

God's Perfect World: Genesis 1:1-2:25

K. Howard Joslin

The ABH Bible for Learning:
Books from Moses

God's Perfect World: Genesis 1-2

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The small size of our books allows easy transport and more affordable publication. Since books often journey beyond their initial drop points, we include a clear gospel message in each manuscript. This allows the good news to spread as far as a book may travel.

Our team approach to publishing includes qualified theologians, professional editors, gifted writers, skilled translators, and cultural consultants. ABH strategically plans a full curriculum for educating pastors. We also publish materials to help supplement leaders' ministries to new believers and to those in the church and community who suffer hardship.

Bible for Learning

ABH intends to publish the following books to further explain GOD's plan to transform our broken world back into his perfect world.

1. GOD's Perfect World (Genesis 1:1-2:25)
2. Our Broken World (Genesis 3:1-6:8)
3. Sin's Destroyed World (Genesis 6:9-9:29)
4. JESUS: GOD's Perfect SON (John 1:1-3:36)
5. JESUS: Obey His Commands (John 13:31-15:27)
6. JESUS: His Death and Resurrection (John 19:1-21:25)
7. JESUS: His Return (Revelation 19:11-20:15)
8. GOD's Restored World (Revelation 21:1-22:21)

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My Perfect World

Paradise

Joyful tears often drip down my cheeks as I relish the memories of growing up on my grandpa's farm. I learned to work hard, appreciate natural beauty, value solitude, and enjoy fresh honey.

I loved to run as a teenager. I developed a running route that maximized the physical challenge and offered me the opportunity to tour the farm.

I started near the mailbox at the end of our gravel lane and ran east down what we called the "Old Road." It stopped being the public highway more than thirty years earlier.

When I reached the corn field at the bottom of the hill, I turned north and ran past the bee hives toward the Raccoon River. This river wandered along the northern border of the farm and offered boating adventures in the summer.

I turned west at the old gravel pit. My friends raced motorcycles on trails that we cleared around its pond. The piles of dirt surrounding the pond protected the water from winter winds as it froze. The pond became our favorite place to play games on the ice.

The sledding hill taunted me as I headed west from the gravel pit. Its steepness reminded me of an injured friend who attempted to conquer its snowy slope with a sled.

After reaching the top I continued west past the cattle-sorting pen and followed the grass terrace, once used for irrigation, through the big corn field.

When I arrived at the old rusty piece of harvesting equipment,

abandoned long ago by Grandpa, I turned north towards the woodlot. One spring our family discovered a den of coyote pups. I raised two like dogs and traded one pup for a friend's baby raccoon.

I turned again to the west at the corner of the woodlot and scampered down the Old Fire Road. A log often provided a fun obstacle because only cattle used the road during my childhood.

A creek, which carried excess water from the Lower Lake down to the river, greeted me at the bottom of the road. After leaping over the creek, I struggled up another steep hill and entered the Secret Pasture. I gave this area its name because a ravine and fence hid its only entrance.

I ran west across the Secret Pasture through tall grass until I arrived at the Nine Acres, the farm's smallest field. There I turned south and then arched to the east as I approached the hill overlooking the Lower Lake. If I could afford to build a house of my dreams, I would purchase the land and build my house there.

My run continued down the western hill, across the dam, up the eastern hill, and then south toward the Muskrat Pond. My dad named this pond in honor of a muskrat that destroyed the dam.

I continued south and then turned back west to cross the dam of the Upper Lake. My school friends erected a platform there to add excitement to our summer afternoon swims.

After circling the Upper Lake, I headed back past the Muskrat Pond and across the big corn field through the grass terrace. But rather than heading east to the sledding hill, I turned south to run across the dam of the Little Pond where we often caught dozens of fish.

The final stretch went south on a gravel farm road and back east into the barnyard. The concrete corner post anchoring a white wooden fence acted as my finish line.

I can't imagine a more perfect place to spend my childhood.

A Broken Man

I loved my grandpa and his farm, but I hated my dad.

I exercised intensely not only to become a better athlete, but because I hoped to grow strong enough to fight Dad. I wanted to punish him for his lying, selfishness, and arrogance. I wanted him to pay for faking my mom's signature on two large bank loans. I wanted to hurt him for sleeping with another woman. I wanted to beat him like he beat my mom.

At sixteen, I trapped Dad in a lie. The more he lied, the more I knew he was lying. We yelled and swore and eventually fought. He hit hard and I did my best to hit back. I didn't inflict much damage, but he did move out that day.

I celebrated his departure and hoped I would never see Dad again.

The Perfect Son

When I turned seventeen, a guest speaker named Gary came to our small church in Minburn, a town of three hundred and fifty people.

Gary's words captured my attention. I approached him to ask several questions after his message. He surprised me with this question, "Howard, if you died today, would you go to heaven?"

I thought of the hatred burning in my heart against Dad and

replied, “I don’t know.”

Gary told me the story of GOD’s perfect SON.

GOD loved the world so much that he sent JESUS, his much-loved SON, to die and take the punishment for our sins. If we believe in JESUS—trust in what he did for us—then we will receive the gift of never-ending life. We will live in heaven after we die.

Gary showed me how to talk with GOD to express my belief in JESUS. He gave me a book after we prayed and challenged me to read it.

Fire and a Book

Trusting JESUS lit a fire in my heart to know him more. I began reading Gary’s book. I tried to read every day and recorded things I learned in a small writing book.

I started a new route on Grandpa’s farm. I walked down to the gravel pit where we liked to play on the ice and built a sizzling fire. I sat by the fire and read the book for hours.

The book taught me to forgive my dad because GOD completely forgave me. That summer I contacted Dad and began to build a relationship with him. JESUS replaced my burning anger with his unlimited love.

My fire for this book, the Bible, still burns more than forty years later. I found peace by reading the Bible to my wife when she grew sick. I clung to its words of hope after she died. Through reading the Bible, I gained a deep trust in GOD and his SON JESUS.

I hope GOD lights a fire in your heart for his book, the Bible. I pray this *ABH Bible for Learning* supplies the spark.

Introduction

God's Book: The Bible

1. GOD reveals himself through two important means:
 - a. Through the beauty, order, and design of the created world, and
 - b. Through very old documents written by gifted authors.
2. We call this collection of documents the “Bible.”
 - a. We refer to the individual documents as “books” of the Bible.
 - b. We divide the Bible into two sections:
 - The Old Testament (OT) contains thirty-nine books written by twenty-seven authors over a span of 1,000 years. These authors completed the OT about 400 years before JESUS’S birth.
 - The New Testament (NT) includes twenty-seven books composed by nine authors during a thirty-year period. These authors completed the NT within forty years of JESUS’S death and resurrection.
3. Biblical authors crafted their documents using three languages.
 - a. OT authors wrote in Hebrew except for a few passages written in Aramaic.
 - b. NT authors wrote in Greek.
4. The Bible communicates a single message.
 - a. The OT shows the failure of all people to live as GOD intended.
 - From Adam to Abraham, from Moses to David, and the entire Hebrew nation—all act in evil ways. Not even one person works for good (see Ps. 14:1-3).
 - GOD promises someone will come to deal with the evil found in people’s hearts (see Isa. 53:4-6).
 - b. The NT describes JESUS as the Promised One who

perfectly follows GOD's ways.

- JESUS lived for thirty-seven years on earth without disobeying GOD even once (see 2 Cor. 5:21). JESUS's birth occurred in 4 B.C. and he died in 33 A.D.
- He performed countless miracles, proving his status as GOD's unique SON (see John 20:30-31).
- Evil men nailed JESUS to a tree to kill him (see John 19:16-18). GOD accepted JESUS's death as full payment for our sins (see Rom. 5:7-9).
- JESUS rose from the dead (see John 20:3-9). He promises never-ending life to all who believe in him (see John 11:25-26).

5. The Bible exists as GOD's Word and our authority.
 - a. We trust the Bible as the source of GOD's truth (see 2 Peter 1:20-21).
 - b. Both the OT and NT teach how to live in right relationship with GOD (see 2 Tim. 3:16).
 - c. GOD's living Word judges the desires and thoughts of our heart (see Heb. 4:12).
 - d. JESUS confirms the reliability of the Bible (see Matt. 5:18).

Genesis

1. The OT, as well as the entire Bible, begins with the book of Genesis.
 - a. The word "Genesis" means "beginnings."
 - b. This book describes the beginning of the world, people, and the Hebrew nation.
2. Key Word: Beginnings.
3. Author: Moses wrote the first five books of the OT, including Genesis.
4. Date: Moses completed his writing about 1,400 years before JESUS's birth.

5. Outline:
- a. Four Events: Creation, Fall, Flood, Tower
 - b. Four People: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (see TALK, p. 5)

ABH Bible for Learning

We designed the *ABH Bible for Learning* (*ABH-BFL*) as a fresh visual translation of the original Hebrew language. We added study notes to help the reader understand the meaning of the Bible and to model how to study it.

