Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ,

I was once at an eye-specialist getting a spot on one of my eyes checked. And as I was talking to the specialist, the subject of evolution came up. And I told him that the eye seems to me to be a good argument for creation. For how can you evolve an eye? If you don’t have an eye, then you don’t know what light or sight or an eye is, so you would have no reason to try and evolve one. And for an eye to work properly, every part of it must be fully and perfectly formed. There are lots of people and animals and birds and fish that have eyes, but because some part of it does not work, they either cannot see at all, or they can’t see well. So, the idea that an eye would slowly form, in many different species, over thousands of years, is beyond ludicrous. But the idea that that fish and birds and animals and humans were created with perfectly working eyes, by a God who the Bible tells us can see, is perfectly rational.

Well, the creatures that God created on the fifth day would have had eyes. And some of them, like dolphins, also have what is called echo-location, or sonar; the ability to transmit sounds and receive them back to work out distances. And these realities reveal more of God’s glory and goodness! So, as we come to the fifth day, our approach will be the same as it has been with previous days – a **creation explanation**, **creation implications**, and then we conclude with **Gospel implications**. And the main thing we want to see is that **God’s Creation of, Care for, and Control of the Water and Air Creatures Should Lead Us to Trust Him**.

1. So, let’s begin with a **Creation Explanation**. And we will do this by walking through the same elements that we have looked at in the earlier days.
   1. The first thing we see is the **Announcement** element: “*And God said*.” Then we see what God said in the **Command** that follows: “*Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens*.”
      1. And the first part of the command is the interesting phrase: “***Swarm with swarms***.” Back in verse 11, we read that God said, “*Let the earth sprout vegetation*.” The Hebrew there is “Let the *dasha* of the earth *dasha*.” Literally, let the sprouts sprout, or the grasses grass. And here, with reference to sea and sky, it is let them swarm with swarms.
         1. So, we must think here of **abundance**! Large populations. I am sure you have seen massive schools of fish or flocks of birds flying in the air. And there are lots of videos of whales gulping down millions of plankton in one huge mouthful.
         2. But this also refers to the massive amounts of **variety** in water creatures and flying creatures. Big. Small. Brightly coloured. Drab. Feathers. Scales. Tropical fish. Amazingly beautiful birds. Mating dances.
            1. I am not sure if this is the correct term because I couldn’t find it on Google, but I seem to recall hearing creationists speak about ‘**redundant diversity**.’ Does creation need every single type of fish or bird that exists? And do we need all the colours of each type? Surely not. But they are so beautiful! And that maybe why God gave us this amazing variety – delight and enjoyment! It is another reason to praise Him!
         3. And all this abundance and variety was created by God just speaking it into existence at some time on the fifth day. Wow!
      2. But notice also that the water creatures and flying creatures are described as “***living creatures***.’ And the Hebrew word translated as living translates also as soul and even person. It is used also in reference to the animals and human beings of the sixth day. Verse 30 puts them all together as “*everything that has the breath of life*.” But this language was not used in reference to the plants and trees that God created on the third day. They are not considered *living* beings by God.
         1. And this is why, at the end of chapter 1, God said that plants and fruit were what humans and animals were to eat. And they could use them also as tools or instruments or for building. And this was not killing them, because they were not living creatures and there was no death before the Fall. And so, you don’t *kill* a banana when you eat it or put a tree to *death* when you use its wood. And we will come back to this in our second point.
   2. But that brings us next to God’s **Activity** in verse 21: “*So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind*.”
      1. And by “***sea creatures***” is meant the fish, the sea mammals, like whales and dolphins, sea reptiles, like turtles and crocodiles, and also plesiosaurs and ichthyosaurs, etc.
         1. And here is as good as place as any to discuss what we call **dinosaurs**. Technically, dinosaurs refers to land animals. But people usually include plesiosaurs and ichthyosaurs, and the flying creatures like pterodactyls, in the category of dinosaur. It refers to all those animals that are supposedly ‘pre-historic.’ But they are not pre-historic. Whether they be water-based ‘dinosaurs,’ or flying ‘dinosaurs,’ or land-based ‘dinosaurs,’ they were all created on the fifth and sixth days, alongside sheep, salmon, and seagulls.
