The Content of Creation
PART II
Genesis 1:24-31

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 6: ANIMALS AND MAN FOR LAND (24-31).

ANIMALS (24-25).
• Three classes of land animals (HEB=nephesh) are created: (1) livestock (HEB=behemoth) – large, slow domesticated animals; (2) creeping on the ground (HEB=remes) – reptiles; (3) wild animals (HEB=chaytow). Some will be holy and clean to man and God, others not (Lev. 20:25).
• They are called good, but surprisingly God does not bless them.

“The absence of the blessing on the land animals is striking. They are not to have dominion over humanity, who is blessed to rule them. The fish and the birds, however, receive blessing since they inhabit different spheres and pose no threat to people.”
WALTKE, Genesis, p. 64

MAN (26-31).
• DIVINE PLAN: The impersonal “let there be” (7x) is replaced with “let us” (divine intention) making mankind closer to God than any of His creation.
• While LET US (plural / 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8) allows for the Christian trinity, it is the “plural of majesty” (HEB=elohim –God [pl.]) – the unlimited majesty of God.
• DIVINE PATTERN: Man alone is made in the image of God. This is the climax of God’s creation thus he now declares everything “very good” (31).
• While God takes on human characteristics (anthropomorphisms i.e. breathing – 2:7), man takes on God like characteristics as His representatives (hearing – Psa. 94:9) making us theomorphic (2 Cor. 5:20).
• This is not bodily likeness (God is spirit), but SPIRITUAL likeness (Heb. 1:3) received when God breathed into man His breath (2:7).
• DIVINE PURPOSE: It was threefold (blessing): (1) FRUITFULNESS (Ex. 1:7); (2) FILL – (Ex. 1:7); (3) RULE – as God’s regent (Psa. 8:6-8; 115:16) over creation (new earth too – Rev. 20:6; 22:5); opposition was anticipated (Heb. 2:6-9).
• Man and animals were vegetarian until the fall (Gen. 3:21; 9:4; Acts 10:12); all will return (inclusio) to this diet in the millennial reign of Christ (Isa. 11:7).