

MAKING THE CALL

Genesis 1:3-5

I. God Said: The Authority Of God (3)

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

- A. The Power Of His Word – *Do We _____ His Word?* (Ps 33:9; Heb 11:3)
- B. The Power Of His Authority – *Do We _____ His Word?*
- C. The Power Of His Light – *Do We _____ His Light?*

II. God Saw: The Purpose Of God (4a)

4a And God saw that the light was good.

- A. The Purpose Of Light Over Darkness – *Do We Look To God To Bring _____ To Our Dark Times?*
- B. The Purpose Of Good Over Chaos – *Do We Look To God To Make _____ Out Of Our Chaos?*

III. God Separated: The Power Of God (4b-5)

4b And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

- A. Separating Light From Darkness – *Will We _____ From Darkness?*
- B. Specifying Day & Night – *Will We _____ His Distinctions?*
- C. Setting The Day & Night Cycle – *Will We Let Him Design Our Life's _____?*

Appendix:

The Literal Day View

The Day-Age View

Conclusion:

- "God said" – Do we obey God's powerful and transforming Word?
- "God saw" – Do we trust God to work good out of sin and bring light to our darkness?
- "God separated" – Do we see life as God sees it? Right vs Sin, Day vs Night, Creator vs creation

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- B. **The Power Of His Authority – *Do We Obey His Word?***
- C. **The Power Of His Light – *Do We Reflect His Light?***

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- A. **Separating Light From Darkness – *Will We Separate From Darkness?***
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- C. **Setting The Day & Night Cycle – *Will We Let Him Design Our Life's Patterns?***

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MAKING THE CALL

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Introduction:

- "Making the Call" is a term used to describe an authoritative decision.
 - **Baseball:** You can't argue balls and strikes with a baseball umpire – they've made a non-reviewable authoritative call.
 - **Doctor:** When life support efforts fail, the doctor is often told to make "the call" – the doctor declares one to be physically dead.
 - **President:** It matters who is elected President – He has his finger on the launch protocols of nuclear weapons when he makes the call.
- Who makes the call in our life?
- Does the God who called the universe make the authoritative calls in our life?

I. God Said: The Authority Of God (3)

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

A. The Power Of His Word – *Do We Believe His Word?*

And God said

Psalm 33:9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

- God made the visible things out of the invisible
- A statement of something out of nothing – *ex nihilo*
- Gerhard von Rad: "The idea of creation by the word preserves first of all the most radical essential distinction between Creator and creature. Creation cannot be even remotely considered an emanation from God ... but is rather a product of his personal will."
(*Genesis*, pp. 49-50)
- K.A. Matthews: "The Hebrew community understood that God's creative word was the same authoritative word by which he brought about the affairs of human history and the nations. Just as the word created the universe, the word created the community of Israel."
(*The New American Commentary: Genesis 1 – 11:26*, Vol. 1A, p. 145)

B. The Power Of His Authority – *Do We Obey His Word?*

"Let there be ..."

- Who can utter a commandment and bring about a physical, material and scientific reality out of nothing? No one but the all-powerful God.
- The emphasis is no on **how** the universe was created, but **WHO** created the universe
- Allen P. Ross: "The verbs used here (*yehf ... wayhi*) are related to the holy name Yahweh, the great I Am. The use of these words suggests a significant **word play**: God, who in Exodus 3:14 is known as 'I Am' (*ehy* explains Yahweh), says 'Let there be' (*yehi*), 'and there was' (*wayhi*).... **In Genesis, Israel learned that the Word of the Lord is the powerful transforming word that was first manifested in creation.**" (*Creation & Blessing*, p. 108)
- Do we believe that God can save us?
- Do we believe that God can transform us?
- Do we believe that God has a purpose for us?

C. **The Power Of His Light – *Do We Reflect His Light?***

- God did not use sunlight at this point – that would be created on Day 4 (v. 16)
- God provided a source of light for 3 days
- Some say the light came from God
- Henry Morris & Jonathan Safarti suggests that God activated electromagnetic radiation and photons
- The creation of light amidst darkness points to a continual theme in Genesis
 - Light of righteousness dispels evil's darkness
 - Christ defeats Satan
 - Salvation transplants judgment
- Light is a picture of the Lord, life and His blessings (Ps 19:1-6; 27:1; 49:20)
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II. **God Saw: The Purpose Of God (4a)**

4a And God saw that the light was good.

