

The Creator's Origin of Life - 6

Under the shining sun the seas give up some of their water to enter the lower atmosphere as invisible water vapour. Clouds are formed when the relatively moist air rises. As a mass of air ascends, the lower pressures prevailing at higher levels allow it to expand. In expanding, the air cools until the air becomes supersaturated. The excess water vapour that it contains then condenses onto microscopic dust or smoke particles called condensation nuclei.

This process rapidly gives rise to droplets on the order of 0.01 mm in diameter. These droplets, which are usually present in concentrations of a few hundred per cubic centimetre, form a nonprecipitating water cloud. Clouds are generally made up of a mixture of water droplets, with a greater proportion of ice crystals in the higher regions of the cloud.

The water droplets in clouds must increase in size until they are able to fall to the earth as drizzle or rain. Drizzle particles and raindrops are formed either by the coalescence of cloud droplets or by the production of ice crystals and their subsequent melting as they descend through the warmer regions of the cloud to fall on the dry earth.

In the Holy Land, as in some other places, excess waters from the rains and melting snows seep down into subterranean streams. The great Rift valley, its north end at Mount Hermon, runs along the Jordan Valley - see New Bible Atlas, Geological Structure, p. 10-11. These waters find their way under distant tracts of land and, in the words of the Psalm,

Psalm 104:10 "He sends the springs into the valleys, which flow among the hills. 11 They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. 12 By them the birds of the heavens have their habitation; They sing among the branches. 13 He waters the hills from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works."

All this is the result from the work of the second day of creation.

On the third day of Creation "God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth'; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good" - Genesis 1:11.

And so Psalm 104 continues, 14 "He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, 15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart."

Turning to the provision by God of another aspect of the plant kingdom, 16 "The trees of the Lord are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. 17 There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the pine trees."

Even places which are a long way from human habitation - out of the normal reach of mankind - and up in the treeless wilds, there is sufficient growth to sustain both small and larger beasts of the field - 18 "The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the conies."