

The Beginning

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. There was darkness over the surface of the waves. At that time, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Words to Treasure

Genesis 1:1

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



³God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day." He called the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

⁶God said, "Let there be a huge space between the waters. Let it separate water from water."

⁷And that's exactly what happened. God made the huge space between the waters. He separated the water under the space from the water above it. ⁸God called the huge space "sky." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day two.

⁹God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place. Let dry ground appear." And that's exactly what happened. ¹⁰God called the dry ground "land." He called all the water that was gathered together "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, "Let the land produce plants. Let them produce their own seeds. And let there be trees on the land that grow fruit with seeds in it. Let each kind of plant or tree have its own kind of seeds." And that's exactly what happened. ¹²So the land

produced plants. Each kind of plant had its own kind of seeds. And the land produced trees that grew fruit with seeds in it. Each kind of tree had its own kind of seeds. God saw that it was good.

¹³There was evening, and there was morning. It was day three.

¹⁴God said, "Let there be lights in the huge space of the sky. Let them separate the day from the night. Let the lights set the times for the holy celebrations and the days and the years. ¹⁵Let them be lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth." And that's exactly what happened.

¹⁶God made two great lights. He made the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God put the lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth. ¹⁸He put them there to rule over the day and the night. He put them there to separate light from darkness. God saw that it was good. ¹⁹There was evening, and there was morning. It was day four.

²⁰God said, "Let the seas be filled with living things. Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea creatures. He created every kind of living thing that fills the seas and moves about in them. He created every kind of bird that flies. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them. He said, "Have

Did You Know?

What does create mean?

1:1 The word *create* means to "make something new." Genesis tells us that God is the creator of all things. You can find many things that God created in Genesis 1.



little ones so that there will be many of you. Fill the water in the seas. Let there be more and more birds on the earth." ²³There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five.

²⁴God said, "Let the land produce every kind of living creature. Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals." And that's exactly what happened. ²⁵God made every kind of wild animal. He made every kind of livestock. He made every kind of creature that moves along the ground. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷So God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. He created them as male and female.

²⁸God blessed them. He said to them, "Have children so that there will be many of you. Fill the earth and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Rule over every

living creature that moves along the ground."

²⁹Then God said, "I am giving you every plant on the face of the whole earth that produces its own seeds. I am giving you every tree that has fruit with seeds in it. All of them will be given to you for food. ³⁰I am giving every green plant as food for all the land animals and for all the birds in the sky. I am also giving the plants to all the creatures that move along the ground. I am giving them to every living thing that breathes." And that's exactly what happened.

³¹God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.

²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on that day he rested from all his work. ³God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. He blessed it because on that day he rested from all the work he had done.

Adam and Eve

⁴Here is the story of the heavens and the earth when they were created. The LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

You're Special

Read Genesis 1:26-27. God made us in his own image. We are God's very special creation.

Look at pictures of your mom or dad when they were children. How were they like you? How were they different? Your parents love you very much because you are their child. You are like them in important ways. Ask your mom or dad to tell you why they think you are special.

God made you in his image too. You are special to God. He loves you. Write a message to God to thank him for loving you.

Live It!

GENESIS 1:26-27



⁵ At that time, bushes had not yet appeared on the earth. Plants had not started to grow. The LORD God had not sent rain on the earth. And there was no one to farm the land. ⁶ But streams came from the earth. They watered the entire surface of the ground. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man. He made him out of the dust of the ground. God breathed the breath of life into him. And the man became a living person.

said, "You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden. ¹⁷ But you must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die."

¹⁸ 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 The LORD God had formed all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He had made all of them out of the ground. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give them. And the name the man gave each living creature became its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals.

But Adam didn't find a helper that was just right for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused him to fall into a deep sleep. While the man was sleeping, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs. Then the LORD God closed the opening in the man's side. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman. He made her from the rib he had taken out of the man. And the LORD God brought her to the man.


²³ The man said,

"Her bones have come from my bones.

Her body has come from my body. She will be named 'woman,' because she was taken out of a man."

²⁴ That's why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife. The two of them become one.

²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked. They didn't feel any shame.



People Bible Times
Adam

Adam was the first human being. God created Adam in his own image. That means that in many ways Adam was like God. God made Adam from the dust of the earth. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to take care of it.

⁸ The LORD God had planted a garden in the east in Eden. He put in the garden the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God made every kind of tree grow out of the ground. The trees were pleasing to look at. Their fruit was good to eat. There were two trees in the middle of the garden. One of them had fruit that let people live forever. The other had fruit that let people tell the difference between good and evil.

