



## SESSION 5

# GENESIS

Creation through Water and the Word



Read Genesis 1:14-19

- 1 On Day 4, God created the great lights that that we know of as Sun and Moon. But Why doesn't Genesis mention these heavenly bodies by name?
- 2 Note the use of "day" in verse 16. What does this add to our understanding of a six-day creation?
- 3 Genesis only tells us what God has done; it doesn't tell us much about "how" He did it. We are told He fills the expanse with stars. But we might wonder, given the size of the universe, how long it took for the light of the newly created stars to be seen in the night sky? A couple of weeks ago, we learned that it takes four years for light to travel from Proxima Centauri, our nearest star, to the earth. So, does this mean that the night sky mostly empty for decades or more before the first light from distant stars began to appear? How would these lights have served their purpose as "*signs and for seasons and for days and for years*" if they weren't readily apparent? Furthermore, some light that astronomers now see through telescopes comes from stars and galaxies that are said to be millions of light years away, how could this light be visible at all if the universe is very young?

Read Genesis 1:20-25

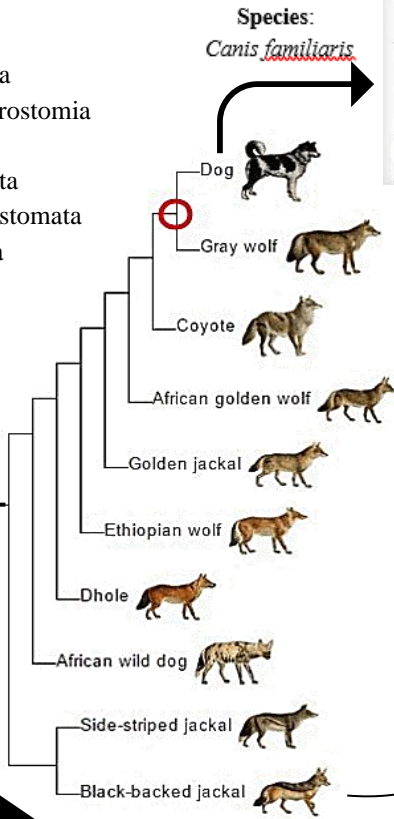
- 8 God brings forth life (both plant and animal life) according to its KIND. How is the biblical teaching that animals were created in "kinds" a very different concept from Darwin's theory of Evolution?
  - *Contrary to what we might assume, God may not have necessarily created every species just as we see them today. In fact, that is very unlikely given that science can observe many species today changing and adapting to changes in the environment. One example could be the peppered moth in England during the Industrial Revolution.*
  - *It could well be that there was much less diversity in the animal and plant kingdoms in the beginning (the Genesis 1 world). However, each "kind" of animal would have had the genetic potential for considerable amounts of variation and would have been able to fulfill God's command to "fill" the earth. Just consider how much genetic variation still exists in the species "canis familiaris" (the domestic dog). See diagram below.*

# The Dog Kind

The AKC recognizes 195 breeds, with 79 additional breeds working toward full recognition.



- Kingdom:** Animalia
- Subkingdom:** Bilateria
- Infrakingdom:** Deuterostomia
- Phylum:** Chordata
- Subphylum:** Vertebrata
- Infraphylum:** Gnathostomata
- Superclass:** Tetrapoda
- Class:** Mammalia
- Subclass:** Theria
- Infraclass:** Eutheria
- Order:** Carnivora
- Suborder:** Caniformia
- Family:** Canidae
- Genus:** *Canis*



All the dog species in the Genus *canis* are able to interbreed and reproduce viable offspring. However, it seldom happens in nature. Coyotes, wolves, dingoes and domestic dogs have been known to occasionally interbreed in the wild, but some species like the African Wild Dog would never breed with other related species because their mating habits and behaviors are very unique.

Despite appearances the two skulls below both belong to the same species—the domestic dog. The one on the left is a Great Dane while the one on the right is a Pug skull.



