

# Thought For The Week

## Day 5 of Creation, Sea Creatures and Birds

### God's Mighty Word Fills Seas and Skies

On the fifth day of creation, as recorded in Genesis 1:20–23, God's voice transformed a silent world. In a literal 24-hour day, about 6,000 years ago, the seas erupted with life—great sea creatures (tanninim) and swarming creatures—and the skies filled with birds. This wasn't a gradual process spanning millions of years, as evolutionary theories claim. Instead, Young Earth Creationism, grounded in a historical reading of Genesis 1–11, affirms an instantaneous act of divine power, as Psalm 33:6 states: “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.” This blog explores the wonders of Day 5, marveling at the diversity and design of God's creatures, the richer pre-Flood world, and the implications for our faith today.

### The Great Sea Creatures: Tanninim of Awe

Genesis 1:21 highlights the “great sea creatures” (tanninim gedolim), a Hebrew term evoking “great dragons” or “monsters.” These weren't mythical beasts but real, awe-inspiring creatures showcasing God's limitless power. The Hebrew word yom (day), paired with “evening and morning” in Genesis 1:23, confirms a literal 24-hour period, as Exodus 20:11 reinforces: “In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.” In mere hours, God spoke into existence whales, sharks, and likely extinct giants like mosasaurs and plesiosaurs.

Picture today's blue whales, stretching 100 feet, their songs echoing across oceans, or sperm whales diving miles deep to hunt giant squid with sonar-like precision. Great white sharks, with jaws that crush bone, and hammerheads, with sensory arrays like living radar, embody the tanninim's majesty. Yet, Scripture and the fossil record suggest a pre-Flood world far richer. Job 41 describes Leviathan: “His back is made of rows of shields... Out of his mouth go flaming torches... When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid” (Job 41:15, 19, 25, ESV). This isn't a modern creature but perhaps a mosasaur, a 50-foot marine reptile with jaws that could snap a ship, or a plesiosaur with paddle-like limbs and a serpentine neck.

Why don't we see such variety today? Genesis 6–9 records a global Flood, dated roughly 4,500 years ago through genealogies like Genesis 5 (e.g., Noah fathering Shem at 500, Genesis 5:32). This cataclysm buried mosasaurs, plesiosaurs, and other tanninim in sediment during a year of upheaval, not millions of years. Post-Flood, oceans transformed—currents shifted, temperatures dropped—making survival impossible for many specialized kinds. Whales and sharks adapted, but grander forms, like Leviathan, vanished, leaving fossils and legends. Ancient maps marked “Here be dragons” may echo these lost giants, perhaps hunted to extinction or overwhelmed by a harsher world. This past diversity magnifies God's power—He spoke, and they swam, each kind bursting with variety we glimpse in fossils and Scripture.

## **Swarming Creatures: A Tapestry of Life**

Beyond the tanninim, Genesis 1:20 describes waters that “swarm with swarms of living creatures” (sharats), painting a picture of bustling life. Schools of fish shimmer like silver, squid jet with bursts of ink, jellyfish pulse like glowing lanterns, and octopuses shift colors to vanish in plain sight. Each kind was created distinct, not evolved from a single ancestor, in a single day, defying evolution’s millions of years. Psalm 104:25 captures this: “Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great.”

Young Earth Creationism reveals a pre-Flood ocean teeming with even greater diversity. Warm, vibrant seas supported countless variations within kinds—fish with alien colors, cephalopods with intricate designs now lost. The fossil record, from Cambrian marine life to Jurassic ammonites, shows this variety, buried rapidly in the Flood, not evolving over eons. Each kind carried rich genetic potential, allowing rapid variation post-Flood, like cichlid fish diversifying into hundreds of species from one pair on Noah’s Ark. But pre-Flood seas held a tapestry of life we can only imagine.

The Flood changed this. Turbulent waters buried many swarming kinds, and post-Flood shifts—colder oceans, altered currents—limited survivors. Tuna and cod thrived, but trilobites and ornate ammonites vanished, their fossils dated to the Flood, not millions of years. God’s blessing to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:22) ensured marine life’s survival, but not its full past splendor. Today’s coral reefs, with dazzling fish and anemones, are a remnant of Day 5’s design, thriving despite loss. A literal Genesis anchors this view: the Fall (Genesis 3) brought death after creation, so fossils can’t predate Adam’s sin (Romans 5:12), supporting a young Earth where swarming creatures filled seas ~6,000 years ago.

## **The Blessing of Abundance**

God’s blessing in Genesis 1:22—“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas”—was a divine empowerment, ensuring creation thrived. Young Earth Creationists see this as key to a young Earth: in just 6,000 years, this blessing enabled rapid multiplication, no eons required. In Eden’s pre-Fall seas, with no death or decay, clownfish filled reefs, sardines formed shimmering clouds, and octopuses laid eggs in safety. Psalm 148:7 calls “sea creatures and all deeps” to praise God, and they did so by swarming, each life a note in His symphony.

This fruitfulness was worship, as creation teacher Del Tackett notes, with creatures acting as “sub-creators,” extending God’s work through abundance. Even after the Flood’s loss, this mandate endures—coral reefs teem because of Day 5’s blessing. For us, it’s a call to mirror this fruitfulness in faith, love, and service, trusting God’s provision (John 15:8).

## **Birds: Masters of the Sky**

Finally, God filled the skies: “Let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens” (Genesis 1:20). In an instant, eagles soared, hummingbirds hovered, penguins paddled, and ostriches sprinted—each a distinct kind, not evolved from reptiles. Feathers interlock like zippers, lungs flow air uniquely, and a falcon’s 240-mph dive defies chance, showcasing divine design.

A literal Genesis reveals a pre-Flood sky richer than today’s. Fossils like Archaeopteryx, with true feathers, show birds flew alongside modern types, not as evolutionary links. Pterosaurs, with 30-foot wingspans, may be Day 5’s “flying serpents” (Isaiah 30:6), soaring as distinct kinds. Imagine

eagles sharing thermals with pterodactyls, or teratorns with 23-foot wings darkening horizons.

The Flood, a historical cataclysm per Genesis 6–9, submerged the earth for months, sparing only ark-bound life. While birds could fly above floodwaters, many perished as forests sank and climates shifted. Pterosaurs and giant birds vanished, their fossils tied to the Flood, not millions of years. Post-Flood, surviving bird kinds diversified—finches adapted to islands—but never regained full splendor. Extinctions like the dodo or passenger pigeon, and legends like Native American thunderbirds, echo Day 5’s crowded skies.

### **Application: Faith, Awe, and Proclamation**

Day 5’s past diversity has profound implications. First, it strengthens trust in God’s Word. Genesis 1–11 is history, not allegory, with fossils of mosasaurs, pterosaurs, and ammonites buried in the Flood, as 2 Peter 3:5–6 confirms. Second, it deepens awe. Today’s creatures are wonders, but they’re a shadow of Day 5’s fullness—oceans teeming with tanninim, skies thick with wings (Romans 1:20). Third, it assures God’s care. He preserved fish and birds through the Flood; He’ll sustain us (Matthew 6:26). Finally, we must share this truth—a world of tanninim and pterosaurs points to a Creator, not chance.

## **Conclusion**

Day 5, a literal 24-hour day on a young Earth, reveals God’s power. Seas teemed with tanninim and swarming life, skies with birds—once far more diverse, now a testament to His design and the Flood’s impact. Let’s marvel at every wave and wing, trust His Word, and proclaim His name, praising the Creator of a richer past and a living present.