         2. And this is why we read **Job 41** earlier. For if the description of Leviathan is not a description of what we would call a dinosaur, then I don’t know what is! And they were alive still in Job’s day, which is probably around the same time as Abraham. And while it could be that Leviathan spent some time on land, we saw in Psalm 104 that God formed to “*play in the sea*.” So, we are including it as a sea creature.
      2. Verse 21 also speaks of “**winged birds**,” but a better translation is “*flying* *creatures*.” For this term includes birds *and* flying mammals, like bats, *and* flying reptiles, like pterodactyls.
         1. And in case you boys and girls are wondering about flying squirrels and flying lizards, they are sixth day creatures, not fifth day. They might be able to fall gracefully, or glide from one high branch to a lower one, but they are not free-flying creatures of the sky.
      3. But here is something interesting to think about: What about **insects**? What about flies, bees, butterflies, beetles, ants, and grasshoppers? When were they created? Well, that is a very good question! On the sixth day we see reference to “*creeping things,*” but that refers to reptiles, not insects. And insects are not considered as living creatures in the Bible, in the way that fish and birds and animals and humans are.
         1. You see, living creatures have blood in them. And the Bible speaks about blood as the life-source. But insects do not have blood, like fish and birds and animals and humans do.
         2. And Noah was told to take onto the ark two of every creature in which there was the “*breath of life*.” And when the flood happened, we are told that “*everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life perished*.” But this does not include insects. They don’t breath as animals and humans do. So, there would not have been two flies and two ants and two butterflies in special cages on the ark. In fact, they would have been given to the two frogs and two snakes, etc, as food! The insects would have survived the flood by hiding in the corners of the ark, and by floating on other objects, and flying, to and fro.
         3. One author refers to insects as God’s ‘creation robots.’ And I think that helps us see their vital function in creation. They are the cleaners and composters.
         4. But this puts them in a similar category to the plants and trees – not living creatures, like fish or sheep or whales or tigers or humans, but instruments and tools to serve God and animals and humans in a whole variety of necessary ways.
         5. So, all we can say for sure is that as creatures they were created by God.
   3. Well, having created all this abundance and variety, we see the words of **Approval** “*And God saw that it was good*.”
   4. And then we get verse 22 and something new! For, whereas we have typically seen declaration on the earlier days – God calling what He has made its name, here He speaks words of **blessing/instruction** “*And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."*”
      1. The Hebrew word for create is *bara*. The Hebrew word for bless is *barak*. They are very closely related words. And so, as God has created, sea creatures and flying creatures are to re-create or re-produce. And this is a blessing of God. And we will come back to this point in relation to the sixth day and the command to humans to be fruitful and multiply and to fill the earth.
   5. But verse 23 brings the fifth day to an end as we see the **Numbering formula**: “*And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day*.’
2. So, that is the **creation explanation**. And I hope it has given you reasons to praise God for His glory and goodness! But let’s now see a couple of **Creation Implications** from God’s fifth day activity.
   1. We heard a moment ago that fish and birds and animals are considered “***living creatures,****”* while plants and trees and insects are not. So, there is a God-declared ordering of value in creation.
      1. And this is why, when you spray a trail of ants or swat a fly, for reasons of hygiene, this is *not* murder. And when you put a worm on a fishhook to catch a fish for supper, that is not cruelty. And yet, having said that, there is a certain type of person, usually young boys, who find it amusing to be cruel to insects. But that is not OK! Cruelty is never OK, whether it is to people, animals, or insects.
      2. And we already noted in relation to the third day that we are to be good stewards of resources like plants and trees, and that God judged the Babylonians for needless destruction of the cedars of Lebanon. But pagan religions and new age religion view plants and trees and rivers and mountains as living creatures. And so, Whanganui river, for example, has been given personhood status in New Zealand law. And this is also why you cannot drive up to the top of the local mountains, like Mt Eden, anymore. And trees are given names and special protection. And resource consent will not be given for much-needed hydro-electric dams or housing developments, because there is a particular berry tree or swamp grass in that location. But all this is not biblical. And we will have more to say on this point in relation the sixth day and animals and humans. But God has written an ordering of value into His creation.

