

GENESIS



Heaven and Earth

1 ¹⁻² First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

³⁻⁵ God spoke: "Light!"
And light appeared.
God saw that light was good
and separated light from dark.
God named the light Day,
he named the dark Night.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day One.

⁶⁻⁸ God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters;
separate water from water!"
God made sky.
He separated the water under sky
from the water above sky.
And there it was:
he named sky the Heavens;
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Two.

⁹⁻¹⁰ God spoke: "Separate!
Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into
one place;
Land, appear!"
And there it was.
God named the land Earth.
He named the pooled water Ocean.
God saw that it was good.

¹¹⁻¹³ God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow
all varieties
of seed-bearing plants,
Every sort of fruit-bearing tree."
And there it was.
Earth produced green seed-bearing
plants,
all varieties,

And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts.
God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Three.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ God spoke: "Lights! Come out!
Shine in Heaven's sky!
Separate Day from Night.
Mark seasons and days and years,
Lights in Heaven's sky to give light to
Earth."
And there it was.

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ God made two big lights, the larger
to take charge of Day,
The smaller to be in charge of Night;
and he made the stars.
God placed them in the heavenly sky
to light up Earth
And oversee Day and Night,
to separate light and dark.
God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Four.

²⁰⁻²³ God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish
and all sea life!
Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!"
God created the huge whales,
all the swarm of life in the waters,
And every kind and species of flying
birds.
God saw that it was good.
God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce!
Fill Ocean!
Birds, reproduce on Earth!"
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Five.

²⁴⁻²⁵ God spoke: "Earth, generate life!
Every sort and kind:
cattle and reptiles and wild animals—
all kinds."
And there it was:
wild animals of every kind,

Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile
and bug.
God saw that it was good.

26-28 God spoke: “Let us make human
beings in our image, make them
reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for the fish in
the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,
And, yes, Earth itself,
and every animal that moves on the
face of Earth.”

God created human beings;
he created them godlike,
Reflecting God’s nature.
He created them male and female.
God blessed them:
“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take
charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and
birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the
face of Earth.”

29-30 Then God said, “I’ve given you
every sort of seed-bearing plant on
Earth
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,
given them to you for food.
To all animals and all birds,
everything that moves and
breathes,
I give whatever grows out of the ground
for food.”
And there it was.

31 God looked over everything he had
made;
it was so good, so very good!
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Six.

2 1 Heaven and Earth were finished,
down to the last detail.

2-4 By the seventh day
God had finished his work.
On the seventh day
he rested from all his work.
God blessed the seventh day.
He made it a Holy Day
Because on that day he rested from his
work,
all the creating God had done.

This is the story of how it all started,
of Heaven and Earth when they were
created.

Adam and Eve

5-7 At the time GOD made Earth and Heaven,
before any grasses or shrubs had sprouted
from the ground—GOD hadn’t yet sent rain on
Earth, nor was there anyone around to work
the ground (the whole Earth was watered by
underground springs)—GOD formed Man out
of dirt from the ground and blew into his nos-
trils the breath of life. The Man came alive—a
living soul!

8-9 Then GOD planted a garden in Eden, in
the east. He put the Man he had just made in
it. GOD made all kinds of trees grow from the
ground, trees beautiful to look at and good
to eat. The Tree-of-Life was in the middle of
the garden, also the Tree-of-Knowledge-of-
Good-and-Evil.

10-14 A river flows out of Eden to water
the garden and from there divides into four
rivers. The first is named Pishon; it flows
through Havilah where there is gold. The gold
of this land is good. The land is also known
for a sweet-scented resin and the onyx stone.
The second river is named Gihon; it flows
through the land of Cush. The third river is
named Hiddekel and flows east of Assyria.
The fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 GOD took the Man and set him down in
the Garden of Eden to work the ground and
keep it in order.

16-17 GOD commanded the Man, “You can
eat from any tree in the garden, except from
the Tree-of-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil.
Don’t eat from it. The moment you eat from
that tree, you’re dead.”

