



Creation Command 3: The Land

Genesis 1:9 And God said, *“Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, Genesis 1:9 let the dry land appear.” And it was so.*

One of my favorite verses in the Bible comes from Ecclesiastics 3:5 *“a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them.”* This third command of creation is the end of an era in making the heavens and the earth. This begins the third day of creation. God has been methodical in his approach. We need water. Yet, some of his creation will not live in water so he separated the water above and below him. It says in verse 1 that the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. Some people translate the word “hover” as breathed. God, over and over has breathed on his creation. The Spirit of God spoke, breathed, and made creation. It’s epic and purposeful. Jesus breathed on his disciples. The Spirit of God came down upon them like a mighty wind. Yet, the third day opens with light and water waiting for something. They were ready to receive land and its creatures.

Why not make it all in one day? I just don’t think we give God enough credit. We are said to be made in his image. There is a small picture of Gods likeness within us. We paint, draw, pose, and plan what we do. Art and design are a huge part of the human gene. God is no different. He waits and plans. He has a purpose and design. God makes a rainbow and blasts the heavens with light and color. This planet is not friendly to random evolution. From the rose to the eagle,

creation is vastly unique and different. Yet, on the beginning of the third day Jesus rose from the dead. On the third day of creation, God sets the platform for Jesus to stand on. Jesus was to die for a land creature called human. Ironically, Jesus needed land to come to earth. So, on the third day Jesus rose from the dead. On the third day God created something for Jesus to stand on.

It's interesting that most scientist believe in the continental shift. The earth was once one whole land mass. By the shifting plates underneath the land the continents moved and separated. Hawaii was clearly formed by lava vents that are moving. Yet, in the creation story, God is separating for the third time. First, he separated the darkness. Then he separated the waters. Now on the third day, God is gathering the waters on the ground into places so that land was exposed. You could also say that He separated the water by land. In North America we have the Atlantic on one side and the Pacific on the other. I visited the Wadi Rum in Jordan. Look it up, this is a stunning area. It's a sandy desert. Yet, this area has hills and cliffs that look like the bottom of the ocean. It's unbelievable stunning. It looks like someone took the waters away long, long ago.

God said "Let the dry ground appear. Then God continued to give names to his creation. He named the light "day" and the darkness "night." God said that the waters above the earth will be called sky. Then God finishes this crucial part of creation by naming the ground "land" the waters "sea." It seems simple but God is setting it all up for living creatures. Setting up a place for Jesus (His Son) to stand. Ecclesiastics 3 says there is a time to scatter. God scattered the darkness and the waters. Now God is setting the scene to gather creatures on dry land. He did this by gathering the waters in their own place.

Finally, I just want to mention Job 38. If you thought that this was just a story. Just some fancy writing by one person, think again. The Author of Job believed in the creation account. He specifically mentions that God put the oceans in a place. That he made them stay off the land.

God has put in place boundaries. For the most part humans cannot own the sea. Many a person has given their life trying to tame the sea. It's a boundary. For all intensive purposes, the sky is the limit. We can go into space but death awaits us. It's not livable. God made another boundary. We also see that the oceans have a boundary on all the beaches of the earth. The scene is now set for living things. God is now finished with the design of the heavens and the earth.

Job 38:10-11 *“And I placed boundaries on it and set a bolt and doors, and I said, ‘Thus far you shall come, but no farther; and here shall your proud waves stop’?”*