

Following the Biblical Stream:

By Philip E. Busby

Part V

Last issue, we talked about the third and fourth days of creation, and now we move on to the fifth day. This brings us to the twentieth verse of Genesis 1. Here we see the creation of both water animals and fowls. Once again, the wording here deserves to be looked at closely. Many times we think the scripture does not talk about things scientist think they have uncovered, but most of the time it is just because we do not look at what is actually being said! Here we need to look forward and back and talk about not only verse 20, but 11 and 24. In these verses, God does not just reach down and create plants and animals. In this study, we have talked about the fact that God simply created some things by speaking them into existence. However, here we see God giving an order that differs from the past verses. In the first verses of this chapter, we find that God creates the heavens and the earth. He does not build them out of something; He creates them. After this, God said “Let there be light,” and of course light comes out of nothing! Then God moves the water around, putting a firmament in place and causing dry ground to appear. Then we see something very interesting. When it comes to the creation of the plant and animal life, God does not just speak it into existence. He actually commands the elements already in place to “bring forth”! Today scientists look at the earth and see what they call ecosystems. These are complex systems consisting of different combinations of the ground, plants, animals, and water working together. Here that is exactly what the Bible is describing to us. First off, it is literally the ground that brings forth the plants. Not just dry land plants, but all vegetation, including plants that live in water. Then after putting this vegetation in place, God calls for the water to bring forth animals that inhabit water, and fowl of the air. It is not odd that God puts these two animals into creation at the same time, or that He orders the water to bring forth both the marine animals and birds. Remember, the atmosphere of the planet was created by lifting water above the earth. So, the wording of verse 20 is right in line with the wording of earlier verses. Then in verse 24, we see God

calling on the ground to bring forth the animals that would live on it. So, here we find God not just creating elements and then putting them together in a finely tuned balance; but instead, we see God putting certain elements in place (earth, water, and light), then calling on these elements to bring forth the things we call life.

All the way from those who worship “mother earth” to those who do the same and call it science, we see people trying to deny the existence of The One True God. However, the things they worship and “study” prove over and over the Bible is true! Of course, there is a balance in nature! God called for the elements to bring forth, and in the strength they were created, they did so. God caused the ground to bring forth plant life. This part is easy to understand. Plants are directly connected to the ground, and plant life is the base food for all animal life. Even animals that eat other animals, mostly eat the animals that eat the plants. After that, God creates the sun, moon, and stars. As we talked about in the last issue, this creates a cycle, not just for man but for the other life on the earth as well. For anyone who is serious about gardening, it is obvious plant life is very sensitive to these cycles. If you plant your garden in the wrong time of year you will get little to nothing out of it. In most parts of the world, if you plant in the wrong time of year you will get less than nothing! You will lose your seed by rotting or freezing in the ground. Beyond the simple observance of the seasons, which is mostly due to our journey around the sun, there is even benefit of knowing when to plant according to the moon’s cycle. For a long time, many so called scientists said this was a bunch of bologna. However, more and more scientific proof is coming to light that this is very true. Now that we are on this issue, let me take the time to talk to believers in God who feel this is a wrong thing to observe!

There are those who would say that observing these cycles is wrong for the true believer. They say this mostly because so much of the information is steeped in the worship of the stars. I won’t deny this is true, but the facts of God’s creation are facts. It is

not wrong for us to know and follow these facts. What is wrong is when we allow ourselves to fall into the pagan worship man has put around them. You do not benefit from giving a sacrifice to a god or throwing salt over your shoulder. There are no beneficial rain dances, and we are not talking about the idea of planting according to the sacred day of some tribe. We are also not talking about the idea of observing the signs of the zodiac, or reading a horoscope. We are, however, talking about the benefit of seeing the God created cycles of creation. Planting according to the cycles that are clearly evident in the moon, which God said He created for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years, (Gen. 1:14) is no different than waiting for, “the frost to thaw.” If we wait for spring to plant our seed, is that wrong? No. Plants are clearly affected by light as much as heat. Is it wrong for us to know what plant needs full sun and which one needs less? No. God said, He created the sun and the moon to give light to the earth and to rule the day and night! The moon is as important as the sun in this earth’s cycles. We should not let the fact that many people worship the earth, keep us from enjoying the things God has given us. This is why the Jewish nation is given feasts and observances in the Law of Moses that have to do with planting and harvest. As pagan man tried to say it was the earth that gave him food, the people of God thanked The Lord above, The Creator of all life, for the world He had made! For the true believer in Christ, it should be the same. The Gentiles were given no such observances, but the fact we should take time to thank God for our food is clearly evident in the fact the Jews were given such commands. So, keep on saying grace before those meals!

