

Marine Conservation in Genesis 1:20-31: an inductive Bible study

Marine conservation in the Bible? While the Bible does not use those words directly, it does speak to this topic. Come explore what the Bible has to say.

Genesis 1:20-31

Revised Standard Version

20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens." 21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. 24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then 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 birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.



What words are used to describe the creation of sea creatures in verses 20-23?

What picture does this put in your mind? Describe it or perhaps even draw it.

Why are “great sea monsters” singled out in this passage?

Did you notice in Verse 22 that God blessed the living creatures of the sea? What might this mean?

What does this passage tell us about how God intended the sea to function?

What words would you use to describe the state of living creatures in the sea right now?

In Gen 1:26-30, what words and phrases are used to describe the creation of people?

What do the phrases “in His image” and “have dominion over” mean? How do you think they are inter-related?

If God was involved in a marine conservation project, what might He be doing?

What are the implications for a Christian working in marine conservation?

Think of or research one marine conservation issue in your location. How can you work towards Gen 1:20-23?

Did you find this study helpful? Let me know some of the things that you have discovered and the ways in which you might apply this to your situation.

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<http://www.arocha.org/ke-en/work/research/marine.html>

All pictures taken by Benjamin Cowburn at our study sites near A Rocha Kenya's field study centre

