

Lesson 7 Genesis 2:4-6

Genesis for Families

4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. 6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

The word translated generations here leads some to think it gives them permission to extend the length of the days and not be bound to a simple twenty-four hour day as we know it. This is not true as the word can mean simply birth or a genealogical list of births. A list of births is the best interpretation for this passage. This declares that all that has been said by God up to this point is an accurate history of the creation (birth) of these things. So once more Scripture itself says that God only used six normal days to create everything visible and invisible. This includes all on earth and in the heavens. There is not anything that exists that was not created by God. Once more then the Bible clearly says there was no evolution from one thing created into another thing, God created all from nothing and that creation was complete or mature.

Verse five leaves the order of creation in place but says the plants were not growing yet because they did not have rain yet. The Bible continues to clarify they could live because God caused a mist to rise from the earth to water them. This verse also points to the reason for the creation of plants for the use of man. Without man to till the plants they had no useful purpose toward man yet and while created did not grow until the creation of man. Note this does not mean there was one plant of each type created but that the entire plant world waited for the creation of man before it had a purpose in God's plan. To understand the lack of rain as the cause of no growth is wrong. It will not rain for a long, long time when God floods the earth in the days of Noah. The lack of growth was by God's divine word alone, not a lack of water for it is plain that the mist that rose from the earth was sufficient for the growth of plants for hundreds of years.

It is interesting that some earth scientists also allow for this cloud or mist around the whole earth when natural forces formed it as another planet in an existing solar system. It is clear from genesis one that there was no solar system until all was created by God. Some also allow that this mist would have stopped the radiation of the sun from reaching the earth and might be the reason for the first humans recorded in the Bible living so long. The clouds are real and were created by God. They indeed watered the face of the earth. We do not need to search for ways that science agrees with the Bible. The two cannot be brought together in harmony with each other. There have been those who under pressure from the world have sought to make the biblical account fit what man knows about the earth and space. This is wrong and the opposite of what we should do. We must make what we see fit with the only absolute truth to exist, the Bible.

While it may be interesting to dig into these subjects and to compare what the Bible says to what we observe as men we must remember that the truth is God's word. I personally am amazed when Christian scientists and archaeologists prove the text of the Bible is correct and all the knowledge and wonderings of men are wrong. I read man's explanation of things and where it agrees with God's word have no problem taking that knowledge as truth and using it in explaining to others what the Bible says. However these external sources are just that and outside the Bible. They can be used as secondary sources just as a history book can be used to understand past generations. However we must never place the Bible in the secondary position as if God must explain Himself to man.

Can we find a place God sat down and wrote the Bible? Obviously not because God is first of all a spirit and doesn't have a body like ours and all such references is a condescension by God so that man can understand what God is saying to us. God says this is true and we accept that by faith. It doesn't really matter that we cannot prove these things since man cannot prove his theories either. As noted earlier we end with the simple question: Whom will you believe, God or man? God never explains Himself or His existence. The closest God comes is at the burning bush with Moses when God says "I Am what I Am." God says I exist, I am God. These truths can only be accepted by faith whereby the Holy Spirit is working in us to enlighten and reveal God to us in the Scriptures. For this reason the best scholars among men without this guidance of the Holy Spirit can neither embrace or understand what the Bible says. The Bible is a supernatural book and takes supernatural revelation to be properly understood and applied.

Application:

Where science agrees with the Bible we take that as truth revealed by God in Scripture and make use of it. Where there seems to be contradiction we choose to believe God and let all men be liars. Once more for the student, read their texts and give back the answer the teacher is looking for. We still need these pieces of paper from men to function and make a living in this very ungodly world. To stand and argue is foolish since they are not of God or they would not be teaching man's science above the word of God. They cannot and because of their sin nature will not accept God's truth. We have no fear of appearing foolish because we do not personally toe their mark because if God is for us who can stand against us? Look at the great truths of the Bible as nuggets of gold from God whereby our faith is justified to us logically in our own way so we can understand. Our acceptance and understanding are not mandatory, as God's word will stand with no props from men. Our being able to prove these things is a comfort to us as humans however and helps us grow in faith and confidence of what God has promised. Do not go to the extreme however and lay aside the Bible where we have no such empirical proof. The Bible uses the exact words, "the just live by faith" three times. You are saved by grace through faith which is the gift of God is the answer. It takes faith to accept the Bible as the very word of God and this faith is only available to the believer because it is the gift of God to His elect.

Questions:

- How should we understand the word generations in the English Bible as used in this passage?
- Can this passage be used to change the order of creation or the length of the days of creation? Why or why not?
- Who can understand the Bible?
- Why can educated men not understand and explain the Bible?
- What is God's standard for the elect to live by?
- Where does faith come from?
- Why do we say the Bible is a supernatural book?