1. We should study GOD's true Word and continuously think about its meaning.
 - a. The Bible calls this practice "meditation."
 - b. GOD challenges Joshua with these words:

This Book of the Law shall not depart
from your mouth,
but you shall meditate on it day and night,
so that you may be careful to do
according to all that is written in it.
(Josh. 1:8, ESV)

2. The *ABH Bible for Learning* uses eight features to assist readers with meditating on GOD's Word.
 - a. Paragraph divisions: Large boxes surround each group of verses. We signal new groups by assigning a title and starting on the top of the next page.
 - b. Fresh translation: We carefully translate the original Hebrew, selecting words to make the Bible easier to understand and the author's message clear.
 - c. Visual clues: Careful formatting of the translation enables the reader to see the author's emphasis. (See

the “Visual Clues” section on pp. 8-10 for additional explanation.)

- d. Simple questions: We meditate on the biblical text by asking several questions of each verse, including who? what? when? where? why? how? and how many? We also identify actions, commands, and promises. We use **bold** letters in this section to highlight the words from the biblical text that answer each question.
 - e. Challenges: We regularly pause to question our understanding and challenge our thinking. Do we believe what the biblical author wrote?
 - f. Thoughts about GOD: We examine what each paragraph teaches about our great GOD and record these insights in the “Knowing GOD” sections.
 - g. Steps for action: We examine our lives after thinking about GOD. How should we change our thinking or behavior (see Rom. 12:1-2)? We suggest simple actions in the “Walking with GOD” sections.
 - h. Summary statements: We summarize and restate the author’s ideas and list these insights in the “Author’s Message” sections. These statements provide the foundation for our preaching and teaching. Our sermons and messages need to reflect the author’s primary ideas.
3. Two priorities drive the creation of the *ABH-BFL*.
 - a. Look at the biblical text. Too often we hear or read what a paragraph might mean, but we fail to examine what it actually says.
 - b. Understand what the author meant. The biblical authors wrote their books with great skill as the HOLY SPIRIT guided them (see 2 Peter 1:21). The authors successfully communicated their GOD-given message to a specific people living in their culture and time

period. We seek to understand the author's message to this original audience in order to eliminate needless opinions and arguments.

4. Go to the end of this document for additional notes, including:
 - a. Moses's outline of the Book of Genesis.
 - b. A list of abbreviations found in the *ABH-BFL*.
 - c. A record of the books and other resources used to prepare the *ABH-BFL*.

Visual Clues

1. The *ABH-BFL* enables readers to “see” the structure and emphasis of the author's message in the biblical passage.
2. This section provides examples and explanations of these visual clues. Examples come from Gen. 1:1, 2, and 6.
3. The circled letters (**a**) on each image link to the explanations listed below the image.

Summary (1:1-2) a	
1	In the beginning, b GOD created c ■ the sky ■ and the land. d

Each new paragraph begins with a title. For example, we call this paragraph “Summary of Creation.” It includes the two verses of Gen. 1:1-2. (See **a** in the image above.)

- a. We move less important phrases like “in the beginning” to the right of primary phrases like “GOD created.” (See **b** above.)

- b. We underline action words like “created.” Action words often identify the author’s main message. (See **(c)** above.)
- c. **Gray shading** around words highlight important terms in the text. For example, “sky” and “land” represent the two main realms of creation. (See **(d)** above.)

2	a) Now the land was (e) ■ formless (f) ■ and empty. b) Darkness was (g) ➤ over the surface of the deep. c) And the SPIRIT of GOD was <u>hovering</u> (h) ➤ over the surface of the waters. (i)
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- d. Markings like a), b), c) highlight lists of major thoughts. In Gen. 1:2 the author lists three conditions present as creation begins. (See **(e)** above.)
- e. Square bullet points (■) identify lists of objects, people, or descriptions within a sentence. For example, Moses describes the land as “formless” and “empty” in Gen. 1:2. (See **(f)** above.)
- f. Bold letters (**bold**) signal words repeated in a section. (See **(g)** above.)
 - Moses uses **surface** twice in Gen. 1:2. He uses **land** in 1:1, 1:2 and throughout Chapter 1.
 - We mark **darkness**, **GOD**, and **waters** with bold letters because Moses uses each word several times.
- g. A “small caps” lettering style (**SPIRIT OF GOD**) emphasizes the names of GOD. (See **(h)** above.)
- h. Phrases with similar structure line up on the left side of

the page. Small arrows (➤) draw our attention to these similarities. (See (i) above.)

- For example, “over the surface of the deep” follows a nearly identical pattern to “over the surface of the waters.”
- The second phrase lines up directly under the first phrase. We mark both with a small arrow.
- Authors often use structure to highlight their message. At other times they add artistic beauty to their writing using parallel structures.

6	Then <u>GOD</u> commanded, 1) “LET THERE BE a dome” (j) in the middle of the waters 2) and LET IT BE <u>separating</u> (k) ▪ the waters ▪ from the waters.”
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- i. A “small caps” lettering style (LET THERE BE) emphasizes commands like, “LET THERE BE a dome.” (See (j) above.)
- j. Numbered markings like 1), 2), and 3) show lists of commands. For example, GOD issues two commands in Gen. 1:6. We give special attention to GOD’s commands as JESUS teaches in John 14:15. (See (k) above.)

Repetition and Links

1. Biblical authors repeated words and phrases for emphasis.
 - a. Just like today, many people in the distant past lacked the ability to read or didn’t own books.
 - b. Leaders read the Bible out loud in Hebrew synagogues and

- Christian churches.
- c. Listeners heard these repeated words and naturally understood the author's emphasis.
2. We examine repetition from two angles in the *ABH-BFL*.
- a. We search for important words repeated within a major portion of Scripture, like Gen. 1:1-2:3. These repeated words enable us to understand the author's main ideas for that portion. We record the findings in the "Repeated Key Words" sections.
 - b. We hunt for important words used in previous portions of the same biblical book. For example, as we study Gen. 2:4-25, we make note of words Moses also used in Gen. 1:1-2:3. We record these connections in the "Links" section of the *ABH-BFL*.

Creating Sky and Land (1:1-2:3)

GOD's book to people begins with a breathtaking description of his creation of the sky, the land, and everything in them. GOD created people as the highpoint of his creative work.

Summary (1:1-2)	
1	In the beginning, GOD created ■ the sky ■ and the land.
2	a) Now the land was ■ formless ■ and empty. b) Darkness was ➤ over the surface of the deep. c) And the SPIRIT of GOD was <u>hovering</u> ➤ over the surface of the waters.

Original readers understood that these two verses provide background information. The first verse summarizes the creation account. The second describes the conditions present when creation started.

1:1

1. Who: **GOD** acts in this verse and throughout Gen. 1:1-2:3.
 - a. Moses uses GOD'S name "Elohim" thirty-five times in this section.
 - b. *Elohim* refers to the one true GOD who created

everything and reigns over all gods.

2. Action: GOD **creates**.
3. What: GOD creates the **sky** and the **land**.
 - a. The Hebrew word for “heaven” contains a range of meanings, including:
 - heaven—GOD’S home,
 - the heavens—the home of the stars, or
 - the sky—the home of the birds (see HOLL).
 - b. In Gen. 1:1-2:3 the Hebrew word specifically describes both the **heavens** and the **sky**, which GOD created on the second day (see NET on Gen. 1:8). Moses uses the Hebrew word eleven times in 1:1-2:3. The *ABH-BFL* translates it as “sky” rather than the traditional word “heavens.”
 - c. The Hebrew word for “earth” also contains several meanings, including:
 - the entire earth,
 - the land as opposed to the sea,
 - the land of a certain people, or
 - the ground (see HOLL).
 - d. In Gen. 1:1-2:3 the Hebrew word describes the dry **land**, which GOD created on the third day (see NET on Gen. 1:10). Moses uses the Hebrew word twenty-one times in 1:1-2:3. The *ABH-BFL* translates it as “land” rather than the traditional word “earth.”
 - e. Both “sky” and “land” remain distinct from the “seas” created on the third day (see Gen. 1:10).
 - f. The sky, land, and seas represent the three realms of GOD creation.
4. When: GOD completes his creation **in the beginning**. Gen. 1:1-2:3 describes this beginning.
5. Where: GOD creates both the **sky** above and the **land** below.

6. Why: This verse does not explain why GOD creates the sky and the land.
7. How many: The wording implies GOD creates everything between the sky and the land as well as everything in the sky and the land. GOD creates everything.
8. Challenges:
 - a. Do you believe GOD exists?
 - b. Does GOD rule over all other gods?
 - c. Why is it logical to conclude that GOD created the world? Could stars, trees, animals, or people exist without a wise maker?