A. **The Purpose Of Light Over Darkness – *Do We Look To God To Bring Light To Our Dark Times?***

- The pre-universe conditions were not friendly to life
 - There was darkness, no light
 - There was no sustainable environment for life
 - There was just the ingredients on God's counter ready to be a part of a 6-step, 6 day recipe
 - When God made light, He called it good.

B. **The Purpose Of Good Over Chaos – *Do We Look To God To Make Good Out Of Our Chaos?***

- ie/ I was looking at new townhouses being built along East 3rd Ave. (San Mateo) looking at which units would get morning sun and evening sun. Windows are great because it lets light in. Skylights are wonderful because natural lighting is good.
- Ie/ Light – illuminates
- Ie/ Light dispels darkness
- Ie/ Light enables life
- “good” = Heb. *tob* beneficial, profitable
 - “useful, fitting, and healthy” (Ross, p. 108)
 - “beneficial, desirable” (Waltke, p. 61)
- Bruce Waltke: “The precreated state of the earth with darkness and chaos suggests that everything hostile to life is not a result of sin. This is Job’s discovery (Job 38-41). Job is mystified by his whole experience of suffering. God’s response [to Job] is to make clear that everything negative in creation from the human perspective is not a result of human sin. The chaotic forces – sea, darkness, and the like – are a mystery to human beings. Although these forces seem, for the moment, hostile to life, human beings can still trust the benevolence of the Creator because the malevolent forces of creation operate only within his constraints.” (*Genesis*, p. 68)

III. God Separated: The Power Of God (4b-5)

4b And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

A. Separating Light From Darkness – *Will We Separate From Darkness?*

- Day = *yom*
- Night = *layla*
- God doesn’t just separate the light from darkness but the tasks accomplished by night and day

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

- Separation of:
 - Righteousness/lawlessness
 - Light/darkness
 - Christ/Satan

- Temple of God / idols

B. Specifying Day & Night – *Will We Follow His Distinctions?*

- Naming them is a sovereign act
- Ie/ Parents have the authority to name their kids
- Ie/ In the start of 3rd grade, my teacher asked the class: “What’s your name and what would you like to be called?”
 - I took that as an opportunity to call myself Willoughby Orville Wong (I liked the acronym) and wrote that on all my papers and assignments for the whole year
- Ie/ Executives have the authority to name their company (unless it violates a trademark)
- God has the authority to call out different designations and types
 - Male/Female
 - What is marriage
 - What is right
 - What is idolatrous

C. Setting The Day & Night Cycle – *Will We Let Him Design Our Life’s Patterns?*

- God is most probably the source of light
- But He established the Day/Night cycle
- Separation
 - Separation of non-matter – light & darkness
 - Separation of matter – land, sea, sky
 - Separation of tasks – day & night

Daniel 8:14 And he said to me, “For 2,300 **evenings and mornings**. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state.”

Why Various Interpretations?

EXEGESIS
 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.
 ACCORDING TO THE LANGUAGE AND CONTEXT... 'DAY' IS A REGULAR DAY!

EISEGESIS
 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.
 MILLIONS OF YEARS IS TRUE! DAY CAN'T BE A REGULAR DAY!

RE-INTERPRETATIONS
 LOCAL FLOOD THEISTIC EVOLUTION DAY AGE
 GENESIS
 PROGRESSIVE CREATION GAP THEORY

AIG CREATIONS www.AnswersInGenesis.org

The Literal Day Interpretation

1. "Day" In Genesis 1 Meant A Literal "Day" (24 hour)

- Dr. Henry Morris, founder of Institute of Creation Research, writes: "Not only is 'day' (Hebrew, *yom*) defined in this context the first time it is used (Genesis 1:5), but the writer conclusively restricted its interpretation to the literal meaning by numbering the days ('first day,' 'second day,' etc.) and by indicating their boundaries ('evening and morning'), both of which restrictions elsewhere in the Old Testament limit the meaning to literal days." ("Did Jesus Teach Recent Creation?," <http://www.icr.org/article/2031/>)

a. The Meaning Of The Word *Yom* Regularly Means A Literal "Day" Unless The Context Demands Otherwise

