

AND GOD

DIVIDED

DIVIDED

A Study of Genesis 1:1 to 2:3

These two passages – both from Luke – seem to contradict each other.

First, the angels' proclamation at the birth of Jesus:

Luke 2:13-14

- ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying,
¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth
peace, good will toward men.



Luke 12:51-53

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And from the mouth of Christ himself:

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Luke 12:51-53

- ⁵¹ Suppose ye that I am come to give
peace on earth?
I tell you, Nay; but rather division:
⁵² For from henceforth
there shall be five in one house divided,
three against two, and two against three.
⁵³ The father shall be divided against the
son, and the son against the father;
the mother against the daughter,
and the daughter against the mother;
the mother in law against her daughter in
law, and the daughter in law against her
mother in law.

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a multitude of the heavenly host
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good will toward men.



Matthew 10:34

- ³⁴ Think not that I am come to send
peace on earth:
I came not to send peace,
but a sword.



Christ is the incarnate Sword of the Spirit,
as Revelation 1:16 illustrates, saying:
“out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword”



The nature of a sword is to divide:

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the **dividing asunder** of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

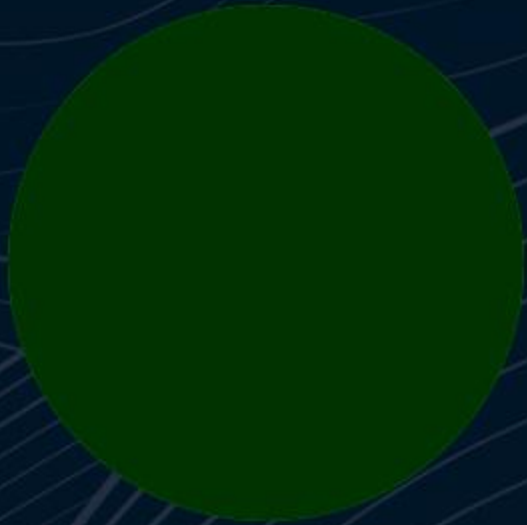
With this in mind, let us consider the week of creation,
each day distinguished by God's acts of dividing.



In his first recorded act, God divided all of creation into two places of dwelling:

One for the LORD and his angels,
The other for mortal men and the creatures of earth.





Genesis 1:1-2

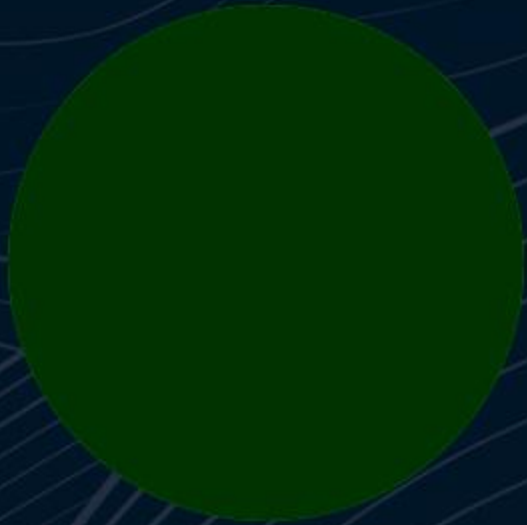
- ¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Psalm 115:16

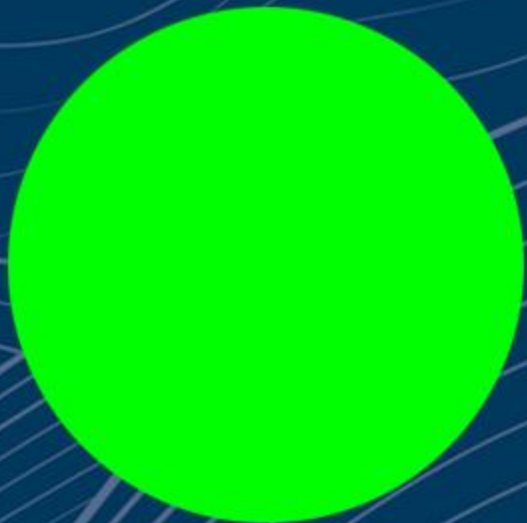
The heaven, *even* the heavens,
are the LORD'S:
but the earth hath he given
to the children of men.

Genesis 1:1-2

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- ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.



