

Dry Land & Vegetation (vv. 9-13)

VERSE 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 (אָחַד וְתַרְאֶה הַיַּבְשָׁה וַיְהִי־כֵן)

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִקְוּ הַמַּיִם מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם אֶל־מְקוֹם
[waw w/Qal impf.3m.s. amar + noun m.p. Elohim + Niphal impf.3m.s. qawa gather, collect; "Let...be gathered" + d.a.w/noun m.p.abs. mayim waters + prep min w/prep tachath literally, 'from below/under' + d.a.w/noun m.p. shamayim + prep el into + noun m.s.abs. makom place + adj.m.s.abs. echad one + waw w/niphal impf.3f.s. ra-ah see; "let...appear" + d.a.w/noun f.s.abs. yabbesheth dry land; cf. Ex. 4:9; 134:16, 22, 29; 15:19; Josh. 4:22; Neh. 9:11; Ps. 66:6; Isa. 44:3; Jonah 1:9, 13; 2:11 + waw w/Qal impf.3m.s. hayah be + adv ken so].

VERSE 10 God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called

seas; and God saw that it was good (וַיִּמְקְוֶה הַמַּיִם קָרָא יַמִּים וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב)

וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לַיַּבְשָׁה אֶרֶץ
[waw w/Qal impf.3m.s. qara call, name + noun m.p. Elohim + prep lamed w/noun f.s.abs. yabbesheth + noun both s.abs. eretz earth; 2505X; cf. vv. 1 & 2 + waw w/prep lamed w/noun m.s.constr. miqweh collection; "the gathering" + d.a.w/noun m.p.abs. mayim + Qal perf.3m.s. qara call + noun m.p.abs. yam sea; west + waw w/Qal impf.3m.s. ra-ah see + noun m.p. Elohim + part ki that + adj.m.s.abs. tobh good].

VERSE 13 There was evening and there was morning, a third day (בֹּקֶר יוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי)

וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי [waw w/Qal impf.3m.s. hayah “was” + noun m.s.abs. ereb evening; cf. arab grow dark + waw w/Qal impf.3m.s. hayah + noun m.s.abs. boqer morning + noun m.s. yom day + adj.m.s.abs. shelishi third].

ANALYSIS: VERSES 9-13

1. The judgment that befell the earth pristine earth (vv. 1-2) included a watery cataclysm that left the terra firma submerged in water all over the flat surface of the earth (e.g. no land was visible).
2. In addition to this, the waters below were on solid sheet of ice.
3. On Day 3 God exerted His power over the submerged terra firma raising up a massive continent (Pangea) allowing the waters to seek their lowest levels forming massive basins of waters dubbed “seas.”
4. Separate continents were the by-product as a result of the cataclysm known as Noah’s flood.
5. “Let the waters below the heaven(s) be gathered into one place” is the God expressing His sovereign will over earth’s ocean(s).
6. “One place” (noun *maqom* featured in connection with the sun in Eccl. 1:5) suggests a vast area for the newly formed oceanic basin(s).
7. The 2nd “let be” is directs the divine will over the emerging/raising newly established continent essential for the plant, animal and human habitation.
8. As the land mass rose up the water naturally sought its lowest level establishing antediluvian topography (same thing at the cessation of the Flood event).
9. “And it was so” is the record of a successful conclusion to the first part of what transpired on D + 3.
10. V. 10 follow the pattern of D + 2 where God established His one specific terminology for the waters and the dry land.
11. The one designated “earth” (*eretz*) and the other “seas” (*yamim*).
12. This whole operation took place a 24 hour period!
13. Once again, He pronounced his work in establishing a singular continent and the massive water basin as “good.”
14. He approved of His work
15. On Day 3 (our Tuesday) of the first week of human history God accomplished two tasks (only one on days 1 & 2).
16. The second task was to place the plant kingdom on the barren exposed terra firma (v. 11).
17. Elohim in this instance plays the role of gardener.
18. All plant life was established (created) full-blown, and with it we are introduced to the very first living things upon the earth.
19. It had to be this way as Adam and Eve were placed in a beautiful garden manicured garden that Adam tended during the three years (my estimation) these two lived in their first home.
20. Needless to say, this is so radically different than anything espoused by modern science.
21. Reminds one of “My thoughts are not your thoughts, and My ways are not your ways.”

22. I imagine a process, rather than an all-at-once event, wherein all the land was literally covered with plant life from the grasses to shrubs and flowers and trees of all kinds and sizes.
23. “Fruit trees” are specified as they are a wonderful source of food.
24. V. 11 informs the reader that all this vegetation had the genetic wherewithal to reproduce itself according “to their kind with seed in them.”
25. In other words, God programmed the genetic makeup of each species of plants planted in the soil.
26. This, according to v. 12, set in process the perpetuation of plant life on the earth that continues to the very end of the 7000 years of human history.
27. Again, “God saw that it was good” thus establishing His two projects reserved for “day three” (v. 13).

A footnote: Each of the projects for each of the six days of restoration commenced in the evening (6 PM) and was on-going through the hours of darkness and the hours of daylight.