

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.... And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1)

"**The beginning**' includes the first period of regeneration, as that is when people are being born anew and receiving life. Because of this, regeneration itself is called our new creation (see 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15). Almost everywhere in the prophetic books, the words *creating, forming, and making* stand for regenerating.... This is why the Lord is called Redeemer, One-Who-Forms-from-the-Womb, Maker, and Creator.... Heaven, or the sky, symbolizes the inner self, and the earth, before regeneration occurs, symbolizes the outer self." (Secrets of Heaven 16)

"The six days or time periods, meaning so many consecutive stages in a person's regeneration, are these, in outline: The **first stage** is preliminary, extending from infancy to just before regeneration, and is called void, emptiness, and darkness. The first stirring, which is the Lord's mercy, is the Spirit of God in constant motion on the face of the water." (Secrets of Heaven 6-7)

"And God said, 'Let there be **light**,' and there was light. The first step is taken when we begin to realize that goodness and truth are something transcendent. ... When we are conceived anew, we first begin to be aware that our 'good' is not good. And as we advance further into the light, it dawns on us that the Lord exists and that He is goodness and truth itself." (Secrets of Heaven 20)

"**And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.** From this we now see what evening and morning mean. Evening is every preliminary stage, because such stages are marked by shadow, or by falsity and an absence of faith. Morning is all later stages, because these are marked by light, or by truth and religious knowledge. Evening stands in general for everything that is our own, while morning stands for everything of the Lord's." (Secrets of Heaven 22)

"In the **second stage** [the waters separated from the waters], a distinction is drawn between the things that are the Lord's and those that are our own. The things that are the Lord's are called a 'remnant' in the Word. ... At present the second stage rarely comes into play without trouble, misfortune, and grief, which enable bodily and worldly concerns — things that are our own — to fade away and in effect die out. The things that belong to the outer self, then, are separated from those that belong to the inner self, the inner self containing the remnant that the Lord has put aside to await this time and this purpose." (Secrets of Heaven 8)

"The **third stage** [the land and plants] is one of repentance. During this time, at the prompting of the inner self, we speak devoutly and reverently and yield a good harvest (acts of neighborly kindness, for instance). These effects are lifeless nonetheless, since we suppose that they come of our own doing. They are called the tender plant, then the seed-bearing plant, and lastly the fruit tree." (Secrets of Heaven 9)

"In the **fourth stage** [sun, moon and stars], love stirs and faith enlightens us. Before this time we may have spoken devoutly and yielded a good harvest, but we did so in a state of trial and anguish, not at the call of faith and kindness. In consequence they are now kindled in our inner self and are called the two lights." (Secrets of Heaven 10)

"Spiritual Days of Creation"

January 10, 2021

Rev. Solomon Keal

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Graham Bier - guitar, beatboxing, voices and a cappella

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Thanks and Announcements

"Please join us on Zoom at 10:00am Sunday
for a discussion."

Musicians: As listed above

Videography: Solomon Keal, Lucas Mergen, Graham Bier

Video Editing: Tykah Echols, Kurt Asplundh, Graham Bier

Audio: Solomon Keal, Keith Genzlinger, Graham Bier

"In the **fifth stage** [fish and birds], we *speak* with conviction and, in the process, strengthen ourselves in truth and goodness. The things we then produce have life in them and are called the fish of the sea and the birds in the heavens." (Secrets of Heaven 11)

"In the **sixth stage** [animals and people], we act with conviction and therefore with love in speaking truth and doing good. What we then produce is called a living soul and a beast. Because we begin to act as much from love as from conviction, we become spiritual people, who are called [God's] image." (Secrets of Heaven 12)

"**The periods and stages of our regeneration** — both the whole process and individual cycles within it — divide into six, and these six are called our days of creation. Step by step we advance from being nonhuman to being somewhat human, though only a little, then more and more so up to the sixth day, when we become [God's] image." (Secrets of Heaven 62)

"All the while the Lord is constantly fighting on our behalf against evil and falsity and through these battles strengthens us in truth and goodness. **The time of conflict is when the Lord is at work...and he does not rest until love takes the lead.** Then the conflict ends. When the work progresses so far that faith is united with love, it is called very good, since the Lord now makes us likenesses of Himself." (Secrets of Heaven 63)

"Having been changed from lifeless people to people focused on spirit, we are now **changed from spiritual to heavenly**.... The heavenly person is the seventh day, on which the Lord rests." (Secrets of Heaven 73-74)

"A heavenly person is the **seventh day**. And since the Lord worked through six days, that individual is called His work. Conflict then comes to an end, as a result of which the Lord is said to rest from all His work. This is why the seventh day was consecrated and named '**Sabbath**,' from [a Hebrew word for] rest. In the process the human being has been made, formed, and created, as the words themselves clearly indicate." (Secrets of Heaven 84)