18-20 GOD said, “It’s not good for the Man
to be alone; I’ll make him a helper, a com-
panion.” So GOD formed from the dirt of
the ground all the animals of the field and
all the birds of the air. He brought them to
the Man to see what he would name them.
Whatever the Man called each living cre-
ature, that was its name. The Man named the
cattle, named the birds of the air, named the
wild animals; but he didn’t find a suitable
companion.

21-22 GOD put the Man into a deep sleep.
As he slept he removed one of his ribs and
replaced it with flesh. GOD then used the
rib that he had taken from the Man to make
Woman and presented her to the Man.

23-25 The Man said,
 “Finally! Bone of my bone,
 flesh of my flesh!
 Name her Woman
 for she was made from Man.”
 Therefore a man leaves his father and
 mother and embraces his wife.
 They become one flesh.
 The two of them, the Man and his
 Wife, were naked, but they felt no
 shame.

3 1 The serpent was clever, more clever
 than any wild animal GOD had made.
 He spoke to the Woman: “Do I understand
 that God told you not to eat from any tree in
 the garden?”

2-3 The Woman said to the serpent, “Not at
 all. We can eat from the trees in the garden.
 It’s only about the tree in the middle of the
 garden that God said, ‘Don’t eat from it; don’t
 even touch it or you’ll die.’”

4-5 The serpent told the Woman, “You won’t
 die. God knows that the moment you eat from
 that tree, you’ll see what’s really going on.
 You’ll be just like God, knowing everything,
 ranging all the way from good to evil.”

6 When the Woman saw that the tree
 looked like good eating and realized what she
 would get out of it—she’d know everything!—
 she took and ate the fruit and then gave some
 to her husband, and he ate.

7 Immediately the two of them did “see
 what’s really going on”—saw themselves
 naked! They sewed fig leaves together as
 makeshift clothes for themselves.

8 When they heard the sound of GOD stroll-
 ing in the garden in the evening breeze, the
 Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the gar-
 den, hid from GOD.

9 GOD called to the Man: “Where are you?”

10 He said, “I heard you in the garden and
 I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid.”

11 GOD said, “Who told you you were
 naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you
 not to eat from?”

12 The Man said, “The Woman you gave me
 as a companion, she gave me fruit from the
 tree, and, yes, I ate it.”

GOD said to the Woman, “What is this that
 you’ve done?”

13 “The serpent seduced me,” she said,
 “and I ate.”

14-15 GOD told the serpent:

“Because you’ve done this, you’re cursed,

cursed beyond all cattle and wild
 animals,
 Cursed to slink on your belly
 and eat dirt all your life.
 I’m declaring war between you and the
 Woman,
 between your offspring and hers.
 He’ll wound your head,
 you’ll wound his heel.”

16 He told the Woman:
 “I’ll multiply your pains in childbirth;
 you’ll give birth to your babies in pain.
 You’ll want to please your husband,
 but he’ll lord it over you.”

17-19 He told the Man:
 “Because you listened to your wife
 and ate from the tree
 That I commanded you not to eat from,
 ‘Don’t eat from this tree,’
 The very ground is cursed because of
 you;
 getting food from the ground
 Will be as painful as having babies is for
 your wife;
 you’ll be working in pain all your life
 long.
 The ground will sprout thorns and weeds,
 you’ll get your food the hard way,
 Planting and tilling and harvesting,
 sweating in the fields from dawn to
 dusk,
 Until you return to that ground yourself,
 dead and buried;
 you started out as dirt, you’ll end up
 dirt.”

20 The Man, known as Adam, named his
 wife Eve because she was the mother of all
 the living.

21 GOD made leather clothing for Adam
 and his wife and dressed them.

22 GOD said, “The Man has become like one
 of us, capable of knowing everything, rang-
 ing from good to evil. What if he now should
 reach out and take fruit from the Tree-of-Life
 and eat, and live forever? Never—this cannot
 happen!”

