

Sunday 5 October 2008

Global Mission 1



Being Fruitful

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it.

Genesis 1.26-27

1. Celebrating the birth of the Universe

Today is Sunday 05 October 2008 or Tishrei 6, 5769*, which is taken from the Jewish Calendar and dates back to the birth of creation, the birth of the universe. The Jewish New year began last Monday the 29th September and is known as Rosh HasHanah. It is a time for celebrating the birth of the universe and the value of every life. Genesis 1 is a call to celebrate creation. It enables us to see the universe come into being and we gain a picture of the world as God intended and as it was.

2. Celebrating the God who created the Universe

The Bible begins with those majestic words " In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1.1

The starting point of faith is – God is; and it is God who creates. The pattern or process of creation is then described, timing is given, then the command, the execution of that command, then what takes place, and God assesses how it has gone and then gives a time check. What God has made is good and indeed when it is completed it is very good. (Genesis 1.31). It is good not only in a moral sense but in its beauty and loveliness.

3. Celebrating the Climax of Creation - Humanity - We're it.

The crown of God's creation is humankind. It is only to the humans that God speaks directly. Humanity is created in God's image, in God's likeness. We are honoured, respected and created to be enjoyed by God. Human beings are given freedom and responsibility. We are called to be faithful and gracious reflecting the very character of God in his goodness. Humanity is to be creative in it's care of creation, not oppressing but enabling creation to flourish.

4. Celebrating the Blessing of God

God blessed the creatures

Gen 1. 22 Then he gave the living creatures his blessing--he told the ocean creatures to live everywhere in the ocean and the birds to live everywhere on earth.

God blessed the humans

Gen 1. 27 -28 So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. God gave them his blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth.

God blessed the Sabbath

Gen 2.3 God blessed the seventh day and made it special because on that day he rested from his work.

When God gives a blessing, it is not merely words but creative words, words of power which make possible that which he commands.

5. Celebrating the Global Mission

The words of the blessing to the creatures and to human beings, reveal God's intent. It was global, the creatures were to fill creation, men and women were to multiply. God had provided all that was needed to create perfect community, a community which demonstrated harmony between the creatures and the humans. A harmony that meant human beings were also in harmony with God their creator. This was very good, instructions were given and creation in all its breadth was able to celebrate.

We live in the knowledge that human beings rebelled against God but in Jesus we see the perfect image of God being restored and it is through Him that the Global Mission is to come to fruition.

Ephesians 1:9-10 God did what he had purposed, and made known to us the secret plan he had already decided to complete by means of Christ. (10) This plan, which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head.

As we work to that end let's not miss out on that which we still continue to celebrate, God, His creation, and how in Jesus the glorious plans of God come to fruition.

For Small Groups Genesis 1.1-2.4

Allow this passage of scripture to speak to you afresh. Read this creation account in a version of the Bible that is new to you.

1. Share what strikes you as you read this.
2. Do we as Christians celebrate enough the goodness of God and His creation?
3. What insight does Genesis 1 provide upon the value of the earth, its creatures as well as the value God gives to human beings?
4. If this passage of scripture is God's Sovereign Call for Creation, what does it mean to you and me?
5. Spend time in reflection and then pray together and consider what else God might be speaking to you about.

v26-31 the creation of humankind. Human persons are honoured, respected and in relation to god and are to be enjoyed by the one who calls them to be.

2. it is only to humans that god speaks directly. The human has a different relationship with the creator.

The image of god is imaged in the world in humanness. Image seen in the freedom of human persons to be faithful and gracious. Humans are to use authority over creation on behalf of God. Image is also about power and responsibility.

Control over animals is the idea of a loving shepherd.

In Jesus we see the one who rules is one who serves.. it is the task of the shepherd not to control but to lay down his life for the sheep.

God reigns by gracious self giving.

Sexuality is good and part of creation, , but not part of the creator

Humankind is both a single entity and a community

Jesus of Nazareth is god's image on earth. Col 4.4 Phil 2 reminds us god does not grasp.

God in creation was not thinking simply of himself but of others.

3 times blessing is used.

1. for animals v22, of human creatures v28 and of the Sabbath 2.3 creation is good there is the aesthetic, lovely pleasing beautiful

The blessed world is the world that god intended to be. God delighted in creation.

i. god is at work to bring creation to its purpose

God in granting freedom also is one who is near us and looks for faithfulness.

3. we are to be modeled like the Good shepherd and not simply as self indulgent

The delight in the goodness and blessing of life.

