

REMODELING OUR HOME

GENESIS 1:6

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.

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.

GENESIS 1:9

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.

Physical geographers have observed that the coast lines of the great continents and the mountain ranges generally run from north-east to south-west, and that these lines are in reality parts of great circles, tangent to the polar circle, and at right angles to a line drawn from the *sun's* center to the moon's,

when these bodies are either in conjunction or in opposition. These circles are "the lines on which the thin crust of a cooling globe would be most likely to be ruptured by its internal tidal wave. "

Hence, though considerably modified by the mighty revolutions through which at successive periods the earth has passed, "these, with certain subordinate lines of fracture, have determined the forms of continents from the beginning". And it was so.

Though the separation of the dry land from the waters and the distribution of both were effected by Divine agency, nothing in the Mosaic narrative obliges us to think that these works were instantaneously completed.

"There is truly no difficulty in supposing that the formation of the hills kept on through the succeeding creative days".

GENESIS 1:10

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.

GENESIS 1:11

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.

There are over 23,000 different kinds of trees in the world.

There are about 375,000 species of plants, with more being discovered each year. This includes seed plants, bryophytes, ferns and relatives of ferns called fern allies. Some 297,326 species of plants have been identified, of which 258,650 are flowering and 15,000 bryophytes (liverworts, hornworts, and mosses).

All plants are photosynthetic, utilizing carbon dioxide, water and light energy to produce oxygen and sugars. Within each cell are numerous organelles called chloroplasts which perform this task.

THE LEAVES. The principal organ of every plant. The seed in which the plant originates, when carefully examined, is found to

be composed of a leaf rolled tightly, and altered in tissue and contents, so as to suit its new requirements.

The bud also consists of leaves folded in a peculiar manner, and covered with hardened scales to protect them from the winter cold. And the flowers, the glory of the vegetable world, are merely leaves arranged so as to protect the vital organs within them,

and colored so as to attract insects to scatter the fertilizing pollen, and to reflect or absorb the light and heat of the sun for ripening the seed. Every leaf is an individual, gifted with peculiar powers; its stomata and other organs constitute a complete laboratory;

it absorbs air, and exhales moisture; it elects the carbon, and sends forth as useless the excess of oxygen, it extracts from the sunbeam its chlorophyll, and with it adorns itself in the charms of verdancy (the quality or condition of being green).

THE FLOWERS. They are the most beautiful productions of the vegetable kingdom; and, as to the delicacy of their forms, the beauty of their coloring, and the sweetness of their odor, seem preeminently designed for the pleasure of man,

for he alone of all the living tenants of the earth is capable of appreciating them. They also perform several important functions in connection with the reproduction of the species. Flowers exhibit many powers and properties which the science of man has never been able to explain.

Some will instantly close upon the slightest touch. Some will flutter as if in alarm, upon sudden exposure to intense light. Some seem possessed of limited powers of locomotion; a certain species of wild oats, when placed upon a table, will spontaneously move; pea blossoms always turn their backs upon the wind;

the heliotrope always faces the sun; the tulip opens its petals when the weather is fine, but closes them during rain and darkness. The pond lily closes its pure white leaves at night, as it lies on its watery bed, but unfolds them again in the morning.

On the other hand, some flowers open only at night; that splendid flower, the night-blooming cereus, is of this kind; it opens but once, and that in the night, for a few hours only, then wilts and dies without ever admitting the light of day into its bosom.

Some open and shut at certain hours, and that so regularly as to indicate the time of day, like the sindrimal of Hindostan, which opens at four in the evening and closes at four in the morning. There is a certain water plant, *valisneria spiralis*, which, at a certain season, detaches itself from its stem,

and, like a gallant suitor, sails complacently over the waters in pursuit of a mate, till he finds her. Others again possess a most extraordinary luminous property; the nasturtium, if plucked during sunshine, and carried into a dark room, will there show itself by its own light;

a plant that abounds in the jungles of Madura illumines the ground to a distance all around; and many species of lichens, creeping along the roofs of caverns, lend to them an air of enchantment, by the soft and clear light they diffuse. Who can explain to us these phenomena of flowers?

THE SEEDS.

Look at the admirable contrivance of the vessels, or capsules, in which the various seeds are lodged and protected while they mature. These are so many, so diverse, and often so complicated in their forms and materials,

that it would seem as if they had been adopted only for the sake of demonstrating the inexhaustible resources of the Divine invention. Some are invested in close tunics, some are surrounded with hard shells, some are elaborately folded in leaves, some are deposited in rows within parchment pods, some are in cases lined with softest velvet, some are wrapped in wool, some are held as in blown bladders, some are placed between hard scales, some are defended by pointed thorns, some are housed as beneath a roof,

some are within slits made in the edge of the leaves, some are buried in the heart of the fruit, and some in various other manners.

The reproductive capacity of plants, or their capacity for producing seeds, presents us with another remarkable fact. The common cereals often yield from sixty to a hundred fold. One castor oil plant will produce 1,500, one sunflower 4,000, and one thistle 24,000 seeds in a single season.

From a single poppy seed, not larger than a grain of gunpowder, there may spring in four years, poppies enough to cover all the habitable earth, that is to say, one-fourth of the surface of the globe, or about fifty million square miles? Now, let us try to calculate the productive power of a grain of corn.

