

Genesis 1:24-31 – Day 6: Creatures on the Land and Humankind		
24a	<p>And God said,</p> <p>“Let the land produce living_a beings according to their kinds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ livestock ▪ and swarming_{n2}-creatures ▪ and living_n-creatures of the land according to their kinds.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land sprout vegetation; land produce creatures ▪ NET: three groups of land animals here: the cattle or livestock (mostly domesticated), things that creep or move close to the ground (such as reptiles or rodents), and the wild animals (all animals of the field).
24b	<p>And it was so.</p>	
25a	<p>And God made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ living_n-creatures of the land according to their kinds ▪ and the livestock according to its kinds, ▪ and all swarming_{n2}-creatures of the ground according to their kind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swarm_{v1}(שָׂרַץ): teeming, swarming, prolific multitude; swarm, teem, be innumerable ▪ Swarm_{v2}(רָמַשׁ): creeping, crawling, wriggling mass; used of the vast numbers of creatures in water, on ground, in woods; in random movement
25b	<p>And God saw that <i>[it was]</i> good.</p>	
26a	<p>And God said,</p> <p>(a) “Let us make humankind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in our image, ▪ like our likeness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distinction: “according to its kind” vs. “in our image/likeness” ▪ Notes:² ▪ God designed us in his image. ▪ Satan claimed that we could be like God if we ate the tree.
26b	<p>(b) And let them rule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ over the fish of the sea ▪ and over the flying_n-creatures of the sky ▪ and over the livestock ▪ and over all the land ▪ and over all swarming_{n2}-creatures that swarm_{v2} on the land.” 	
27	<p>(a) And God created humankind in his image.</p> <p>(b) In the image of God he created him.</p> <p>(c) He created them male and female.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Male & female is fundamental to the image of God. ▪ Denying male & female is an attack on the image of God.

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28	<p>And God blessed them</p> <p>And God said to them,</p> <p>(a) “Be fruitful</p> <p>(b) and multiply</p> <p>(c) and fill the land</p> <p>(d) and harness it,</p> <p>(e) and rule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ over the fish of the sea ▪ and over the flying_n-creatures of the sky ▪ and over all the living-creatures that swarm_{v2} on the land.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NET: the verb “bless” here means “to endow with the capacity to reproduce and be fruitful.” ▪ NET: The general meaning of the verb (to subdue) appears to be “to bring under one’s control for one’s advantage.” In Gen 1:28 one might paraphrase it as follows: “harness its potential and use its resources for your benefit.”
29	<p>And God said,</p> <p>“Look!</p> <p>(a) I have given to you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ all green-plants sowing_v seed_n that [are] on the surface of all the land, ▪ and all the trees that [have] on them fruit sowing_v seed_n. <p>(b) It will be food for you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Literal: “fruit of trees sowing seed” ▪ God speaks directly to mankind. ▪ Literal: “to you it will be for food”
30a	<p>(c) <i>[I have given]</i> all green-plants_{n1} for food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to all living_n-creatures of the land ▪ and to all flying_n-creatures of the sky ▪ and to all that swarm_{v2} on the land, —<i>[everything] that [has] living</i>_a breath in it.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Literal: all green_{n2} green-plants_{n1} for food ▪ Living beings vs. breath of life ▪ HOL: [3] breath: what makes man & animals living beings
30b	<p>And it was so.</p>	
31a	<p>And God saw all that he had made,</p> <p>and look,</p> <p><i>[it was]</i> very good.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First occurrence of “day” with the article; sets the 6th day apart.
31b	<p>And there was evening</p> <p>and there was morning,</p> <p>the sixth day.</p>	

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Literature Type: ➤ Story	▪
Main Character: ➤ God (<i>Elohim</i>)	▪ God does all the speaking and all the action.
Other Characters: ➤ The land ➤ Humankind	▪ God spoke to the land, commanding it to produce living creatures. ▪ God spoke to humankind, commanding them to populate the land and rule the creatures of the sea, sky, and land.
Story Obstacles (<i>new tensions</i>): (1) Will the land produce living creatures as commanded (1:24)? (2) Will humankind populate the land and rule the creatures of the sea, sky, and land (1:26, 28)?	▪
Tension Direction: (1) Day 6, Obstacle #1: ➤ Tension resolved: “And it was so” (1:24). (2) Day 6, Obstacle #2: ➤ Tension decreases: God endowed humankind (1:28) with ability (i.e. blessed) and created them as male and female (1:27). God provided food via green plants and fruit trees (1:29). ➤ Tension simmers: Will humankind populate and rule?	▪
Theme (<i>to original audience</i>): ➤ God created humankind in his (God’s) image as male and female, ▪ And he (God) directed them to fully populate the land... ▪ And to rule over the creatures of the sea, sky, and land.	▪
Theology (<i>to all audiences</i>): ➤ God is the creator. ➤ Everything God created was good. ▪ The creation of humankind made it very good. ▪ Humankind is the highpoint of creation. ➤ God requires people (male/female) to fully populate the land... ▪ And he endows (blesses) them with the ability to do so. ➤ God requires people (male/female) to harness the land and to rule over all his creatures (of sea, sky, & land) ... ▪ And he endows (blesses) them with the ability to do so.	▪

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God created humankind in his (God’s) image and likeness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have God-given capabilities to relate to him and to serve him. ▪ “Male” and “female” is fundamental to being created in the image of God. ▪ Men and women are completely equal partners in their populating & ruling responsibilities. ➤ God provided for humankind by giving green plants and fruit trees for their food... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ And he provided for his creatures (of sky & land) by giving them green plants. 	
<p>Big Idea <i>(for our audience):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rule together as equals <i>(for a marriage class)</i>. ➤ Trust the Creator <i>(for an Adult Sunday School class)</i>. ➤ God is Creator <i>(for a Youth Group)</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