

Smoky Mountain Bible Institute

Biology, Zoology 109

Welcome back to the lab. The subject matter at hand is biology, and today we will venture into the branch of biology called zoology. We have discussed the building blocks of life and the laws that concern how they function. We briefly visited the botany lab in a discussion on plant life. We also took a little side path through the dating methodology: old earth assumptions and methods; young earth assumptions and methods; and some of the flaws and limitations of these dating methods.

After discussing the life that God created on the third day, it seems only logical to address the life He created on the fifth day (swimmers and flyers), and the sixth day (everything else). We will reserve *Homo Sapiens* for a separate discussion on anthropology. Zoology is the branch of biology that relates to the animal kingdom, including the structure, embryology, classification, habits, and distribution of all animals, both living and extinct. While the ancient category of natural history is where zoology has its roots, this field of study as we know it today developed in the early 1700's. As part of the biological classification system, animalia is one of what are now six categories or kingdoms of life. When we discuss biblical kinds, it is a little bit different than the broad spectrum of biological classifications from kingdom down to species. Biblical kinds would fall somewhere between **Genus** and **Subfamily**, the kinds of which there are currently thousands of categories. This becomes an important point of discussion in connection with the biblical narrative because there are currently over 8.7 million identified species on earth, with estimates that there are quite possibly as many as 100 million species on earth, but they have just not all been discovered yet. This large number is pointed to as evidence that Noah could never have fit all those species on the ark.

However, a simple rational analysis of the animal kinds created on the 5th and 6th day will logically show that Noah could have easily fit (with room to spare) the required living genetic material in fertile pairs sent to him by God. First, let's eliminate the obvious non-passengers—the swimmers including fish, sea mammals, some flightless birds, and a number of other things that can live in very wet conditions for extended periods of time. Next, we can reduce the remaining animal population to about 2000 kinds of land animals using **taxonomy** and **syngameon** relationships. **Taxonomy**: the science which deals with the study of identifying, grouping, and naming organisms according to their established natural relationships, placing them within the biological classification system. After they have been put into these similar groupings, the number of groups is further reduced by determining their **syngameon** group. **Syngameon**: a grouping determined by identifying genetically related organisms that may or may not be morphologically similar, and that may even belong to different genera, but they are interfertile. For example, most species of dogs are interfertile. We also see this in horses, turtles, and many types of birds. Even though you can use these two simple tools to reduce the number to 2000, to give the benefit of the doubt in all questionable cases, you could expand the grouping to 16,000 animals on the ark and still have room left over because so many of the species groups would be so small, weighing less than 10 grams. Only about 250 animals would have been over that weight. A full feasibility study was done on Noah's Ark regarding this subject by John Woodmorappe and published by the Institute for Creation Research in El Cajon, California.

The biblical narrative is very dependable on the diverse nature of the animal kingdom. God filled His creation with teaming, swarming, vibrant life in the water, the air, and all over and in the ground. Everywhere you turn, He reminds you how much He loves you by supplying your every physical and emotional need through His animal kingdom. He gave you fish and all water life for you to enjoy in the sea, or a river, in a lake or a tank or even on your plate. He supplied you with birds to soar through His beautiful blue skies, to greet you in the mornings with delightful songs, and to give you another reason to wash your car. He provided a myriad of wild and domesticated animals to inhabit His vast wilderness and to provide for our nutritional needs, supply us with materials for comfortable clothing, and to comfort us with companionship in warm fuzzy pets that soothe our hearts. Enjoy the wonder of His creation today.