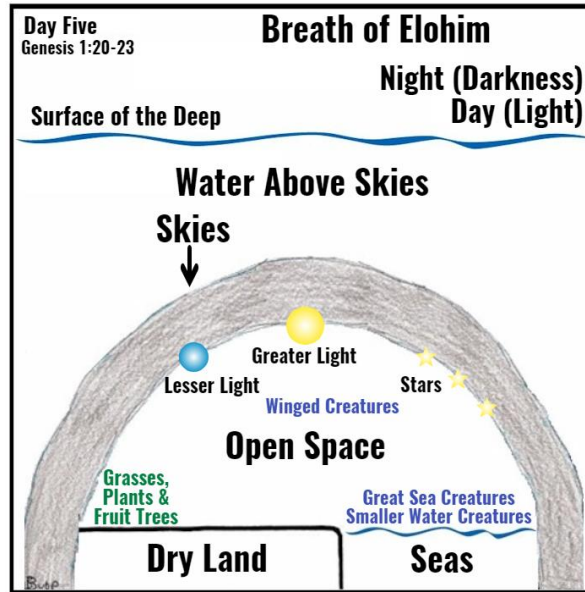


Day Five



(1:20) *Elohim said, “Let the waters swarm with swarming things with a living soul; and let winged creatures fly above the Dry Land and in front of the Skies.”*

(1:21) *Elohim created the great water creatures, and every living soul creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds; and every winged creature that flies according to its kinds. Elohim saw that it was Tov.*

This is the first appearance of the word “**soul**” in the Bible. Be sure to note that Elohim said, “*Let the waters swarm with swarming things with a living soul,*” before He created the creatures. This sounds very similar to how Light was created in verse three. *The “soul” was created through the “breath of Elohim.”*

“**Soul**” is the English translation of the Hebrew ***nephesh***. It never refers to that which continues to exist after death, though it departs when one dies. The *nephesh* is not a piece of the divine. The ***nephesh*** is related to the body, what the body feels (senses).¹ ***The nephesh is the generator of the body’s appetites, longings, and desires.***

¹ *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament* by John H. Walton © 2018; pp. 183-184.

The Bible's Wisdom of the Beginnings Series: The First Story

In the ancient world the cosmic seas were populated with large water creatures. There are many stories about them in other ancient cultures. Whether antithesis or enemy, they were viewed as threats to order, because they operated against the ordered system. They were aggressive participants in cosmic wars. But in this story, they are part the ordered system created by Elohim. *Elohim saw that the great water creatures, the smaller water creatures, and the winged flying creatures were Tov. **They all measured up to Elohim's Standard.***

(1:22) Elohim blessed them, saying:

*“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the Seas;
and let the flying creatures multiply on the Dry Land.”*

The divine blessing is the sacred force that enabled these creatures to fulfill the functions in the area they had been placed. This blessing is the divine power which enabled the things blessed to live in the most profound and comprehensive sense.²

(:23) And it was evening and it was morning, Day Five.

² *In the Beginning: A New Interpretation of Genesis* by Karen Armstrong © 1996; Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, NY; p. 17.