The Content of Creation
PART I
Genesis 1:14-23

Main Thought During the second three days of creation, God creates the lights for day and night (14-19), creatures for the sea and sky (20-23), animals and man for the land (24-31) – giving CONTENT to creation.

INTRODUCTION – Each day contains this process: ANNOUNCEMENT ("God is the soloist; the narrator is the accompanist"), COMMANDMENT ("Let there be" [2 Cor. 4:6]), SEPARATION (boundaries, order), REPORT ("And so God made"), NAMING ("And he called" showing dominion and ownership), EVALUATION ("And God saw that it was good"), and CHRONOLOGY (days 1-7).

DAY 4: LIGHTS FOR DAY AND NIGHT (14-19).

• God created light on the first day to prove to those who worshiped the sun, moon, and stars that He Himself was light (John 8:12; 1 John 1:5).
• But only now on the fourth day did God create the lights for the day and night. He does so without even acknowledging their names (sun – 15:12 / moon – 37:9) as a polemic. Stars were given only slight mention (16b).
• Stars were created, named, and controlled by God (Isa. 40:26).
• Israel was commanded not to imitate their pagan neighbors who worshiped these heavenly bodies (Ex. 20:4; Deut. 4:19; 17:2-5) but they disobeyed and were punished (Jer. 8:1-2; 19:13; Ezek. 8:16; Zeph. 1:4-6).
• These lights (sun, moon, stars) would serve as signs for Israel’s calendar of sacred festivals, not for the zodiac or astrology (Jer. 10:2).
• The heavenly bodies were made to declare the glory of God (Psa. 19:1-6) rendering those who do not believe WITHOUT EXCUSE (Rom. 1:20).

DAY 5: FISH AND BIRDS FOR SEA AND SKY (20-23).

• God created LIVING CREATURES (not plant life) to teem (swarm, abound) in the waters and fly across the skies (Psa. 104:24-26).
• All LIVING CREATURES (OT HEB=nephesh; NT GK=psyche) have souls which refers to their passionate appetites for food (Isa. 5:14) and sex (Psa. 78:18).
• The distinguishing difference in the souls of animals with that of man (2:7) is man’s appetite for God (Psa. 42:1-2; 63:1; 84:2; 119:81) and more importantly the image of God that he alone possesses (27). This is the SPIRITUAL component within man absent in other living creatures.
• God created the GREAT CREATURES of the sea including the dreaded sea monsters of pagan mythology: (1) LEVIATHAN [coiled one – Psa. 27:1; 74:13-14]; (2) RAHAB [arrogant one – Psa. 89:9-10; Isa. 51:9-10]; (3) TANNIN [dragon – Ezek. 29:3].
• It was God, not some pagan ritual, who BLESSED them along with man (28) with the ability to reproduce. It was God saying, “I will watch over you” (Psa. 121:7-8); “support you” (Psa. 18:18); “help you” (Ex. 4:12).