1:2

1. What: Moses, the author, describes the world before GOD begins his creative work.
 - a. The land appears shapeless and empty.
 - b. Darkness smothers the surface of a deep ocean.
 - c. The SPIRIT of GOD hovers over the surface of this ocean.
 - d. The ocean covers the land and conceals it (see Gen. 1:9).
2. Who: The SPIRIT of GOD.
 - a. The SPIRIT works on GOD's behalf. Examples from other parts of the Bible include:
 - The SPIRIT of GOD enabled Joseph to interpret dreams and rule wisely (see Gen. 41:25-40).
 - The SPIRIT gave Samson incredible physical strength (see 1 Sam. 14:5-6).
 - GOD sends his SPIRIT to help us and dwell in us (see John 14:16-17).
 - The SPIRIT teaches us truth about JESUS (see John 14:26 and 15:26).
 - b. The SPIRIT remains distinct from GOD yet one with

GOD. This presents a mystery.

3. Action: The SPIRIT **hovers** over the ocean like an eagle hovering over its nest (see Deut. 32:11). This image seems to indicate the SPIRIT is preparing for his role in the work of creation (see NET).
 - a. The SPIRIT works with GOD to create the world.
 - b. Psalm 104:30 also hints of the SPIRIT'S involvment in creation.
4. Challenges:
 - a. What do we learn about the SPIRIT, knowing that he participated in creation?
 - b. Do you need to learn more about the SPIRIT of GOD?

Knowing God

1. GOD created the world (1:1).
2. GOD exists before the beginning (1:1).
3. The SPIRIT worked with GOD in creation (1:2).
4. GOD and the SPIRIT remain distinct yet one (1:2).

Walking with God

1. Believe that GOD exists and created the world.
2. Understand that GOD'S SPIRIT participated in creation.

Author's Message

GOD created everything.

Day 1: Light (1:3-5)	
3	Then GOD <u>commanded</u>, “LET THERE BE light.” And there was light.
4	And GOD <u>saw</u> the light was good. And GOD <u>separated</u> ■ the light ■ from the darkness.
5	a) And GOD <u>named</u> the light “day,” b) and he <u>named</u> the darkness “night.” a) Then it became evening b) and it became morning, a first day.

The creation account formally begins in 1:3 and concludes in 2:3. Original readers knew phrases like “and GOD commanded,” “and GOD saw,” “and GOD separated,” and “and GOD named” signaled that this written account truly happened. Moses reports GOD’s creative actions as facts occurring in the past (see CHIS, p. 95).

1:3

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What: light to repel the darkness of Gen. 1:2.
3. Action: GOD speaks, commanding Light to exist.
 - a. Moses begins with a simple phrase “and GOD said.” He follows with GOD’s command “Let there be light.”

- b. Moses uses this pattern throughout Gen. 1. Everything GOD speaks forms a command.
- c. The *ABH-BFL* translates these phrases as “and GOD commanded” to emphasize Moses’s pattern.
- 4. How: GOD creates by his words. He issues a command and light exists.
- 5. The NT names JESUS as the “Word of GOD.”

In the beginning was the Word,
 and the Word was with GOD,
 and the Word was GOD.
 He was in the beginning with GOD.
 All things were made through him,
 and without him was not any thing made that was
 made.
 (John 1:1-3, ESV)

- a. JESUS, the Word of GOD, worked with GOD and the SPIRIT of GOD to create the world.
- b. JESUS remains distinct from GOD yet one with GOD.
- c. GOD, JESUS, and the SPIRIT remain three distinct persons yet one GOD. The *ABH-BFL* describes this mystery with the phrase “three yet one.”
- 6. When: The light immediately exists. Then—after GOD speaks—there was light. No delay. No effort. GOD is awesome.
- 7. Challenges:
 - a. Do you believe GOD possesses the power to create light instantly?
 - b. Think about why GOD created light as his first act. Consider these two verses:
 - “GOD is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5, ESV).

- JESUS said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12, ESV).
- c. Why does light lay the foundation for creation?
- d. How should we view Moses’s creation story now that we know the original readers understood he was describing events as they truly happened?

1:4

1. Who: **God**.
2. What: **light**.
3. Actions:
 - a. GOD **sees** and assesses his creative work, the light.
 - b. GOD **separates** the light from the darkness.
4. How: GOD observes the **goodness** of his creative work.
5. Challenge: Is GOD good since he created good light?

1:5

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Action: GOD **names** the light and the darkness.
 - a. The act of naming in the Hebrew culture indicated ruling authority (see WALT p. 56).
 - b. GOD exists as the Creator and the Supreme Ruler. He holds authority to name his creation.
 - c. GOD rules over the day and the night. He reigns all the time and rules over time itself.
3. What: GOD calls the **light** “day.” He calls the **darkness** “night.” We still use those names today.
4. When: GOD creates light on the **first day** of his creative work.
 - a. **Evening** and **morning** mark the completion of this first day.
 - GOD creates light and separates it from the darkness.
 - GOD finishes his work before evening arrives.

- The day becomes complete when the morning light pushes back the evening darkness (see WALT, p. 61-62).
- b. Moses repeats two patterns in Gen. 1:1-2:3 to confirm that GOD's creative work occurred in six typical days.
 - First day (1:5), second day (1:8), third day (1:13), fourth day (1:19), fifth day (1:23), sixth day (1:31), and seventh day (2:2 2x, 2:3).
 - "Then it became evening and it became morning" (1:5, 8, 13, 19, 21, 31).
- 5. Challenges:
 - a. Could the highest GOD rule even over time?
 - b. Could the Creator of everything complete his work in six days?

Knowing God

1. GOD creates light by his word (1:3).
2. GOD, JESUS, and the SPIRIT remain distinct yet one (1:3).
3. GOD is awesome because he creates light instantly (1:3).
4. GOD is good because he creates good light (1:4).
5. GOD establishes order, separating light from darkness (1:4).
6. GOD reigns over time and rules all the time (1:5).

Walking with God

1. Understand that the one GOD exists as the FATHER, his SON JESUS, and the SPIRIT.
2. Trust in GOD's goodness even when difficulties cause doubt.
3. Think about the power GOD demonstrated in creation.
4. Remember GOD rules all the time.

Author's Message

GOD creates light and drives back darkness on the first day.

Day 2: Sky (1:6-8)	
6	Then GOD <u>commanded</u>, 1) “LET THERE BE a dome in the middle of the waters. 2) And LET IT BE <u>separating</u> ■ the waters ■ from the waters.”
7	a) And GOD <u>made</u> the dome b) and he <u>separated</u> ■ the waters under the dome ■ from the waters above the dome. And it became so.
8	And GOD <u>named</u> the dome “sky.” a) Then it became evening b) and it became morning, a second day.

1:6

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What:
 - a. A **dome**. People in Moses’s day viewed the sky as a solid dome. When we look up on a clear night away from city lights, we see that the night sky resembles a dome.
 - b. The **waters**.
3. Action: **GOD** speaks, **commanding** a dome to exist and separate the waters.

- a. Moses pictures waters in the sky in addition to the waters of the original ocean.
 - b. The dome creates a barrier between the waters in the sky and the waters in the ocean.
 - c. GOD poked holes in this barrier when he “opened the windows of the sky” to flood the earth in Noah’s day (see Gen. 7:10-12).
4. Where: GOD places the dome in the **middle** of the waters.
 5. Why: The dome **separates** the waters.

1:7

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What: A **dome** and the **waters**.
3. Actions: GOD **makes** the dome and he **separates** the waters with the dome.
4. Where: Some waters take their place **above** the dome. Others take their place **below** the dome.
5. When: The dome exists without delay or effort. **Then it became so**. GOD is powerful.
6. How: Everything happens just as GOD commands. **It became so**.

1:8

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What: the **dome**.
3. Action: GOD displays his ruling authority by **naming** the dome “sky.” GOD reigns over the sky and everything in the sky.
4. When: GOD creates the dome on his **second day** of work.
5. Challenge: Do you believe GOD rules over everything in the sky?

Knowing God

1. GOD shows his power as he creates the sky with a command (1:6).
2. GOD brings order to chaos, using the dome to separate the waters (1:7).
3. GOD rules over the sky and everything in the sky (1:8).

Walking with God

1. Praise GOD for his power.
2. Ask GOD to bring order to the chaos in your life.

Author's Message

GOD creates the sky on the second day and separates the waters above and below it.

Day 3: Land, Seas, and Plants (1:9-13)

9	Then GOD <u>commanded</u>, 1) “LET the waters under the sky BE COLLECTED to one place. 2) And LET the dry ground BE SEEN.” And it became so.
10	a) And GOD <u>named</u> the dry ground “land,” b) and he <u>named</u> the collected waters “seas.” And GOD <u>saw</u> it was good.
11	And GOD <u>commanded</u>, “LET the land SPROUT vegetation on the land: ■ green plants <u>sowing</u> seed ■ and fruit trees <u>making</u> fruit ➤ that has seed in it ➤ according to their varieties. Then it became so.
12 A	And the land <u>produced</u> vegetation: ■ green plants <u>sowing</u> seed ➤ according to their varieties, ■ and trees <u>making</u> fruit ➤ that has seed in it ➤ according to their varieties.

