

Lesson 2 Genesis 1:6-13
Genesis for Families

Gen. 1:6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

“Let there be a firmament” or let there be open space to divide the waters on earth from the waters in the clouds above the earth. Dry land is not present on the surface of the earth yet; the whole surface of the earth is covered by water. God separates the earth from the heavens and sets the earth in its place within the heavens (space). The sun, moon, and stars are not in the heavens at this time, as God will create them later. The power of the word of God alone holds all things in place rather than what will become the natural science that holds planets in orbit after creation is complete. God spoke and that is the way it was by the power of His word alone.

The first day ends with God having created the whole earth and calling forth by His word light, which God separated into periods of day and night to indicate one day. During the second day God separates the heaven (firmament) from the waters of earth and creates space though there are no other planets in space yet.

9 ¶ And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto 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 called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

The third day begins as God separates the waters on earth and makes dry land appear. The land was created in the first verse; it is simply uncovered and made to be dry land in this verse. We cannot make everything the Bible says about creation fit with what man says is true by man’s understanding of these things. However we will see that in many places what man calls science and how man explains things is close to what the Bible says. Science explains volcanoes and earthquakes and how they cause land to rise above sea level and become dry land. Did it happen this way? Perhaps, but we need to understand that the Bible doesn’t give us these details and God needed no such events to cause the dry land to appear. God spoke and it was done. It is possible God’s causing the dry land to appear also caused the layers of the earth and other things to indicate to mankind the earth evolved by means of explosions and great earthquakes. God does not say so and we do not need to explain what God doesn’t. Once more however, as you go through school you will learn about the planets, earth, the stars, and more. Learn the lessons and get the grades. For the Christian, “God said” is sufficient. For others to desire to explain all of these events is of no concern to God. Our only concern is not to cast doubt on what God says. So where man’s knowledge matches the Bible fine, where it does not let us choose to believe God. In places it will sound almost the same as the Bible because the things man sees as taking time, God can and did do in an instant.

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

An important thing to note here is that God speaks of the earth bringing forth all of these plants and trees. We could say that they began as seeds or sprouts and grew up to mature trees, as science wants to teach. However they are completely grown by the end of the third day. So if there was growth, it was extremely rapid and what would take many years for a plant to do today was done within twenty-four hours. This is one of the places science argues for evolution because it takes time for things to develop and grow to maturity. God spoke and it was done and there is no reason to think it had to grow from sprout or seed to full plant or tree. What is important is that it was full grown by the end of the day and thus when looked at by man it would appear to have taken more than twenty-four hours. Because man cannot explain something doesn't make it false.

Another thing we need to notice here is that God created each kind with its own seed and to produce its own kind. Man has been able to cross breed different plants and trees creating "new" kinds of plants and trees. Such plants are known as hybrids. These hybrid plants cannot produce new plants like themselves; their seeds will not take root and grow. Only God creates, mankind can only modify and try to change what God created. This is not sin in that God gave to man total dominion over the animal and plant world and the development of these hybrid plants have been beneficial or good for man. To try it with humans as some try to do today is wrong and sin because man was created in the image of God and needs no such interference with his natural being to be all God intended man to be.

Application:

God created everything in the space of six twenty-four hour days. This is what the Bible teaches and what we believe. When asked how it is that things appear to have great age our answer is that God created them fully mature and mature things would appear to be old. In more simple words, God created things with the appearance of being old by man's standards. The word of God is powerful and by His word alone God created everything. As believers we have this awesome power within us and that is why the Bible says we can do all things in Christ. God revealed His power to us in creation and because He is our God we can know we are secure in Christ because there is no power greater than the power of God in our lives.

Questions:

- If God created things in only twenty-four hours why do they appear to be millions of years old?
- Why does science explain some things in almost the same way the Bible does?
- Why can we not simply change the days of creation into long periods of time and say God used evolution to create all things like science claims?
- What held the earth in place in space before the whole solar system was created?