

The Creation



Genesis 1, 2

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was formless and empty, darkness lay over the deep oceans, and God's Spirit was moving over the surface of the waters.

Then God spoke: "Let there be light!" And there was light. God saw that the light was good. He divided the light from the darkness. And so God named the light Day and the darkness Night. There was evening and morning, the very first day.

And God said, "Let there be a space above the oceans, to separate the heavens from the earth." And it was so, and God named this space Sky. There was evening and morning again, and that was the second day.

And God said, "Let dry ground appear from the deep waters." And it was so. God named the dry ground Land and the waters he named Seas. God looked at what he had made and saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the land produce plants and crops and fruit trees of every kind." And it was so. There was evening and morning, and that was the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to divide the day from the night, marking the days, the seasons and the turning of the years, and let the lights shine down on the earth." And it was so. God made the sun to shine in the day and the moon to shine at night. Then God made the stars. And God saw that all that he had made was good. So



evening and morning came again, and that was the fourth day.

God said, "Let the waters breed life and swarm with living creatures, and let birds wing their way through the sky." So God created the huge sea-creatures and every living being that glides through the waters and all species of fish, and he made every kind of bird that flies through the air. And God saw that all that he had made was good. He blessed the creatures and said, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the seas, fill the air!" So evening and morning came again, and that was the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth produce every type of animal, all species of living creatures, cattle and reptiles and wild beasts of every kind." And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "I shall make human beings in my image, in my own likeness. Let them rule the animal kingdom and be responsible for the whole earth."

So God created human beings. He made them in his own image, creating both male and female.

God blessed the human race and said, "Fill the earth with your descendants and look after everything I have created."

And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. So evening and morning came again, and that was the sixth day.

In this way, the heavens and the earth were completed in all their magnificence.

By the seventh day, God had finished all his work of creation, so he rested on that day. He blessed the seventh day, because it was the special day of his rest.

The Garden of Eden



Genesis 2

This is how God made man. He took the dust of the earth, formed his body and then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. So man became a living being.

Then God planted a beautiful garden in the east, in the land of Eden, and he put the man there to tend the garden. God planted every kind of tree there, trees with rich blossom and delicious fruit to eat, and bright, fragrant flowers and bushes – a garden that was a

delight to the eyes. And in the middle of the garden he planted two trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God told the man, "You may eat of every tree in the garden, but you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The day you do that, you will be doomed to die."

The man was all alone in the Garden of Eden, so God brought all the animals to him. The man gave names to all the different creatures that came to him. He named every kind of animal, from the cattle and the wild beasts on the land to the birds in the sky. But there was no special companion for him.

"It is not good for man to be alone like

this," God said, and he laid the man down and put him into a deep sleep. And while the man was sleeping soundly, God took one of his ribs and healed up the wound, and from the rib he made a woman.

God woke the man from his sleep, and there before him was the woman.

The man was filled with wonder and he cried out, "Here at last is one of my own kind, bone from my bone and flesh from my flesh!"

And so in the perfect happiness of Eden, among the glorious trees and the fragrance of the flowers, the man and the woman walked together. They were naked, but they were not ashamed. They lived together in harmony with each other and their world.

Creation Is Spoiled



Genesis 3

Now the snake was the most cunning of all the animals that God had made. He saw the woman sitting by herself and came sliding through the grass towards her.

"Has God really said, 'You must not eat from any of the trees in the garden?'"

The woman looked at him with her wide eyes, curious that this creature had the power of speech – but each day in Eden was full of new discoveries.

"Well?" said the snake, curling around the roots of a tree and gazing at her steadily.

"We may eat of any tree in the garden," said the woman, "but God did say that we must not eat the fruit of that tree..."

She pointed at a tree with a deep, dark radiance, far in the depths of the garden.

"That tree?" asked the snake, pretending to be astonished.

"Oh yes," said the woman. "God said, 'If you eat the fruit of that tree – if you even touch it – you will die!'"

"No, no," said the snake, "you will not die. God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree you will become like him."

The snake uncurled himself from the tree, sped through the grasses and climbed swiftly up the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The woman followed. The fruit hung down, rich and luscious, enticing her. She stretched out her hand. She hesitated. She looked around her.

"Go on," said the snake. "Try a little."

