

“Land, Plants, & Trees”

Gen. 1:9-13

March 2, 2025

Stephen Jay Gould

- Harvard paleontologist
- Regarded as an eminent authority on how life began.

"We exist because one odd group of fishes had a peculiar fin anatomy that could transform into legs for terrestrial creatures; because the earth never froze entirely during an ice age; because a small and tenuous species, arising in Africa a quarter of a million years ago, has managed, so far, to survive by hook and by crook. We may yearn for a 'higher' answer—but none exists."

KEN: You're going to say no, it's six-and-a-half thousand years old. That is not a tenable position?

WILLIAM: I don't think it's plausible. The arguments that I give are right in line with mainstream science. I'm not bucking up against mainstream science.

You see what he's saying? Yeah, "I'm right in line with mainstream science." What about the Bible? No, he puts man's beliefs above God's Word.

Now come up to the present, because I've always said once you unlock that door to add millions of years in, that door is going to go open wider and wider and wider. He was interviewed by Sean McDowell from Houston Baptist University. I had a debate with Sean McDowell once on TBN actually, where he was defending millions of years and so on. But listen to where William Lane Craig is today.

WILLIAM: I would be disingenuous, Sean, if I were to say I don't want the young-earth creationist interpretation to come out true. To me, that is a nightmare. My greatest fear is that the young-earth creationist might be right in his hermeneutical claim that Genesis does teach those things that I described earlier. And I say that would be a nightmare because if that's what the Bible teaches, it puts the Bible into massive, I think irredeemable conflict with modern science.

Oh! If you believe the Bible, it's going to be in massive conflict with what these scientists are saying. You can't have that.

WILLIAM: I think it should prompt us not to be over-literalistic in the way we read these narratives. And once you begin to look at them in terms of mytho-history, it's difficult to look at them in any other way. I mean, when you read a story about two people in an arboretum with these magical trees whose fruit, if you eat it, will grant you immortality or knowledge of good and evil; and then there's this talking snake who comes along and tempts them into sin. And then you have this anthropomorphic God walking in the cool of the garden, calling out audibly to Adam in his hideout, you think, "Well, of course this is figurative."

(He was mocking the account of the Fall, and Adam and Eve.)

WILLIAM: Now assuming then, for the sake of argument, the truth of evolutionary biology concerning human origins, we can imagine sometime prior to 750 thousand years ago, a group of hominins, maybe a few thousand, and through a biological and spiritual renovation—perhaps divinely induced—a miracle that caused a genetic regulatory mutation in a pair of these hominins. They were lifted to fully human status [sic].

(He's accepted evolution, as you can see. You know, it's much easier to believe God created man from dust.)

And then you have Andy Stanley.

ANDY: If we really believe—whether you take it literally or figuratively, whatever—if we really believe that God is the Creator of the universe, that all time, space, and matter—all time, space, and matter were created by God, and we take seriously what science has told us, that it all began with a singularity—that's what it's referred to—right before—there's not a such thing as before the big bang because before His time—

So he believes in the big bang, and so on.

ANDY: And when religion and science conflict, at the end of the day, if you are an honest person, science must win.

[Some of you might have heard of an organization called Biologos. Their whole purpose is to get the church to believe in evolution and millions of years.

And then you have Dr. John Collins, professor of Old Testament at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis. It's basically a denominational seminary of the PCA; he's one of the ESV translators.

MALE: What's your perspective on the Flood? Do you think it was global or local?

"And then others said, 'We'll put in the days of creation,' and we have the day-age theory. And others come up with all sorts of other inventive ways of trying to fit millions of years into the Bible—notice, not taking what the Bible says; taking what man has said and trying to fit it in, which undermines biblical authority. And then along comes Darwin, who publicizes ideas of evolution and millions of years. And you know what many church leaders said? 'We'll say God used evolution.' Along comes a big bang; 'We'll say God used the big bang.' And before long, you have all these different positions in the church: gap theory, day-age, theistic evolution, day gap day, framework hypothesis, progressive creation. There's a whole slew of them. And you know, I go to churches sometimes, and they say, 'Oh, our pastor believes in a gap theory. Oh, we have a pastor who believes in theistic evolution. Oh, one of our elders believes in the framework hypothesis.' And they say to me, 'What's your position?' I say, 'Oh, the biblical one.'"

