ex 1:7)
- *Let birds fly*: Stresses a swarming flight
- *Great sea creatures*: Underscore that these creatures, even the great ones (Fig 10) are part of God's perfect creation
- *God blessed them*: God endowed them with the capacity to reproduce



*Fig 10: God created great sea creatures that are now extinct*

## SUMMARY

- By the fifth day, there is a water canopy, seas, earth, atmosphere, heavenly bodies, seasons, light attached to generators, and vegetation
- Only vegetation, birds, and creatures in the seas have been created to this point in the creation account
- Creatures have been endowed with the ability to reproduce

## GENESIS 1:24-31

*God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds; cattle, creeping things, and wild animals, each according to its kind." It was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the cattle according to their kinds, and all the creatures that creep along the ground according to their kinds. God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth." God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it! Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I now give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the entire earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the animals of the earth and to every bird of the air, and to all the creatures that move on the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it; I give every green plant for food." It was so. God saw all that he had made - and it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

- *Each according to their kinds:* There are three groups of land animals; (1) things that creep (reptiles, rodents, etc), (2) wild animals (animals of the field), and (3) cattle (domesticated animals). General classifications without specific details
- *Let us make:* The plural here is most naturally understood as referring to God and his heavenly court (1 Kings 22:19, Job 1:6-12, Isa 6:1-8), likely angels
- *Mankind:* Although the Hebrew word is "Adam," the term here refers to humankind. This does not distinguish man from woman
- *After our likeness:* Likely stresses the spiritual rather than the physical
- *In our image:* God given mental and spiritual capacities that enables mankind to relate to God and serve him
- *So that they may rule:* Mankind may rule the created order on behalf of the heavenly king and his royal court
- *Male and female, he created them:* Another point of separation in God's creation



- *God blessed them:* Endowed with the capacity to reproduce and be fruitful
- *Fill the earth and subdue it:* Harness its potential for their benefit
- *Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground:* Mankind has the responsibility of seeing to the welfare of that which is put under them and the privilege of using to their benefit
- *I now give you every seed bearing plant on the face of the entire earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the animals of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to all the creatures that move on the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food:* Although meat is not mentioned, it is generally accepted that everything with the breath of life were vegetarians until after the flood
- *And it was very good:* This is the first time “very good” is used, which indicates that everything to this point in creation is “very good”

## SUMMARY

- Three kinds of animals; (1) creeping, (2) wild, and (3) domesticated
- Mankind created
- Mankind to rule over the earth
- Mankind and animals were vegetarians
- Everything is very good!

### GENESIS 2:1-4

*The heavens and the earth were completed with everything that was in them. By the seventh day God finished the work that he had been doing, and he ceased on the seventh day all the work that he had been doing. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it he ceased all the work that he had been doing in creation. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created; when the LORD GOD made the earth and heavens.*

- *And He ceased:* Not a rest from exhaustion. It is cessation of the work
- *Blessed the seventh day and made it holy:* The seventh day belongs to God as it was for rest from ordinary labor, to worship, and spiritual service
- *This is the account:* Tracing of events from creation through the fall and judgment (2:4 to 4:26)
- *LORD GOD:* Introduces the name “Yahweh” or LORD



## GENESIS 2:5-7

*Now no shrub of the field had yet grown on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. Springs would well up from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. The LORD God formed the man from the soil of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

- *No shrub of the field had yet grown on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted:* There was no general growth as there was no rain. Another way of saying “back before anything was growing”
- *There was no man to cultivate the ground:* Anticipates the curse and expulsion from the garden
- *Springs would well up from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground:* Subterranean springs or waterways, since the water “goes up.” Water would water all the surface of the fertile soil (Fig 11)