Next, God divided light from darkness,
and created day and night:



Genesis 1:3-5

- ³ And God said,
Let there be light:
and there was light.
- ⁴ And God saw the light,
that *it was good*:
and God divided
the light from the darkness.
- ⁵ And God called the light Day,
and the darkness he called Night.
And the evening and the morning
were the first day.

This separation of light and darkness created an eternal metaphor for two opposing ways of life.

Isaiah 45:7

⁷ I form the light,
and create darkness:
I make peace,
and create evil:
I the LORD do all these *things*.

Genesis 1:3-5

- ³ And God said,
Let there be light:
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- ⁴ And God saw the light,
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and God divided
the light from the darkness.
- ⁵ And God called the light Day,
and the darkness he called Night.
And the evening and the morning
were the first day.



Walking in light or darkness,
in day or night,
became symbolic of mankind's
spiritual condition.

1 Thessalonians 5:5

⁵ Ye are all the children of light,
and the children of the day:
we are not of the night,
nor of darkness.

LIGHT

DARKNESS

Were the first seven days “earth days”
– 24 hours in length?

Mark 10:27

²⁷ And Jesus looking upon them saith,
With men *it is* impossible,
but not with God:
for with God all things are possible.

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And the evening and the morning
were the first day.



Were the first seven days “earth days”
– 24 hours in length?

Jeremiah 32:17

¹⁷ Ah Lord GOD!
behold, thou hast made the heaven
and the earth by thy great power
and stretched out arm,
and there is nothing too hard for
thee:

Genesis 1:3-5

- ³ And God said,
Let there be light:
and there was light.
- ⁴ And God saw the light,
that *it was* good:
and God divided
the light from the darkness.
- ⁵ And God called the light Day,
and the darkness he called Night.
And the evening and the morning
were the first day.



On the second day, God created a firmament he called Heaven.

