**‘Animals’**

***24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so. 25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.*** Genesis 1:24-25

Much of what’s been written in previous posts can be re-stated here. Our God is amazingly creative. He simply speaks, and whatever He speaks to responds. On this day, God begins by speaking to the earth, ***“Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind,”*** and it does.

Wherever we live, there are animals suitable for that place. Some are big and some small. Some are fierce, others not. Some are carnivores, others not. Some are nocturnal, others not. Some dwell in dug out burrows and others not. Some climb trees, even swing in them, most do not. Some hibernate, most do not. Some have made life easier through the work they have done for us; others are just fun to have around. Some we eat, most we don’t. It’s a mixed bag, but every animal is on this planet because God spoke them into existence. They are a blessing on the earth. What would we ever do without them?

In the same way that God gave boundaries to vegetation, fruit trees, creatures of the waters and air, God establishes a boundary around the living creatures of the earth. These creatures, no matter how great or how small, were to reproduce and multiply ***“after their kind.”*** There was to be no cross-breeding between species. Everything was to mate within its species so that that species could continue generation after generation.

If you are wondering why I keep emphasizing the phrase ***“after their kind,”*** the reason is this: We live in a day and age when scientists are purposely crossing many of these boundaries, far more than most of us care to imagine. Their stated purpose for these experiments is usually to find “cures” for various diseases. Unfortunately, this isn’t always the case. We will have an opportunity to consider these things in later blogs, but for now all we need to know is this: God established boundaries between species on purpose. It is a protective mechanism, and it shouldn’t be crossed by anyone. We can’t possibly know what we could be releasing into the earth which future generations will have to deal with.

The best reason, of course, for not doing this is this: **God said so.**

*Kathleen*