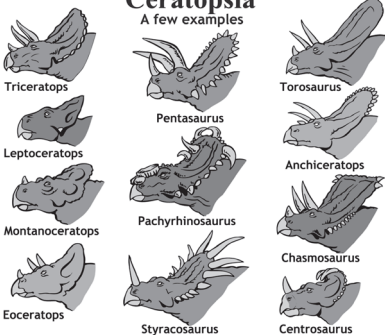
### Ponder this:

If Genus is synonymous with the Genesis concept of “Kind,” then consider how much animal diversity might have been lost during The Flood? Because if all the variation we see in the Genus *canis* today is representative from the two dogs that Noah took onto the ark, then how much more diverse was this Kind before the flood? Could this explain why we see so much diversity in the fossil record? How sad it is to think about how much of God’s good creation was lost in The Flood. It would be like if the flood happened today and we could only take two dogs with us on the ark. What if the only dogs we could get our hands on were both Chihuahuas? Would you ever be able to get Great Danes again after the flood?



### Ceratopsia

A few examples

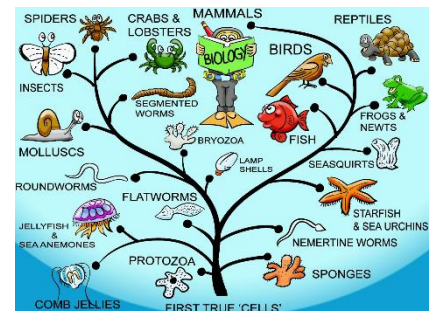


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How many of the thousands of dinosaur species that paleontologists claim to have found (often based no more than on a few knuckle bones, teeth and vertebrae) might better be explained through the biblical concept of “Kinds?” See the diagram to the left that groups some “so called” species of dinosaurs into a Kind.

6

Evolution is exactly upside down from the Genesis teaching about creation in kinds. Whereas Genesis states that all genetic information was created at once, to be disseminated within each kind, evolution teaches that all genetic information had to spontaneously arise, starting with simple single-celled organisms and that slowly, over eons of time, more genetic information was “somehow” added to make more and more diversity. But how does any kind of information, much less genetic information, happen by accident or randomly?



An evolutionary model that shows life developing from bottom to top, becoming more diverse and complex as more genetic information is added.

7 A hallmark of Darwin's theory of evolution is Natural Selection or Survival of the Fittest. Through this mechanism, Darwin thought that evolution can not only ensure the survival of a particular species but can also have a building effect so powerful that it can begin with a bacterial cell and gradually craft its descendants over billions of years to produce such wonders as trees, flowers, ants, birds, and humans. However, is Natural Selection really all that Darwin claimed it to be?

➤ *In Darwin's Origin of the Species, he couldn't offer any concrete examples of natural selection in nature and so he used an analogy what breeders do to improve domesticated plants and animals. By breeding only from the wooliest sheep or the most fertile chickens or the sweetest corn, breeders have been spectacularly successful in altering almost every imaginable characteristic and genetic expression in domesticated animals and plants. But Darwin's analogy is misleading. Plant and animal breeders use intelligence and specialize knowledge and artificial environmental factors. Human breeders produce variations in animals and plants for reasons that have no purpose in nature, sometimes for the sheer purpose of causing delight to see how much variation can be achieved (e.g., the Pug). The process of human-selection that brings about variation in dogs or chickens for the purposes of creating interesting pets or lots of eggs to eat would not benefit animals in the wild nor would it help them survive. This is why domesticated animals typically don't last long in the wild or revert back to a more primitive form (e.g., the wild hog in Texas). If anything, natural selection seems to keep species the same more than it encourages deviation or change. This is why coyotes always produce coyotes, unless the breed with a different dog species.*

➤ *Evolution makes the claim that the most effective natural selection is that which comes about through mutation: randomly occurring genetic changes in an individual. If the mutation is advantageous, it can allow an individual to live longer and pass on that trait to more offspring, who themselves are more advantaged. But does mutation really work this way?*

- *Are there any examples of mutations that are ever advantageous?*
- *How are genes are passed from one generation to the next?*

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- *Like in the example of the peppered moth, it very hard for particular gene to be bred out of an entire population.*
- *Irreducible complexity:*

8 How does Darwinian Evolution and Natural Selection as an explanation for the origin of all life undermine faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior?

**ROMANS 5:12**

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned*