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God's Beautiful Creation

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1. How often we fail to appreciate, or even more often we fail to realize, that we live every day in the midst of one of God's most treasured gifts to mankind. What is this gift which I am speaking of? It is the beautiful creation of God. We are told of God's work in forming the beautiful creation in Gen. 1:1-31, which tells us: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth. And to rule over the day and over the night, and to

divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

A. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. When we speak of beginning here, we are speaking of the very beginning; before there was anything created as yet whatsoever. Only God Himself existed. And when we speak of God, we are speaking of the supreme God; the One who has always existed, and shall never have no end. And it is thought by many people, that after God had first created all things, that there was some kind of a destruction, and then there came about what is known as the “Gap Period.” During this time, according to their beliefs, there was a period when God waited, and then recreated, or reformed the heaven and the earth. I believe that they get this belief from the second verse of our scripture reading; which tells us that the earth was without form and void. Hebrew-bohuw (bo-

hoo): to be empty, vacant, or in ruins. This makes it sound as though the earth already existed at the time of the writing of Genesis 1:1-2. I have my own personal doubts as to the truth of this belief. However, I am not saying that it is impossible for it to be true.

B. And darkness was upon the face of the deep. Hebrew-tehowm (teh-home): a surging mass of water. It sounds as though there was nothing but water which could be seen at this time. And we are told that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

C. God next created the two great lights which we know as the sun and the moon; and we are told that they divided the light from the darkness; calling the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And He saw the light, that it was good. Hebrew-towb (tobe): pleasing, beautiful, favorable, pleasant, or precious. The two great lights were created that we may have light upon the earth, and that we may have signs, seasons, days, and years. One time when I truly believe that mankind has overstepped their bounds, is when they have attempted to land rockets or spacecraft on the moon. They claim that it is for various good reasons; but I do not believe that God is pleased with this action at all. For God did not create the moon for mankind to use as they please; but to give light upon the earth at nighttime. I believe that if God had desired for living creatures to exist upon the moon, that He would have placed them there during his creation.

D. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters. Hebrew-raqiya (raw-kee-ah): an expansion (of open air, or the atmosphere), or a visible arch of the sky. We are told that the firmament divided the waters from the waters. This is speaking of the waters which are upon the earth and the waters which are above the earth; or the waters which are contained in the clouds; from which we now get what we know of as rain. God called the firmament Heaven; speaking of what we know as the heavens; which contain the sun, the moon, and the stars.

E. We are next told of how God separated the waters of the earth from the land, and made the dry land to appear, which we know of as the earth. When we speak of God separating the waters, we are speaking of the rivers, oceans, and the seas which we now have upon the earth.

F. God next created the grass, the herb yielding seed, and the trees; which we are told brought forth fruit, which contained the seeds within themselves to bring about reproduction of the same.

G. Next, God created the moving creatures which live in the waters of the earth; what we know of as fish and whales. And He also created the fowls of the air; what we know of as birds. God created them both in such a way as to

give them both the ability to reproduce after their own kind; just as He did with all the other living creatures which He created; including the cattle, all the beasts of the earth, every creeping thing, and mankind.

H. And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness.

One very important thing which I have always noticed about this particular passage of scripture; who was God talking to? It is very obvious that He was not talking to any human being. Who could it of been? It could of been nobody else except his only begotten Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. It is taught very clearly in the New Testament that Jesus Christ existed before his earthly birth as a man.

He is referred to as the living Word of God. We read in John 1:1-4: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him (referring to the beginning creation, and all things thereafter), and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." The Holy Trinity has always existed; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I. God gave mankind dominion over all the creatures which He had created. Hebrew-radah (raw-daw): to prevail against, or to have power and authority over.

J. God created man in his own image, after his likeness. God created mankind and gave him the ability to think, and to have knowledge and wisdom, to a certain extent. Mankind's knowledge and wisdom is limited to what God allows. Yet mankind was created with a much greater ability to think and use his common sense than any other living creature. God created mankind male and female, and blessed them, and gave them the command to be fruitful and multiply, and to replenish the earth, and subdue it.

a. Replenish-Hebrew-mala (maw-law): to fill, as to increase in number, or to populate.

b. Subdue-Hebrew-kabash (kaw-bash): to tread down, conquer, take over, or to take control of (the earth).

K. God made it very clear to mankind that He had given him all the herb bearing seed, and all the trees which bore fruit with their own seed within itself, as meat, or as food for their bodies. And He also made it very clear that He had given every green herb (grass, etc.) as food for every beast of the earth, for every fowl of the air, and for every beast of the earth which had life within itself.