- It's not whether "day" ever means "age"
- What does the word "day" mean in the context of Gen 1?
- Don't take the meaning of the word from another context and read it into Gen 1
- Illegitimate Totality Transfer – illegitimate transfer of meaning from another context
- Beyond Genesis 1, *yom* is employed 359x meaning a 24 hour day
- Criticism:

- In Gen 2:4, *yom* was used in a broad sense to a time when all things were created

Genesis 2:4 ⁴This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the **day** that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,

- *Yom* was also used to describe an epoch period in Psalm 90:4 (cf. 2 Pet 3:8)

Psalm 90:4 ⁴For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night.

2 Peter 3:8 ⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

- It is inconsistent hermeneutics to read a New Testament meaning [of "day"] into the Old Testament context [Gen 1]

b. Sequential Numbers Used To Modify "Day" Consistently Is Used With A Literal "Day"

- Criticism:
 - There is no firm rule in Hebrew linguistics that dictate all numbered days necessitate a 24 hour day
 - Hos 6:1-2 has numbered days that are not literal days

Hosea 6:1-2 ¹Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. ²After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.

c. Genesis 1 Describes Each "Day" Had A "Morning" And "Evening"

Genesis 1:5 ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the **evening** and the **morning** were the first day.

Genesis 1:8 ⁸And God called the firmament Heaven. So the **evening** and the **morning** were the second day.

Genesis 1:13 ¹³So the **evening** and the **morning** were the third day.

Genesis 1:19 ¹⁹So the **evening** and the **morning** were the fourth day.

Genesis 1:23 ²³So the **evening** and the **morning** were the fifth day.

Genesis 1:31 ³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the **evening** and the **morning** were the sixth day.

- "Day" is described as having both "evening and morning" in Gen 1:5,8,13,19,23,31
- Beyond Genesis 1, when *yom* is used in conjunction with "evening" or "morning" 23x all meaning a regular day
- Beyond Genesis 1, *yom* is used associated with "evening" or "morning" 38x and all convey a regular day
- If God wanted to convey "age," there were other available Hebrew terms (*olam*, *gedem*), but none of those words were used in Genesis 1
- Criticism:
 - How can you have morning and evening when the sun wasn't created until the 4th day?
 - Ankerberg & Geisler critique: "if one is going to take everything in Genesis 1 in a strictly literal way, then the phrase "evening and morning" does not encompass all of a twenty-four-hour day, but only the late afternoon of one day and the early morning of another. This is considerably less than twenty-four-hours." ("How Long Were the Days of Genesis 1-2?," <http://www.ankerberg.com/Articles/science/SC0707W2C.htm>)
- Response:
 - But if God means a "day" with a morning and evening
 - There could be other sources of light besides the sun
 - The Big Bang theory says that the sun was created before the earth

d. The Seven Day Week Was Established As A Pattern For Man's Work

Genesis 2:1-3 ¹Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He

rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Exodus 20:11 ¹¹For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Mark 2:27 ²⁷And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

- **Criticism:**

- Ankerberg & Geisler critique: "It is true that the creation week is compared with a workweek (Ex. 20:11); however, it is not uncommon in the Old Testament to make unit-to-unit comparisons rather than minute-for-minute ones. For example, God appointed forty years of wandering for forty days of disobedience (Num. 14:34). And, in Daniel 9, 490 days equals 490 years (cf. 9:24-27)." ("How Long Were the Days of Genesis 1-2?")

e. Moses Spoke Of Six Days Elsewhere In His Writings

Exodus 20:11 ¹¹For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Exodus 31:17 ¹⁷It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

2. Death And Corruption Occurred After Adam's Fall

Romans 5:12 ¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Romans 5:14-15 ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

Genesis 3:19 ¹⁹In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 ²¹For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Romans 8:20-22 ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Genesis 3:17-18 ¹⁷Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

- Ken Ham writes: "The basis of the Gospel message is that God brought in death and bloodshed because of sin (Hebrews 9:22), so that man could be redeemed. The reason for death is tied up with the message of redemption." ("Billions, Millions, or Thousands--Does It Matter?," <http://www.icr.org/article/705/10/>)

Hebrews 9:22 ²²And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

- Paul Taylor & Mark Van Bebber point out ("Is The Age Of The Earth A 'Trivial' Doctrinal Point?," <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-c026.html>)

"Biblically, physical death is a clear penalty of sin—first demonstrated by the death of the sacrificial animals (beginning with those killed by God to clothe Adam and Eve). This penalty was also verified by the physical deaths of Adam and later, Christ, the perfect sacrifice and atonement.

