

From Jurassic Park to the Garden of Eden: Science, Fiction, or Theology?

Table 1

Word	Day	Poem	Verse
1	1	(a) And God said, "Let..."	3
		(b) and there was ...	
		(c) God saw that ... was good.	4
		(d) And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day	5
2	2	And God said, "Let..."	6
		(b) And it was so	7
		(c)	
		(d) And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day	8
3	3	(a) And God said, "Let..."	9
		(b) And it was so	
		(c) And God saw that it was good	10
		(d)	
4		(a) Then God said, "Let..."	11
		(b) And it was so	
		(c) And God saw that it was good	12
		(d) And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day	13
5	4	(a) Then God said, "Let..."	14
		(b) And it was so	15
		(c) And God saw that it was good	18
		(d) And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day	19
6	5	(a) Then God said, "Let..."	20
		(b)	
		(c) And God saw that it was good	21
		(d) And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day	23
7	6	(a) Then God said, "Let..."	24
		(b) And it was so	
		(c) And God saw that it was good	25
		(d)	
8		(a) Then God said, "Let..."	26
		(b) And it was so	
		(c) God saw ... it was very good	31
		(d) And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day	

Table 2

Problem (1:2)	Preparation (Days 1-3)	Population (Days 4-6)
Darkness	1A: Creation of light—Day ----- 1B: Separation from Darkness—Night	4A: Creation of Sun ----- 4B: Creation of Moon & Stars
Watery Abyss	2A: Creation of Firmament ----- 2B: Separation of waters above from waters below	5A: Creation of Birds ----- 5B: Creation of Fish
Formless Earth	3A: Separation of Earth from Sea ----- 3B: Creation of Vegetation	6A: Creation of Land Animals ----- 6B: Creation of Humans

Table 3

Genesis 1:2-2:4a	Genesis 2:4b-25
Vegetation: plants and trees (1:11-12) The luminaries (1:14-18) Creatures of sea and sky (1:20-22) Beasts and creeping things (1:24-25) Humans: 'male and female' (1:26-27)	A single human male (2:7-8) Vegetation (2:9; compare 2:5) Animals of every sort (2:18-20) A single human female (2:21-23) Lloyd R. Bailey, <i>Genesis, Creation, and Creationism</i> . New York: Paulist Press, 1993, p.85.

Table 4

Genesis	The scientific history of the earth
<i>And God said, "Let there be light"</i>	The formation of the sun (around 5,000 million years ago)
<i>And God said, "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together under one place and let the dry land appear"</i>	The formation of the sea, and the separation of land areas (around 4,200 million years ago)
<i>"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed [vegetation]"</i>	The beginnings of life, including single-celled, photosynthetic organisms—"plants" (around 3,900 million years ago)
<i>"Let there be lights...to divide the day from the night"</i>	The first image-forming eye evolved and the visual information was used. The lights were turned on for animal behaviour and evolution (around 521 million years)
<i>"Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life"</i> <i>God created the great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly after their kind...</i>	The Cambrian explosion—evolution's Big Bang (beginning around 520 million years ago) Life was exclusively marine at this time. It was in this period that all the animal phyla that exist today evolved their characteristic forms. These facts are not common knowledge. Only an experienced biologist would know this.
<i>...and every winged fowl after his kind</i>	All animals adapted to the vision of predators, except for birds, which could afford not to because they can escape predation through flight, and so generally can avoid camouflage colours. It is fascinating that sea creatures and birds should be singled out. These are, respectively, the main characters and exceptions in life's history book. Extract from Andrew Parker, <i>Genesis Enigma</i> , Random House, 2009.

The Rev'd Dr Jules Gomes
MA Course Leader and Lecturer in Biblical Theology
London School of Theology
Green Lane
Northwood
Middlesex HA6 2UW
tel: 01923 456403; fax: 01923 456001
<http://www.lst.ac.uk>
jules.gomes@lst.ac.uk