Day 3: Land, Seas, and Plants (1:9-13)	
12 B	And GOD <u>saw</u> it was good.
13	Then it became evening and it became morning, a <u>third day</u> .

1:9

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What: the **waters** and **dry ground**.
3. Action: GOD speaks, **commanding** the waters under the dome to collect into one place.
4. Challenge: Imagine the power required to gather all the earth's water and expose the land.
5. Where: GOD gathers the waters **under** the dome.
6. Why: GOD gathers waters to form the **dry ground** and make it visible (**seen**). GOD brings shape to the **formless** land (see Gen. 1:2).
7. How: Everything happens as GOD commands. **It became so**.
8. When: The dry ground appears immediately. **Then it became so**. GOD is amazing.

1:10

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What: the **dry ground** and the **collected waters**.
3. Action: GOD exercises his ruling authority. He **names** the dry ground "land" and the collected waters "seas." GOD rules the land and the seas.
4. How: GOD's **good** work pleases him.

5. Challenges:

- a. Is GOD good, since he created the **good** dry land and the seas?
- b. What encouragement do you find from knowing GOD rules over everything on the land and in the seas?

1:11

1. Who: **GOD.**

2. Action: GOD speaks, **commanding** the land to produce various types of plant life.

3. What:

- a. Moses begins this list with the general category of **vegetation**. He then identifies two specific types: **green plants** and **fruit trees** (see NET).
- b. **Seeds.** Both the green plants and the fruit trees reproduce through seeds.
- c. **Varieties.** A variety means a group of plants or animals with similar characteristics.
 - A kernel of maize always generates a stalk of maize. When adequate rain falls, the stalk generates an ear containing new maize seeds.
 - Planting a field with sunflower seeds produces a sunflower crop. It never yields a crop of millet, sorghum, or wheat.

4. Where: The vegetation grows on the **land**.

5. When: The land yields vegetation immediately. **It became so.** GOD makes the land fruitful. He is generous.

6. Why: GOD starts filling the **empty** land (see Gen. 1:2).

7. Challenges:

- a. Does GOD possess the wisdom to design every variety of plant?
- b. Why would GOD establish boundaries between varieties of plants?

- c. Why did GOD create seeds?
 - d. If GOD made the land so fruitful, why do we see many regions of our present world unfruitful and barren?
What happened to the good land?
8. How: GOD commands and **it becomes so**.

1:12-A

1. Who: The **land** performs the action as GOD commands in verse 11.
2. Action: The land **produces** vegetation.
3. What: **new grass, green plants, and fruit trees**. Moses pictures full-grown plants with **seeds** and mature trees with **fruit**.
4. Repetition: Moses repeats most of the words from verse 11 in verse 12. This repetition shows how the land completely obeys the Creator's command.
5. How many: GOD creates all the varieties of green plants and fruit trees on this day.
6. Challenges:
 - a. Think of the knowledge required to create all plant life on earth.
 - b. Consider the wisdom necessary to design seeds that grow into plants and trees.
 - c. How does the land respond to GOD's command? What example does the land show?

1:12-B

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. How: GOD examines the **good** vegetation and feels satisfied.
3. Challenges:
 - a. Is GOD good since he created **good** plants and trees?
 - b. If GOD created **good** plants, why must we avoid poisonous berries, plants making us itch, or thorns

tearing our skin? What happened to the **good** vegetation?

1:13

1. When:
 - a. GOD creates land by separating it from the sea on the **third day**.
 - b. GOD enables the land to yield abundant vegetation on this **third day**.
2. Challenge: Could the one true GOD create all varieties of plants and trees in a single day?

Knowing God

1. GOD is amazing because dry ground appears immediately upon his command (1:9).
2. GOD reigns over the land and the sea (1:10) just like he rules the sky (see Gen. 1:5). GOD reigns as Supreme King over all three realms of creation.
3. GOD is good. He creates the good land and the good sea (1:10).
4. GOD generously makes the land fruitful (1:11).
5. GOD enables green plants and fruit trees to reproduce through seeds (1:11).
6. GOD sets boundaries for his creation. Seeds reproduce only according to their variety (1:11-12).
7. GOD expects complete obedience from his creation (the land) and enables it to fulfill his commands (1:12).
8. GOD is good. He creates good grass, green plants, and fruit trees (1:12).

Walking with God

1. Praise GOD for reigning over the land, sea, and sky. Ask him to rule over all your life.

2. Thank GOD for his goodness and generosity.
3. Trust GOD to enable you to obey his commands.
4. Take a walk and thank GOD for every type of plant you see. Pause at a tree, bush, or flower to observe its features and beauty. Praise GOD for his wisdom and creativity.

Author's Messages

1. GOD uncovers the land by separating it from the waters on the third day.
2. GOD begins filling the land later that day. He enables the land to produce abundant grass, seed plants, and fruit trees.

Day 4: Lights in the Sky (1:14-19)

14	Then GOD <u>commanded</u>, 1) “LET THERE BE lights ➤ in the dome of the sky ➤ to separate the day from the night. 2) And LET THEM BE ■ for signs ■ and seasons ■ and days and years.
15	3) And LET THEM BE lights ➤ in the dome of the sky ➤ to give light upon the land.” And it became so.
16	a) And GOD <u>made</u> ■ two great lights— ▪ the greater light to rule the day ▪ and the smaller light to rule the night— ■ and the stars.
17	b) And GOD <u>set</u> them ➤ in the dome of the sky ➤ to give light on the land,

Day 4: Lights in the Sky (1:14-19)	
18	■ to rule over the day and over the night, ■ and to separate the light from the darkness. And GOD <u>saw</u> it was good.
19	Then it became evening and it became morning, a fourth day.

1:14-15

1. Who: GOD.
2. What: sources of **light**.
3. Where: in the **dome** of the **sky**.
4. Actions: GOD speaks, issuing three **commands** concerning lights in the sky.
5. Why: Each command specifies a reason for the lights.
 - a. The lights **separate** the day from the night.
 - b. The lights serve as **signs** to mark time in **days**, **seasons**, and **years**.
 - c. The lights provide light for the **land**. Moses hints that the land serves as the central realm of creation.
6. When: GOD creates the lights instantly, not by a lengthy process or in stages. **Then it became so**. GOD's greatness exceeds our ability to understand.
7. How: Everything happens just as GOD commands. **It became so**.
8. Challenges:
 - a. How did light exist before the sun, moon, and stars?
 - b. Who is the true source of light?
 - c. Consider this description of the New Jerusalem, the

capital city of heaven: “The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of GOD gives it light” (Rev. 21:22-25).

1:16

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Action: GOD **made** two great lights along with the stars.
3. What:
 - a. We call the **greater light** the sun.
 - b. We call the **lesser light** the moon.
 - c. GOD also made the **stars**.
4. Why:
 - a. GOD forms the sun to **rule** over the day.
 - b. GOD forms the moon to **rule** over the night.
5. How many: two great lights and all the stars.
6. When: GOD made all the stars at the same time as the sun and the moon.
7. How: GOD chooses not to name the sun and the moon. They serve the true GOD as unnamed objects (see WALT, p. 62-63). People should worship the Creator, not the things he created (see Deut. 4:19).
8. Challenges:
 - a. Does GOD know the perfect position for the sun to provide light and heat for the earth?
 - b. Do you worship the sun or the moon rather than their Creator?
 - c. Do you look to the stars for guidance rather than seeking wisdom from GOD?

1:17-18

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Action: GOD **sets** these lights in the sky.
3. Where: GOD places the lights in the **dome** of the **sky**,

arranging them exactly as he wants.

4. Why: Moses recaps three primary reasons for the lights.
 - a. To provide **light** for the **land** (see Gen. 1:15).
 - b. To **rule** over the **day** and the **night** (see Gen. 1:16).
 - c. To **separate** the **light** from the **darkness** (see Gen. 1:14).
5. How: GOD evaluates the sun, moon, and stars as well as their placement in the dome. He feels satisfaction with his **good** work.
6. Challenges:
 - a. Is GOD good since he created **good** light?
 - b. If GOD placed the sun exactly where he wanted, why does it now burn our skin or dry out our land? Did the **good** sun change?

1:19

1. When: GOD creates lights in the dome on the **fourth day** of his creative work.
2. Challenge: Does GOD possess the power to create all the stars in a single day?

Knowing God

1. GOD creates with purpose. The great lights serve four purposes (1:14-15, 16, 17-18).
2. GOD's greatness exceeds our understanding. He made the sun, moon, and all the stars instantly (1:15).
3. GOD delegates ruling authority to his creation. He tasks the sun and moon with ruling the day and the night (1:16).
4. GOD is good. He creates the good sun, moon, and stars (1:18).