Jonathan Sachs The Chief Rabbi – Rosh HaShanah – Bible readings

Rachel 7 hannah – barren

Birth of the universe

Birth of a child birth of a universe. Dear Hanna:

**2. Celebrating the climax of creation - Humanity
We're it.**

**3. Humanities Mission
Fill the earth**

**4. God's hand's On Approach
Col1.**

Theology of blessing

Being fruitful

Being responsible – could kill the human race off if no one had children. Can we overpopulate the world, is birth control a good thing?

Genesis 1& 2

Humanity in perfection

Healthy lifestyle -

Celebrate the gift of life, very brave girl born with a face disfigurement and how how we look can affect us.

The importance of family life

The importance of community. Central to this is god in the centre , walking with God, .

Jim Carey – The Truman Show Not Video clip , an experiment, not for entertainment, let see this whole life on TV. M

God is love – that yearning to share love.

Humanity as mini gods ie created in God's image.

Created by God to be in relationship with God.

Being like a spiritual Mum or Dad, brother/sister, son/daughter, uncle/aunt.

Rosh HaShannah literally means "the head of the year", it is one of four types of new year spiritual practices in Judaism. The Jewish calendar begins with a new date for the year at this time. Since our people is one of the longest continuously existing forms of human organization on the planet, we do not use the Gregorian calendar with BC and AD, we start with a date that mystically represents "the beginning of time" and illustrates our long relationship with God.

A major theme of Rosh HaShannah is rebirthing and creation. There is an sense of awe and fear about creation that permeates this holiday which is also rich in praise of the Source of Life for this gift of embodied life we are given. There is a great deal of inspiration the sages suggest we can find in

creation, for all species are constantly evolving on their journey, nothing was made perfect and kept at a stand still.....the "Creator" placed the ability for constant transformation and improvement within creation.

A big difference between the Jewish New Year and the secular New Year in January is that we see the celebration of creation, its on-going nature and our ability to participate in it as a serious matter. The Jewish New Year is embedded in a holy day sequence that is a spiral of attention to transformation which runs through our entire lives.

During the month preceding Rosh HaShannah it is a Jewish spiritual practice to sound the shofar at home once a day. After hearing this one journals or reflects upon the ways one has missed the mark in this particular year of one's life. Then one goes to anyone with whom there is negative energy and says "I feel negative energy between us, I'd appreciate hearing from you what that is about and if you might be willing to do so, for us to work on returning our relationship to a better place." This can be done with a soul living or dead in my experience.

The ripples from that offer to enter into understanding and healing then spread through families, work sites, time and space, sometimes one can feel God's gentle sigh of happiness as this happens. By the time Rosh HaShannah comes one may already be celebrating a re-birthing of connections.....even just a tiny opening which might not mature into full healing for several years.

This year we won't sound the shofar on Rosh HaShannah because it falls on Shabbat. We will chant the special blessing for the new season and in the silence the memory of shofar blasts will fill our soul with the powerful awareness shofar comes to bring. What will you hear in that shofar silence?

Challah bread is reshaped during this season, starting with Rosh HaShannah and finishing at the end of Sukkot, it is spiral shaped rather than the long braided loaves. This symbolizes life and the spiral of teshuvah, personal transformation and also the needed improvement of our people as a whole. Sometimes one will see a ladder made of dough atop the challah, this represents the ladder from Jacob's dream. What does such imagery mean to you as you enter the New Year?

Much much love from my heart to yours. I hope we will all do teshuvah and growth together with integrity, love and depth for many, many years to come. Reb Goldie

Walter Brueggemann Genesis

Structure of Book Genesis 1:1-11:29 The sovereign Call of God – Eph 1:9-10

God's will for creation and creation's response.

Gen 11:30-25:18 The Embraced Call of God - Abraham - Hebs 11:8-19

Gen 25:19-36:43 the Conflicted Call of God – Jacob 1 Cor 1:27-29

Gen 31:1 – 50:26 the Hidden call of God – Romans 8:28-30

Genesis 1

Creation is treated as a unity.

Human creation is superior to the non human, but are designated to order, rule, and care for other creatures.

Creation exists because of and for the creators purpose – see both obedience and self assertion.

1. The creator creates creation.

2. its is by speaking and hearing that the ineteraction between the creator and creation takes place. Genessi 1 God creates by speaking . Creation is to listen and to answer. Therefore God calls the world into being.

3. this speech of God is a Sovereign Call. Hiw ord has the authority of suffering compassion. The creation is a vulnerable partner, who life is impacted by god who cares in tender but firm ways p18

4. creation is a special treasure of God.

Creation of rest because creation is good. Noah the new man who will relieve the world of its fruitless effort

Its about sin and grace and about God enduring resolve to have creation on his terms.

Genesis 12.1-3 god will make his second sovereign call to his special people Israel. A world whre fundamental issues are still to be resolved.

