

Genesis 1:24 – 31

English Standard Version

1 ²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures
2 according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and
3 beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.
4 ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their
5 kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and
6 everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind.
7 And God saw that it was good.
8 ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our
9 likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea
10 and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and
11 over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps
12 on the earth.”
13 ²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
14 in the image of God he created him;
15 male and female he created them.
16 ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful
17 and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have
18 dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the
19 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
20 ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant
21 yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every
22 tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for
23 food.³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of
24 the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth,
25 everything that has the breath of life, I have given every
26 green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw
27 everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.
28 And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

- *Repeated words or ideas?*
- *Comparisons or contrasts?*
- *Purpose or explanation?*
- *Unusual or symbolic language?*
- *Commands or instructions?*
- *Conditional (if–then) statements?*
- *Other observations?*

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- *What parts seem clear and straightforward?*
- *What parts seem unclear or confusing?*
- *What questions come to mind as you read?*

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- *How might this passage affect your understanding of God?*
- *How might this passage affect your understanding of creation?*
- *How might this passage affect your understanding of humans? (Yourself? Others?)*

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**