Walking with God

1. Worship only GOD. Appreciate the warmth of the sun, the glow of the moon, and the beauty of the stars, but honor their Creator.
2. Look up at the night sky and praise our GOD who knows the name of every star (see Isa. 40:26).
3. Trust GOD's wisdom. He arranged the sun, moon, and stars.

Author's Message

GOD fills the sky with the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day.

Day 5: Creatures in Sea and Sky (1:20-23)

20	Then GOD <u>commanded</u>, 1) “LET the waters SWARM with swarms of living creatures, 2) and LET flying things FLY ■ above the land ■ across the surface of the dome of the sky.”
21	And GOD <u>created</u> ■ the great sea monsters, ■ and all living creatures ▪ that move about ▪ and make the waters <u>swarm</u>, ➤ according to their varieties, ■ and all winged flying things ➤ according to their varieties. And GOD <u>saw</u> it was good.
22	And GOD <u>enabled</u> them, commanding, 1) “BE FRUITFUL 2) and GROW IN NUMBER 3) and FILL the waters in the seas, 4) and LET flying things GROW IN NUMBER on the land.”
23	Then it became evening and it became morning, a fifth day.

1:20

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What:
 - a. **Living creatures** in the waters.
 - b. **Flying creatures** in the sky.
3. **Action**: GOD speaks, issuing two creative **commands**.
 - a. He directs the waters to **swarm** with sea creatures.
Moses pictures both the abundance of the fish and their rapid back and forth movement (see NET).
 - b. He orders birds and other flying creatures to **fly** above the land.
4. Where:
 - a. The living creatures swarm in the **waters** of the seas.
 - b. The flying creatures fly **above** the **land** and **across** the dome of the **sky**.
5. How: GOD creates fish and birds by his word.
6. How many:
 - a. The waters **swarm** with **swarms** of creatures. This repetition emphasizes the incredible abundance of the seas and the lively movement of the fish.
 - b. The **flying** creatures **flying** across the sky represent abundance as well.
7. Challenge: Imagine the joy of a fisherman fishing in seas of abundance.

1:21

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What:
 - a. Great sea monsters.
 - Sea monsters present a surprise. Why did Moses include them on this list of creatures GOD created in the sea? Why list them first?
 - The Hebrew people lived along the eastern shore of a

great sea. Sailors feared fierce storms and dangerous sea creatures.

- Knowing GOD created and ruled even the giant sea creatures comforted people living by the sea.

b. **Living creatures** in the waters.

c. **Flying creatures** with wings.

3. Actions:

a. GOD **creates**. Moses uses “create” for the first time since Gen. 1:1. He signals that fish and birds form a significant part of GOD’s creative work.

b. GOD **sees**. He observes the goodness of all sea and flying creatures. GOD declares even the giant sea monsters **good**, perhaps because they posed no threat as initially created.

4. How:

a. Both the sea creatures and the flying creatures reproduce **according** to their **varieties**.

- Nile perch never lay eggs that spawn into rainbow trout.

- Eagles don’t lay eggs that hatch into sparrows.

b. GOD finds satisfaction in his **good** work.

5. How many:

a. The sea creatures **move about** and **swarm** in abundance.

b. GOD creates **all** varieties of sea creatures and **all** varieties of flying creatures on this day.

6. When: The creation of the fish and birds occurs instantly. GOD is astonishing.

7. Why: GOD begins to fill the seas and the sky.

8. Challenge: Is GOD good since he created **good** fish and birds?

1:22

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Actions:
 - a. GOD issues four **commands** to creatures of the sea and sky.
 - Both fish and birds should reproduce **fruitfully**.
 - Both should **grow** in **number**.
 - The fish should **fill** the waters of the sea.
 - The birds should **grow** in **number** on the land.
 - b. GOD blesses the fish and birds, **enabling** them to carry out his commands.
 - The word “bless” carries two main meanings (see HALOT).
 - GOD “fills with strength” or “gives special abilities.”
 - We “praise” our GOD who gives the strength and special ability.
 - In Gen. 1:22 GOD “blesses” his creatures by giving them the ability to reproduce and multiply. This fruitfulness continues the creative work GOD started on the fifth day (see NET).
 - The *ABH-BFL* uses “enable” rather than the traditional “bless” in Gen. 1:22, 28, and 2:3 to highlight GOD’s gift of special abilities.
3. How many: GOD intends fish and birds to fully populate their realms. He wants the sea and sky swarming with uncountable active creatures.
4. Challenges:
 - a. If GOD wants fish to fill the seas, why do many fishermen struggle to feed their families? What happened?
 - b. If GOD desires birds to flood the sky, why do we seldom see countless birds in the sky? What changed since creation?

1:23

1. When: GOD creates fish and birds on the **fifth day**.
2. Challenge: Could the highest GOD create every variety of bird and fish in a single day?

Knowing God

1. GOD creates the fish and birds by his word (1:20).
2. GOD reigns over all the creatures of the sea and sky, even over the great sea monsters (1:21).
3. GOD is good. He creates good fish and birds... and good sea monsters (1:21).
4. GOD enables his creatures to obey his commands, blessing them with the ability to reproduce (1:22).
5. GOD wants countless fish swarming in the seas and birds without number filling the sky (1:20-22).

Walking with God

1. Find a quiet place to sit outside. Listen to the birds. Marvel at their songs, whistles, and calls. Consider their ability to fly without effort. Count the various types of birds; observe their differences. Praise GOD for his creativity and skill.
2. Visit a lake or river. Observe any fish you see. Watch how they swim. Think about their ability to live in water. Praise our GOD who created them. If you don't see many fish, ask why. Why don't the waters swarm with countless fish?

Author's Message

GOD creates fish and birds on the fifth day. He enables them to reproduce and commands them to fill the seas and the sky.

Day 6: Animals and People (1:24-31)

24	Then GOD <u>commanded</u>, “LET the land PRODUCE living creatures ➤ according to their varieties: ■ livestock, ■ and crawling things, ■ and living things of the land ➤ according to their varieties.” And it became so.
25	And GOD <u>made</u> ■ living things of the land ➤ according to their varieties, ■ and the livestock ➤ according to their varieties, ■ and all crawling things of the ground ➤ according to their varieties. And GOD <u>saw</u> it was good.
26 A	And GOD <u>commanded</u>, 1) “LET us <u>MAKE</u> people ■ in our image, ■ like our likeness.

Day 6: Animals and People (1:24-31)

26 B	2) And LET them GOVERN: ■ over the fish of the sea, ■ and over the flying things of the sky, ■ and over the livestock, ■ and over all the land, ■ and over all crawling things ➤ that crawl on the land.
27	a) And GOD <u>created</u> people in his image. b) He <u>created</u> them in the image of GOD. c) He <u>created</u> them male and female.
28	a) And GOD <u>enabled</u> them b) and GOD <u>commanded</u> them, 1) “BE FRUITFUL 2) and GROW IN NUMBER 3) and FILL the land 4) and HARNESS it, 5) and GOVERN: ■ over the fish of the sea, ■ and over the flying things of the sky, ■ and over all the living things ➤ that crawl on the land.

Day 6: Animals and People (1:24-31)

29	And GOD <u>commanded</u>. “Look! a) I have <u>given</u> to you: ■ all green plants ➤ that sow seeds ➤ and are on the surface of all the land, ■ and all the trees ➤ that have fruit on them ➤ and sow seeds. b) These will be food for you.
30	c) I have given all green plants for food: ■ to all living things of the land, ■ and to all flying things of the sky, ■ and to all things that crawl on the land —everything having living breath.” Then it became so.
31	And GOD <u>saw</u> all he had <u>made</u>. And <u>look</u>! It was very good. a) Then it became evening b) and it became morning, the Sixth Day.

Gen. 1:26 records the eighth time Moses writes, “And GOD commanded.” Each time a description of GOD’s creative action follows. Moses’s repetition stresses that GOD creates simply by speaking.

The author of Psalm 148 confirms this understanding with the line, “For he commanded, and they were created.” Meditate on these words from his song and worship our Creator:

Praise him,
 you highest heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the LORD!
For he commanded and they were created
And he established them forever and ever.
He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.
(Ps. 148:4-6, ESV, emphasis added)

The author of Hebrews agrees. He writes:

By faith we understand
 that the universe was created
 by the word of GOD,
so that what is seen was not made
 out of things that are visible.
(Heb. 11:3, ESV, emphasis added)

1:24

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Action: GOD speaks, **commanding** the land to produce various types of animal life. GOD also commands the land to sprout various types of plant life in Gen. 1:11.
3. What: The land produces three categories of land animals (see NET):

- a. **Livestock** and trained animals.
- b. Creatures **crawling** on the ground, such as reptiles and rodents.
- c. Wild animals.
- 4. Where: On the **land**.
- 5. When: The land produces the animals without delay. **Then it became so**. The land obeys GOD's command.
- 6. How: Everything happens just as GOD commands. **It became so**.
- 7. Challenges:
 - a. Consider the creativity needed to design every type of animal.
 - b. Does GOD possess the power to create all varieties of animals? Could GOD make them instantly?

