

# “THINGS THAT FLY AND SWIM AND CRAWL AROUND”

## Genesis 1:20-25—The Fifth and Sixth Days of Creation

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### INTRODUCTION

The Earth had now taken proper form after days 1-4 of creation. However, the Earth was still void except for the plant life created on day three. There were no sentient creatures.

So how does the Bible introduce animal life? Do we see here a fragile blob of protoplasm which came together in response to electrical discharges over a primeval ocean? **NO!** The creation of these forms of animal life is just as direct and majestic as each act of creation during the first four days.

### GOD HAS GIVEN MAN EVERY CREATURE FOR HIS DELIGHT.

#### I. THE CREATION OF THE FIFTH DAY (1:20-23)

##### A. The Divine Command – “Let the waters swarm with swarms...”

###### 1. Marine life

- The waters do not “bring forth” the animals.
- The animals were created there and lived there.
- These words do not indicate a mediate process as v. 21 makes clear.
- Thereby the “void” or emptiness of the waters is removed.
- “Living creatures” – literally “souls of life”
- Notice that living beings are characterized by souls – that is animation and consciousness.
- The soul is the most important part of animal life, and it distinguishes them from plant life. According to Scripture, plants have no real life.

###### 2. Winged life

- Birds do not spring out of the water.
- God gives a command – Let the birds fly.
- Birds are “flying things”; the expression can include insects.

##### B. The Divine Action (21)

###### 1. Fulfillment – “God created”; this verb is used because of the distinctive difference of what God made on this day.

###### 2. The beings made

###### a. “Great Sea Monsters”

- All larger Marine animals are included – even monsters of the past that are now extinct.
- The pagan worshiper could never be sure that in serving the gods they would find peace; there was always the unknown. **We can be sure!**
- Here they are magnificent creatures made by God and enjoying his blessing.

###### b. Each one of the living beings which “moves about.”

- The word “soul” here means “individual” or “one”, a common use of the term in the OT.
- Each one of the multitude of creatures in the waters owed its existence to God!
- The waters “swarmed with” these beings – this implies the creation of many of each animal at the beginning, just as plants were created in numbers.

###### c. Every winged “flying thing” – birds etc.

3. The limits put upon his created beings – “after their kind” and “after its kind.”

- Reproduction could only occur within the limits that God imposed.
- Such applied both to marine life and flying life.
- There is no transferal from one kind to another!

C. The Divine Satisfaction (21b) – “God saw that it was good.”

D. The Divine Blessing: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth” (22).

- See Matthew 10:29 – a sparrow does not fall without his notice.
- Matthew 6:26 – God provides food for the birds.
- The Marine life filled the waters of the seas. The birds multiplied on the earth.

E. The summary: “And there was evening and there was morning, day five.”

## II. THE CREATION OF THE SIXTH DAY – part one (24-25)

A. The Divine Command (24) – “Let the earth bring forth” = “and God made” (25; cf. 11, 20).

- “Living creatures” again equals “soul of life.”
- Their souls are not the same as the soul of man – man’s soul has a higher source and destiny as indicated by the manner of his creation – see 2:7.

1. Cattle –here domestic animals are in view.

2. Creeping things

3. The beasts of the earth – literally the “living things of the earth.”

Notice the emphasis on “after its kind.”

- Occurs twice in verse 24.
- Occurs three times in verse 25 – after each class it is mentioned.
- **God is telling us something!**

B. The Divine Action (25)

- “And it was so” –v. 24; “And God made” –v. 25.
- Notice the reversal of order in verse 25 – “beasts of the earth” are mentioned first instead of “cattle”. **This shows that all were made simultaneously!**
- Evolutionary order has insects, amphibians, reptiles, and then mammals.
- In fact, evolution puts the first three groups before the birds!

C. The Divine Satisfaction (“And God saw that it was good.”)

- Why no blessing given here?
- Man is blessed in verse 28 and he is to rule over the animals.

## CONCLUSION

What an amazing description of the divine creation of animal life!

Now we are ready for God’s highest active creation – **man**.

But before we look at that in the next message, let us stand in awe of the great Creator and of his magnificent creation!

**GOD HAS GIVEN MAN EVERY CREATURE FOR HIS DELIGHT.**

And let us also make sure that we have created in us “a clean heart.

Let us read and apply **Psalm 51:10-13**.