

GENESIS

Introduction

As its name implies, Genesis is about beginnings. Genesis tells how God created the heavens and the earth, humanity, and everything that exists. It shows that God is both the Creator and the Ruler of all creation. But it also tells of humanity's tragic fall into sin and death, and of God's unfolding plan of redemption through his covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Genesis includes some of the most memorable stories in the Bible, beginning with Adam and Eve (chs. 1–4), continuing through Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and ending with the life of Joseph (chs. 37–50), who died about 1800 B.C. Most Jews and Christians recognize Moses as the author of Genesis, which he probably wrote sometime after the Exodus from Egypt (about 1445).

The Beginning of Creation

1 In the “beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.² The earth was ^hwithout form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The Six Days of Creation

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, ^d“Let there be an expanse¹ in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”⁷And God made the expanse and ^eseparated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were ^fabove the expanse. And it was so.⁸And God called the expanse Heaven.² And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, ^g“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.¹⁰God called the dry land Earth,³ and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, ^h“Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants⁴ yielding

Chapter 1

¹Job 38:4-7; Ps. 33:6; 136:5; Isai. 42:5; 45:18; John 1:1-3; Acts 14:15; 17:24; Col. 1:16; 17; Heb. 1:10; 11:3; Rev. 4:11

²Jer. 4:23

³2 Cor. 4:6

⁶Job 37:18; Ps. 136:5; Jer. 10:12; 51:15

⁷Prov. 8:27-29

⁸Ps. 148:4

⁹Job 38:8-11; Ps. 33:7; 136:6; Jer. 5:22; 2 Pet. 3:5

¹¹Ps. 104:14

seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.

¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for ⁱsigns and for ^jseasons,⁵ and for days and years,¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.¹⁶And God ^kmade⁶ the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,¹⁸ to ^lrule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds⁷ fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”²¹So ^mGod created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to

¹ Or a canopy; also verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 20 ² Or Sky; also verses 9, 14, 15, 17, 20, 26, 28, 30; 2:1 ³ Or Land; also verses 11, 12, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30; 2:1 ⁴ Or small plants; also verses 12, 29 ⁵ Or appointed times ⁶ Or fashioned ⁷ Or flying things; see Leviticus 11:19-20