

The Story of Creation.

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters—

Then God said: **Let there be light, and there was light.** God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”

Evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said: **Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other.** God called the dome “sky.”

Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said: **Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear.** And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land “earth,” and the basin of water he called “sea.” God saw that it was good. Then God said: **Let the earth bring forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit. And so it happened.** God saw that it was good.

Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said: **Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the seasons, the days and the years. and serve as lights in the dome of the sky, to illuminate the earth.** And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to

govern the day, (sun)and the lesser one to govern the night,(moon) and the stars. God saw that it was good.

Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said: **Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.**

God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of crawling living creatures in the waters, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw that it was good, and God blessed them, saying: **Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.**

Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said: **Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: tame animals, crawling things, and every kind of wild animal.** God saw that it was good.

Then God said: **Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness.** Male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: **Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth.** God said **Behold, I give all the green plants for food.** And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day

On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing; he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

The LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made grow every tree that was delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to farm and care for it. The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die.

The LORD God said: **It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.** So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, the man said:

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called ‘woman,’

for out of man this one has been taken.”

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

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

Now the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’” The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’” But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”

The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: **Where are you?** He answered, **“I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”** Then God asked: **Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?** The man replied, **“The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”** The LORD God then asked the woman: **What is this you have done?** The woman answered, **“The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”**

Then the LORD God said to the snake:

Because you have done this, cursed are you among all the animals;

On your belly you shall crawl, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers;

They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel.

To the woman he said:

I will intensify your toil in childbearing;

You shall bring forth children in pain.

Yet your urge shall be for your husband,

and he shall rule over you.

To the man he said:

Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, You shall not eat from it,

Cursed is the ground because of you!

In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you,

and you shall eat the grass of the field. By the sweat of your brow

you shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken;

For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The man gave his wife the name "Eve," because she was the mother of all the living.

The LORD God made for the man and his wife garments of skin, with which he clothed them. LORD God therefore banished him from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he had been taken. He expelled the man, stationing the angel and the fiery revolving sword east of the garden of Eden, to guard the way to the tree of life.