23-24 So GOD expelled them from the Gar-
 den of Eden and sent them to work the
 ground, the same dirt out of which they’d
 been made. He threw them out of the garden
 and stationed angel-cherubim and a revol-
 ving sword of fire east of it, guarding the path
 to the Tree-of-Life.

4 ¹ Adam slept with Eve his wife. She conceived and had Cain. She said, "I've gotten a man, with God's help!"

² Then she had another baby, Abel. Abel was a herdsman and Cain a farmer.

³⁻⁵ Time passed. Cain brought an offering to God from the produce of his farm. Abel also brought an offering, but from the first-born animals of his herd, choice cuts of meat. God liked Abel and his offering, but Cain and his offering didn't get his approval. Cain lost his temper and went into a sulk.

⁶⁻⁷ God spoke to Cain: "Why this tantrum? Why the sulking? If you do well, won't you be accepted? And if you don't do well, sin is lying in wait for you, ready to pounce; it's out to get you, you've got to master it."

⁸ Cain had words with his brother. They were out in the field; Cain came at Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹ God said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

He said, "How should I know? Am I his babysitter?"

¹⁰⁻¹² God said, "What have you done! The voice of your brother's blood is calling to me from the ground. From now on you'll get nothing but curses from this ground; you'll be driven from this ground that has opened its arms to receive the blood of your murdered brother. You'll farm this ground, but it will no longer give you its best. You'll be a homeless wanderer on Earth."

¹³⁻¹⁴ Cain said to God, "My punishment is too much. I can't take it! You've thrown me off the land and I can never again face you. I'm a homeless wanderer on Earth and whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ God told him, "No. Anyone who kills Cain will pay for it seven times over." God put a mark on Cain to protect him so that no one who met him would kill him.

¹⁶ Cain left the presence of God and lived in No-Man's-Land, east of Eden.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Cain slept with his wife. She conceived and had Enoch. He then built a city and named it after his son, Enoch.

Enoch had Irad,
Irad had Mehujael,
Mehujael had Methushael,
Methushael had Lamech.

¹⁹⁻²² Lamech married two wives, Adah and Zillah. Adah gave birth to Jabal, the ancestor of all who live in tents and herd cattle. His brother's name was Jubal, the ancestor of all who play the lyre and flute. Zillah gave birth

to Tubal-Cain, who worked at the forge making bronze and iron tools. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah.

²³⁻²⁴ Lamech said to his wives,
Adah and Zillah, listen to me;
you wives of Lamech, hear me out:
I killed a man for wounding me,
a young man who attacked me.
If Cain is avenged seven times,
for Lamech it's seventy-seven!

²⁵⁻²⁶ Adam slept with his wife again. She had a son whom she named Seth. She said, "God has given me another child in place of Abel whom Cain killed." And then Seth had a son whom he named Enosh.

That's when men and women began praying and worshiping in the name of God.

The Family Tree of the Human Race

5 ¹⁻² This is the family tree of the human race: When God created the human race, he made it godlike, with a nature akin to God. He created both male and female and blessed them, the whole human race.

³⁻⁵ When Adam was 130 years old, he had a son who was just like him, his very spirit and image, and named him Seth. After the birth of Seth, Adam lived another 800 years, having more sons and daughters. Adam lived a total of 930 years. And he died.

⁶⁻⁸ When Seth was 105 years old, he had Enosh. After Seth had Enosh, he lived another 807 years, having more sons and daughters. Seth lived a total of 912 years. And he died.

⁹⁻¹¹ When Enosh was ninety years old, he had Kenan. After he had Kenan, he lived another 815 years, having more sons and daughters. Enosh lived a total of 905 years. And he died.

