

## [1] Creation and Destruction

*3 or 4 seconds pause to absorb the first image*

## [2] The '7 days' of Creation

### Day 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [3] The earth was a vast waste, darkness covered the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. God said, 'Let there be light,' [4] and there was light; and God saw the light was good, and the light was separated from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness Night. [5] So evening came, and morning came; it was the first day. [6]

### Day 2

God said, 'Let there be a vault between the waters, to separate water from water.' [7] So God made the vault, and separated the water under the vault from the water above it, and so it was; and [8] God called the vault the heavens. Evening came and morning came the second day. [9]

### Day 3

God said, 'Let the water under the heavens be gathered into one place, so that dry land may appear'; and so it was. [10] God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the water God called sea; [11] and God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth produce growing things; [12] let there be on the earth plants that bear seed, and trees bearing [13] fruit each with its own kind of seed.' So it was; the earth produced growing things: [14] plants bearing their own kind of seed and trees bearing fruit, [15] each with its own kind of seed; and God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came, the third day. [16]

### Day 4

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of the heavens to separate day from night, and let them serve as signs both for festivals and for seasons and for years. [17] Let them also shine in the heavens to give light on earth.' So it was; God made two great lights, the greater to govern the day and the [18] lesser to govern the night; God also made the stars. [19] God put these lights in the vault of the heavens to give light on earth, to govern day and night, and to separate light from darkness; and God saw that it was good. [20] Evening came and morning came the fourth day.

### Day 5

God said, 'Let the [21] waters teem with living creatures, and let [22] birds fly above the earth across the vault of the heavens.' God then created the [23] great sea-

beasts and all living creatures that move [24] and swarm in the water, according to their various kinds, [25] and every kind of bird; and God saw that it was good. [26] God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and increase; fill the water of the sea [27], and let the birds increase on the land.' [28] Evening came and morning came the fifth day.

#### Day 6

God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures, [29] according to their various kinds; cattle, [30] creeping thing, and wild animals [31], all according to their various kinds.' So it was. God made wild animals, cattle, and every creeping thing, all according to their various kinds; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, [32] 'Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness, to have dominion over the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, all wild animals on land, and everything that creeps on the earth.' And [33] human beings were created in God's own image, in the image of God they were created; [34] male and female they were created. And God blessed them and said to them, [35] 'Be fruitful and increase, fill the earth and subdue it, [36] have dominion over the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and every living thing that moves on the earth.' God also said, 'Throughout the earth I give you all plants that bear seed, and every [37] tree that bears fruit with seed: they shall be yours for food. All green plants I give for food to [38] the wild animals, to all the birds of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, every living creature.' So it was; and God saw all that had been made, and it was very good. [39] Evening came and morning came the sixth day.

#### Day 7

[40] Thus the heavens and the earth [41] and everything in them were completed. [42] On the sixth day God brought to an [43] end all the work that had been done; on the seventh day, [44] having finished all the work, God blessed the day, [45] and made it holy, because it was the day all the work of creation was finished.

#### [46] The '7 days' of destruction

*3 or 4 seconds pause to absorb the change from Creation to Destruction*

#### Day 1

[47] The Prophet spoke and said 'I have looked at what was, what is, and what is to come. O my people, listen to what I have to say, listen and take note, listen and act.'

At the beginning of the end time men and women, full of good intentions, created [48] machines to plough the fields - that they might grow more food. They created [49] machines to spin and weave - that they might clothe themselves and keep warm. They learnt [50] how to create fire - that they might cook their food and heat their huts.

And they looked and they saw that it was good.

[51] Evening came and morning came; it was the first day.

## Day 2

Women and men said 'Let us build more machines so that we may have more leisure and have more possessions'. And so it was.

[52] They created machines and factories of every kind - mills to spin and weave and furnaces [53] to create iron and steel.

They looked and saw that it was good. But these machines, built in the name of progress, brought devastation [54] to much of the earth, to the rivers, [55] to the sea, and to the air. The land that people tilled, the water they drank, the air [56] they breathed became polluted from their activities and their machines.

Many people looked and saw that it was not good.

Evening came and morning came the second day.

