

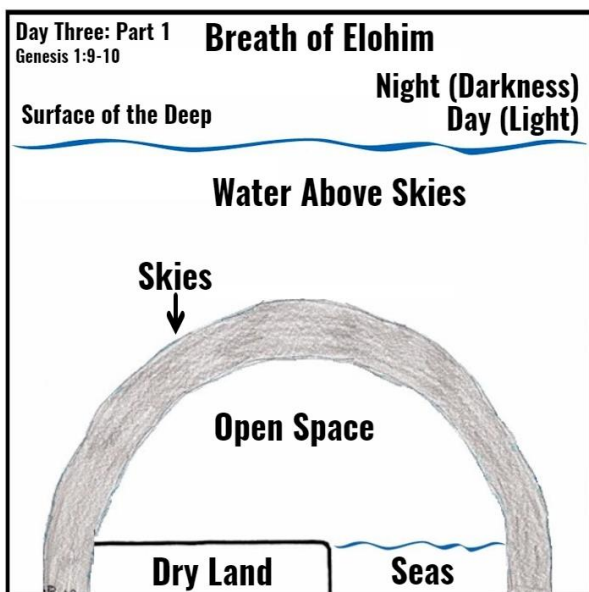
## Day Three

Below are **Key Words** (with functions) at the beginning of the third day:

- **Elohim**: *breathing, hovering, speaking, creating, seeing, measuring with Tov standard, making distinctions, and naming.*
- **Time**: *Night and Day in perpetual cycles of Evening and Morning.*
- **Tov** (*standard Elohim uses to measure things*): *Light.*
- **Skies** (*solid plate*) *in place but not functioning.*

In order to grasp the importance of this Day, we must visualize the scene at the end of **Day Two**. There is a huge “**shoreless body of water**” called the **Deep**. We know It has a “**top**” because of references to the surface. We don’t know how much space there is on each side. The solid plate is located beneath the surface, and there are waters beneath it, which “**have been separated from the Deep waters.**” In the ancient Hebrew culture, “**setting something apart for a divine purpose,**” means it is “**holy.**” The purpose of the solid plate was to create a “**holy space.**” Elohim speaks to “**the body of water beneath the solid plate**” named “**Skies.**”

(1:9) *Elohim said, “Let the waters beneath the Skies be gathered into one place,  
and let the dry thing appear.”  
And it was so.*



(1:10) *Elohim named the dry thing “Dry Land,”  
and the waters that were gathered together  
He named “Seas.”  
Elohim saw that this was Tov.*

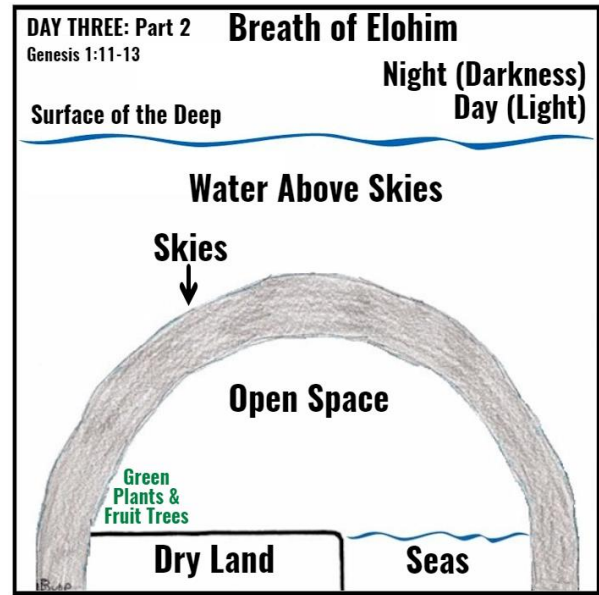
We have a new Key Word to add: **Seas**; and updates for **Skies** (creating a **holy space**), **Dry Land** to “**the name of the dry thing,**” and the Seas (the sources of “**water**.” This marks a major change in the focus of the ancient author from **functions** to **functionaries**.

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(1:11) *Elohim said, "Let the Dry Land bring forth green vegetation, plants yielding seed, and trees bearing fruit each according to its kind." And it was so.*

(1:12) *The Dry Land brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. Elohim saw that it was Tov.*

(1:13) *And it was evening, and it was morning, Day Three.*



Elohim spoke to the **Dry Land**. His words reflect “a wonder” of the ancient world – *the idea that plants grew, dropped seed, and more of the same plants came from that tiny seed.*<sup>1</sup> This miraculous process provided much of their food.

**Day Three** stands out from the other days because Elohim did not create or make anything. He spoke to “**the waters beneath the Skies**” and “**the Dry Land**.” They are in the “**holy space**” created by the Skies. They take actions when spoken to by Elohim. **The creative power of Elohim’s breath** is now creating things “**below the surface of the Deep**.”

<sup>1</sup> *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate* by John W. Walton © 2009; InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL; p. 59