

Genesis: "In the Beginning God — Growing In Our Awe and Worship of God"
Genesis 1:9-19; Job 12:7-10

"But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:7-10)

"Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law. Ah, LORD God! It is You who have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for You." (Psalm 119:17-18; Jeremiah 32:17)

- Genesis 1:9-13:
 - When God gathered the waters into one place and made dry land appear this wasn't the last time He did this miracle. He did it after the flood (Genesis 8:1-5), He did it as the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-22), and He did it as the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River (Joshua 3:15-17).
 - Fruit trees did not grow from seeds but were created fully grown or matured. God created seeds inside the fruit of the fruit trees. All of these plants were sustained by God (*Colossians 1:17 "In Him all things hold together"; Hebrews 1:3 "He upholds the universe by the word of His power."*) without the sun (Genesis 1:14-19) and were free from the influence of insects/pollination (Genesis 1:24-25). It takes trees from a few years to decades to reach maturity, therefore trees would have been created with "an appearance of age" (Numbers 17:8-9; Jonah 4:6-10).
 - The direct creation of adult or mature organisms is the only thing that makes any biblical sense (Genesis 1:11-12 & 1:22 & 1:28). Fertilized eggs outside of a mother's womb or infants without a mother's care would have required repetitive daily miracles instead of an instantaneous miracle (Romans 4:17).
 - Plants were the main food source for man and animals before the fall/flood (Genesis 1:30; 9:3-4). This was probably due to the environmental change after the flood. During the millennial reign of Christ, animals will go back to their pre-fall behavior (Isaiah 11:6-9).
 - There were also specific plants that God made on the sixth day that needed special attention from mankind (Genesis 2:5-6). The Tree of Life points toward eternal life that was lost at the fall (Genesis 3:22) and the victory that was won through Jesus Christ to offer eternal life through His perfect life, atoning death, death defeating resurrection, and victorious ascension (Revelation 2:7; 22:1-5,14). We also see the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil which God created for the testing of mankind (Genesis 2:16-17). All volitional creatures must be tested to show their willful love and commitment.
- Genesis 1:14-19
 - Because of Scripture we know that the sun is not needed by God to sustain life (Acts 17:24-26; Matthew 6:26; Matthew 10:29; Psalm 104:27-29). The sun and the moon and the stars were created for three main purposes, which are all ministries to or servants of mankind:
 - They were created for *SIGNS* (Genesis 1:19-21; Psalm 8:3-4; Psalm 89:37; Romans 1:19-20).

(continued →)

Worship: Glorious Christ (Sovereign Grace Music) Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery (Matt Boswell)
Before the Throne of God Above (Sovereign Grace Music)

Closing Song: How Deep the Father's Love For Us (Various Artists)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- They were created for SEASONS (Genesis 8:22; Psalm 104:10-19; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3).
- They were created for days and years/CALENDAR. Man is able to plan and organize and steward because of this great grace (Exodus 20:11; Genesis 8:22; 2 Corinthians 9:10-11; Colossians 3:17,23-24).
 - These lights are ministers pointing us to our faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19). These lights point to the attributes of God in a way and minister to man in a way that the temporary light did not (Isaiah 40:25-26; 45:21b-22).
- What can we learn about God through nature?
 - God is glorious/perfect, beautiful, and good: *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1)*
 - God is powerful: *“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.” (Psalm 33:6,9)*
 - God is majestic and has all authority: *“Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.” (Psalm 111:2-3)*
 - God is wise: *“It is He who made the earth by His power, who established the earth by His wisdom, and by His understanding stretched out the heavens.” (Jeremiah 10:12)*

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** NEXT Sunday is the LAST day we will be collecting donations for Vertical 196. They are in need of the following non-perishable food items: fruit cups, pudding cups, slim jims, individual bags of chips, soft granola bars, and powdered drink mixes for bottled water (these items are used to pack lunches for guests to take with them). They are also in need of coffee to serve the guests during operating hours. Please put your donations into the tote in front of the back table.

★**MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a short Members Meeting TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. This meeting is anticipated to last no more than 30 minutes. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for that meeting!

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** Next Sunday, February 27th, we are having a Fellowship Dinner immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!