2. One of the greatest pleasures which I enjoy every chance I get, is just sitting outside, looking up at the beautiful blue sky; and many times just

watching the beautiful white clouds float across the sky. They just look like big piles of pure white cotton. I try to think of where the blue sky comes down to meet the earth. But we know that there is really no end to it; and if we were to just keep following it on and on, we would never find the end. And when I look up into the sky, I know that there is nothing there except just clear open space, or the atmosphere. But where does the beautiful blue color come from? This will always be a mystery to our mind. It is just another one of God's wonderful works which our human minds cannot comprehend. It seems as though if we just started going up toward the sky, that we would eventually just run into it. It looks like a bright blue cover placed over the earth. If we go up in our fastest airplanes, as high as we can go, the blue sky still looks just as far away as it looked when we left the ground. It's amazing how man can determine the distance from the earth to the moon, and to the sun, but yet we can never come to a figure in determining how far it is to the sky. For the sky cannot be reached. The higher we go, the higher it gets; or so it seems. But yet we know that there must be an end up there somewhere. We can know this because we are told that the place called Heaven is up there somewhere. And Heaven is a real place; with streets, and walls, and gates; and it has a river which is called the River of Life, and we know that it has trees; for we are told that there is a Tree of Life in Heaven. We will go through a scripture passage which tells us of when God allowed a man named John to be able to see these beauties of Heaven. We read in Rev. 21:1-21: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murders, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. And there came

unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the walls thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the walls of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass."

3. We also have many other beautiful sights which are a part of God's beautiful creation. We also have the beautiful mountains which we have the privilege of enjoying each day. I know, according to God's Word, that Jesus had the pleasure of enjoying the mountains when He was upon this earth. We know from God's Word that Jesus spent much of his time up in the mountains with his disciples. John 6:1-3 tells us: "After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. And a great multitude followed Him, because they saw his miracles which He did on them that were diseased. And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there He sat with his disciples." It seems as though Jesus also wanted to try and get away from all the noise and the crowds of people occasionally. But as we can see from this scripture, this was not so easy for Jesus to be able to do; for the multitudes of people wanted to follow Him everywhere that He went; because

of all the miraculous works which they saw Him do. There was also one other mountain which contained a special place, which we know of as the Mount of Olives; where Jesus spent much time; sometimes alone, and at other times with his disciples. The Mount of Olives played a very important part in the last week of Jesus' ministry upon this earth. It was upon this mountain where Jesus sat and delivered unto his disciples, the message that is known as the "Olivet Discourse;" a long sermon which tells us of the signs of the end of the age, the great "Tribulation Period," and of his return to the earth. We are given this great message in the 24th. and 25th. chapters of Matthew. The Mount of Olives was most certainly a very important part in Jesus' ministry. Matt. 26:30 and Mark 14:26 both tell us that Jesus and his disciples went out into the Mount of Olives, after observing the Lord's supper. And we read in Luke 21:37: "And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple; and at night He went out, and abode in the mount that is called the Mount of Olives." And also in Luke 22:39 we read: "And He came out, and went, as He was wont, to the Mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed Him." John 8:1 also tells us that (after facing the crowd of unbelieving rulers) Jesus went out into the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives sat east of Jerusalem, and overlooked the temple. It is believed that this mountain was covered with groves of olive trees. It was also in the Mount of Olives where Judas led the Roman soldiers to find Jesus, when he had went and betrayed Him. And it was also upon this mount where the men of Galilee stood with Jesus when He was taken back up into Heaven; approximately forty days after his resurrection from the grave. We read in Acts 1:8-11: "***But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*** And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward Heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven." It is also believed that when Christ returns to the earth to set up his kingdom; after the seven year tribulation period; that He will step down upon the Mount of Olives; the same place from which He first ascended.