¹²⁻¹⁴ When Kenan was seventy years old, he had Mahalalel. After he had Mahalalel, he lived another 840 years, having more sons and daughters. Kenan lived a total of 910 years. And he died.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ When Mahalalel was sixty-five years old, he had Jared. After he had Jared, he lived another 830 years, having more sons and daughters. Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years. And he died.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ When Jared was 162 years old, he had Enoch. After he had Enoch, he lived another 800 years, having more sons and daughters. Jared lived a total of 962 years. And he died.

²¹⁻²³ When Enoch was sixty-five years old,

he had Methuselah. Enoch walked steadily with God. After he had Methuselah, he lived another 300 years, having more sons and daughters. Enoch lived a total of 365 years.

²⁴ Enoch walked steadily with God. And then one day he was simply gone: God took him.

²⁵⁻²⁷ When Methuselah was 187 years old, he had Lamech. After he had Lamech, he lived another 782 years. Methuselah lived a total of 969 years. And he died.

²⁸⁻³¹ When Lamech was 182 years old, he had a son. He named him Noah, saying, “This one will give us a break from the hard work of farming the ground that God cursed.” After Lamech had Noah, he lived another 595 years, having more sons and daughters. Lamech lived a total of 777 years. And he died.

³² When Noah was 500 years old, he had Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Giants in the Land

6¹⁻² When the human race began to increase, with more and more daughters being born, the sons of God noticed that the daughters of men were beautiful. They looked them over and picked out wives for themselves.

³ Then God said, “I’m not going to breathe life into men and women endlessly. Eventually they’re going to die; from now on they can expect a life span of 120 years.”

⁴ This was back in the days (and also later) when there were giants in the land. The giants came from the union of the sons of God and the daughters of men. These were the mighty men of ancient lore, the famous ones.

Noah and His Sons

⁵⁻⁷ God saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil—evil, evil, evil from morning to night. God was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; it broke his heart. God said, “I’ll get rid of my ruined creation, make a clean sweep: people, animals, snakes and bugs, birds—the works. I’m sorry I made them.”

⁸ But Noah was different. God liked what he saw in Noah.

⁹⁻¹⁰ This is the story of Noah: Noah was a good man, a man of integrity in his community. Noah walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹⁻¹² As far as God was concerned, the Earth had become a sewer; there was vio-

lence everywhere. God took one look and saw how bad it was, everyone corrupt and corrupting—life itself corrupt to the core.

¹³ God said to Noah, “It’s all over. It’s the end of the human race. The violence is everywhere; I’m making a clean sweep.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ “Build yourself a ship from teakwood. Make rooms in it. Coat it with pitch inside and out. Make it 450 feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Build a roof for it and put in a window eighteen inches from the top; put in a door on the side of the ship; and make three decks, lower, middle, and upper.

¹⁷ “I’m going to bring a flood on the Earth that will destroy everything alive under Heaven. Total destruction.

¹⁸⁻²¹ “But I’m going to establish a covenant with you: You’ll board the ship, and your sons, your wife and your sons’ wives will come on board with you. You are also to take two of each living creature, a male and a female, on board the ship, to preserve their lives with you: two of every species of bird, mammal, and reptile—two of everything so as to preserve their lives along with yours. Also get all the food you’ll need and store it up for you and them.”

²² Noah did everything God commanded him to do.

7¹ Next God said to Noah, “Now board the ship, you and all your family—out of everyone in this generation, you’re the righteous one.

²⁻⁴ “Take on board with you seven pairs of every clean animal, a male and a female; one pair of every unclean animal, a male and a female; and seven pairs of every kind of bird, a male and a female, to insure their survival on Earth. In just seven days I will dump rain on Earth for forty days and forty nights. I’ll make a clean sweep of everything that I’ve made.”

⁵ Noah did everything God commanded him.

⁶⁻¹⁰ Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters covered the Earth. Noah and his wife and sons and their wives boarded the ship to escape the flood. Clean and unclean animals, birds, and all the crawling creatures came in pairs to Noah and to the ship, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. In seven days the floodwaters came.

¹¹⁻¹² It was the six-hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month that it happened: all the underground springs erupted and all