6. because the issues are unresolved and the relationship is till unsettled , the message here is one of **promise**.

Genesis 2.1-4 God and Creation are bound together in a distinctive and delicate way. This relationship is binding, it is beyond understanding, but is to be affirmed and confessed.

In these verse God creates, he makes and he speaks Roms 4.17, 2 peter 3.5

We are fully and gladly the creation of God.

Language of verse 1 allows for either creation as a decisive act or as an ongoing work of God.

God creates out of nothing does this mean that god is the creator of chaos from which he establishes creation..

God can claim even the chaotic for his grand purposes.

5 days of creation all specifying time, command , executrion, assessment and time again

As liturgy this poem invites the congregation to confess and celebrate the world as God intended.

Creation is good v22. v22 the creatures are blessed. The first blessing in the bible is for other creatures who have their own relation to God.

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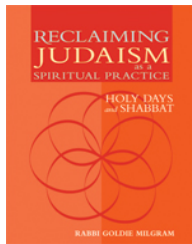
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The delight in the goodness and blessing of life.



Genesis 1-2

Genesis 1-2

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

Genesis 1

The Beginning

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

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was **good**, and he separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And there was evening, and there was morning— the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.

7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.

8 God called the expanse sky. And there was evening, and there was morning— the second day.

9 And God said, Let the water under the sky be gathered to one

place, and let dry ground appear. And it was so.

10 God called the dry ground land, and the gathered waters he called seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds. And it was so.

12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

13 And there was evening, and there was morning— the third day.

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,

15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth. And it was so.

16 God made two great lights— the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth,

18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

19 And there was evening, and there was morning— the fourth day.

20 And God said, Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.

21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them and said, Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.

23 And there was evening, and there was morning— the fifth day.

24 And God said, Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind. And it was so.

25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was **good**.

26 Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.

27 So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God

he created him;

male and female

he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

29 Then God said, I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground— everything that has the breath of life in it— I give every green plant for food. And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was **very good**. And there

was evening, and there was morning— the sixth day.

Genesis 2

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Adam and Eve

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—

⁵ and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground,

⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground—

⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

⁹ And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground— trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the

middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.)

13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.

18 The LORD God said, It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken

out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

This is now bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

she shall be called 'woman',

for she was taken out of man.

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

[New International Version - UK \(NIVUK\)](#)

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The Message (MSG)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

Genesis 1

Heaven and Earth

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.

Genesis 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 nostrils 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 companion." 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 creature, 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.

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New Living Translation (NLT)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

Genesis 1

The Account of Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.^[a] 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth." 7 And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. 8 God called the space "sky."

And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

9 Then God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear." And that is what happened. 10 God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened. 12 The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

13 And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

14 Then God said, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them mark off the seasons, days, and years. 15 Let

these lights in the sky shine down on the earth." And that is what happened. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² Then God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

²³ And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. ²⁵ God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make human beings^[b] in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

²⁷ So God created human beings^[c] in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food.³⁰ And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened.

³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

Genesis 2

1 So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. 2 On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested^[d] from all his work. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

4 This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

The Man and Woman in Eden

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. 6 Instead, springs^[e] came up from the ground and watered all the land. 7 Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

8 Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. 9 The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. 11 The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. 12 The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. 13 The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. 14 The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. 16 But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." 19 So the LORD God

formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man^[f] to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. 20 He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs^[g] and closed up the opening. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

23 "At last!" the man exclaimed.

"This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called 'woman,'
because she was taken from 'man.'"

24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Footnotes:

- a. [Genesis 1:1](#) Or *In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, . . . Or When God began to create the heavens and the earth, . . .*
- b. [Genesis 1:26](#) Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*.
- c. [Genesis 1:27](#) Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*.
- d. [Genesis 2:2](#) Or *ceased*; also in 2:3.
- e. [Genesis 2:6](#) Or *mist*.
- f. [Genesis 2:19](#) Or *Adam*, and so throughout the chapter.
- g. [Genesis 2:21](#) Or *took a part of the man's side*.

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Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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Genesis 1

The Story of Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ^[a] 2 The earth was barren, with no form of life; ^[b] it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But the Spirit of God ^[c] was moving over the water.

The First Day

3 God said, "I command light to shine!" And light started shining. 4 God looked at the light and saw that it was good. He separated light from darkness 5 and named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening came and then morning--that was the first day. ^[d]

The Second Day

6 God said, "I command a dome to separate the water above it from the water below it." 7 And that's what happened. God made the dome 8 and named it "Sky." Evening came and then morning--that was the second day.

The Third Day

9 God said, "I command the water under the sky to come together in

one place, so there will be dry ground." And that's what happened. ¹⁰God named the dry ground "Land," and he named the water "Ocean." God looked at what he had done and saw that it was good.

