



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, I admit that I've been misled by certain people on several occasions. It has shown me that I need a better sense of discernment about those I allow to get close to me. Yet at the same time, I don't want to become hardhearted or callous because of what I've been through. So today I choose to turn from bitterness against those who have misled me. I make the decision to forgive them, to release them from the wrong they have done, and to turn my attention toward my future. Holy Spirit, I can only do this with Your help, so I am looking to You to empower me, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

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Scripture

Genesis

Genesis 1:1-31 (AMP); 1 IN THE beginning God (prepared, formed, fashioned, and) created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and an empty waste, and darkness was upon the face of the very great deep. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good (suitable, pleasant) and He approved it; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament [the expanse of the sky] in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters [below] from the waters [above]. 7 And God made the firmament [the expanse] and separated the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heavens. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. 9 And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be collected into one place [of standing], and let the dry land appear. And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the accumulated waters He called Seas. And God saw that this was good (fitting, admirable) and He approved it. 11 And God said, Let the earth put forth [tender] vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees yielding fruit whose seed is in itself, each according to its kind, upon the earth. And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed according to their own kinds and trees bearing fruit in which was their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (suitable, admirable) and He approved it. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, a third day. 14 And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs and tokens [of God's provident care], and [to mark] seasons, days, and years, 15 And let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light upon the earth. And it was so. 16 And God made the two great lights—the greater light (the sun) to rule the day and the lesser light (the moon) to rule the night. He also made the stars. 17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth, 18 To rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good (fitting, pleasant) and He approved it. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day. 20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly and swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly over the earth in the open expanse of the heavens. 21 God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (suitable, admirable) and He approved it. 22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let the fowl multiply in the earth. 23 And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. 24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creeping things, and [wild] beasts of the earth according to their kinds. And it was so. 25 And God made the [wild] beasts of the earth according to their kinds, and domestic animals according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (fitting, pleasant) and He approved it. 26 God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. 27 So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon

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the earth. 29 And God said, See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the land and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to all the animals on the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the ground—to everything in which there is the breath of life—I have given every green plant for food. And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good (suitable, pleasant) and He approved it completely. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Genesis 1:1. The Creation of the Universe : "In the beginning" God created the universe. What follows, in the "seven days," is a description of the forming of substance already created in preparation for the creation of Adam.

Genesis 1:2–2:3. The Seven Days: Whether the seven days were days of 24 hours, or long, successive periods, we do not know. The word "day" has variable meanings. In 1:5 it is used as a term for light. In 1:8 and 1:13 it seems to mean a day of 24 hours. In 1:14 and 1:16 it seems to refer to a 12-hour day. In 2:4 it seems to cover the whole period of creation. In passages such as Joel 3:18 , Acts 2:20 , and John 16:23 , "that day" seems to mean the whole Christian era. In passages such as 2 Timothy 1:12 the expression seems to refer to the era beyond the Lord's Second Coming. And in Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8 , "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day."

Note that the six days form three pairs of two (days 1 and 4; 2 and 5; 3 and 6). In the first of each pair the realm is created that is later populated by the objects or beings that are created in the second. Day 1: Light and dark ...Day 4: Lights of day and night...Day 2: Sea and sky...Day 5: Creatures of water and air...Day 3: Fertile earth ...Day 6: Creatures of the land; land animals; humans' provision of food

First Day: Light, Genesis 1:2–5 ...The heavens and the earth were created by God in the beginning—sometime in the dateless past. All was dark, empty, and formless until God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. We see that God's creative power is manifested by simply speaking. His first creative word called forth light in the midst of darkness.