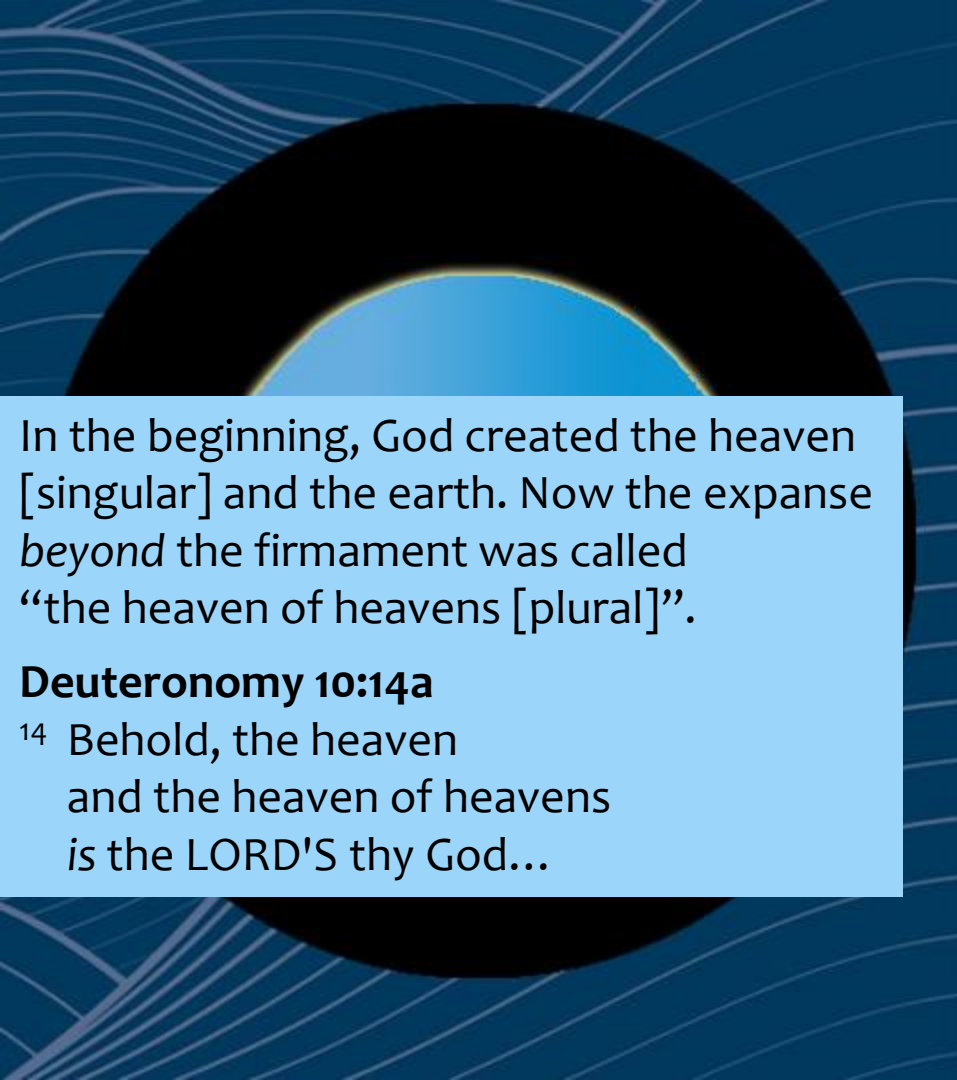




The firmament divided the waters into parts above it and below it.

Genesis 1:6-8

- ⁶ And God said,
Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, **and let it divide the waters from the waters.**
- ⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.
- ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.



In the beginning, God created the heaven [singular] and the earth. Now the expanse *beyond* the firmament was called “the heaven of heavens [plural]”.

Deuteronomy 10:14a

¹⁴ Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God...

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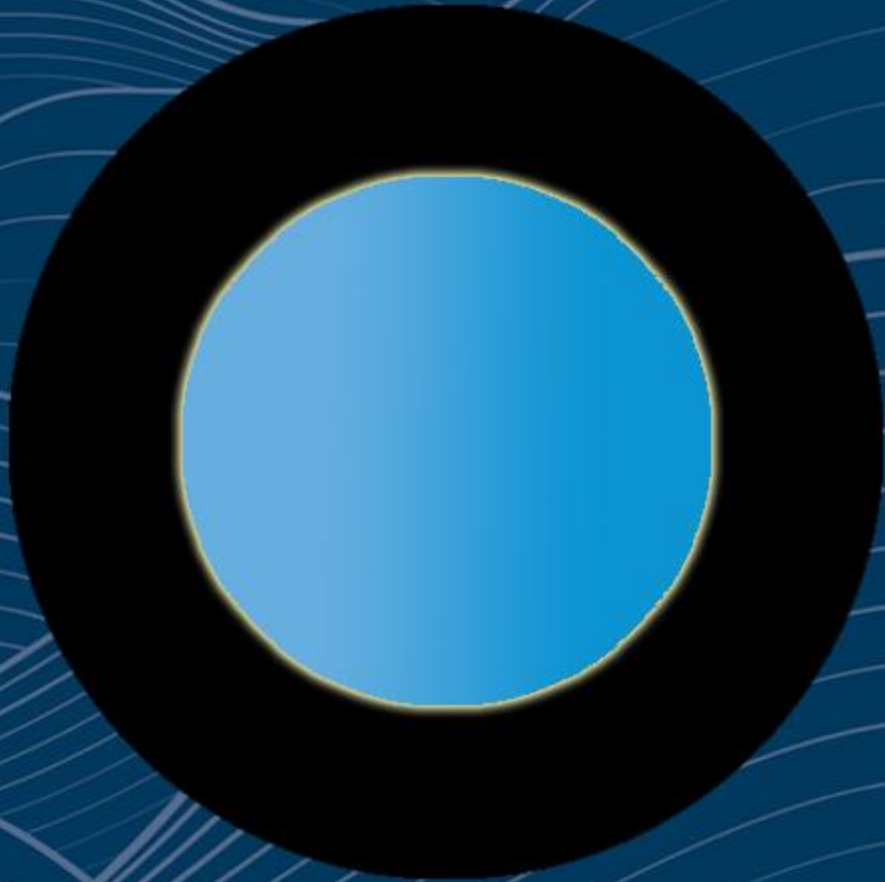
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- ⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.
- ⁸ **And God called the firmament Heaven.**
And the evening and the morning were the second day.



What held the earth in place?
As of yet, there was nothing else within
the firmament.

Job 26:7

⁷ He stretcheth out the north
over the empty place,
and hangeth the earth upon nothing.



What held the earth in place?
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Job 26:7

⁷ He stretcheth out the north
over the empty place,
and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Hebrews 1:3 testifies of the Lord
“upholding all things by the word of his
power.”

On the 3rd day, God concentrated his effort on Earth,
dividing the land from the sea.