¹¹God said, "I command the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grain." And that's what happened. ¹²The earth produced all kinds of vegetation. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ¹³Evening came and then morning--that was the third day.

The Fourth Day

¹⁴ God said, "I command lights to appear in the sky and to separate day from night and to show the time for seasons, special days, and years. ¹⁵I command them to shine on the earth." And that's what happened. ¹⁶God made two powerful lights, the brighter one to rule the day and the other ^[e] to rule the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷Then God put these lights in the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸to rule day and night, and to separate light from darkness. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ¹⁹Evening came and then morning--that was the fourth day.

The Fifth Day

²⁰ God said, "I command the ocean to be full of living creatures, and I command birds to fly above the earth." ²¹So God made the giant sea monsters and all the living creatures that swim in the ocean. He also made every kind of bird. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ²²Then he gave the living creatures his blessing--he told the ocean creatures to live everywhere in the ocean and the birds to live everywhere on earth. ²³Evening came and then morning--that was the fifth day.

The Sixth Day

²⁴ God said, "I command the earth to give life to all kinds of tame animals, wild animals, and reptiles." And that's what happened. ²⁵God made every one of them. Then he looked at what he had done, and it was good.

26God said, "Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures."

27So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. 28God gave them his blessing and said:

Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth.

29I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat. 30And I have given the green plants as food for everything else that breathes. These will be food for animals, both wild and tame, and for birds.

31God looked at what he had done. All of it was very good! Evening came and then morning--that was the sixth day.

Genesis 2

1So the heavens and the earth and everything else were created.

The Seventh Day

2 By the seventh day God had finished his work, and so he rested. 3God blessed the seventh day and made it special because on that day he rested from his work.

4That's how God created the heavens and the earth.

When the LORD God made the heavens and the earth,

The Garden of Eden

5no grass or plants were growing anywhere. God had not yet sent any rain, and there was no one to work the land. 6But streams ^[4] came up from the ground and watered the earth. 7The LORD God took a handful of soil and made a man. ^[5] God breathed life into the man, and the man started breathing. 8The LORD made a garden in a place called Eden, which was in the east, and he put the man there. 9The LORD

God placed all kinds of beautiful trees and fruit trees in the garden. Two other trees were in the middle of the garden. One of the trees gave life--the other gave the power to know the difference between right and wrong.

¹⁰From Eden a river flowed out to water the garden, then it divided into four rivers. ¹¹The first one is the Pishon River that flows through the land of Havilah, ¹²where pure gold, rare perfumes, and precious stones are found. ¹³The second is the Gihon River that winds through Ethiopia. ¹⁴The Tigris River that flows east of Assyria is the third, and the fourth is the Euphrates River. ¹⁵The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it. ¹⁶But the LORD told him, "You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden, ¹⁷except the one that has the power to let you know the difference between right and wrong. If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die before the day is over!"

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him." ¹⁹⁻²⁰So the LORD took some soil and made animals and birds. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give each of them. Then the man named the tame animals and the birds and the wild animals. That's how they got their names.

None of these was the right kind of partner for the man. ²¹So the LORD God made him fall into a deep sleep, and he took out one of the man's ribs. Then after closing the man's side, ²²the LORD made a woman out of the rib.

The LORD God brought her to the man, ²³and the man exclaimed,

"Here is someone like me!

She is part of my body,
my own flesh and bones.

She came from me, a man.

So I will name her Woman!" ²⁴That's why a man will leave his own father and mother. He marries a woman, and the two of them become like one person.

²⁵Although the man and his wife were both naked, they were not

ashamed.

Footnotes:

- a. [Genesis 1:1](#) *the heavens and the earth*: "The heavens and the earth" stood for the universe.
- b. [Genesis 1:2](#) *In. . . life*: Or "When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was barren with no form of life."
- c. [Genesis 1:2](#) *the Spirit of God*: Or "a mighty wind."
- d. [Genesis 1:5](#) *the first day*: A day was measured from evening to evening.
- e. [Genesis 1:16](#) *the brighter. . . the other*: The sun and the moon. But they are not called by their names, because in Old Testament times some people worshiped the sun and the moon as though they were gods.
- f. [Genesis 2:6](#) *streams*: Or "mist."
- g. [Genesis 2:7](#) *man*: In Hebrew "man" comes from the same word as "soil."
- h. [Genesis 2:13](#) *Ethiopia*: The Hebrew text has "Cush," which was a region south of Egypt that included parts of the present countries of Ethiopia and Sudan.
- i. [Genesis 2:23](#) *a man. . . Woman*: In Hebrew the words "man" and "woman" are similar.

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Worship songs
Jesus be the centre.