All historians tell us that in old times the harvests in Egypt and Syria returned a hundredfold for one, and in Babylonia two hundred fold for one. Well, suppose that I were to sow my grain in a soil as fertile as that of Egypt is said to have been in old times, my first harvest would be 100 grains;

these 100 grains would produce 100 times as much for my second harvest, or 10,000 grains; my third harvest would be 100 times 10,000, or 1,000,000 grains; and my fourth, 100,000,000 grains. Thus in eight years as much corn might spring from one seed as to supply all mankind with bread for more than a year and a half.

The longevity of seeds, or the power which they possess for retaining the vital principle for lengthy periods of time, is another remarkable fact to be noticed here. This is an important provision, as it supplies a safeguard against the extinction of the species under unfavorable circumstances,

which may often occur. "In the time of the Emperor Hadrian, a man died soon after he had eaten plentifully of raspberries. He was buried at Dorchester. About thirty years ago the remains of this man, together with coins of the Roman Emperor were discovered in a coffin at the bottom of a barrow,

thirty feet under the surface. The man had thus lain undisturbed for some one thousand seven hundred years. But the most curious circumstance connected with the case was, that the raspberry seeds were recovered from the stomach,

and sown in the garden of the Horticultural Society, where they germinated and grew into healthy bushes. "

Some years ago a vase hermetically sealed was found in a mummy pit in Egypt, by the English traveler Wilkinson, who sent it to the British Museum. The librarian there having unfortunately broken it, discovered in it a few grains of wheat and one or two peas, old, wrinkled, and as hard as stone.

The peas were planted carefully under glass on the 4th of June 1844, and at the end of thirty days these old seeds were seen to spring up into new life. They had been buried probably about three thousand years ago,

perhaps in the time of Moses, and had slept all that long time, apparently dead, yet still living in the dust of the tomb.

A Russian team discovered a seed cache of *Silene stenophylla*, a flowering plant native to Siberia, that had been buried by an Ice Age squirrel near the banks of the Kolyma River. Radiocarbon dating confirmed that the seeds were 32,000 years old.

Thirty thousand years after their burial on the Siberian tundra, immature fruits have been cultivated into small, weedy plants — the oldest successful regeneration of a living plant from ancient tissue.

The plants, *Silene stenophylla*, grew and produced lacy white flowers. When fertilized, the ancient plants fruited and produced viable seeds of their own.

GENESIS 1:12

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.

GENESIS 1:14

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:

THERE. IS. A. MAN. HERE. THAT. CAN. TURN. ON. THE. LIGHT_ JEFF. IN V-6 N-1 SUNDAY_ 63-1229M

63 "In the beginning God created the heavens and earth. " It might have been a hundred million, or billion, or whatever it was. And how He done it, that's up to Him to know, see, not to me.

But the world, well, "The earth was without form, and void; and the water was upon the--the earth. And God," said, "moved upon the water. " And said, "Let there be light. "

64 Now, I believe that the sun, and so forth, was already in existence, I believe, the moon. As it goes on, Genesis 3, to explain it. . . But I believe, what was here, that the world, we was going to use it, and therefore. . . And it moved in; there was fog and mist all over the earth, making it dark.

And God said, "Let there be light," and the darkness faded away, and there was a cloudless sky.

GENESIS 1:15

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

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.

MADE: 'asah {aw-saw'}
to prepare, to attend to, put in order, to bring about, to use

GENESIS 1:16

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.

PSALM 8:3

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

PSALM 147:4

4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.

PSALM 148:3

3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.

Based on current estimates, there are between 200 - 400 billion stars in our galaxy (The Milky Way). There are as many as 200 billion galaxies in the observable universe, each with hundreds of billions of stars.

So taking the average of our galaxy, gives approximately 3×10^{24} stars. This has been equated to the same number of grains of sand that are on Earth.

So taking a conservative number of 100 billion stars per galaxy gives an approximate total of 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

stars. (Which is 10 sextillion)

How many stars? There are between 10 sextillion and 1 septillion stars in the Universe.

GENESIS 1:17

17 And God *SET them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

SET: nathan {naw-than'}

employ, devote, consecrate, dedicate, pay wages, entrust, put upon,

GENESIS 1:18

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.

GENESIS 1:19

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

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.

ABUNDANTLY: sharats {shaw-rats'}

to teem, swarm, multiply

MOVING: sherets {sheh'-rets}

teeming/swarming things, creepers, swarmers, of insects, animals, small reptiles, quadrupeds

There are about 1,250,000 identified species of animal. This includes 1,190,200 invertebrates, among them 950,000 insects, 70,000 mollusks, 40,000 crustaceans, and 130,200 others.

There are about 58,800 identified vertebrates, including 29,300 fish, 5,743 amphibians, 8,240 reptiles, 9,800 birds, and

5,416 mammals. As a comparison, almost 300,000 plant species are known.

Importantly, the numbers above do not account for species which have not yet been captured or described scientifically. Scientists estimate there may be as many as 30 million unidentified insect species, many of them living in the rainforest, and up to 1 million mite species.

Mites are small arthropods, a group of animals related to but not the same as insects.