1:25

- 1. Who: **GOD**.
- 2. Actions:
 - a. GOD **makes** the animals.
 - b. GOD **sees** and assesses his creative work.
- 3. What: GOD makes the **livestock**, the **crawling** rodents and reptiles, and the wild animals.
- 4. How many: GOD created animals from all three categories as specified in Gen. 1:24.
- 5. Where: On the **land**.
 - a. GOD commands the land to **produce** the animals (Gen. 1:24), but GOD himself **makes** them (Gen. 1:25).
 - b. Does this present a problem?
 - Gen. 2:19 explains that GOD forms every animal and bird out of the **ground**.
 - The land **produces** the animals as GOD **makes** them from the ground.

6. How:
 - a. **According to their varieties.** The animals, just like plants, reproduce according to their specific variety.
 - A zebra cannot mate with an elephant.
 - A giraffe never gives birth to a lion cub but always bears a giraffe calf.
 - b. **It was good.** GOD reviews all land animals and confirms their **goodness**.
7. Challenges:
 - a. Is GOD good, since he created **good** animals?
 - b. Why would GOD establish boundaries between varieties of animals?
 - c. If GOD assessed all the animals as **good**, why do fierce lions or poisonous snakes exist? Why do many wild animals attempt to kill us? Why do rats often spread disease? What happened to the **good** animals?

1:26

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. What: **People**.
3. Action: GOD issues two commands:
 - a. To himself: to **make** people.
 - b. To people: to **govern** the creatures.
4. Where: The **sea**, **sky**, and **land**.
5. Why:
 - a. GOD creates people to **govern** all three realms of creation:
 - The fish in the sea.
 - The birds of the sky.
 - The livestock and creatures crawling on the land.
 - b. GOD created everything and therefore rules as the High King.

- Yet GOD chooses to delegate his ruling authority to people.
- People rank higher than the rest of GOD's creation because he created them to rule.

6. How:

- a. GOD created people with two unique characteristics:
 - In GOD's **image**. The word "image" refers to things like statues or figures (see HALOT). A statue made of stone or clay looks like the person it represents. A small wooden figure of an elephant reminds us of a living elephant in a game park or zoo.
 - Like GOD's **likeness**. This word "likeness" describes a model, something with the same shape (see HALOT). American boys often play with tiny cars about an inch long. Their shapes and colors match real cars. Their wheels enable them to roll across a smooth surface.
 - The words image and likeness carry similar meanings. Moses uses this repetition to emphasize our unique relationship to GOD.
- b. These characteristics imply a physical similarity between GOD and people. Biblical authors often describe GOD with features we possess.
 - The LORD GOD **walks** in the garden in the breezy time of the day (Gen. 3:8 NET).
 - The LORD and two angels appear to Abraham in the heat of the day. All three look like **men** (Gen. 18:1-3).
 - Moses, Aaron and his two sons, and seventy elders **saw** the GOD of Israel. They even ate and drank in his presence. These men saw a hard surface made of clear gemstones under GOD's **feet** (Ex.24:9-11).
- c. Image and likeness point towards our responsibility to rule over GOD's creation (see ROSS, p. 112-113;

WALT, p. 65-66).

- Kings in past times set up statues of themselves all over their kingdoms. These figures reminded their subjects of the king's authority.
- GOD assigns people as his managers in the world. He calls them to govern the land, sea, and sky.
- d. These words, image and likeness, form boundaries between GOD and people. We resemble GOD like a statue and serve as his manager in the world but only in limited ways (see WALT, p. 66). GOD created the world and reigns over the world. He possesses all wisdom and holds all power. We serve him and not ourselves.
- e. People rank higher than the rest of GOD's creation because he uniquely made us in his image and likeness.
- f. Soon Satan will lure Eve with the temptation to "be like GOD" (see Gen. 3:5). Eve fails to understand she and Adam already reflect the image and likeness of GOD (see Gen. 1:26).
- g. JESUS, the Word of GOD, left his FATHER in heaven to dwell with people on earth. He served perfectly as GOD's agent and enables us to know him (see John 1:14, 18).

7. How many:

- a. The Hebrew people firmly believe "GOD is one" (see NET on Deut. 6:4).
 - He is the only GOD.
 - No one compares to GOD.
 - GOD does not exist as a group of GODs.
- b. Read this key Hebrew statement of faith:

"Hear, O Israel:

The LORD our GOD, the LORD is one.

You shall love the LORD your GOD

with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your might.”
(Deut. 6:4-5, ESV)

- c. The phrase “GOD/he creates” occurs six times in Gen. 1:1-2:3. Moses uses a “singular” action word each time, pointing to the oneness of GOD (see Gen. 1:1, 21, 27 (3x), and 2:3).
 - d. The phrase “GOD/he makes” also occurs six times in Gen. 1:1-2:3. Again, Moses uses a singular action word (see Gen. 1:7, 16, 25, 31, and 2:2 (2x)).
 - e. The pattern changes in Gen. 1:26. GOD says, “Let **us** **make** people in **our** image and like **our** likeness.” Moses uses the “plural” action word (“let **us** make”) and plural pronouns (“**our** image” and “**our** likeness”).
 - f. This change in pattern allows for the teaching concerning GOD existing as three (FATHER, SON, SPIRIT) but remaining one GOD. The *ABH-BFL* describes this mystery with the phrase “three yet one” (see p. 22; see also ROSS, p. 112).
8. Challenges:
- a. Do you value people over animals?
 - b. How do you treat people from other tribes or with different skin colors? Do they equally reflect GOD’s image?
 - c. Do you consider an unborn baby a person made in the image of GOD? Should we protect the lives of unborn babies?
 - d. How well do you manage your GOD-given responsibilities?

1:27

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Action: Moses repeats the word **create**. GOD alone created people. His creative work provides the only explanation for people's origin.
3. How:
 - a. GOD creates people in his **image**. Moses repeats this truth from Gen. 1:26 to elevate people over the rest of creation. Only people reflect GOD's image.
 - Green plants and fruit trees reproduce according to their varieties.
 - Fish and birds populate the sea and sky according to their varieties.
 - Livestock, crawling things, and wild animals breed within their varieties.
 - GOD created only people in his **image**. People possess more value than plants, birds, fish, and animals.
 - b. GOD creates people as **male** and **female**.
 - Both men and women reflect GOD's image. Both possess equal value and worth before GOD.
 - Men and women rule as equals over the three realms of creation (see Gen. 1:26, 28).
 - Populating the earth requires both males and females (see Gen. 1:28). Men cannot reproduce without women.
 - People must consist of both men and women to fully reveal the image of GOD. We attack GOD's character and reject his word when we deny basic male and female distinctions.
4. Challenges:
 - a. Do you value people over plants, birds, fish, and animals? If your prize bull attacks a person from a rival

- clan, would you save your bull or the person?
- b. Do you believe men and women possess equal worth before GOD?
 - Men: Do you treat women as property? Do you consider your wife a mere servant?
 - Women: Do you understand your importance equals men's? Do you realize we cannot understand GOD's image without women?
 - c. Do you observe basic differences between men and women?
 - d. Do you believe a man can become a woman? Or do you believe GOD designs each person either as male or female?

1:28

1. Who: **GOD**.

2. Actions:

- a. GOD "blesses" the man and woman, **enabling** them to obey his commands to populate and rule the land. This gift of special ability parallels the blessing given to the fish and birds (see notes on Gen. 1:22).
- b. GOD issues five **commands** to the man and woman.
 - The first three commands concern populating the world.
 - Together, the man and woman should **fruitfully** reproduce, **multiply** in number, and **fill** the land with additional people.
 - These three commands repeat the commands given to the fish and birds (see Gen. 1:22).
 - The last two commands describe ruling the world.
 - People should **harness** the land by bringing it under control for their advantage. In the time of Moses, this meant cultivating fields, mining minerals, using trees

for construction, and training animals for service (see NET).

- People should **govern** the creatures of the three realms of creation: the sea, sky, and land. The repetition of this command from Gen. 1:26 highlights its importance.

3. Where:

- a. People should fill the **land**.
- b. People should govern the **sea, sky, and land** as GOD's agents.

4. How many: GOD wants the earth **full** of people who bear his image.

5. Challenges:

- a. Do you think too many people populate our world?
- b. Should married couples seek to bear children if GOD enables?
- c. Should people grow crops? Should farmers train animals to work in the field? Should people use timber to make houses? Should we dig wells for water or build canals to irrigate?

1:29

1. Who:

- a. GOD.
- b. You. Moses uses the plural word for "you" to indicate that GOD speaks to both the man and woman.

2. Action: GOD issues a **command** concerning the food he **gives** people to eat.

3. How: Moses uses the word "**Look!**" to grab our attention. The man and woman need to pay close attention to this command.

