



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#6 - The Dry Ground Appears Genesis 1:9-10

PICTURES NEEDED

- 6-1 dry ground and sea
- 6-2 picture of earth from space
- 6-3 water cycle

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
What did God do to the waters on the second day of creation? Why is water important? What formed the earth's atmosphere? What did it contain?
- **The Big Question Review:** For what should we thirst?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Memory Verse:** Psalm 63:1

We are to thirst for God like our bodies thirst for water.

(O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you,) in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

Remember in the last lesson that in forming the earth God separated the water under the sky from the water above. **(picture 6-1)** Does anyone know what God's next act of creation was? In Genesis 1:9-10 it says, *And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.*

In order for dry ground to appear, what must the water that was under the expanse have contained? Since God had already created the atoms (elements) that things were to be made up of, the water God gathered together under the expanse probably already contained all the matter that would form the land or dry ground. Even now all the elements that exist naturally on earth are found in the waters of the ocean. (Illustrate this with a bottle of water that contains about an inch of fine sand. Shake the bottle up so the sand is mixed with the water.)

Psalm 104:5-9 paints a picture of what God did in causing the dry ground to appear. *⁵He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. ⁶You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. ⁷But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; ⁸they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.*

Where were the waters at first? At first the water covered all the ground because the earth was just a round sphere without a place for the ocean.

How was the basin for the ocean formed? God spoke and the water was gathered into one place and the dry ground appeared. Like all of the acts of creation we don't know exactly how this occurred but we do know that when God speaks he causes supernatural things to happen, things that are just too amazing to fully understand.

It does seem that God must have pushed up the matter that makes up the ground and caused the water to settle down into the basin or valley he made for it. This can be illustrated by a very simplistic visual demonstration. Keep in mind though that the demonstration really only gives us some understanding of the position of land and sea, it can't even begin to capture the magnitude of what God did nor the reality of how he did it.

Demonstration:

1. Fill an oblong clear plastic disposable container with about 1 inch of fairly fine sand.
2. Cut a sturdy piece of cardboard the width and height of the container. Insert the cardboard at one end down into the sand.
3. Pour water over the sand so it is covered with about ½ inch of water.
4. Use the cardboard to push the sand from one end of the container up against the other end. This leaves a basin or valley at the one end of the container that all the water will settle in and an area of sand (dry ground) at the other.

After God separated the land and seas, he saw that they were good. **(picture 6-2)** What is good about the seas or oceans?

- Without the oceans life wouldn't exist on earth. 97% of the water on earth is stored in the oceans, supplying the world with the water needed for rain.
- The oceans also regulate the temperature on earth to keep it from getting either too hot or too cold. The immense amount of water in the ocean absorbs excess heat from the air in the summer and then slowly releases the heat back into the air in the winter.
- There are also currents or rivers in the ocean that move water around the earth. These currents carry warm water from the tropics to the cold northern and southern poles. They then transport cold water from the poles to the warm tropical areas. This helps to cool down warm places and warm up cold places.
- Besides regulating the earth's temperature, the oceans are also an important source of food, energy and minerals.

What is good about the land? Without land there would be no place for people, animals or plants to live on earth. In other words without land earth would just be a planet of water with no possibility of life for people and all other land animals. God designed the earth as a place for people to live and so it was essential that there be dry ground. Land was the first thing God brought forth on day three of creation.

After giving the earth form and separating the dry ground from the water, God named what he had made. What did he name them? He called the dry ground "land" and the water "seas".

Why was God calling them "land" and "sea" important? In ancient times if you named something that meant that you had either ownership rights to it or the right to rule over it. Psalm 24:1-2 says, *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.* The earth and everything on it belongs to God. God knows how the things he made function and what their purpose is. He made it all; he both owns it and has the right to rule over it.

If all created things on earth belong to the Lord what does that mean for us? We belong to God and he has the understanding and the right to rule over us. God knows how we are to function and what our purpose is. Through God's Word, we need to discover his plan for us and the way we are to do things. If we do so, we will function in a way that is good because it follows God's good plan for us. Life will go well for us when we discover what God says is good and do things his way.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** How did God created the dry land? What happened to the seas? Why did God call the seas good? Why did God call the land good? What does the formation of the land and the seas tell us about God?
- **Thought Questions:** Why does God only have to speak to have things come into existence? Why can't people do that? What do people have to have to make something? How do we know God had a plan for his creation? Why can't we fully understand God's plan? What can we understand about God's plan?