Genesis 1:9-10

- ⁹ And God said,
Let the waters under the heaven
be gathered together unto one place,
and let the dry *land* appear:
and it was so.
- ¹⁰ And God called the dry *land* Earth;
and the gathering together of the
waters called he Seas:
and God saw that *it was good*.



“Pangaea”

Before the Great Flood, all the continents of earth formed one land.

Also on the third day,
God created plant life,
dividing it into two categories:

Genesis 1:11-13

- ¹¹ And God said,
Let the earth bring forth grass,
the herb yielding seed,
and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his
kind, whose seed *is* in itself,
upon the earth: and it was so.
- ¹² And the earth brought forth grass,
and herb yielding seed after his kind,
and the tree yielding fruit,
whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind:
and God saw that *it was* good.
- ¹³ And the evening and the morning
were the third day.





Some seeds are scattered by the wind.

Genesis 1:11-13

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the herb yielding seed,
and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his
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and herb yielding seed after his kind,
and the tree yielding fruit,
whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind:
and God saw that *it was* good.
- ¹³ And the evening and the morning
were the third day.





Others are nestled within fruit.

Genesis 1:11-13

- ¹¹ And God said,
Let the earth bring forth grass,
the herb yielding seed,
and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his
kind, whose seed *is* in itself,
upon the earth: and it was so.
- ¹² And the earth brought forth grass,
and herb yielding seed after his kind,
and the tree yielding fruit,
whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind:
and God saw that *it was* good.
- ¹³ And the evening and the morning
were the third day.



On the fourth day, God worked within the firmament.





Genesis 1:14-15

- ¹⁴ And God said,
Let there be lights
in the firmament of the heaven
to divide the day from the night;
and let them be for signs,
and for seasons,
and for days,
and years:
- ¹⁵ And let them be for lights
in the firmament of the heaven
to give light upon the earth:
and it was so.



Genesis 1:16-19

- ¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made the stars also.*
- ¹⁷ And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
- ¹⁸ And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was good.*
- ¹⁹ And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.



The moon divides time into months,
and governs the tides.

Psalm 104:19

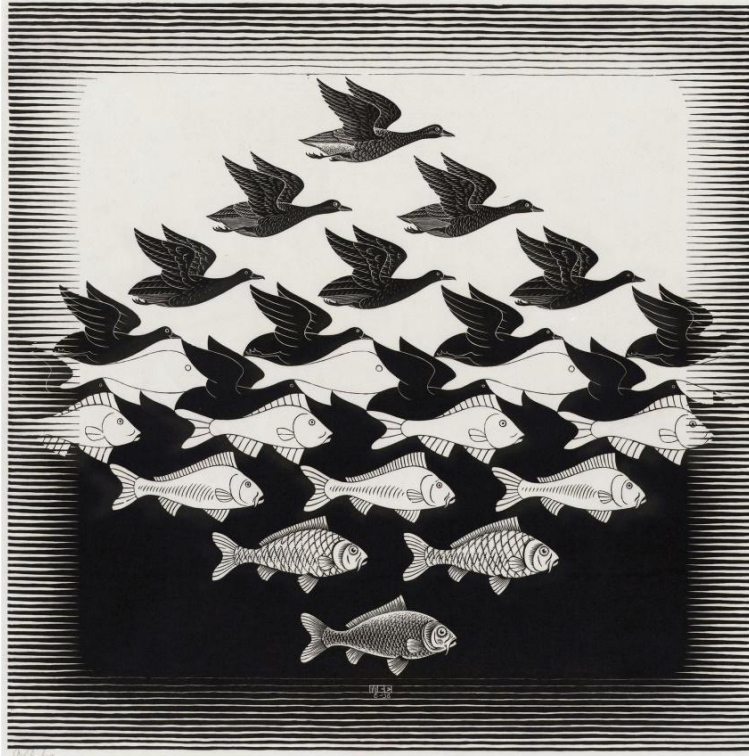
¹⁹ He appointed the moon for seasons:
the sun knoweth his going down.

Jeremiah 31:35

³⁵ Thus saith the LORD,
which giveth the sun for a light by day,
and the ordinances of the moon
and of the stars for a light by night,
which **divideth the sea**
when the waves thereof roar;
The LORD of hosts *is* his name:

On the fifth day, God made creatures who fly in currents of AIR
and creatures who fly in currents of WATER.





Genesis 1:20

²⁰ And God said,
Let the waters bring forth abundantly
the moving creature that hath life,
and fowl *that* may fly above the earth
in the open firmament of heaven.



