

Genesis 1:2-2:3  
The First Three Days of Creation  
The Land and the Blessing—1:1-2:24

- 1) The preparation of the Land—1:2-2:3
  - a) Day One—1:2-5 **The Sphere of Light**
    - i) Description
      - (1) The shapeless and empty planet earth covered with water and darkness
        - (a) Don't read the future uses in Isaiah 34:11 and Jeremiah 4:23 back into this context.
      - (2) Note the presence and attention of the Holy Spirit
    - ii) Illumination—light from an unknown source dispels the darkness
      - (1) The creative and transforming power of God's word (cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:6; Hebrews 11:3; 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:5)
    - iii) Evaluation
      - (1) This is fulfilled as God designed it.
      - (2) God reflected on what He had made and was satisfied.
    - iv) Alternating separation (to name something is to exercise one's sovereignty)
      - (1) Of light (Day) from darkness (Night)
      - (2) Of time (into evening and morning)
  - b) Day Two—1:6-8 **The Sphere of Sea and Sky**
    - i) Unchanging vertical separation of waters from waters by an expanse (Sky/heaven) (cf. 7:11)
      - (1) All levels of the atmosphere (cf. 1:17)
    - ii) To name something is to exercise one's sovereignty.
    - iii) This is fulfilled as God designed it.
    - iv) Application: Israel should respond with confidence in their supreme God and in obedience to His revealed divisions and distinctions. (Ross)
  - c) Day Three—1:9-13 **The Sphere of Dry Land**
    - i) Unchanging horizontal separation of waters from land
      - (1) Gathering water/seas (cf. Job 38:8-11; Psalm 33:7-9; 104:5-9; Proverbs 8:29)
      - (2) Exposing the apparently instantly dry ground/land
    - ii) Three types of vegetation on the fertile ground (mature and self-reproducing)
      - (1) Generic vegetation [*deshe*] on the dry ground
        - (a) Cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19:26; Isaiah 37:27
        - (2) Plants [*eseb*] yielding seeds [*zera*] separated by kind (with distinguishing characteristics)
          - (a) Cf. 1:29-30; 2:5; 3:2, 6, 18; 4:3; 9:3
          - (b) Cf. Leviticus 19:19 and Deuteronomy 22:9-11
        - (3) Fruit (nuts, cones, etc.) [*peri'y*] trees with seeds [*zera*] separated by kind (with distinguishing characteristics)
        - (4) "Fertility is a self-perpetuating process decreed by God, a created capacity from the true Lord of life." (Ross)
      - iii) Evaluation
        - (1) This is fulfilled as God designed it.
        - (2) God reflected on what He had made and was satisfied.