- Ken Ham

“Answers in Genesis”

9 Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

10 God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

- This is the 3rd separation God has performed so far –
 1. Light from darkness.
 2. Waters above from waters below.
 3. Land from the sea.
- So you have 2 things on the face of the earth – a land mass, and the sea.
- It appears that the land is one big mass.
- It will remain that way until the flood which will break up the deep and shift the land into continents.
- Again, this is in preparation for the creation of man.
- God liked what He saw.

JOHN: Well, I think from the perspective of the words in Genesis 6 through 9, you can't tell. I mean, at first reading it looks like it was global, doesn't it, because –

"You can't tell." I mean, if you read it, it does look like it was global: "Water covered the highest hills." OK.

MALE: And do you think that the Flood was universal in terms of wiping out all of humanity or not?

JOHN: I—I would like to think so. There's places where you get a little bit uncertain: "How long ago did it take place?" becomes a question; and I don't think there's any answer to that. But you do find hints in some ancient expositors of the possibility that others besides Noah and his family survived the Flood. Josephus –

So because of Josephus—that's not the Word of God—who has this tradition about others who survived the Flood, therefore he would reject what the Bible says: "And only eight people survived."

And then you have Wheaton College, that produced a textbook that many seminaries are using—actually by our Christian colleges across the nation, and many of them have been impacted by William Lane Craig. And Wheaton College, they say, "A Bible-first approach devalues the meaningfulness of creation revelation." We have a Bible-first approach here; I can tell you that. They say, "The Earth is 4.5 billion years old; that's a fact. Although some Christians have argued the Fall utterly disrupted some kind of original perfection, there's no evidence from the Bible or creation for this." That's because they believe in millions of years. So they can't have a Fall, and then they reject the global flood. They can't have a global flood, and then they say man is just an ape; he evolved from apes.

Gen 1:9-13

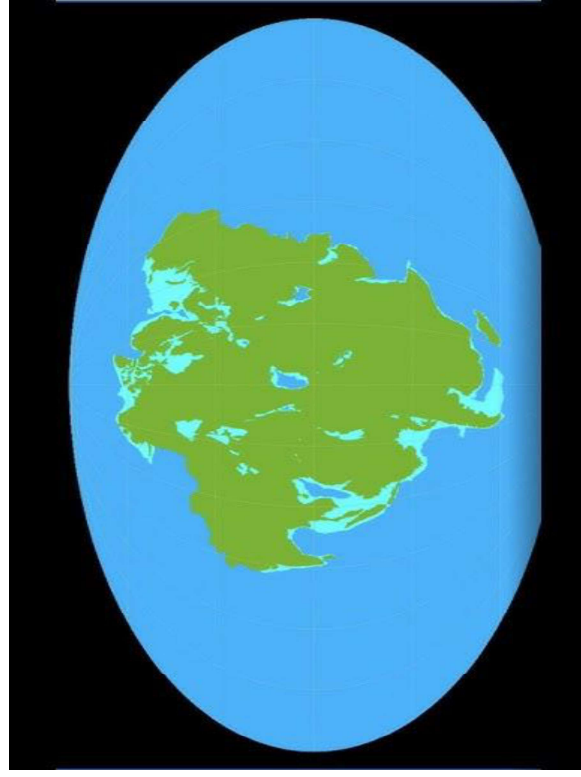
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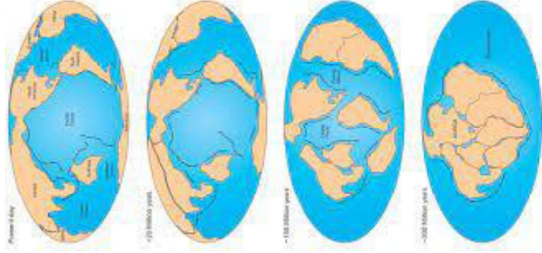
10 God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so.

12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.

13 There was evening and there was morning, a third day.





11 Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so.