The Structure of the Account of Each of the Six Days in Genesis 1: 2–2: 3....Announcement,"and God said " 2. Command,"let there be, " "let them] be gathered, " etc. 3.Report,"and it was so"—a descriptive phrase telling what God did—a word of naming or blessing 4. Evaluation,"it was good " 5. Temporal statement,"there was evening, and there was morning—the day "

In John 1:1–2 we learn that the "Word" (Jesus) was in the beginning, and that the "Word" was with God and was God. John further tells us that "through him [the Word] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made" (1:3). God did not just make a physical universe: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Whatever God makes is very good indeed, because the Word through which He created all things is the very essence of goodness, beauty, and light: "In him [Jesus] was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness" (John 1:4), now as it did at the very beginning of creation.

Creation and Re-creation? While most Bible students believe that Genesis is an account of creation, some believe that Genesis gives us an account of both creation and re-creation. In the case of the latter, v. 1 tells of the original creation, while v. 2, "Now the earth was became] formless and empty," tells of a time subsequent to the initial creation when God re-created the heavens and the earth after they had become formless and void, perhaps due to some catastrophic event. The Hebrew word for "was" used here in the original text is translated "became" where it appears elsewhere in the Bible.

Second Day: The Expanse, Genesis 1:6–8: The expanse (kjv , firmament), called "sky," is the atmosphere, or layer of air between the water-covered earth and the clouds above, made possible by the cooling of the earth's waters.

Third Day: Land and Vegetation, Genesis 1:9–13; Up to this point, the earth's surface seems to have been entirely covered with water. God commanded the water to gather in one place that He called "seas." We envision that the earth's crust, as it became cooler and thicker, began to buckle, and islands and continents began to appear. There was as yet no rain, but dense mists watered the newly formed land, which was still warm by its own heat. A tropical climate was everywhere, and vegetation must have grown rapidly and in gigantic proportions.

Fourth Day: Sun, Moon, and Stars, Genesis 1:14–19; On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars. It is likely that seasons came when the earth's surface ceased to receive heat primarily from within and became dependent on the sun's heat. In v. 16 we learn that the "greater light" rules the day and the "lesser light" rules the night. These sources of light have three primary functions (vv. 17–18): they give light to the earth, they govern the day and night, and they separate light from darkness. These passages are beautiful examples of how God has manifested His image, His divine characteristics, in all of His creation.

The Universe God Created; Astronomers estimate that the Milky Way, the galaxy to which our earth and solar system belong, contains over 30 billion suns. Many of these suns are immensely larger than our sun, which is a million and a half times larger than the earth. The Milky Way is shaped like a thin watch; its diameter from rim to rim is 200, 000 light-years. (A light-year is the distance that light travels in a year at the rate of 186, 00 miles per second.) There are at least 100, 000 galaxies like the Milky Way, some of them millions of light-years apart. All this may be only a tiny speck in what is beyond in the seemingly infinite, endless reaches of space.

Fifth Day: Sea Animals and Birds, Genesis 1:20–25: By God's blessing and with His command, "be fruitful and increase in number," the sea creatures and birds filled the waters and increased on the earth. Note the progression: inanimate things on the first and second days, plant life on the third day, and animal life on the fifth day. **Sixth Day: Land Animals and Man, Genesis 1:24–31;** The earth was at last ready for animals and, ultimately, man. God reveals that each living creature on the land is created "according to one their kind." This refutes the notion that all species of animals evolved from a single, common, primeval organism. It supports the scientific evidence that living creatures have adapted over time to their environment, while there is no convincing evidence that one species of animal has evolved into another.

God created Adam and Eve in His own image. God's divine blessing and benediction for male and female together was to flourish and multiply so as to fill the earth and exercise rulership (stewardship) over all creation. God's universal reign is reflected in the rulership that He commissions humanity to carry out over all earthly creation. In a sense, God has created the earth as man's training camp, where He is preparing us for our eternal destiny where we will rule and reign with Christ over all the universe (2 Timothy 2:12 ; Revelation 3:21). God saw everything that He had made, and it was "good" (Genesis 1:4 , 10 , 12 , 18 , 21 , 25 , 31). But soon the picture darkened. God must have known beforehand that it would, and He must have regarded his whole work of the creation of humanity as but a step toward the glorious world that will yet emerge from it, as is told in the closing chapters of the book of Revelation. It is interesting to note that God declared all that he had made on the sixth day " very good" perhaps to stress the relative significance of this day in comparison to the prior days.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Bible History & Commentaries; Zondervan; pages 84-88)

