Genesis

## **Creation: Days 1-4 (1:1-19)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible.*

## **Fifth Day (1:20-23)**

* The first two expanses are filled
  + The waters
    - Swarm with swarmers of living creatures
      * Great sea creatures
        + Psalm 104:26
        + Serpent, dragon, sea monsters
        + Luther notes that such large bodies should not frighten us, because they are made by God
      * Creeping things that swarm in the waters
        + Possibly crocodiles and the like
      * Still taking place
        + Carp in ponds where no fish were before.
  + The expanse of the heavens
    - Winged birds
      * Luther understands that the birds too, were brought forth from the waters.
        + A marvel at the power of God’s Word to do such a thing!
        + “If the Word is spoken, all things are possible.”
        + A connection to the power of Holy Baptism
* It was good
* God does something different.
  + “God blessed them”
    - The first blessing in Scripture.
    - God’s gift of increase
  + “Be fruitful and multiply…”
    - God grants power for procreation to provide ongoing re-creation to fill His creation.
      * “The Word is present in the very body of all living creatures…because without the Word, the body would be useless and without effect.”
    - Genesis 9:1
    - Psalm 107:38
* Evening and Morning: the fifth day

## **Sixth Day (1:24-31)**

* The landmass is now filled
  + The earth is commanded to “bring forth living things”
    - vp,n< “Nephesh”
      * a soul, living being, life, self, person
    - Livestock
      * Animals in general
      * Domesticated animals
    - Creeping things
      * Same word used in v. 21
    - Beasts
      * Everything else
      * Job 40:15
    - Just as the waters “brought forth,” so now does the earth at God’s command.
  + Each according to its kind
* It was good.
* God does something different (again)
  + “Let Us make…”
    - The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at work
      * The Jewish understanding of “Us” is varied
        + God and the angels
        + God and the earth
    - Not the waters or the earth
    - The council of “Us” is summoned to do this task deliberately
      * Similarities to the animals?
      * But there is a major difference.
  + “make man in Our image, after Our likeness.”
    - The image
      * “the image of God is the powers of the soul – memory, the mind or intellect, and will. “ – Augustine
        + Such understanding gets us into trouble…
      * “Adam had in his being and that he not only knew God and believed that He was good, but that he also lived in a life that was wholly godly; that is without the fear of death or of any other danger, and was content with God’s favor.” – Luther
        + Living just as God lives.
        + Lost this image because of sin.
        + The Gospel begins to restore this image
      * God’s representative on this creation
      * Ephesians 4:24
      * Colossians 3:10
      * James 3:9
      * 2 Corinthians 4:4
      * 1 Corinthians 11:7
    - The likeness
      * A greater reflection of the Second Person of the Trinity
      * Colossians 1:15
  + Give them dominion over all other creation
    - Naked, Adam and Eve were given this dominion
      * This aspect was also lost in the fall
    - James 3:7
  + So God creates…
    - Although we see God doing all this creating…
      * It is personal with His male and female of mankind.
* Male and female
  + Placed together here, to indicate that Eve, too, was made by God as a partaker of the future life.
    - 1 Peter 3:7
* God blessed them
  + “Them” includes Adam and Eve with the rest of His works on the sixth day.
* God said to them,
  + Compare to v. 22
  + “Be fruitful…”
    - We mourn with Luther over what was lost in this blessing, and what we gained in the fall.
      * Lust.
      * Death.
      * Fear.
  + “have dominion…”
    - Again, we mourn with Luther
      * After the fall, we now look at animals and the rest of creation differently.
      * What would the animal’s purpose have been in the Garden?
  + The purpose of the plants and trees yielding seed and fruit
    - Man first
      * Psalm 104:14-15
      * Psalm 145:15-16
    - Then beast
      * Psalm 147:9
    - The King James uses the term “meat” for “food”
    - This will be lost in the fall as well.
  + It was very good.
  + Evening and morning: the sixth day.

## **Seventh Day (2:1-3)**

* The heavens and the earth were finished
  + John 19:30???
* God was done with His work of creating
  + He is not tired or worn out.
  + He did not create another world
  + Yet God’s hand of creation is still at work in His creation
    - Psalm 139:13
    - Isaiah 49:5
    - John 5:17
* “Holy” = to be set apart, consecrated, different.
* What “work” would Adam and Eve have to do pre fall, that they would need rest from?
  + As Scripture interprets Scripture, we learn more about this Sabbath Rest from Exodus 20:8-11.
    - As Luther asks, “What does this mean?”
      * *We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it*.
    - In the fallen world, we come to know what real “rest” is all about…
      * In our relationship with God.
      * Where we find forgiveness of sins
      * Hope in a broken world where nothing goes right.
  + Luther will go on to say that he believes the fall takes place on the seventh day.
    - As this will all play out over the next two chapters.