¹⁰ A river watered the garden. It flowed out of Eden. From there the river separated into four other rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first river is the Pishon. It winds through the whole land of Havilah. Gold is found there. ¹² The gold of that land is good. Onyx and sweet-smelling resin are also found there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It winds through the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris. It runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is called the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden. He put him there to farm its land and take care of it. ¹⁶ The LORD God gave the man a command. He



People Bible Times
Eve

God did not want Adam to be alone. He created a helper for Adam. Her name was Eve. God made her from one of Adam's ribs. Adam and Eve lived together in the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve Fall Into Sin

3 The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?'"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. ³ But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.'"

⁴ "You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree, you will know things you have never known before. Like God, you will be able to tell the difference between good and evil."

⁶ The woman saw that the tree's fruit was good to eat and pleasing to look at. She also saw that it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it. ⁷ Then both of them knew things they had never known before. They realized they were naked. So they sewed together fig leaves and made clothes for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking in the garden. It was during the coolest time of the day. They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called out to the man. "Where are you?" he asked.

Did You Know?

What kind of fruit did Adam and Eve eat?

3:6 The Bible does not name the fruit. The important point is that Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Genesis 3 tells what happened when they disobeyed.



¹⁰ "I heard you in the garden," the man answered. "I was afraid, because I was naked. So I hid."

¹¹ The LORD God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten fruit from the tree I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "It's the fault of the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent tricked me. That's why I ate the fruit."

¹⁴ So the LORD God spoke to the serpent. He said, "Because you have done this,

"You are set apart from all livestock and all wild animals.

I am putting a curse on you. You will crawl on your belly.

A Wrong Choice

Read Genesis 3:1–13. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Why did they do it? Adam and Eve made the wrong choice because:

1. Someone said it was all right to do the wrong thing.
2. It looked like a fun thing to do.
3. A close friend did it first.

After Adam and Eve made that wrong choice, they felt guilty and afraid. But it was too late.

Think about what you should say if someone tells you it's all right to do a bad thing. Or if something wrong looks like it would be fun. Or if a friend does a wrong thing first and wants you to do it too. If you can't think of a good answer, ask a trusted adult or your mom or dad for help.

Live It!

GENESIS 3:1–13



You will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will make you and the woman hate
each other.

Your children and her children will
be enemies.

Her son will crush your head,
And you will bite his heel.”

¹⁶The LORD God said to the woman,

“I will increase your pain when you
give birth.

You will be in great pain when you
have children.

You will long for your husband.
And he will rule over you.”

¹⁷The LORD God said to Adam, “You
listened to your wife’s suggestion. You
ate fruit from the tree I warned you
about. I said, ‘You must not eat its fruit.’

“So I am putting a curse on the
ground because of what you
did.

All the days of your life you will
have to work hard.

It will be painful for you to get food
from the ground. ¹⁸You will
eat plants from the field,
even though the ground produces
thorns and prickly weeds.

¹⁹You will have to work hard and sweat
a lot

to produce the food you eat.

You were made out of the ground.

You will return to it when you die.

You are dust,
and you will return to dust.”

²⁰Adam named his wife Eve. She
would become the mother of every liv-
ing person.

²¹The LORD God made clothes out of
animal skins for Adam and his wife to
wear. ²²The LORD God said, “Just like
one of us, the man can now tell the dif-
ference between good and evil. He must
not be allowed to reach out and pick fruit
from the tree of life and eat it. If he does,
he will live forever.” ²³So the LORD God
drove the man out of the Garden of Eden.
He sent the man to farm the ground he
had been made from. ²⁴The LORD God
drove him out and then placed angels
on the east side of the garden. He also
placed there a flaming sword that flashed
back and forth. The angels and the sword
guarded the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Abel

4 Adam loved his wife Eve and slept
with her. She became pregnant and
gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the
LORD’s help I have had a baby boy.” ²Lat-
er she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Abel took care of sheep. Cain farmed
the land. ³After some time, Cain gath-
ered some things he had grown. He
brought them as an offering to the LORD.
⁴And Abel also brought an offering. He
brought the fattest parts of some animals
from his flock. They were the first ani-
mals born to their mothers. The LORD
was pleased with Abel and his offering.
⁵But he wasn’t pleased with Cain and
his offering. So Cain became very angry,
and his face was sad.

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why
are you angry? Why are you looking so
sad? ⁷Do what is right and then you will
be accepted. If you don’t do what is right,
sin is waiting at your door to grab you.
It desires to control you. But you must
rule over it.”

⁸Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s
go out to the field.” So they went out.
There Cain attacked his brother Abel
and killed him.

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where
is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain replied. “Am I sup-
posed to take care of my brother?”