Now a *third* division of the heavens:
Closest to us is the “open firmament
of heaven” where the birds fly. This is
earth’s atmosphere.

The second is outer space, stretching
to the edge of the firmament.

The third, “the heaven of heavens”
(Deut. 10:14), houses the throne of
God. Paul spoke of it as “paradise.”

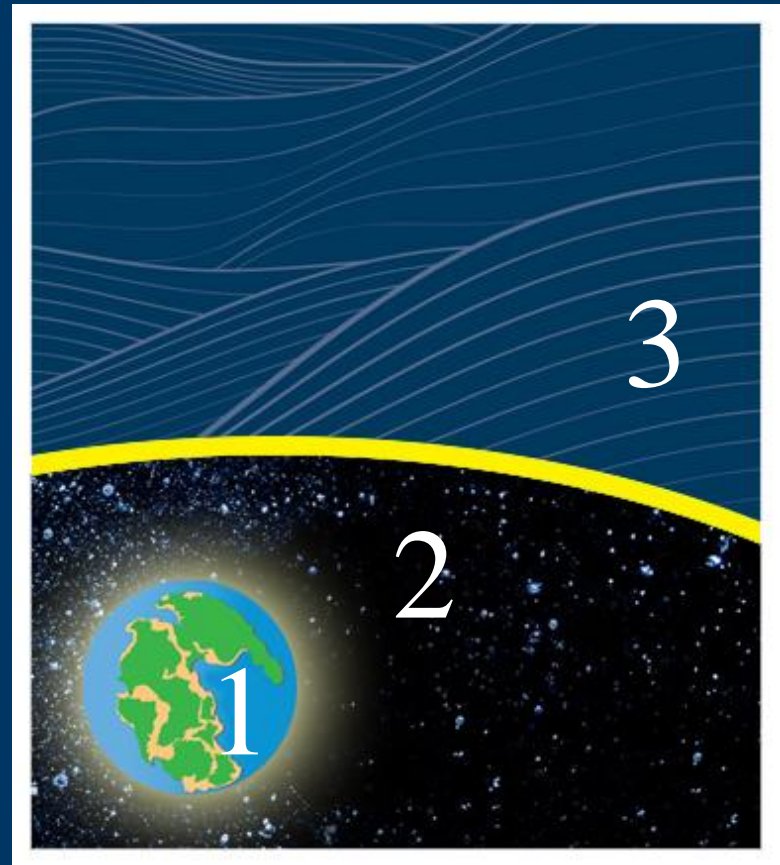
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the moving creature that hath life,
and fowl *that* may fly above the earth
in **the open firmament of heaven.**



2 Corinthians 12:2-4

- 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to **the third heaven**.
- 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)
- 4 How that he was caught up into **paradise**, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.





The seas and skies were now populated:

Genesis 1:21-23

- ²¹ And God created great whales,
and every living creature that moveth,
which the waters brought forth abundantly,
after their kind,
and every winged fowl after his kind:
and God saw that *it was good*.
- ²² And God blessed them, saying,
Be fruitful, and multiply,
and fill the waters in the seas,
and let fowl multiply in the earth.
- ²³ And the evening and the morning
were the fifth day.

On the sixth day, God made creatures of the land.

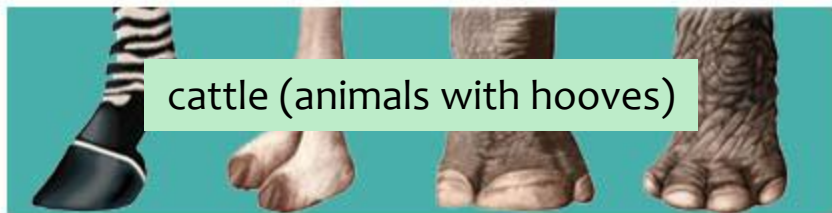




Genesis 1:24-25

- ²⁴ And God said,
Let the earth bring forth
the living creature after his kind,
cattle,
and creeping thing,
and beast of the earth after his kind:
and it was so.
- ²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth
after his kind,
and cattle after their kind,
and every thing that creepeth upon
the earth after his kind:
and God saw that *it was good*.

