

# ...rest

## Genesis 1:3-2:3

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1. As you read through the days of creation narrative, excluding Day Seven (which we'll come to later), is there anything that jumps out at you as significant?
2. In Genesis 1:1-2:3, the word "day" means (which answer most closely fits the text):
  - a. A 24 hours solar day (Literal Day Theory)
  - b. A long age of indefinite duration (Day-Age Theory)
  - c. A 24 hours solar day which comes at the end of a long age of indefinite duration (Literal-Day-With-Gaps Theory)
  - d. A symbolic period of revelation (Revelatory Day Theory)
3. What to you think God is helping us to understand by using "day" rather than specifying a longer or indefinite duration of time?
4. Life on earth originated (which answer most closely fits the text):
  - a. Someplace else (Panspermia)
  - b. Generated spontaneously and developed from one simple, living cell (Evolution)
  - c. Through a God ordered and directed evolutionary process (Theistic Evolution)
  - d. In a relatively brief period of time through a series of supernatural acts of God (Special Creation)
5. What do you think God is helping us to understand by the way He describes His creation of life?
6. We are told that all living things reproduce according to their own "kind." What does this mean? What difference does it make for us to know this?
7. In what ways is mankind different than any other living thing created by God?
8. What difference does the answer to #7 make to you personally?
9. In what ways is Day Seven uniquely different from any other day in the creation narrative (there are at least three that were shared during the sermon)?
10. Why did God rest? Who rested with God? What would it have been like to "rest" with God on Day Seven? Who makes this "resting" possible? What effort would have been required on our part to "rest"?
11. What keeps you from experiencing this rest today?
12. Read Hebrews 4:9-11. In Genesis 2:2,3, the word "rest" translates the Hebrew word for "Sabbath." On Day Seven we're being introduced to the roots of Sabbath rest as a resting in God's completed work. Later in Hebrew history God ties the seventh day Sabbath rest to Jewish ceremonial law. Through His work on the cross Jesus becomes the fulfillment of Sabbath rest for God's people. How are we to enter into God's rest through Jesus?
13. In verse 10, what does it mean that "*whoever has entered Gods' rest has also rested from his works as God did from His*"? Put slightly different: How is this resting similar to the resting that took place (resting with God) on Day Seven of creation (see answer to last part of question #10)?
14. Read Mathew 11:28,29. What is Jesus' invitation? What is Jesus' promise to those who will respond to His invitation? How is it possible to have rest while being strapped into Jesus' yoke?
15. These days, what does resting in God's completed work look like for you?