¹⁰The LORD said, “What have you
done? Listen! Your brother’s blood is
crying out to me from the ground. ¹¹So
I am putting a curse on you. I am driving
you away from this ground. It has opened
its mouth to receive your brother’s blood
from your hand. ¹²When you farm the
land, it will not produce its crops for you
anymore. You will be a restless person
who wanders around on the earth.”

¹³Cain said to the LORD, “You are pun-
ishing me more than I can take. ¹⁴Today
you are driving me away from the land.
I will be hidden from you. I’ll be a rest-
less person who wanders around on the
earth. Anyone who finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵But the LORD said to him, “No. Any-
one who kills you will be paid back seven
times.” The LORD put a mark on Cain.
Then anyone who found him wouldn’t
kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went away from the
LORD. He lived in the land of Nod. It was
east of Eden.

¹⁷Cain loved his wife and slept with

her. She became pregnant and gave birth
to Enoch. At that time Cain was building
a city. He named it after his son Enoch.
¹⁸Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad was
the father of Mehujael. Mehujael was the
father of Methushael. And Methushael
was the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women. One
was named Adah, and the other was
named Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal.
He was the father of people who live in
tents and raise livestock. ²¹His broth-
er’s name was Jubal. He was the father of
everyone who plays stringed instruments
and wind instruments. ²²Zillah also had
a son. His name was Tubal-Cain. He
made all kinds of tools out of bronze and
iron. Tubal-Cain’s sister was Naamah.

²³Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, listen to me!

You wives of Lamech, hear my
words!

I have killed a man because he
wounded me.

I have killed a young man because
he hurt me.

²⁴Anyone who would have killed Cain
would have been paid back
seven times.

But anyone who hurts me will be
paid back 77 times.”

²⁵Adam slept with his wife again. She
gave birth to a son and named him Seth.
She said, “God has given me another
child. He will take the place of Abel, be-
cause Cain killed him.” ²⁶Seth also had
a son and named him Enosh.

Then people began to call on the name
of the LORD.

The Family Line of Adam

5 Here is the written story of Adam’s
family line.

When God created human beings, he
made them to be like him. ²He created
them as male and female, and he blessed
them. He called them “human beings”
when they were created.

³When Adam was 130 years old, he
had a son who was like him. He
named him Seth. ⁴Adam lived
800 years after Seth was born. He
also had other sons and daugh-
ters. ⁵Adam lived a total of 930
years. And then he died.

⁶Seth lived 105 years. Then he be-
came the father of Enosh. ⁷Seth
lived 807 years after Enosh was
born. He also had other sons and
daughters. ⁸Seth lived a total of
912 years. And then he died.

⁹Enosh lived 90 years. Then he
became the father of Kenan.
¹⁰Enosh lived 815 years after
Kenan was born. He also had oth-
er sons and daughters. ¹¹Enosh
lived a total of 905 years. And
then he died.

¹²Kenan lived 70 years. Then he be-
came the father of Mahalalel.
¹³Kenan lived 840 years after
Mahalalel was born. He also
had other sons and daughters.
¹⁴Kenan lived a total of 910 years.
And then he died.

¹⁵Mahalalel lived 65 years. Then
he became the father of Jared.
¹⁶Mahalalel lived 830 years after
Jared was born. He also had oth-
er sons and daughters. ¹⁷Mahala-
lel lived a total of 895 years. And
then he died.

¹⁸Jared lived 162 years. Then he be-
came the father of Enoch. ¹⁹Jared
lived 800 years after Enoch was
born. He also had other sons and
daughters. ²⁰Jared lived a total of
962 years. And then he died.

²¹Enoch lived 65 years. Then he be-
came the father of Methuselah.
²²Enoch walked faithfully with
God 300 years after Methuselah
was born. He also had other sons
and daughters. ²³Enoch lived
a total of 365 years. ²⁴Enoch
walked faithfully with God. And
then he couldn’t be found, be-
cause God took him from this life.

²⁵Methuselah lived 187 years. Then
he became the father of Lamech.
²⁶Methuselah lived 782 years
after Lamech was born. He also
had other sons and daughters.
²⁷Methuselah lived a total of 969
years. And then he died.

²⁸Lamech lived 182 years. Then he
had a son ²⁹and named him
Noah. Lamech said, “He will
comfort us when we are working.
He’ll comfort us when our hands
work so hard they hurt. We have
to work hard because the LORD

put a curse on the ground.”³⁰ Lamech lived 595 years after Noah was born. He also had other sons and daughters.³¹ Lamech lived a total of 777 years. And then he died.

³²After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

The Sins of Everyone on Earth

6 There began to be many human beings on the earth. And daughters were born to them.² The sons of God saw that the daughters of human beings were beautiful. So they married any of them they chose.³ Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not struggle with human beings forever. They will have only 120 years to live.”

⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days. That was when the sons of God went to the daughters of human beings. Children were born to them. The Nephilim were famous heroes who lived long ago. Nephilim were also on the earth later on.

⁵The LORD saw how bad the sins of everyone on earth had become. They only thought about evil things.⁶ The LORD was very sad that he had made human beings on the earth. His heart was filled with pain.⁷ So the LORD said, “I created human beings, but I will wipe them out. I will also destroy the animals, the birds in the sky, and the creatures that move along the ground. I am very sad

that I have made human beings.”⁸ But the LORD was very pleased with Noah.

Did You Know?

How long did it take to build the ark?

6:3 It took about 120 years. God waited until the ark was ready before he sent the flood. He wanted to save Noah and his family.



Noah and the Flood

⁹Here is the story of Noah’s family line.


Noah was a godly man. He was without blame among the people of his time. He walked faithfully with God.¹⁰ Noah had three sons. Their names were Shem, Ham and Japheth.

¹¹The earth was very sinful in God’s eyes. It was full of people who did mean and harmful things.¹² God saw how sinful the earth had become. All its people were living very sinful lives.¹³ So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to everyone. They have filled the earth with their harmful acts. I am certainly going to destroy them and the earth.”¹⁴ So make yourself an ark out of cypress

Life in Bible Times

Noah’s Ark

Noah built a wooden ark. It was a kind of boat. When the flood came, Noah and his family were safe. The animals were safe too. The ark was 450 feet long. That is as long as 1½ football fields laid out end to end. The ark was 45 feet high. That’s as high as a five-story building. The ark had a long row of windows just under the roof. The door must have been big to allow the large animals to go in.




wood. Make rooms in it. Cover it with tar inside and out.¹⁵ Here is how I want you to build it. The ark has to be 450 feet long. It has to be 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.¹⁶ Make a roof for it. Leave below the roof an opening all the way around that is a foot and a half high. Put a door in one side of the ark. Make lower, middle and upper decks.¹⁷ I am going to bring a flood on the earth. It will destroy all life under the sky. It will destroy every living creature that breathes. Everything on earth will die.¹⁸ But I will make my covenant with you. You will go into the ark. Your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives will enter it with you.¹⁹ Bring a male and a female of every living thing into the ark. They will be kept alive with you.²⁰ Two of every kind of bird will come to you. Two of every kind of animal will also come to you. And so will two of every kind of creature that moves along the ground. All of them will be kept alive with you.²¹ Take every kind of food that you will need. Store it away as food for you and them.”

²²Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

People Bible Times

Noah

Noah was a good man who loved and trusted God. He followed God’s instructions to build an ark. God saved Noah, his whole family and all kinds of animals from a flood that destroyed the world.



7 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark with your whole family. I know that you are a godly man among the people of today.² Take seven pairs of every kind of ‘clean’ animal with you. Take a male and a female of each kind. Take one pair of every kind of animal that is not ‘clean.’ Take a male and a female of each kind.³ Also take seven pairs of every kind of bird. Take a male and a female of each kind. Then every kind will be kept alive. They can

spread out again over the whole earth.⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth. It will rain for 40 days and 40 nights. I will destroy from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”

⁵Noah did everything the LORD commanded him to do.

⁶Noah was 600 years old when the flood came on the earth.⁷ He and his sons entered the ark. His wife and his sons’ wives went with them. They entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.⁸ Male and female pairs of “clean” animals and pairs of animals that were not “clean” came to Noah. So did male and female pairs of birds and of all the creatures that move along the ground.⁹ All of them came to Noah and entered the ark. Everything happened just as God had commanded Noah.¹⁰ After seven days the flood came on the earth.

¹¹Noah was 600 years old. It was the 17th day of the second month of the year. On that day all of the springs at the bottom of the oceans burst open. God opened the windows of the sky.¹² Rain fell on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights.

¹³On that same day Noah entered the ark together with his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth. Noah’s wife and the wives of his three sons also entered it.¹⁴ They had every kind of wild animal with them. They had every kind of livestock, creature that moves along the ground, and bird that flies.¹⁵ Pairs of all living creatures that breathe came to Noah and entered the ark.¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing. Everything happened just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷For 40 days the flood kept coming on the earth. As the waters rose higher, they lifted the ark high above the earth.¹⁸ The waters rose higher and higher on the earth. And the ark floated on the water.¹⁹ The waters rose on the earth until all the high mountains under the entire sky were covered.²⁰ The waters continued to rise until they covered the mountains by more than 20 feet.²¹ Every living thing that moved on land died. The birds, the livestock and the wild animals died. All of the creatures that fill the earth also died. And so did