## Day 3

[57] Some men and women said 'Let us put in bondage other women and men and children so that we may increase production and so that we may live lives of ease [58] whilst others slave for us'. And so it was.

[59] Men, women and children were removed from their homes, the lands of their birth, and transported to foreign lands. Those that survived worked as slaves in the plantations and factories and houses of their owners. [60] They experienced slavery and saw that it was not good.

[61] Evening came and morning came the third day.

## Day 4

So women and men continued on the path of progress. They said '[62] Let us create cities to house us, let us create power stations [63] to light our cities and power our factories, let us [64] create roads to enable us to move between our cities.' And they said 'We must travel more, we must transport goods from all corners of the earth.' And so it was.

They created cities, [65] they created machines to move over the seas, [66] machines to run on metal tracks and [67] on metalled roads over the land, and [68] machines to fly though the air.

But the appetites of men and women were insatiable. [69] Many lived in luxury, consuming more and more of the earth's resources. They exploited [70] animals to beautify themselves. They looked and thought that it was good.

But others looked and saw the [71] destruction of the rainforests, the pollution of the rivers and the seas, and they saw the exploitation of animals for the benefit of humans. They looked and saw that it was not good.

[72] Evening came and morning came the fourth day.

#### Day 5

[73] And people of different races said, 'We do not have enough land, iron ore, bauxite, uranium, oil or coal ... so we will [74] fight others and exploit their land for our purposes.' And so it was. [75] And those that survived looked and saw that it was good. They said 'Surely God is on our side.' And they said, 'We must build more weapons, [76] we must have nuclear bombs, so that we may threaten our enemies with destruction 10 or even 20 times over.' And so it was. [77]

And they looked and felt sure that it was good.

Evening came, and morning came the fifth day.

#### Day 6

[78] People said, 'The earth is full of resources for our use. There is plenty for us. Let us continue on the path of progress.' And thus came the age of iron, the age of steel, the age of the micro-chip, [79] and the age of economics - when money was god.

And so the building of machines continued:

[80] machines to plant, and [81] machines to uproot;

[82] machines to kill, and [83] machines to heal;

[84] machines to break down, and [85] machines to build up;

[86] machines for war, and [87] machines for peace.

And many looked and said 'This is good.'

[88] But others looked and saw that it was not good because they had no food, no shelter and no clothing whilst others lived in luxury, protected by their weapons. And [89] some were unemployed; even in the rich nations many had little food, poor clothing, bad housing, fewer hospitals ...

And these people looked and they wondered.

[90] Evening came and morning came the sixth day.

#### Day 7

Human beings did not rest on the seventh day. [91] They had no time for rest, for contemplation, for worship in this new 24/7 world. Instead they continued their frenetic

activity. [92] They said, 'Our standard of living, our way of life, is sacrosanct.' Yes, they noticed climate change but they said, 'We have a technical fix, so let us create more machines. We are all-powerful.' And so it was that the [93] destruction of the rainforests continued, the earth's temperature continued to rise, [94] the polar ice caps shrank, [95] the deserts grew, [96] the glaciers melted, [97] the rivers dried up, species were destroyed in their hundreds and thousands and millions. [98] In other places the waters rose and the dry land was flooded.

[99] And so human beings, made in the image of God, in seven days of destruction undid the seven days of creation; millions of years of evolution were destroyed by a few hundred years of selfish activity and greed.

[100] At the end of the seventh day the earth was a vast waste. On the seventh day human beings destroyed the earth, the seed-bearing plants, the trees, the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals.

[101] And God looked and saw that it was not good. And God wondered...

#### Epilogue [102]

And the Prophet spoke and said:

"Where is the life we have lost in living?

Where is the wisdom we have lost in Knowledge?

[103] Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

The cycles of Heaven in twenty centuries,

Bring us farther from God and nearer to the Dust."

(From *Choruses from 'The Rock'*, T S Eliot)

(Arthur Chapman, Oct 2007, Minor revisions Oct 2008)

Text for the 7 Days of Creation from the *Revised English Bible* with minor alterations. Text for the 7 days of Destruction by Arthur Chapman.

Images, copyright free, purchased from Jupiter Images, [www.clipart.com](http://www.clipart.com))