- a. GOD uses dietary laws in the OT to teach us about his holiness (see Lev. 11:44-47).

- b. GOD uses hunger for food to teach us to hunger for the Bible (see Deut. 8:3 and Matt. 4:3-4).
 - c. We choose to fast from food (not eat for a period of time) to pray for wisdom from GOD (see Acts 13:2-3).
4. What:
 - a. GOD generously provides unlimited access to two categories of food:
 - Every **green plant** with **seeds**.
 - **Fruit** from every **tree**.
 - Moses likely includes some nut trees in this category. He describes the trees as “making fruit that has its seed in it” (see Gen. 1:11-12).
 - Many consider nuts like almonds, walnuts, pistachios, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, and cashews as “fruit.” These nuts come from seeds inside the tree’s fruit.
 - b. GOD does not give permission to eat fish, birds, or animals. This rule changes after Noah’s flood (see Gen. 9:1-3).
5. Where: The green plants grow on the **land**.
6. How many: **All** green plants and **all** fruit trees.
7. Challenges:
 - a. Why would GOD restrict food to green plants and fruit?
 - b. Why not allow people to eat animals, fish, or birds?
 - c. Does GOD withhold good things from people?
 - d. Is GOD generous? Is he good?

1:30

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Action: GOD issues a **command** concerning the food he **gives** creatures to eat.
3. What: GOD gives birds and animals one category of food—

green plants.

- a. Birds and animals do not eat fruit at this time. GOD reserves fruit for people.
 - b. Birds and animals do not eat each other at this time either. Imagine a world without predators and prey. Isaiah, a spokesperson for GOD, sees a future when:
 - Wolves and lambs, leopards and goats, lions and calves live together peacefully.
 - Cows, bears, and lions graze.
 - Children play with snakes without fear or danger.
 - No creature hurts another.
 - The knowledge of GOD fills the earth.
 - This incredible future occurs when GOD recreates the sky and the land (see Isa. 11:1-9 and 65:17-25).
4. Where: Birds in the **sky** and animals on the **land**.
5. How: Everything happens just as GOD commands. **It became so.**
6. How many:
- a. GOD gives **all** green plants as food.
 - b. GOD gives food to everything with **living breath**.
 - “Breath” makes a person or creature alive (see HALOT).
 - GOD freely gives this living breath to creatures and people (see Gen. 2:7).
7. Challenges:
- a. Is it possible GOD created a world where no animal killed or ate another? Where no animal threatened people?
 - b. If the original world lacked violence, why do we see animals attacking one another now? What happened to GOD’s perfect creation?
 - c. If killing no longer exists in Isaiah’s future world, what change occurred? Who will renew the world?

1:31

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Actions: GOD **looks** over his creation, assessing everything he **made**.
3. How many: GOD looks over **all** his creation. GOD evaluates not just the animals and people of the Sixth Day but everything he created on the first five days too.
4. How:
 - a. GOD previously paused six times to assess his creative works. Each time he concludes, "**It was good.**"
 - b. GOD now steps back at the end of the Sixth Day to evaluate all creation. His conclusion? His creation is **very good**. The perfect GOD makes a perfect world.
 - c. The word "**Look!**" emphasizes this **very good** assessment.
5. When: GOD creates animals and people on the **Sixth Day**.
 - a. When referring to the previous five days, Moses writes without marking any of the days as special.
 - b. Moses breaks this pattern with the Sixth Day by using a Hebrew word that signals the importance of this day to his readers. (see WALT, p. 67). The *ABH-BFL* capitalizes the Sixth Day to highlight this emphasis.
6. Why: The Sixth Day holds significance because GOD created man and woman on this day. They represent creation's highpoint.
7. Challenges:
 - a. Is GOD very good since he created very good people? And a perfect world?
 - b. What happened to change people? Why do people lie? What made people selfish? Why does war ravage many nations? Why do people become sick? Why do people die? What happened to GOD's perfect world?

Knowing God

1. GOD is awesome because he creates all types of land animals instantly (1:24).
2. GOD sets boundaries for his creation. Animals reproduce according to their varieties (1:24-25).
3. GOD is good. He creates good livestock and animals (1:25).
4. GOD forms relationships. He creates people in his image and likeness (1:26, 27).
5. GOD entrusts ruling authority to people. He tasks these managers with governing all the creatures of the sea, sky, and land (1:26, 28).
6. GOD enables people to obey his commands, blessing them with the ability to reproduce. He wants people to fill the land (1:28).
7. GOD generously provides food for people and his creatures (1:29-30).
8. GOD is the source of life because he gives living breath to people and creatures (1:30).
9. GOD is very good, so the people resembling him make the world very good (1:31).

Walking with God

1. Remember GOD is good. He makes restrictions for our protection and benefit, not for our harm.
2. If married, ask GOD to “bless” you with children. If not married, ask GOD to provide a GODly spouse. Trust his goodness whether he says “yes” or “no” to these prayers.
3. Seek GOD’s wisdom for managing your responsibilities. Govern in a way honoring to GOD.
4. Ask GOD to help you reflect his character so that you become more like his SON JESUS (see Rom. 8:28-29).
5. Know that GOD enables you to obey his commands.
6. Thank GOD for giving you breath today.

Author's Messages

1. GOD begins filling the land with animals on the Sixth Day.
2. GOD creates people in his image as male and female on the Sixth Day. He directs them to fully populate the land and to govern the creatures of the sea, sky, and land.

Day 7: God Completes Creation (2:1-3)	
1	■ Thus, the sky ■ and the land were <u>completed</u>, ■ and all their multitudes.
2	a) And on the Seventh Day GOD <u>completed</u> his work ➤ that he had <u>made</u>. b) And on the Seventh Day he <u>stopped</u> from all his work ➤ that he had <u>made</u>.
3	a) Then GOD <u>enabled</u> the Seventh Day b) and <u>made it holy</u>, because on it GOD <u>stopped</u> from all his work ➤ that GOD <u>created</u> by making.

Moses repeats four words from Gen. 1:1 in this paragraph: “GOD,” “created,” “sky,” and “land.” These words form boundaries around the first section of his book (Gen. 1:1-2:3) and signal its completion.

2:1

1. Who: **GOD**.
2. Action: GOD **completes** his creative work.
3. What: GOD completes the **sky** and the **land**. Moses uses “sky and land” to represent all of creation just like in Gen. 1:1.
 - a. GOD completes everything **between** the sky and the land, and everything in the sky and the land.

- b. GOD completes everything.
- 4. How many: GOD completes his handiwork, making a **multitude** of stars, plants, fruit trees, fish, birds, and animals.
- 5. Challenge: GOD finished his creative work by the Seventh Day. Does this mean GOD ended his involvement in the world?

2:2

- 1. Who: **GOD**.
- 2. Actions:
 - a. GOD **completes** his work.
 - Moses repeats this action from Gen. 2:1 for emphasis.
 - GOD finishes his creative work. He makes plants and trees which reproduce through seeds. He enables fish to fill the seas and birds the sky. He enables animals to bear offspring according to their varieties. GOD enables people to populate and govern the land.
 - b. GOD **stops** his creative work.
 - The Hebrew word means “to cease or stop” (see HALOT).
 - GOD stops his creative work. GOD doesn’t become tired or require rest (see NET).
- 3. When: GOD stops working on the **Seventh Day**.
 - a. Moses adds the Hebrew word to mark the Seventh Day as special just like the Sixth. The Seventh Day gains significance because GOD stops his work.
 - b. Moses uses repetition (two times in 2:2 and one time in 2:3) to further highlight the importance of GOD stopping his work.
 - c. The *ABH-BFL* capitalizes the Seventh Day to show this emphasis.
- 4. How many: GOD stops from **all** his work.

5. Challenge: Should we follow GOD's example by refraining from our work one day each week?

2:3

1. Who: **GOD**.

2. Actions:

- a. **GOD makes** the Seventh Day **holy**.
- The Hebrew people call the Seventh Day "Shabbat." We use the word "Sabbath" in English.
 - "To make something holy" means to dedicate it for special treatment or to use it for GOD's purposes (see HALOT).
 - GOD formalized this requirement—to use the Sabbath for GOD's purposes—in the Fourth Commandment. It specifies:

Remember the Sabbath day,
to keep it holy.
Six days you shall labor,
and do all your work,
but the Seventh Day is a Sabbath
to the LORD your GOD.
(Ex. 20:8-10a, ESV)

- The Hebrew people began to rest from work on the Seventh Day of each week after receiving this command.
 - Faithful Hebrews worshiped and expressed trust in the Creator by refraining from work on the Seventh Day.
 - This weekly pattern confirms that the Seventh Day consisted of a typical twenty-four-hour day.
- b. **GOD enables** the Seventh Day.