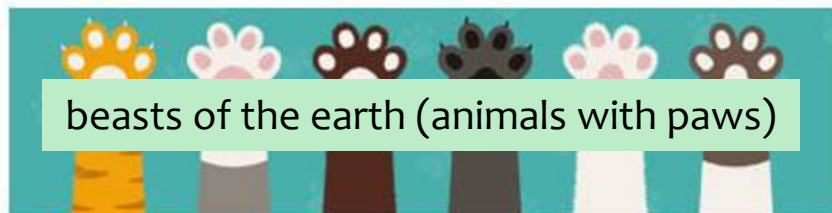




cattle (animals with hooves)



creeping things



beasts of the earth (animals with paws)

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the earth after his kind:
and God saw that *it was good*.





Also on this day,
God created man and woman,
distinguishing them from all the other creatures of the earth.



Genesis 1:26-28

- ²⁶ And God said,
Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:
and let them have dominion
over the fish of the sea,
and over the fowl of the air,
and over the cattle,
and over all the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- ²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God created he him;
male and female created he them.
- ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them,
Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:
and have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the fowl of the air,
and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.



In the beginning, God made all creatures of the earth to be herbivores.

Genesis 1:29-30

²⁹ And God said,

Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed,
which *is* upon the face of all the earth,
and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed;
to you it shall be for meat.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth,

and to every fowl of the air,
and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth,
wherein *there is* life,
I have given every green herb for meat:
and it was so.



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²⁹ And God said,

Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed,
which *is* upon the face of all the earth,
and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed;

to you it shall be for food.

³⁰ And to every beast

and to every fowl of the air

and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth,
wherein *there is* life,

I have given every green herb for meat:

and it was so.

Apparently, animals began eating other animals only after sin entered the world. In the new world, “the lion shall eat straw like the ox” (Isa. 11:7).



After the Flood, things changed for man as well.

Genesis 9:1-3

- ¹ And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.
- ² And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.
- ³ **Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you;** even as the green herb have I given you all things.

The work of creation was complete.

Genesis 1:31

³¹ And God saw every thing
that he had made,
and, behold, *it was* very good.
And the evening and the
morning were the sixth day.



On the seventh day, God established the week of seven days,
and divided the Sabbath from the other days.



The Sabbath commemorates the finished work of the creation.

Genesis 2:1-3

- ¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
- ² And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.
- ³ And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it:
because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.



For Christians, the Sabbath represents the rest that comes through faith in the finished work of Christ.

Hebrews 4:9-10

- ⁹ There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.
- ¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.



In conclusion, it is plain to see that DIVISION is often ordained of God.

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The plagues of Egypt divided God's people from the people of the world:

Exodus 8:23

And I will put a division between my people and thy people:
to morrow shall this sign be.

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Exodus 8:23

And I will put a division between my people and thy people:
to morrow shall this sign be.

The dividing of the Red Sea saved the Israelites from certain death:

Psalm 136:13-15

- ¹³ To him which divided the Red sea into parts:
for his mercy *endureth* for ever:
- ¹⁴ And made Israel to pass through the midst of it:
for his mercy *endureth* for ever:
- ¹⁵ But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea:
for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

In conclusion, it is plain to see that DIVISION is often ordained of God.

God separated his Son from sinful humanity:

Hebrews 7:26

²⁶ For such a high priest became us,
who is holy, harmless, undefiled,
separate from sinners,
and made higher than the heavens;

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Hebrews 7:26

²⁶ For such a high priest became us,
who is holy, harmless, undefiled,
separate from sinners,
and made higher than the heavens;

And on the appointed day, Jesus will divide the sheep from the goats:

Matthew 25:32

³² And before him shall be gathered all nations:
and he shall separate them one from another,
as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

The sword of the Spirit divides humanity into two camps: the sheep (the believers) and the goats (the unbelievers). This division is the key to Christian unity.

Worldly-minded church leaders will boost their attendance (and the weekly collection) by joining what God wants divided. Watered-down messages, offensive to no one, result in large but mixed congregations of sheep and goats.

The Word of the Lord is a sword. It divides! When Jesus taught the people, “there was a division among the people because of him” (Jn. 7:43).

Christian unity is only possible when people are joined “after their kind.” The only real unity is “the unity of the faith” (Eph. 4:13) – the unity of those who believe. This unity comes only after DIVISION.

As for that apparent contradiction...

Luke 2:13-14

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a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying,
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- ⁵¹ Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth?
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Isaiah 48:22 says, “There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.”

The peace on earth promised by the heavenly host is only for the people of God, made possible by the Prince of Peace.



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