- With the land established, it is now time to fill the land.
- **2 kinds of vegetation:**
 1. Plants that have seed within themselves.
 2. Fruit trees that produce fruit that contain seeds.
- First time phrase is used "after their kind."
- Important phrase because it sets off plants as different species from one another.

11 Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so.

- With the lack of information, the specie is unable to reproduce into another specie. The information is just not there.
- **"it was so"** – it is now fixed. It will never change.

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"kind" –

/ym

"meen"

- to portion out, a kind, a species.
- **"kind"** - a distinct group of organisms created by God that are capable of reproducing offspring only within their own group.
- Each type of plant therefore would have the ability to reproduce seeds that would have characteristics that would be peculiar to and would differentiate itself from other species.
- The DNA genetic code would contain the necessary information for reproduction after its "kind" or species.

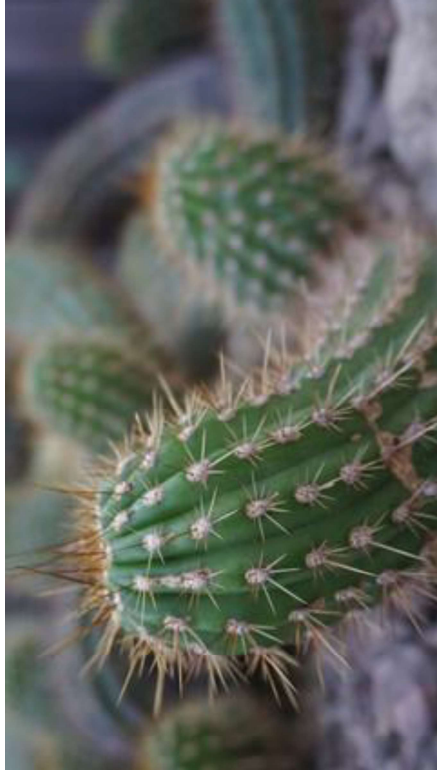
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- The earth did just like God said.
- Plants and trees came forth and produced seed.
- God was pleased with the trees and plants.
- Let's see this remarkable creative act . . .