* 1. But the major point of the fifth day is that God made the flying creatures and the sea creatures. So, they **belong to Him**, they exist to serve Him and glorify Him and to accomplish His purposes. And for this to happen, God must be in sovereign control over the sea creatures and flying creatures. And this is exactly what we see in Scripture.
     1. I am sure you boys and girls know the story of **Jonah**. He ran away from obeying God. And the Lord caused a storm to rise up, and to appease God, Jonah told the sailors to throw him overboard. And when they did, we read that “*the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah … And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land*.” So, there we see the Lord directing a great fish to do His bidding.
     2. And then there is the story of **Elijah**. He went in and told the king that there would be no rain until he said so. And then the Lord told Elijah to go and hide by the Brook Cherith. And do you remember what happened there, boys and girls? We are told that “*And the ravens brought [Elijah] bread and meat in the mornings*.” So, the Lord directed birds to do His bidding.
     3. And in **Job 39:26-27**, God asks Job, “*Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high?*” And in our earlier reading in **Job 41**, God asked Job the same type of question in relation to Leviathan, the great sea creature. And God’s point was: You cannot control the birds and sea creatures; I can! Because I made them!
     4. The most common type of bird is the **house sparrow**. It is estimated that there are around 2 billion of them around the world. They can fly in flocks of hundreds or even thousands. And God knows exactly how many there are in each flock and whether they will turn this way or that way. And He provides them with every worm that they eat, and each twig that they use to make a nest. And do you remember what Jesus said about sparrows? He said, in **Matthew 10:29-31**, “*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”*
        1. I don’t know what challenging circumstances you are facing right now, but if you have received Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, then the same God who made and watches over 2 billion sparrows at any given moment, as well as all the other sea and flying creatures, is your Father in heaven!
        2. And you are more precious to Him than all of them. And He has promised to work all things together for your good, and to give you everything necessary for body and soul, for as long as He has work for you to do on earth. So, He is worthy of your trust!

1. And this brings us, thirdly and lastly and briefly, to the **Gospel implication** of the fifth day.
   1. A moment ago I mentioned Jonah. God caused a great fish to swallow Jonah so that he did not drown. And boys and girls, how long was Jonah in the great fish? Three days. Well, Jesus referred to Jonah’s time in the fish as a sign that would reveal Jesus to be the Saviour that we sinners need. We read about this in **Matthew 12:38-40**: “S*ome of the scribes and Pharisees [said to Jesus] "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But He answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*” And when was it that Jesus rose from the dead? On the third day.
      1. And so, in **1 Corinthians 15**, Paul list the things that he preached about that were of **first importance**. And these were that “*Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, [and] that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures*.”
      2. Andin **Romans 1:4**, Paul says that Jesus Christ “*was declared to be the Son of God … by His resurrection from the dead*.” If He had stayed dead, our sins would not be forgiven, and we would have no hope of eternal life.But because He rose,we know that He is the Son of God, that the Father found His sacrifice acceptable, and that our sins are forgiven, and we do have eternal life.

But friends, this is true only of those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died and rose again for them, personally. **Romans 10:9** says, “*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*.”

* When you stand before God on Judgment Day, only one thing will matter: Have you confessed Christ as your Lord, and do you believe that God raised Him from the dead? This is what your eternal destination hangs on. It is not how much good you have done. For none of us do enough good. What you must do to be saved is to acknowledge that you are a wretched sinner who deserves hell. And then you receive Jesus Christ and believe in Him as your Saviour and Lord. And you offer yourself to His service for the rest of your life.
* Is this you? Have you done this? If you have not, please do it today!

Let us pray: