

Were Fish, Birds, Animals, and Man Initially Created Immortal?

There is a Pattern to God's Creation of Fish, Birds, and Man:

The Creating Word

Fish:

And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, (Gen 1:20a)

Birds:

and **let** birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." (Gen 1:20b)

Animals:

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. (Gen 1:24)

Man:

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 heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Gen 1:26)

The Creation

Fish:

So God created the great sea creatures and **every** living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, **according to their kinds**, (Gen 1:21a)

Birds:

and every winged bird **according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.** (Gen 1:21b)

Animals:

And God made the beasts of the earth **according to their kinds** and the livestock **according to their kinds**, and everything that creeps on the ground **according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.** (Gen 1:25)

Man:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God **he created** him; male and female **he created** them. (Gen 1:27)

The Blessing

Fish:

And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, (Gen 1:22a)

Birds:

and let birds **multiply**¹ on the earth.” (Gen 1:22b)

Animals:

(None)²

Man:

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen 1:28)

Conclusion:

Since God bestows the same blessing on fish, birds, animals (assumed), and man, it follows that none of these were created as immortal, as immortal and perfectly fertile creatures would quickly have overrun the earth with creatures. An all-wise God would never commission immortal creatures to be fruitful and multiply. They would have completely filled the earth in less than five years and there would have been no more room for being fruitful and multiplying.

¹ Since "be fruitful and multiply and fill" (Gen 1:22a) are virtual synonyms, one can assume that the birds were not only to multiply but also to be fruitful and fill the earth.

² Since the same blessing is used for fish, birds, and man, the reader can assume the same blessing for animals.