

# Following the Biblical Stream:

By Philip E. Busby

## Part VI

In our last issue we talked about the fifth day as well as some about the sixth day. This time we continue to talk about the sixth day. The sixth day was a very busy day in the creation cycle. It would seem that more happened on the sixth day than any other day. Genesis tells us that land animals were created; then Adam was created; then the Garden of Eden was planted; then the animals were named by Adam; and then Eve was created. Here we have our first incident, in this study, where instead of going simply verse by verse we have to combine verses from both the first chapter and the second chapter of Genesis to get the whole story of the sixth day. However, before we talk about the creation of man and the events that take place there, I want to talk about the significance of the fact man's creation account is split the way it is. First, you must keep in mind that chapter and verse divisions in the Bible were put into place by man. They were placed in the Bible for the sake of studying and reference purposes; they're not, by any means, an actual portion of the Word of God. What I want you to understand is the fact that God did not tell man to put these separations in the Word. Therefore, they have no God given significance! They were put there by man for the convenience of man. We should try to not let chapter and verse divisions throw us off from the flow of what is being said and how it is being said! That being in mind, remember the normal way for the English language to be written is not only sentences but also in paragraphs. If this story was being told to us in a paragraph form, it would look quite a bit different than it looks in chapter and verse form. There are many places where chapter and verse divisions are put, in what I believe are not the best places, and the first chapter of the Book of Genesis is a good example.

The first chapter ends with the thirty-first verse, which brings us to the end of the sixth day. However, as we read into chapter 2 you must go all the way to verse 3 before you find the best place for chapter 1 to end. Here at the end of verse 3 of

chapter 2, we find the wrap up of the seventh day. This is the true end of the introduction to the Bible's story. Here we find the completion of the creation cycle. Genesis chapter 1 verse 1 to Genesis chapter 2 verse 3 are the words in which God lays down the beginning story of how all of creation was generally put into place. It does not give us a lot of the details that chapter 2 gives us about the creation of man, because it is an elementary way of laying out the general steps of creation as they happened over a seven day period. Chapter 2 verse 4 is when God really begins to speak to us about the journey all of it was created for, and that is the human journey! This is why chapter 2 of the Book of Genesis goes into a greater detail of exactly how man was created, and the process that was followed on the sixth day of creating Adam and then creating Eve; in between which are events such as the planting of the Garden of Eden, and the naming of the animals. Here we also are given some details on the general thought processes of God Himself. Putting the wording in this way emphasizes a great point as well, and that is the fact there is no "prehistoric" to the Bible. The Words of chapter 2 verses 4-6 tell us this is a complete account. We are hearing how man began his journey on this earth, not as some kind of knuckle dragging neanderthal, but as a fully developed human with all the brains and physical abilities of the human race! The first words in Genesis tells us how the world was formed "In the beginning"! It tells the story of the creation of not just things like water and earth, but time itself. This means it is telling us the way in which not just animals and plants were formed, but how God literally created seven specific days! It is really a shame that the end of chapter 1 does not go to the third verse of chapter 2. If it did, I believe there are many facts that would be clearer to us. The greatest of these would be the fact the Sabbath day is not just some "oh by the way" part of the cycle that gets honorable mention at the beginning of chapter 2, but it is truly a solidified part of the creation process! God makes this fact very clear in the laws He gives to the Jewish nation; and, of course, we will talk about the creation of a seventh day just as soon as we complete our study of the sixth day.

For the purposes of looking at the actual creation of man, we will look simultaneously at the account in chapter 1:26-31 and chapter 2:7-25. Here in chapter 1 verse 26 we see the general thought pattern of how man would be created. We find that man was created in the image of God; Genesis 1:26 tells us that was the determination God made as to what our general pattern would be. This is very important! As we talked about the creation of the animals, we found that God commanded the ground to “bring forth” the beasts of the field. This command brought forth more than just one type of animal, it created an abundance of creatures of all different kinds. However, when it comes to the creation of man, we find that God specifically wants to make us in His image and after His likeness. This means the part of us He forms from the ground is only one part, and not the whole, like the animals. Verse 27 tells us God carried through on that idea. It also makes clear that male and female were both created in the image of God. This fact becomes very relevant to the verses in chapter 2. There we see God bringing all the animals to Adam to find an helpmate. The fact He did not find one amongst the animals is why God created Eve. We will talk more about this as we get to that part of scripture. First, we want to talk about God. Here in verse 26, we find the first evidence that God is made up of more than one part. God specifically says here, “let US make man in OUR image after OUR likeness.” As we get further into this study we will find multiple occasions on which to talk about the fact God is a Triune Being. However, we want to take time to talk about it here, even though God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Ghost are not specified here.