4. The ridges and the mountains have always been a very important part of God's creation to me also. I can remember when I was only a child, as I was growing up, spending much time up in the ridges and the mountains which

stood near my old homeplace; back in Corryton, Tennessee. I remember when my friends and I used to go up into the ridge near my house during the summertime. We had one particular spot up in the ridge where we used to gather together, where there was another one of God's natural creations. There was a natural spring of water which flowed out of the ridge; and it contained the best-tasting water in the world; or at least it seemed the best to me and my friends. We used to gather and hang out at this little spring, and drink our RC colas, and our moon pies, and just have a wonderful time there; enjoying the fresh mountain air, and just playing among the trees there on the ridge. We played all over the ridge, and just had the time of our lives. This little spring and this ridge will always hold a special place in my heart, which will never be forgotten. Also, I can remember times when I would be upon this ridge, or out in the woods, at about the dusk of the evening, when the sun was going down; and there would be no noise at all; just complete quietness. And you could just sense the presence of God among the trees. Oh what a wonderful feeling! You could just talk to God, and know beyond any doubt, that He was hearing every word that you spoke to Him. Oh how we fail to realize what wonderful blessings that we have all around us! I will always be thankful unto God for all the beautiful ridges and the mountains that He has given unto us to enjoy. I no longer live out near the old ridge where I grew up; and I haven't lived out there in several years. But I now live in the city. But even in the city where I live, I am not too awfully far from a couple of very high ridges. I also live not too far from an area which reminds me of the old country area where I grew up. There is a place just down the road a little distance, where the paved street turns into a gravel road; which goes for a couple of miles through the woods. I love to take my bicycle and ride it down into this wooded area, and just enjoy the fresh air, and be able to feel the presence of God; just as I used to do in the ridges and mountains near my old homeplace. Do not think for a second that I do not feel God's presence in my home, or anyplace that I go as far as that is concerned. For God is an omnipresent God; He is everywhere that we go; and his mighty hand of love and protection are upon me at all times. But there is something that is very special to me about getting to be alone with God out in the natural creations which He has blessed us with. I wonder how Adam and Eve could of allowed the devil to deceive them as he did, and cause them to lose their privilege of being able to live in and enjoy the beautiful Garden of Eden. I can only try and imagine how beautiful this precious garden must of been. We are told of it in Gen. 2:4-17: " These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God

made the earth and the heavens. And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food, the Tree of Life also in the midst of the garden, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates. And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” We are told that this beautiful garden contained the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and also the Tree of Life. We are also told in the Book of Revelation that there will also be a Tree of Life in Heaven. Rev. 22:2 tells us: “In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the Tree of Life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” And we are also told in Rev. 22:14: “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the Tree of Life, and may enter in through the gates unto the city.”

5. Another one of God’s beautiful creations which is very dear to all of us, are the beautiful rivers, lakes, oceans, and seas of water which we enjoy. Even though some of the smaller streams of water may seem to be of little significance to some of us, nevertheless, they still are God’s creations, and play a very important part upon this earth. In the days of my youth, I lived near a very small creek; where me and my friends used to go fishing, swimming, and spent quite a bit of our time there. I have also had the privilege of being able to visit one of the larger bodies of water; one of the oceans. And it also; just like the sky; seems as though it stretches out to a

point of no end; what we know of as the horizon; to where it looks as though the waters meet the sky. What a beautiful scene! I haven't got to go to see the ocean but just a few times. But every time that I have seen it, I just stand in amazement, of how God could create something so beautiful. Jesus and his disciples also enjoyed the beautiful waters when He was upon the earth. We read in Luke 5:1-3 of where Jesus taught from a ship, as it sat upon the Lake of Gennesaret: "And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon Him to hear the Word of God, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And He sat down, and taught the people out of the ship." We also have another scripture in Luke, that shows us that Jesus had to go out on the lake from time to time, just to be able to get the sleep and the rest which He needed. This scripture also proves to us that Jesus has complete power and authority over his natural creations. We read in Luke 8:22-25: "Now it came to pass on a certain day, that He went into a ship with his disciples: and He said unto them, ***Let us go over unto the other side of the lake.*** And they launched forth. But as they sailed He fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then He arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And He said unto them, ***Where is your faith?*** And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! For He commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey Him." The Sea of Galilee was a very important body of water in Jesus' day upon the earth. The Sea of Galilee was a large, fresh water inland lake in Galilee. Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when He called his first two disciples. Matt. 4:18-20 tells us: "And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And He saith unto them, ***Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*** And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him." We have another occasion in Matt. 13:1, where Jesus sat down by the side of the sea. We read: "The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side." We also have a scripture which tells us that Jesus once walked upon the sea. We read in Matt. 14:24-27: "But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the

disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, ***Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.*** Greek-enantios (en-an-tee-os): antagonistic, apposing, or in a state of causing fear, and bringing harm or danger unto life (of the disciples). We can have no doubt that every time Jesus went down by the sea side, that He was followed by multitudes of people. We read in Mark 2:13: "And He went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto Him, and He taught them." I have no doubt that Jesus loved the people very much, and enjoyed teaching them. But I also have no doubt that He grew weary at times also; from the multitudes continually following Him. If it were not so, He would not of had to go to the mountains to try and get rest; or of had to go out in the ships from time to time, to try and get the sleep which He needed. Let us never forget that Jesus was most certainly God in the flesh when He was upon this earth; but He was also completely human; having physical needs just as you and I have every day; especially rest and sleep.