Adam's Potential Lifespan. Apparently Adam would never have died if he had not disobeyed (Genesis 2:16-17, 3:22). God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden and guarded the tree of life so they would not use it to thwart death (Genesis 3:22-23)."

- Criticism:
 - Prior to Adam, animals hunted, preyed upon, and subject to volcanoes, earthquakes and asteroids destroying the animal population
 - Rom 5:12 doesn't say animals didn't die, just men

3. **Jesus Referred To Man Being Created During The Same Time As The Universe**

Mark 10:6 ⁶But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'

- Christ is not separating the creation of the universe and man by billions of years
- Ken Ham comments: "This makes it clear that Jesus taught the creation was young, for Adam and Eve existed 'from the beginning '—not billions of years after the universe and Earth came into existence." ("Did Jesus Say He Created In Six Days?," <http://www.answersingenesis.org/us/newsletters/0801lead.asp>)
- **Criticism:**
 - The old earth proponents say that man was created at the end of the creation period. There could still be long periods in between.

4. **Life Began On Day 3, Light From The Solar System Began On Day 4 – Could Life Be Sustained For Millions Of Years Without Light?**

Genesis 1:11-14 ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹²And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³So the evening and the morning were the third day. ¹⁴Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

- **Criticism:**

- Light was created on the 1st Day (Gen 1:3)
- Ankerberg & Geisler: "Some scholars have noted a parallelism between the first three days (light, water, and land – all empty) and the second three days (light, water, and land – all filled with bodies). This may indicate a parallelism in which the first and fourth days cover the same period, in which case the sun existed from the beginning. Others have pointed out that while the sun was created on the first day, it did not appear until the fourth day. Perhaps this was due to a vapor cloud that allowed light through, but not the distinct shape of the heavenly bodies from which the light emanated." ("How Long Were the Days of Genesis 1-2?")

[We will cover the Day-Age theory next time)

- Martin Luther held to literal days and literal interpretation: "We know from Moses that the world was not in existence before 6,000 years ago." ... "He [Moses] calls 'a spade a spade,' i.e., he employs the terms 'day' and 'evening' without Allegory, just as we customarily do we assert that Moses spoke in the literal sense, not allegorically or figuratively, i.e., that the world, with all its creatures, was created within six days, as the words read. If we do not comprehend the reason for this, let us remain pupils and leave the job of teacher to the Holy Spirit." (Martin Luther in Jaroslav Peliken, editor, "Luther's Works," Lectures on Genesis Chapters 1-5, Vol. 1, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1958, pp. 3, 6, cited in: <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-c027.html>)
- Charles Spurgeon in 1877: "We are invited, brethren, most earnestly to go away from the old-fashioned belief of our forefathers because of the supposed discoveries of science. What is science? The method by which man tries to conceal his ignorance. It should not be so, but so it is. You are not to be dogmatical in theology, my brethren, it is wicked; but for scientific men it is the correct thing. You are never to assert anything very strongly; but scientists may boldly assert what they cannot prove, and may demand a faith far more credulous than any we possess. Forsooth, you and I are to take our Bibles and shape and mould our belief according to the evershifting teachings of so-called scientific men. What folly is this! Why, the march of science, falsely so called, through the world may be traced by exploded fallacies and abandoned theories. Former explorers once adored are now ridiculed; the continual wreckings of false hypotheses is a matter of universal notoriety. You may tell where the learned have encamped by the debris left behind of suppositions and theories as plentiful as broken bottles." (*The Sword and the Trowel*, p. 197)

Conclusion:

- **“God said” – Do we obey God’s powerful and transforming Word?**
- **“God saw” – Do we trust God to work good out of sin and bring light to our darkness?**
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