- **Prayer:** Thank God that he designed a perfect place to put people and that he created people for a purpose, which is to worship and glorify him. Thank God that he has given us the Bible so that we can know him better and understand his plan for us.
- **The Big Question:** Why does God have the right to rule over the earth?

Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.

- **Memory Verse:** Psalm 24:1-2
God created earth and everything in it.

¹The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; ²for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Questions: What does it mean that everything belongs to God? Why does everything belong to God? What does that give God authority to do?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: On day three of creation God caused the dry ground to appear.

1. God told the water to be gathered into one place and for the land to appear.
2. He called the dry ground "land" and the gathered water he called "seas".
3. God saw that the land and sea were good. They made life on earth possible.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Maze

Instructions: Find the way through the ocean maze to the mountain of dry ground.

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills
Use the visual chart (picture 6-3) to explain the hydrological cycle or have the students explain it if they are able. Then read Job 36:27-31 verse by verse and have the students explain what part of the cycle is being described in each verse and how the water cycle is used by God. Keep in mind that as water goes through this cycle none of it is lost; it is just moved to another place, sometimes in a different form (liquid, solid, gas).

- Evaporation of water occurs when the water molecules on the surface of the water absorb heat from the sunlight and become more energetic or active. When the molecules take on enough energy, they break away from the other molecules in the

water and escape as a gas into the air (water vapor).

- Condensation of water occurs when the air gets colder. As warm air rises, it cools down. Cold air can hold less water vapor than warm air, so when the temperature of the air cools down the water vapor condenses into droplets of water, forming clouds.
- Precipitation occurs when the air in the clouds is saturated and can't hold any more water droplets. Water droplets fall from the clouds in the form of precipitation. The type of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, or hail) depends on the air temperature and circulation.
- Percolation of water occurs when water dropped by precipitation is soaked up by the ground. The water percolates through the porous soil, and collects in areas under the ground. The water under the ground generally flows towards rivers, lakes or oceans.
- Transportation or run-off of water occurs because the ground can only absorb a limited amount of water and the excess runs off. This excess water finds its way to streams, rivers and lakes and eventually is transported by rivers to the ocean.
- Accumulation of water occurs in the seas where 97 percent of the earth's water is stored.

Discussion: What causes water evaporation? What would happen to the earth if water didn't evaporate? Why does condensation take place? What would happen to the earth if water didn't condense? What happens in precipitation? What would happen to the earth if water didn't fall to the ground? What happens in percolation? What would happen to the earth if water didn't percolate through the ground? How does the transportation of water take place? What would happen to the earth if water wasn't transported to the seas? What would happen if there were no accumulation of water in the seas? What does the water cycle tell us about God?

Job 36:27-31

²⁷He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; (evaporation, condensation, precipitation, transportation)

²⁸the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind. (precipitation)

²⁹Who can understand how he spreads out the clouds, how he thunders from his pavilion? (movement of clouds to different areas of the earth)

³⁰See how he scatters his lightning about him, bathing the depths of the sea.

³¹This is the way he governs the nations and provides food in abundance. (God uses precipitation or the lack of it to control and influence the direction people and civilizations take. God is in control of the water cycle. He is able to cause or withhold rain.)

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

- Digging Deeper: How should we view the creator of heaven and earth?

Reading 1: Psalm 24:1-10 The Lord Almighty is the king of glory.

Why does the earth and everything in it belong to the Lord? Who can stand in the Lord's holy place? How does a person get to be that way? What will he receive? What does it mean that the Lord Almighty is the King of glory?

Reading 2: Psalm 95:1-7a God is our maker and we are the people of his pasture.

How should we come before God? Why should we do that? Why are we to kneel before the Lord? What does that mean we do?

Reading 3: Psalm 96:7-13 God reigns over the earth and is the righteous judge.

What is the glory due to the Lord's name? How should we worship the Lord? What does that mean? What does it mean that the Lord reigns? How will God judge the world? Why is he able to do that?

Reading 4: Psalm 97:1-12 God is the God above all gods.

What do the heavens proclaim? How do they do that? What does it mean that God is the Most High over all the earth? What are other gods? What does the Lord do for those who love him? If God does those things for the ones who love him, why would anyone worship another god?

Reading 5: Psalm 98:1-9 The Lord is loving and faithful and makes his salvation known.

What has the Lord's right hand done for him? What does that refer to? How should we respond to God? Why?

Reading 6: Job 36:27-31 Reflecting on the water and dry ground of the world

Reflection: Using a world map or globe, identify the oceans of the world and where they are connected. Then name the continents (dry ground) and pray for the people who live on those continents that they would recognize and submit to the Lord God, creator of heaven and earth.