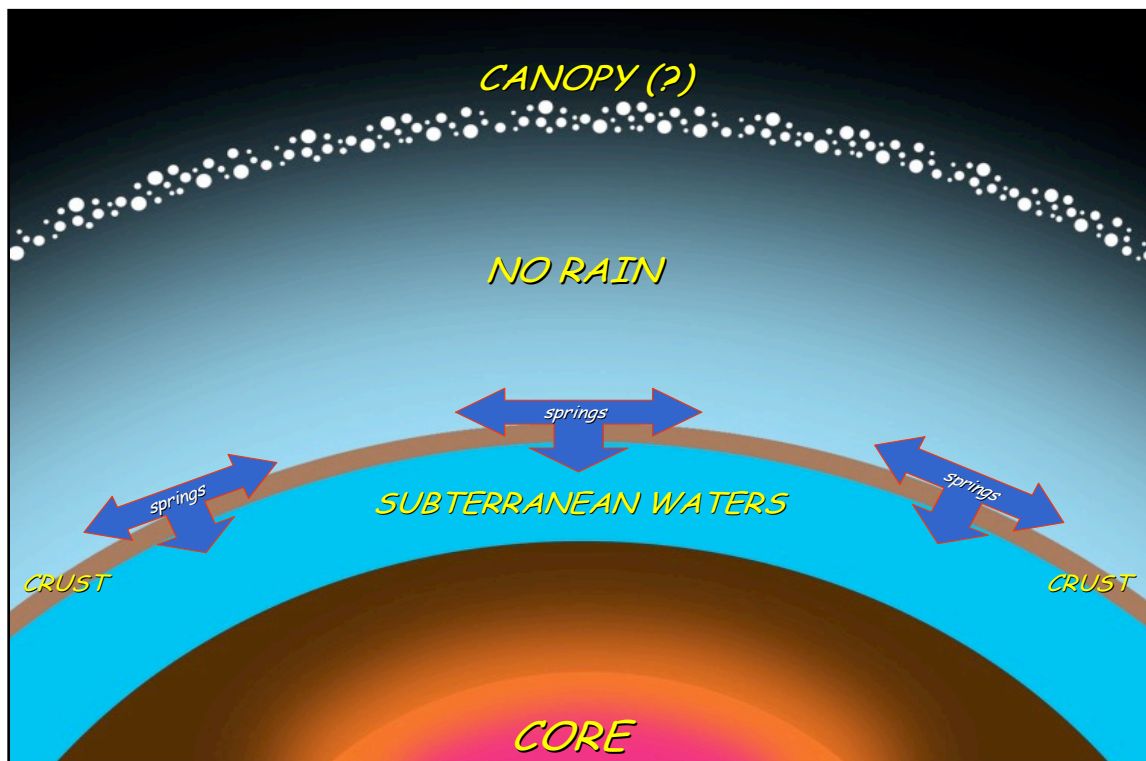


Fig 11: Subterranean waters would water the whole surface of the ground

- *The LORD God formed*: Fashioned by plan or design. The term for an artists work
- *Breath of life*: Life imparted to humans, spiritual understanding, and has a functioning conscience

#### GENESIS 2:8-10

*The LORD God planted an orchard in the east, Eden; and there he placed the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow from the soil, every tree that was pleasing to look at and good for food. (Now the tree of life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil were in the middle of the orchard). Now a river flows from Eden to water the orchard, and from there it divides into four headstreams.*

- *Orchard*: Traditionally a garden, but the Hebrew text indicates it was an orchard of edible trees
- *LORD God planted an orchard*: Suggests the orchard was created after man
- *Eden*: Means pleasure in Hebrew
- *Tree of life*: Produced life giving fruit. Also in Rev 22:2
- *Tree of knowledge*: Tree would provide fruit, which when eaten, gave special knowledge of good and evil
- *A river flows from Eden*: The narrative indicates Eden still existed in the narrator's time

#### GENESIS 2:15-17

*The LORD God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for and maintain it. Then the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat fruit from every tree of the orchard, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die."*

- *To care for and maintain it*: To care for and maintain the trees of the orchard Not until after the fall is he condemned to cultivate the soil. The main focus is for man to keep God's commandments
- *Surely die*: Death is essentially separation from God

#### GENESIS 2:18-22

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion for him who corresponds to him." The LORD God formed out of the*

*ground every living animal of the field and every bird of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man named all the animals, the birds of the air, and the living creatures of the field, but for Adam no companion who corresponded to him was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was asleep, he took part of the man's side and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the part he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

- *It is not good for the man to be alone:* God instructed man to be fruitful and multiply, so he cannot comply by himself
- *I will make a companion:* Helper. Does not suggest a subordinate. Woman would supply what man was lacking
- *But for Adam, no companion who corresponded to him was found:* Adam realized the animals had companions/mates, Adam did not
- *This one shall be called woman:* The text specifically says “of this one it will be said woman.” Eve is not specifically named until after the fall
- *And unites with his wife:* Describes the inseparable relationship between the man and the woman in marriage as God intended it

## SUMMARY

- God completed creation in six days and ceased on the seventh day. A model for our work week (Ex 20:11)
- Subterranean springs would water the ground. No rain
- God planted an orchard in Eden with trees of life and knowledge
- Man was given a choice of obeying or disobeying God
- Adam names animals and realizes he does not have a companion
- God creates woman
- Satan likely fell soon after the seventh day. After the seventh day, everything was very good, and Eve had not yet conceived after being instructed to be fruitful and multiply

## GENESIS 3:1-7

*Now the serpent was more shrewd than any of the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Is it really true that God said, You must not eat from any tree of the orchard?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die." The serpent said to the woman, "Surely you will not die, for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like divine beings who know good from evil." When the woman saw that the tree produced fruit that was good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of it to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

