

# If Koala's Were King

*A READING INTERTWINING THE CREATION STORY OF GENESIS 1 WITH A COMMENTARY*

*ON THE ROLE OF HUMAN BEINGS AS STEWARDS OF GOD'S WORLD.*

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.*

(with a slightly sinister tone) It's only a matter of time, you know, until *they* arrive.

*And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and morning, one day.*

Yes, they'll be here before long. I guess you could call it a divine weakness--God wanting to share the creation with a being capable of response. But with response comes decision, and with decisions come...(darkly) well, the possibilities are endless.

*And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters." And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and morning, a second day.*

T minus four days and counting. And things are moving ahead so nicely with the rest of creation. Oh, well, I guess not even God can expect every little thing to work out perfectly. (to audience) You're thinking I'm being a little hard on these creatures that are going to be created on the sixth day? Hey, they deserve it, and besides, I just stepped in some gum one of them threw on the sidewalk! (obviously bothered) That's just one indication of their overall carelessness and disregard for the basic order of the universe!

*And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called seas. And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.*

The third day--the first day living things appeared. Strangely enough, those who were coming--who were living beings themselves--had so little regard for other living things. You can perhaps understand ruining the atmosphere, or wasting the soil, or fouling the water. But other things that live and grow and breathe and move--what did they have against *them*?

*And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the firmament to give light upon the earth." And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and morning, a fourth day.*

Looking back, maybe they didn't actually have anything against the other living things. Maybe they just didn't think about what they were doing and the effect it would have on creatures large and small--and in the end, what effect their actions would have on their own kind. But isn't it ironic, don't you think, because *they* were supposed to be the *smart* ones.

*And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly across the firmament of the*

*heavens." And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth. And there was evening and morning, a fifth day.*

Be fruitful and multiply. It wasn't long after they arrived that multiplication turned to subtraction, with species after species in decline--or gone. Who would have thought they alone could alter the arithmetic of the creation?

*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. And God saw that it was good. 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." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.*

Makes you want to say, "Are you sure about that God? Are you sure that everything's very good? Don't you want to rethink that last day, maybe take another shot at it? Could have just been something you ate that morning. Or after all the successes of the previous days, maybe you just thought nothing could go wrong."

(slight pause, startled reaction) What--what's that? Didn't know you were listening. Yes, I'm sure eternity has been a bit more interesting with them around. (pauses as if to listen) Excuse me? You have a feeling that things just may work out alright with this planet? Well, I suppose you can think whatever you want to think--after all, you've got the whole world in your hands (smiles at the clever turn of a phrase).

Say What!? I mean, what was that, your Creator-ship? *They* have the whole world in *their* hands? And you feel that's a basis for optimism? O.K., I guess that's why you get to be God, and the rest of us are, you know, not God. But if you'll allow me one little piece of advice as someone who's seen what *they* can do to an otherwise very pleasant planet--maybe next time, you could give some other creature--like the pelicans or the koalas--the role of having "dominion" over all the other creatures. I think they'd be a whole lot nicer to everything else--and they wouldn't leave bubble gum on the sidewalks!

## **If Koala's Were King**

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