

01-01-08.wpd—The 5th Day of Creation
 creation, sea, sky, God's power, providence, deliverance
 Gen 1:20-23
 All God's creatures declare the glory due His name.

INTRODUCTION:

—Our **text** is about the creation of creatures of the sea and sky. We are fascinated with these two realms. In v.20, *God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky,"* and today we still like fishing and bird-watching. From our perspective on the "land," we envy sea and sky creatures so much that we've learned to swim and build submarines, and to fly in balloons and airplanes.
 —But what does God have to tell us about Himself through these creatures? What does life in the ocean and feathered fowl tell us *about God's will* for us? A look through Scripture reveals that He often uses them to illustrate divine truth. **HOM.idea.**

I. God's Power and Majesty

- A. God has revealed Himself in creation— **Psalms 104:24-26**, How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.
- B. When Job was questioning God, God answered him by illustrating His own status with a sea monster called "leviathan" [some say it was a *crocodile*, but it sounds more like a *real dragon*]— **Job 41:1-10**, "Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope? Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? Will he keep begging you for mercy? Will he speak to you with gentle words? Will he make an agreement with you for you to take him as your slave for life? Can you make a pet of him like a bird or put him on a leash for your girls? Will traders barter for him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? Can you fill his hide with harpoons or his head with fishing spears? If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering. No one is fierce enough to rouse him. Who then is able to stand against me?" The point is, if we fear to get near dragons, how can we ever treat their Creator with audacity?

TRANS: God's giant sea creatures declare the glory due His name.
 Proverbs says, "fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." God isn't

trying to scare us with sea dragons. But He can use them to confront the *flippancy* and *lack of respect* that we might have in approaching Him.

II. God's Care and Provision

- A. God used *sea and sky creatures* to reveal His *care* for His people:
1. When the Israelites in the wilderness cried out to God for meat to eat, God flew it in— **Exodus 16:11-13**, The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'" That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.
 2. Jesus had a unique approach to paying taxes— **Mat 17:24-27**, After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?" "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."
 3. Jesus also had a unique way in calling fishermen to become "fishers of men"— **Luke 5:4-11**, When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break . . . they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" . . . Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

TRANS: All God's creature declares the glory due His name. His miraculous control of fish and birds to provide for human need was like a calling card He dropped to make Himself known.

III. God's Deliverance and Salvation

- A. "*Free as a bird*" is a metaphor signifying the nature of *liberation*
 God can bring— **Psa 124:2-8** (NLT), What if the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us? They would have swallowed us alive in their

burning anger. The waters would have engulfed us; a torrent would have overwhelmed us. Yes, the raging waters of their fury would have overwhelmed our very lives. Praise the LORD, who did not let their teeth tear us apart! We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap. The trap is broken, and we are free! Our help is from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

- B. The flight of *birds* "up, up, and away" is still the envy of humans, but it finds its fulfilment in our relationship with Christ. It's not just as a final flight from earth [*"Just a few more passing days and then, I'll fly away. To a land where joys will never end, I'll fly away."*], but part of our Christian life [another song: I'm so happy to be a high-flying Christian man, / Soaring like the eagles fly over this troubled land . . . God gave me wings to fly of prayer and praise, / And now I fly the heavenly skies all through the day . . . He that has an ear to hear, let him hear. / The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is drawing near. / Rise up from off the earth to meet Him in the air, / Rise up, O Israel, on your wings of praise and prayer. / Now I'm so happy to be resting in Jesus' hand. / I'm so happy to be a high-flying Christian man.]
- C. We also envy the *fish* that go to depths we can't, but God's Spirit calls us to plunge deeper into the depths of His love, which is our birthright in Christ. [song by OOTG: I am a wave upon the sea / Someday soon the tide will take me / Deeper underneath / Where the wind cannot break me / I'll be sinking in the flood / Completely taken by His love / Oh I can hear the deep / Calling out to me / It's a siren song of peace / And I long to be / Swallowed up and swept into the deep / And to the people who are stranded on the land / I'm reaching out my hand / Can you hear the deep / Calling you to sea / It's a siren song of peace / And don't you long to be / Swallowed up and swept into the deep / Come follow me / Be swallowed by the deep .]

CONCLUSION:

–Flying is "for the birds," but soaring to the heights of spiritual ecstasy is for us. Swimming deep in the ocean is "fishy business," but diving down into the depths of divine love is our calling in Christ.

–All God's creatures declare the glory due His name. *Sea and sky* creatures sing melodies of God's *power*, His *care*, His *salvation*, and much more. Let's learn from them, and join the chorus of their song.

Genesis 1:20-23 (NIV)

20And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

21So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

22God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

23And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.