Now these cycles we are talking about were originally so strong they took care of themselves, but after the fall, man was told the earth would not yield its strength anymore. He would have to work by the sweat of his brow to grow food. Part of this sweat would be the fact that he would have to figure out the cycles of planting and harvest. After the flood, God promised that these cycles would continue as long as the earth did. This was a very necessary thing for our survival. Because of the curse and the flood, these cycles come at different

times in different parts of the world. They even come in different severities (hot and cold), but they will still always come!

After the sun, moon, and stars, God calls for the water to bring forth life. This puts life in the water and sky. Finally, we see God give the earth one more command, that it bring forth animal life. In the end, each of these parts of creation are brought forth in just the order we have come to understand, and, of course, they are by their very creation brought forth in perfect balance with each other.

As we look at verse 21, we see God created everything that moved in the water and air. This verse emphasizes, once again everything was in place. The fact there are animals that live in the water and still have to come to the surface for air is in no way evidence that these animals “evolved.” Every “kind” was there from the start, and they would continue to multiply “after their kind”! Verse 21 tells us the water brought forth abundantly. As we look at verse 22, we see God commands these animals to be fruitful and multiply. He tells the marine life to “fill” the waters of the seas! Today we face the fact that even some of the most abundant resources in the ocean are being used up! As much as some men thought killing all the buffalo in North America was not possible, it is even more amazing that now we may see the extinction of many fish species! Not just rare and almost unseen species, but common ones like cod! This just shows us once again, God may have cursed “the ground,” but the ripple effect on the rest of creation is just as much a problem as any of the issues we may have with dry land. At the time of creation, God said it was all good. That doesn’t mean just for the time but good to go and go and go! Now, because of sin, we live on a planet that is very fragile. Even when we see what we think is an abundance, we need to be very careful!

It is interesting that God tells these animals to be fruitful and to multiply. This is not a command that is given to the plant life. Why? Because, once again the Bible is pointing out a fact in nature. The Bible says the plants would yield seed and fruit that had seed in it. The multiplication of plant life would

have to do with the plant growing bigger, like aspen trees that are actually all one plant, or the spread of seed. Their multiplication would all be dependant on the circumstances. The apple may not fall far from the tree, but sometimes it gets carried away by a squirrel or bird. Then it can grow a new tree very far from its parent. When it comes to animals, it is up to them to procreate, and that is what God tells them to do. However, the multiply part of this command is what has to do with procreation. The fruitful part of this command is God telling them to make their life count for something. This command is given to land animals and man as well. What this tells us is that God built into the system the ability to create diversity. The fact a bird will take a seed to a random spot, sometimes miles from where it started, is part of making life interesting! Fish eggs will find their way into new places and start schools where there were none before. Being fruitful is something even the animals know to do. God may have created a complete world, but He did not create a boring one! He created a world that would bring us new things everyday, and He wanted us to enjoy it, just as He wants to enjoy us and the new things we can do each day! It is a very sad thing that man tries to take the very things God built into the system - those things that were put there to make life interesting - and use them to say there is no God. We really should be ashamed of ourselves!

We were given the command to be “fruitful,” as well! Once again, this is not talking about the procreation part of our lives, this is talking about the fact we should be creative and have imagination. God was literally telling us to reach for the Stars! You don’t really think God made the heavens and the earth just for us to stay right here on earth? You don’t really believe God made the heavens just so there would be a place for the sun and moon? If that is what He did, then He really over did it! No, God made it for us to be fruitful! Now, I know we do not live forever, and I know things in the here and now are not what God originally intended. However, if we can pull our minds out of the gutter sin has put them in, we can still have a blessed relationship with God even while we are still here! As we seek to do God’s will, we must keep in mind He built us to be “fruitful,” and He commanded it to be so. We

need to remember that part of bringing the gospel to all the world is exemplifying His intent for our lives. Living with God is not about sitting around on clouds and playing harps, it is reaching out into creation and truly touching the heart of God. (Matt. 25:34-46, Rom. 1:20) It is my hope each of you will go deeper in your relationship with our Creator! So, seek to be fruitful, and I’ll see you next time!

