



On the sixth day of creation, God created the land animals and the pinnacle of His creative work, humans ([Genesis 1:24-31](#)). God's handiwork was complete at the end of the sixth day.

Moses, the author of Genesis, summed up the week of creation with these words: "Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array" ([Genesis 2:1, NIV](#)).

God's creation was and is good...Very good!

Man has put God's vast array of splendor into a vast disarray of cinders and splinters.

Why should a loving God give up His finest (Jesus) for a creation who is bent on destruction ?

Genesis 1:24-25, "Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."

God now turns His creative attention towards land animals of various types. When we look at the infinite variety of the animal kingdom (both living and extinct), we must be impressed with God's creative power, as well as His sense of humor. The God who makes the giraffe, the hippopotamus, and the peacock is a God of joy and humor.

"According to its kind"...Again, this important phrase is emphasized. God allows tremendous variation within a kind, but one "kind" will never become another "kind."

Genesis 1:26-27. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

- 1. The use of the plural (Let Us make man in Our image) is consistent with the idea that there is One God in three Persons, what we know as the Trinity.***

Leupold (Theologian) does a good job showing that the plurality (Let Us make...) cannot be merely the plurality of royalty, nor can it be God speaking with and to the angels. It is an indicator of the Trinity (though not clearly spelled out)...

2. An understanding of who man is begins with knowing we are made in the image of God.

- ✓ Man is different from every other order of created being because He has a created consistency with God.
- ✓ This means there is an unbridgeable gap between human life and animal life.
- ✓ Though we are biologically similar to certain animals, we are distinct in our moral, intellectual, and spiritual capabilities.

NOTE: This means there is also an unbridgeable gap between human life and angelic life. Nowhere are we told the angels are made in the image of God. Angels cannot have the same kind of relationship of love and fellowship with God we can have.

Question: What trait do humans have in common with angels?

There are several specific things in man that show him to be made in the image of God.

- ✓ *Man alone has a natural countenance looking upward*
- ✓ *Man alone has a variety of facial expressions*
- ✓ *Man alone has a sense of shame expressing itself in a blush*
- ✓ *Man alone speaks*
- ✓ *Man alone possesses personality, morality, and spirituality.*
 - *Personality: knowledge, feelings, and a will. This sets man apart from all animals and plants*
 - *Morality: we are able to make moral judgments and have a conscience*
 - *Spirituality: man is made for communion with God. It is on the level of spirit we communicate with God*

“In the Image of God”:

- ✓ This does not mean that God has a physical or human body. God is a Spirit (John 4:24).
- ✓ Though God does not have a physical body, He designed man so man’s physical body could do many of the things God does: see, hear, smell, touch, speak, think, plan, and so forth.

“It will hardly be safe to say that the body of man is patterned after God, because God, being an incorporeal (intangible) spirit, cannot have what we term a material body (except the God Man, Jesus). Yet the body of man must at least be regarded as the fittest receptacle for the man’s spirit and so must bear at least an analogy that is so close that God and His angels choose to appear in human form when they appear to men.” (Leupold)

“Let them have dominion”: Before God ever created man, He decreed man would have dominion over the earth. Man’s pre-eminence of the created order and his ability to affect His environment is no accident; it is part of God’s plan for man and the earth.

In this sense, it is sin if man does not use this dominion responsibly, in the sense of a proper regard for stewardship on this earth.

As Christians, we should set the pattern for taking care of planet earth by responsibly and consciously using the environment with respect for ourselves and others. God has a beautiful way of filtering out the atrocities that man is doing to His creation. However, He has more to do than to have His work crew go behind us cleaning up our mess. We don’t have to overdo the “environmental thing,” but we can be a keeper of God’s wonderful kingdom here on earth.

Genesis 1:28-31, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

The concept of man being created “in the image of God” is repeated to give emphasis to the idea (important to God and should be important to man).

- ✓ We are plainly told God created man fully formed, and created him in one day, not gradually over millions of years of progressive evolution.
- ✓ It is said there would be at least 40 different stages of evolution required to form an eye (over millions of years). The “Doubter” would laugh and say, “How could your God form such a complex organism in a 24 hour period?”
And I would say to the doubter...If God formed the universe by saying, “Let there be...”, I would think He might be able to make a fully constructed man by saying, “Wow, this is going to be my greatest achievement this week. I am going to rest tomorrow.”

“Male and female He created them”: This passage of Genesis gives us an overview of God’s creation of man, and Genesis 2 will explain how exactly God created male and female.

- ✓ In our day, many say there is no real difference between men and women. This only makes sense to those believing creation was over millions of years and that we (men and women) are the result of mindless evolution,
- ✓ To God, the differences between men and women are not accidents. Since He created them, the differences are good and meaningful.
- ✓ Men are not women, and women are not men. One of the saddest signs of our culture’s depravity is the amount and the degree of gender confusion today.

NOTE: It is vain to wonder if men or women are superior to the other. A man is absolutely superior at being a man. A woman is absolutely superior at being a woman. But when a man tries to be a woman or a woman tries to be a man, you have something inferior.

Then God blessed them”:

The first thing God did for man was to bless him. Without the goodness of God’s blessing, human life would be not only unbearable, but also impossible.

Psalm 8:1-8 – “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” (NIV)