390,000 PLANT SPECIES

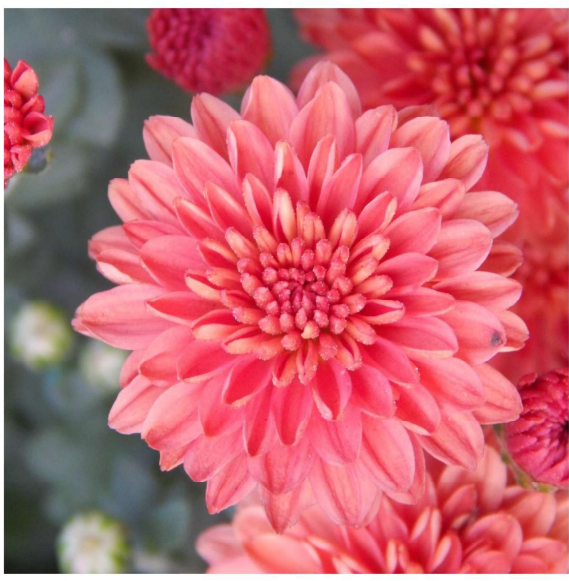




**400,000
FLOWERING
PLANTS
SPECIES**

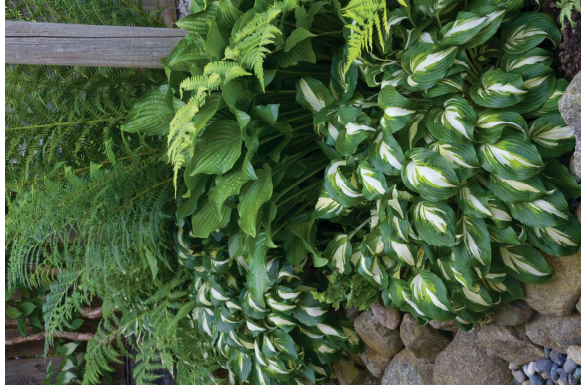


**30,000
ROSE
VARIETIES**





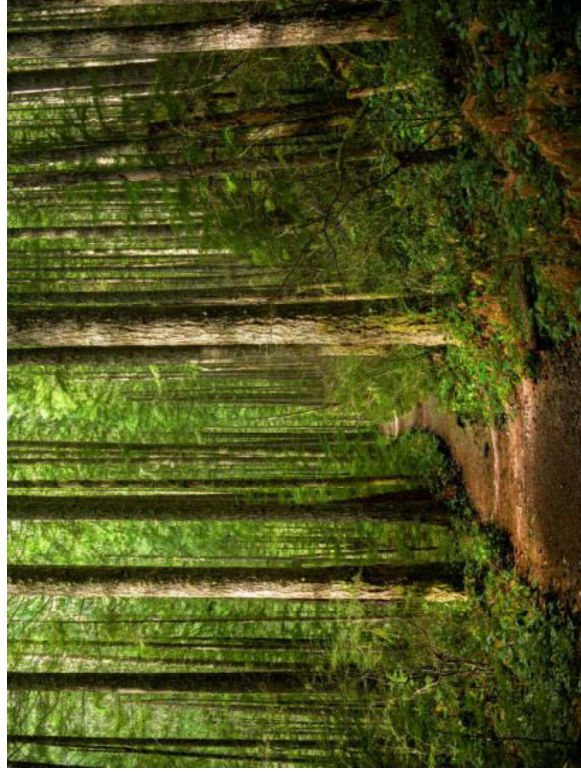
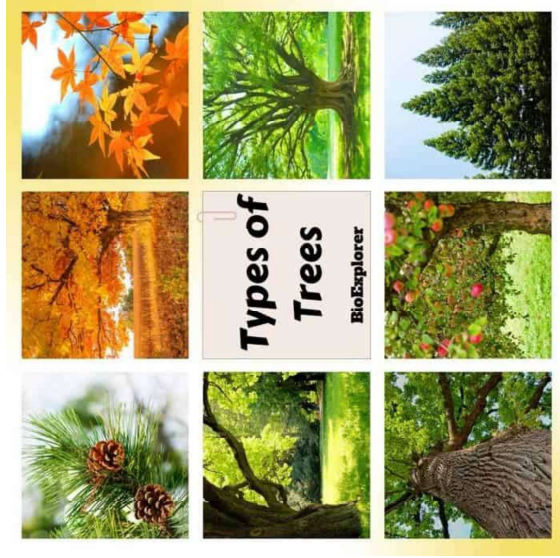
**3,000
HOSTA
VARIETIES**



**8,000
WEED
SPECIES**



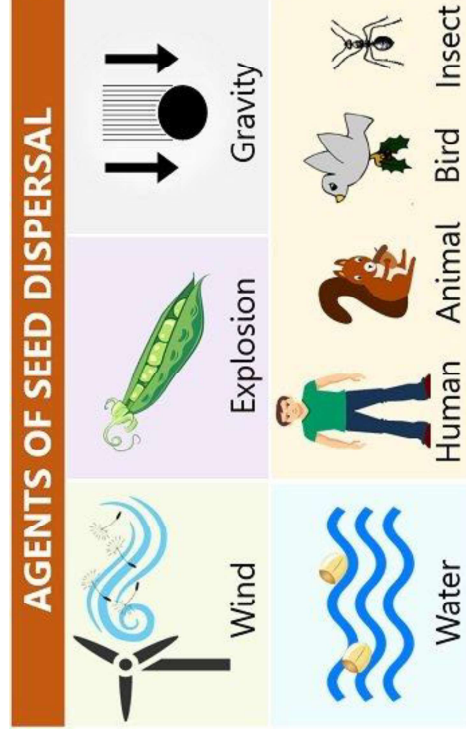
**73,000
TREE
SPECIES**



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- This completes the 3rd 24-hour day.
- The land, plants, and trees will provide a number of critical benefits including food for the upcoming creation of man and the animals.

Application

1. The variety in creation is staggering to our minds.
2. God is capable of calling a galaxy into existence as well as the petal of a flower.
3. It is all evident to see and we are without excuse.