Creation: V1 " in the beginning God." The subject of the Bible is God. The purpose of the Bible is the knowledge of Him and His love. Doesn't nature reveal God to us? Nature reveals God's power, greatness, and wisdom, but we need the Bible to provide a unified body of knowledge concerning God. God is the Creator of all things, the object of creation—the Sustainer of creation. "God created the heavens and the earth." Men who do not accept God as the Creator must find other theories for our existence. **Problems with the theory of evolution:** 1. No new creation taking place. 2. Matter is constantly changing but the trend is downward (deterioration), not upward. 3. The earth would have to be much older than it is to provide time for simple cells to evolve to the complexity of the cells we see today. Complexity of cells is not synonymous with higher life forms. Frog cells are more complex than human cells. 4. The dating of fossils is often inaccurate. 5. Mutations occur within a species but do not cross over to another species. 6. The population of earth would be greater if man were as old as the evolutionists claim. 7. Suggested reading: *Evolution: The Fossils Say No* by Duane Gish and *Twilight of Evolution* by Henry Morris. **V2** There could be a gap in time between the first verse and the rest of the chapter. "But the earth became wasteful and desolate" is another reading of the second verse. **V3** Light is needed for life. **V V6-8** The blanket of moisture that surrounded the earth protected men from cosmic radiation and cell damage so that lifespans were much longer. **VV11-12** God created plant life that can reproduce itself. **VV 20-25** God created the families of living things, the species. **VV 26-28** Man is created in the image of God. The order to "replenish the earth" could indicate a pre-existence upon the earth.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For The Day; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries; pages 9-10)

God created Adam as a living being, in His image (see Genesis 1:26, 27), and gave him authority over everything else He created (see Genesis 1:28). Man was created to rule under God and to be the physical carrier of God's Spirit in the earth. Part of human nature is that we, as living beings like Adam, have a free will. Why? Because God is too loving to force submission from anyone. He wants us to freely choose to love and serve Him. I hope that today you will make a fresh and willful commitment to love and serve God with all your heart.

When God completed His six days of creation, He took time to look over everything and He saw that "it was very good and He approved it completely" (Genesis 1:31). God took time to enjoy the work of His hands, and we should do the same. In our passion to possess more and more, we often fall into the trap of working, working, working—and we never enjoy the fruit of our labor. Sometimes we should simply take time to relax and enjoy what we have accomplished.

The writer of Ecclesiastes said it is the gift of God for man to find enjoyment in all of his labor (see Ecclesiastes 2:24). I have always been a hard worker. A few years ago, I realized I was working hard but not taking time to enjoy what I was doing. I made a decision to include enjoyment in my life. I no longer just "do" conferences; I enjoy them. When my house is clean and pretty, I take time to look at it and enjoy it. At the end of a year I go over my calendar and remember the various things I have done, and I enjoy the sense of accomplishment. I look at what God has enabled me to do and I say, "It is good."

Many people feel worthless, insecure, and unacceptable, but God looked at everything He created, including man, and said, "It is very good." He approved it completely. God knows everything about each of us, and He loves us unconditionally. God approves of us; He may not approve of everything we do, but He does approve of us as His beloved children. I encourage you to make a decision to not only enjoy the labor of your hands, but to approve of and enjoy yourself as well.

Choosing to enjoy and accept myself is one of the best decisions I have ever made. God does not create junk. He is good, and everything He does is good. We cannot believe that God created us and also believe we are worthless. Begin to accept and enjoy yourself where you are, and God will help you get to where you need to be.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 1-3)