

01-01-07.wpd—The 3rd Day of Creation
creation, art, beauty, life, sexuality, marriage
Genesis 1:9-13

As an Artist God is into beauty; but as the Creator, He's into life.

INTRODUCTION: (read **text**)

—It once took me four sermons to get to Gen 1:3, then I skipped to the last day of creation. I didn't see much to preach about in the other days, because I didn't yet understand the extreme value of the world of matter in God's ultimate scheme of things. Now I'm wondering if I can fit into one sermon all I've seen in this **3rd Day of Creation**.

—"All Scripture" (it says in 2 Tim 3:16) is not only "inspired by God," but is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." What that means, as we look into these days of creation in Genesis, is that we can find spiritual edification here. That's my goal. What does this passage tell us about God, about *ourselves*, about *God's will and purposes*? If I could put it into a short phrase: **HOM.idea**.

I. God's Artistic Planning and Productions Were Perfect

- A. Artists can only copy the Greatest Artist, God. [Good compositions in art are well planned. Everything must fit. Everything must work toward a common theme or desired result in the artist's mind.] We see this in how God composed Earth, according to His ultimate plan for it.
- B. [Mobile: description] In the gigantic mobile of our solar system, God proportioned the exact size of the Earth, set it rotating at an exact rate and revolving at an exact distance from the Sun, so **water** can cover it, evaporate from it and rain back down on it.
- C. From stunning orbital photography, this thin sheath of water on our globe renders it beautiful, but that was not God's finished product.... He had a purpose for water, and that purpose was **life**.
- D. God said, "Let the dry ground appear," and called it "land." The dry ground is what land is made of, but land itself takes on a multitude of forms and shapes that make it beautiful and interesting. But those were not the reasons God made land.

TRANS: The starry host of heaven gives God glory. This tiny speck of star dust called Earth, decorated first with beautiful seas, then with a variety of magnificent mountains and valleys and plains, was quite

sufficient to *give glory* to its Artist-Maker. But God was not finished. **As an Artist God is into beauty; but as the Creator, He's into life.**

II. God's Biological Creation Revealed His Inmost Nature

- A. God is not a *dynamic principle* or a *powerful force*. He makes *law* and wields *power*, but His *essential nature* is LIFE, revealed even in His name "I AM." He's the kind of God our souls long for— **Psa 42:2a**, My soul thirsts for God, for **the living God**. But in creation He has shown Himself to be the *God of life*.
- B. We know that *maleness* and *femaleness* are within the nature of our Triune Creator, because He said in **Gen 1:26**, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." and **v.27** says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."
 1. PTL that someone finally saw the implications of this and spoke up about it! **Pope John Paul II's TOB** is based on the concept that the sexual nature of our bodies joined in the loving, one-flesh bond of marriage is a sign of the nature of loving unity in the Trinity itself. Out of both those unities (the *divine* and the *human*) **new life** is brought forth.
 2. The first kind of life God created, on the 3rd day of creation, was "seed-bearing plants and trees." Flowers and tree blossoms partially symbolized the mysterious unity within the Trinity, even before man came, because they display ongoing life by sexual union.

TRANS: Why is sexuality the target of Satan's attack? Why has he tried to steer society away from sexual integrity and wholeness into adultery and promiscuity and gender confusion? It's because sexual union in marriage not only images the Creator's Triune Love, but does so by producing life. [Leanne Payne (her ministry in sexual healing): As Creator, God demonstrates a role that is so masculine that all creation in relationship to Him is feminine.] Life comes from God our Father. Without it land may be beautiful, but it's barren. The vegetation the God of life brought up from the land was sexual in nature, so it could be life-producing.

III. God's Creational Plan Included Marriage

- A. Plants, which come forth from the earth, give their seeds back to the earth to bring forth life again. (This cyclical process parallels the theme of sexual union in the cycle of life, because the male,

born from the *female*, plants his *seed* into the *female* to reproduce *life*. [This obvious parallel is why almost all cultures have named the *land* "Mother Earth," because of what happens when seeds are planted in her.]

- B. **Even more important**, Jesus used this identical illustration to tell about His work of salvation— John 12:24, "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."
- a. God took up the dust of earthly flesh in order to plant it again into the earth by His death, so that in His rising again, He might make resurrected life a reality for humanity.
 - b. This incarnational involvement of Christ in assuming the earthly dust of our humanity is what the pope's TOB calls "spousal love," because by His death on the Cross, He betrothed to Himself the Church as a Bride. (We don't have to wait for heaven to enjoy the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, because each time we have Holy Communion, we are celebrating the day our Bridegroom gave Himself for us!)

CONCLUSION:

—The melody of sexual union and life began to play *in the beginning*, even in the vegetation produced by the land. We still enjoy the beauty of that melody and love to see it, smell it, and taste its fruits. But beauty was not the ultimate goal. **As an Artist God is into beauty; but as the Creator, He's into life.** Water allowed plant life. Plant life gives food and oxygen to sustain animal life. These glorified God, but God wanted *living glory!* On day 3, He created life that would sexually reproduce in relationship with the dry land. But from that dry land He would soon handcraft a Self-portrait, and as in the story of the stone statue carved by Pygmalion, the divine Artist would breathe "spousal love" into "His image", bringing it to life, for the ultimate purpose of a divine marriage between Himself and humanity through Christ. But that's another story for another day... of creation.

Genesis 1:9-13 (NIV)

9And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.

10God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

11Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

12The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

13And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.