6. After Jesus had returned to Heaven, the apostles confessed of how God had made Heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that is in them. We read in Acts 4:23-24: "And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is." And also in Acts 14:13-15 we read: "Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city; brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein."

A. Their own company. Greek-idios (id-ee-os): private family, or one's own loved ones.

B. One accord. Greek-homothumadon (hom-oth-oo-mad-on): together, in unity, or at the same time.

7. John tells us in the Book of Revelation, of a great sea which he was allowed to see, when he was called up into Heaven. Rev. 4:6 tells us: "And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind."

He also tells us of a River of Life which he was allowed to see. We read in Rev. 22:1: "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."

A. Glass-Greek-hualinos (hoo-al-ee-nos): transparent, as rain or water. In other waters, the sea which flowed before the throne of God, was a clear, purely transparent sea; no uncleanness whatsoever. It was as though the bottom of the sea was glass also.

B. Like unto crystal. Greek-krustallos (kroos-tal-los): frost, ice, or a rock looking like glass; perfectly clear, with no defects whatsoever. What a beautiful creation of God us Christians have to look forward to.

8. There are many other beautiful sights which are a part of God's creation, which we have not even spoke of in this lesson. We have many beautiful canyons, such as the Grand Canyon. We also have many beautiful caverns, or caves. I have had the opportunity to visit a few of these caverns. One in particular which I remember taking a tour of, is the Forbidden Caverns, near Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This was an unbelievable sight to see. It had such amazing underground sights; which looked as though they had been carved by hand. And there used to be one called "The Caverns of the Ridge," near Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This also was an amazing sight to see. And there is one which is most amazing to me, and certainly a beautiful sight to see. It is near Sweetwater, Tennessee. It is called "The Lost Sea." It has many beautiful sights back underneath the ground, including a beautiful waterfall which comes out of the underground rocks. It is most certainly one of God's beautiful creations. Let us ever be thankful for the many beautiful creations that God has blessed us with; all formed by his amazing, creative hand. I have only mentioned a few of them, but they are many more which are scattered all over the earth; which are all a part of God's beautiful creation.

9. We are told in God's Word, that after He had finished with his beautiful creations, on the seventh day, that He then rested. We read in Gen. 2:1-3: "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all his work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all his work which God created and made." Was God tired from all his magnificent work? No, not by any means. The word rested comes from the Hebrew word shabath (whaw-bath); which means to cease, or to bring to an end; also to celebrate, or to admire. God, on the seventh day, just looked back and admired the great creations which He had made, or what He had accomplished. He also sanctified the seventh day. Hebrew-qadash (kaw-dash): to announce as

a time of holiness, or a time in which to offer praises unto God Almighty; a time in which to turn all attention unto Him. This should also be thought of as the Sabbath day; which means a time when all hearts should be turned unto the Lord God; giving Him total praise and glory, for all that He hath done. Throughout the Old Testament, the seventh day was always looked upon as being the Sabbath day; since it was the day when God rested from all his creations. But when Jesus was resurrected from the grave, on the first day of the week, the Sabbath day was celebrated thereafter on the first day of the week.

Conclusion:

God went through six days, in creating the beautiful heavens and the earth on which we live each day. Every time we look up at the beautiful blue sky; or every time we stop and look at a beautiful flower; or take the time to admire any of the many great creations which God has made; we should always stop and offer a prayer of thanksgiving unto God for his beautiful work. We should never forget to appreciate the beautiful creations which God has given unto us to enjoy as we live our lives upon this earth. What a beautiful taste that God has! And every time that we stop to look at, or to pet any of the beautiful living creatures which our God has made, it should always remind us of the wonderful love of God. How fortunate we are, as a male or a female, to have been given the ability to think and to communicate with one another, in a way that no other living creature is able to do. May we begin to appreciate our beautiful creation which God has given unto us, out of his love that is greater than any human mind can comprehend. Let us always strive to keep the beautiful creation clean, in every thing that we do.

Calvin Smith