- *Now the serpent:* Satan comes in the disguise of a serpent or speaks through a serpent
- *Was more shrewd:* Clever, crafty. The point is, the integrity of the man and woman is the focus of the serpent's craftiness. At the beginning they are naked and he is shrewd. Afterward, they will be covered and he will be cursed
- *That God said:* The serpent does not use the phrase LORD God because there is no covenant relationship. He only speaks of God, and draws the woman in so she also only speaks "of God"
- *We may eat:* Notice the change between what the LORD God said and what the woman says. She also adds "you must not touch it"
- *Surely, you will not die:* Satan is a liar, denying that there is a penalty for sin
- *You will be like divine beings who know good and evil:* Satan implies that the only reason for the prohibition was that God was protecting the divine domain. If the man and woman were to eat, they would enter into that domain. The temptation is to overstep divinely established boundaries
- *Was attractive to the eye:* Strong desires usually lead to taking
- *And he ate it:* Apparently willingly

## GENESIS 3:8-13

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the orchard at the breezy time of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the orchard. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" The man replied, "I heard you moving about in the orchard, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." And the LORD God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it." So the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman replied, "The serpent tricked me and I ate."*

- *The sound of the LORD God moving about:* Likely, God is not pictured as taking an afternoon stroll, but as coming in a powerful windstorm to confront the man and woman with their rebellion. Sound of the LORD may refer to God's thunderous roar which typically accompanies his appearance
- *Where are you"? Why are you hiding?*
- *Who told you that you were naked"? Reveals the LORD God's real concern*
- *Whom you gave me:* Ultimately, the man is blaming God for giving him the woman
- *The serpent tricked me:* The blame game continues

## SUMMARY

- Satan appears through a serpent to tempt Adam and woman
- Satan initially tempts the woman. She received God's instructions through Adam
- Satan distorts God's instructions
- Adam and woman willingly sin by disobeying God
- God confronts Adam and woman
- Adam and woman use the "blame game"

## GENESIS 3:14-20

*The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the wild beasts and all the living creatures of the field! On your belly you will crawl and dust you will eat all the days of your life. And I will put*

*hostility between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; her offspring will attack your head, and you will attack her offspring's heel." To the woman He said, "I will greatly increase your labor pains; with pain you will give birth to children. You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate you." But to Adam He said, "Because you obeyed your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, you must not eat from it, cursed is the ground thanks to you; in painful toil will you eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, but you will eat from the grain of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat food until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return."*

- *The LORD God said to the serpent:* Note that God asks no question of the serpent, there is only a curse. Condemned to isolation from all the other animals
- *Dust you will eat:* Symbol of humiliation. Serpent will now live in a battle zone
- *You will attack her offspring's heel:* A bite on the heel from a poisonous snake is potentially fatal
- *You will want to control your husband:* She will desire to control him, but he will dominate her instead. It announces that conflict between man and woman will become the norm in human society. But in Christ, man and woman call a truce and live harmoniously
- *Because you obeyed your wife:* The man obeyed his wife and disobeyed God
- *On your account:* Because of you
- *In painful toil will you eat:* Because the man and woman sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, God will forbid the ground to cooperate, and so it will be through painful toil that they will eat
- *Until you return to the ground:* In spite of the dreams of immortality and divinity, man is but dust, and will return to dust. So much for his pride
- *And to dust you will return:* **The themes of the curse oracles are important. In the New Testament teaching, Jesus became the cursed one hanging on the tree. In his suffering and death, all the motifs are drawn together; the tree, the sweat, the thorns, and the dust of death. Jesus experienced it all, to have victory over it through the resurrection**

**GENESIS 3:20-24**

*The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments from skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. And the LORD God said, "Now that the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not be allowed to stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God expelled him from the orchard in Eden to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. When he drove the man out, he placed on the eastern side of the orchard in Eden sentries who used the flame of a whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.*

- *Eve*: Means living one
- *Made garments from skin*: Preparing them for the more hostile environment in which they will soon be living
- *Stretch out his hand*: To take
- *The eastern side*: Directions in ancient Israel were given in relation from the east
- *Sentries*: Cherubim seems to be a class of Angel who's main task was guarding
- *Whirling sword*: Whirling around, ready to cut to shreds anyone who tried to pass

**SUMMARY**

- God curses the serpent, the ground, and imposes judgment on the woman
- Christ repeats the tenets of the fall on the cross, but has victory through the resurrection
- Adam names woman "Eve"
- God prepares Adam and Eve for their new hostile environment
- The orchard is placed "off limits"