In verse 26 we find that God, in essence, talks to Himself. It may seem to some people to be in poor taste to put it this way, but think about why it might be considered in poor taste! We live in a society that believes when someone talks to themselves they must be a little crazy. Why? I believe this is mostly because humans either don’t understand how they were created, or they do not want to understand. Paul warns us in the New Testament that we will always be tempted to live in the flesh and ignore the spirit. Of course, he was

very right; and many times the more someone is in tune with their entire self, the more strange they seem to those who are not. That does not mean the person is wrong or crazy! Because God is a Triune Being, it is very logical and appropriate for God to talk to Himself; and so, maybe we should take another look at how we feel about this issue before we open our own mouths to talk about someone else!

I believe we find our most vivid example of the fact God exists as one God, yet in three parts, during the time in which Christ walks this earth. Jesus refers to Himself as The Son of God, continually yielding to The Father and His will. Jesus also refers to The Holy Ghost on different occasions; and before Jesus goes, He informs us that since He is going, He will pray to The Father that He will send The Holy Ghost to us. So the Gospels lay out a very clear picture of the fact God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Ghost exist; yet the Bible makes it very clear God is one God. (Deut. 6:4-7) I understand this fact is very hard for many to grasp, and it may make you feel better that even the disciples who walked with Jesus, as He was here on this earth, found it very hard as well. If you read the story in John 14, you find that the disciples wanted to see The Father; and Jesus tries to explain to them, if they have seen Him then they have seen The Father!

However, it is comforting to know that Jesus went on to explain: if you could not grasp the fact God was one and yet three distinct parts, it was enough to just put your faith in Jesus and you would still be saved! That being true, we still want to take the time to try and understand these things; because it is a point of great understanding, if we can grasp the nature of God, then we can be helped in understanding our own nature. We should also consider that it is the same in reverse. If we can gain understanding into how we are made, then we gain understanding into God Himself, as well! We understand this is a fact, because the verses here in Genesis tell us we were made in God's image. This is a reference to the fact we too are a triune being. One of the most obvious ways to understand how we are a triune being is to, once again, think about the tendency we all have to ask ourselves questions.

It is, many times, through this process we make decisions. Now, when you ask yourself a question, who are you talking to? We must understand there's more to us than just the flesh. Yes, God formed us out of the dust of the ground, but He also breathed the breath of life into us. We are not simply part of those "ecosystems" of the planet we talked about in the last issue. We were given charge over the planet to care for it, but we were made in a very separated way from the animals and plants. Also, keep in mind plants and animals were always intended to have a life and death cycle, but man was made a "living soul," a being who was given the Tree of Life and intended to live forever!

Paul speaks to us throughout the New Testament about the fact we can not live strictly in the flesh. At the same time, there are many people who believe the flesh is not actually us. They say the flesh is only a shell in which we live. This is an entirely wrong way to look at our being. We are made up of three parts, and we need all three of those parts. The fact that the corruption of the seed of sin lies within the flesh, and the flesh part of us is the part that is going to face death, does not change the fact it is as much a part of us and as an important part of us as the spirit and the mind. We must understand, it is the fact the flesh will die someday that poses the basic problem we need to be saved from. Without a body, the other two parts of us have no place to go but into what Jesus described as "outer darkness." (Matt. 22:1-14, 25:14-45) It is through the physical death and resurrection of Christ we receive what we need to overcome this problem. However, Jesus did not do it just for the sake of solving that problem; He did it so those who wanted to make the decision to follow God would have a way to live on in a complete form! Further, Jesus said He also was leaving this earth so He could prepare a place for all those who want to serve God, and the purpose for that place would be so that where He is we could be also. (John 14:1-3) All of these facts become clearer and clearer the deeper we go into the Word of God. Understand, we will not comprehend some of these things in full until the day we go to be with Christ. (I Cor. 13:12) However, that does not mean we should not

continue to study and learn as much as we can in the here and now! God said His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6) Thankfully, the Bible also tells us if anyone lacks wisdom he may simply ask of God who gives liberally to all men. (James 1:5) It also says if we ask it shall be given to us, if we seek we will find, and if we knock it shall be opened unto us! (Matt. 7:7-12) We can have the knowledge of God in our lives!

Because we want to continue to grow and learn, we will continue to talk about the subject of God being a Triune Being and us being made in His likeness, in our next issue. Until then, I pray we will learn each day how we may serve God better, not just in the flesh but as a whole! See you next time.