- GOD enables the fish to fill the seas and birds the sky. He enables people to fill the land. What would it mean for GOD to enable the Seventh Day?
- One example concerns the “manna” GOD gave the Hebrew people during their forty years in the wilderness. They gathered manna every day for food. However, GOD did not permit people to gather any on the Seventh Day, because GOD provided double amounts on the Sixth Day. GOD command Moses with these words:

Look!

The LORD has given you the Sabbath.

Therefore on the Sixth Day

he gives you bread for two days.

Remain each of you in his place.

Let no one go out of his place

on the Seventh Day.

So the people rested

on the Seventh Day.

(Ex. 16:29-30, ESV)

3. When: GOD enables and makes the **Seventh Day** holy.
4. How many: GOD stopped from **all** his work.
5. How: Moses ties GOD's two creative actions together with the final phrase “GOD created by making.” These words form a fitting conclusion to the creation account of Gen. 1:1-2:3. GOD **created** and **made** everything.
6. Challenges:
 - a. Is GOD capable of providing for your needs even when you choose to rest from work? Can you trust him?
 - b. Do you honor GOD one day per week? Should you honor him every day?

- c. Do you make time to worship GOD with other believers?
- d. What does the NT say about keeping the Sabbath? See Matt. 12:1-14 and Col. 2:16-17.

Knowing God

- 1. GOD finishes his work (2:1).
- 2. GOD stopped working on the Seventh Day (2:2).
- 3. GOD enables the Seventh Day, providing for people even when they rest from work (2:3).
- 4. GOD makes the Seventh Day holy, separating it for his special use (2:3).

Walking with God

- 1. Prioritize relationships and worship with other believers even when you are busy and especially when you are struggling. Give yourself and others permission for occasional exceptions.
- 2. Trust GOD to provide food and other needs even when you take time to rest from work in order to worship.

Author's Message

GOD completes his work and rests on the Seventh Day. He enables this day and makes it holy—a day dedicated to GOD's purposes.

Summary Notes (1:1-2:3)

Creation Recap

The following chart summarizes GOD'S creative work for each day. GOD shapes the formless land during the first three days (see left columns). He then fills the sky, seas, and land on the next three days (see right columns). GOD completes his creative work on the Seventh Day and makes that day holy. (Adapted from WALT, p. 57.)

God shapes the formless land.		God fills the empty land.	
GOD <u>creates</u> everything (1:1).			
1	GOD <u>creates</u> light and <u>separates</u> light from darkness (1:3-5).	4	GOD <u>fills</u> the sky with the sun, moon, and stars and <u>separates</u> light from darkness (1:14-19).
2	GOD <u>creates</u> the sky and <u>separates</u> waters above and below it (1:6-8).	5	GOD <u>fills</u> the sky with birds and <u>fills</u> the seas with fish (1:20-23).
3	GOD <u>gathers</u> the waters and <u>separates</u> the land from the seas (1:9-10). GOD <u>creates</u> plants and trees on the land (1:11-13).	6	GOD <u>fills</u> the land with animals (1:24-25). GOD <u>creates</u> people in his image to <u>fill</u> the land and to <u>rule</u> creation (1:26-31).
7	GOD <u>completes</u> creation (2:1-2). GOD <u>makes</u> the Seventh Day <u>holy</u> (2:3)		

Repeated Key Words

1. **GOD** (he) **creates** (6x): 1:1, 21, 27 (3x); and 2:3.
 - GOD is the Creator. He **creates** everything.
2. **GOD** (he) **makes** (8x): 1:7, 16, 25, 26, 31; 2:2 (2x), and 3.
 - GOD is the Creator. He **makes** everything.
3. **GOD commands** (11x): 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 29.
 - GOD creates by his word, **commanding** things and creatures to exist.
4. **GOD sees** (7x): 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31.
 - GOD **looks** over his creation seven times to assess the quality of his work.
5. **GOD** (he) **names** (5x): 1:5, 8 (2x), and 10 (2x).
 - GOD creates everything and holds authority to **name** his creation. He rules over all creation.
6. **GOD enables** (3x): 1:22, 28; and 2:3.
 - GOD **enables** fish and birds to fill the sea and sky. He freely gives people the ability to populate the land and govern all the creatures. He makes the Seventh Day special, meeting the people's needs even as they rest.
 - GOD enables his creatures to obey his commands.
7. **Then it became so** (6x): 1:7, 9, 11, 15, 24, and 30.
 - GOD creates instantly. No creative act spanned a long period of time.
8. **It was** (very) **good** (7x): 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31.
 - Six times GOD observes the **goodness** of his handiwork. He sees the world as **very good** after creating people.
 - GOD is good. He creates a good creation.
9. **Separates** (5x): 1:4, 6, 7, 14, and 18.
 - GOD creates order in the chaos by **separating** light from darkness, day from night, and the land from the seas.

10. **Rule** (3x), **govern** (2x), and **harness** (1x): 1:16 (2x), 18, 26, 28 (2x).
 - The sun **reigns** over the day and the moon **rules** the night. People **govern** all the creatures in the sea, sky, and land.
 - GOD delegates his authority.
11. **According to its variety** (10x): 1:11, 12 (2x), 21 (2x), 24 (2x), and 25 (2x).
 - Plants, fish, birds, and animals all reproduce according to their **variety**.
12. **Image** (3x) and **likeness** (1x): 1:26 and 27.
 - People uniquely resemble GOD and rule creation as his agent.
13. **Be fruitful, grow in number, and fill** (2x): 1:22 and 28.
 - GOD commands fish and birds to pack the seas and the sky. GOD directs people to **fill** the land.
 - GOD wants his world fully populated.
14. **Evening and morning** (6x): 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31.
 - Moses pictures each creative act occurring during a typical day with an **evening** and a **morning**.

Walking with God

1. Believe GOD created everything.
2. Trust in GOD's goodness.
3. Praise GOD for his power, wisdom, and creativity shown through creation.
4. Worship GOD but not his creation.
5. Remember that all people—from every tribe, language, and race—reflect GOD's image.
6. Make time for worship and rest from work.

Author's Messages

1. GOD creates everything in six days.

2. People reflect GOD's image and hold the highest rank in his creation.
3. GOD enables people to populate the land, and he charges them with the management of creation.
4. GOD stops his creative work on the Seventh Day and enables us to rest from our work on that day as well.

Final Challenges:

1. Reflect on the power and wisdom GOD demonstrated when he created the sky, the land, and everything in them.
 - a. How should a deeper understanding of GOD's creative power affect your confidence in prayer?
 - b. How would thinking about GOD's wisdom encourage you to trust him in difficult times?
2. Take a few moments to review the Knowing GOD sections of Gen. 1:1-2:3. Then reflect on the words of this Hebrew song:

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
 who made heaven and earth.
(Ps. 121:1-2, ESV)

Creating Man and Woman (2:4-25)

Moses, the author, signals the start of a new section with the phrase “this is the account of.” Moses employs this phrase eleven times and breaks the rest of the book of Genesis into eleven sections. (Review the entire list in “Moses’s Outline of Genesis” on p. 151.)

The first section spans Gen. 2:4-4:26. Moses explains why the “very good” world no longer remains perfect. He covers three topics:

1. Creation of Man and Woman (2:4-25).
2. Rebellion of the Woman and Man (3:1-24).
3. Consequences of this Rebellion (4:1-26).

We will explore the first topic—The Creation of Man and Woman—in this volume of the *ABH-BFL*. Moses describes three events in detail:

1. GOD’s careful crafting of a man (2:4-9).
2. GOD’s generous provision with one single restriction (2:10-17).
3. GOD’s creation of a companion, perfectly matched for the man (2:18-25).

Our Broken World, a future book in the *ABH-BFL* series, will cover the rebellion and its consequences.

A Handcrafted Man (2:4-9)

4	This is the account of ■ the sky ■ and the land a) when they were created, b) in the day the LORD GOD made ■ the land ■ and the sky.
5	a) Now shrubs of the pasturelands were not yet in the land, b) and vegetation of the pasturelands had not yet <u>sprouted</u>. ■ For the LORD GOD had not <u>sent rain</u> upon the land, ■ and there was no man to work the ground.
6	a) Now a spring continually <u>went up</u> from the land, b) and it <u>watered</u> the whole surface of the ground.
7	a) Then the LORD GOD <u>formed</u> the man ■ of topsoil ■ from the ground. b) And he <u>breathed</u> into his nostrils the breath of life, c) so the man <u>became</u> a living creature.

A Handcrafted Man (2:4-9)	
8	a) Then the LORD GOD <u>planted</u> an orchard ■ in Eden, ■ in the east. b) Then he <u>put</u> the man there, whom he had <u>formed</u>.
9 A	For the LORD GOD had caused every tree to <u>sprout up</u> from the ground— ■ trees that are desirable to see ■ and good for food.
9 B	a) Now the Tree of Life was in the middle of the orchard, b) and also the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Moses begins this section with a pattern similar to the beginning of Genesis (see ROSS, p. 119).

1. The pattern in Gen. 1:1-3 is:
 - a. A summary statement: “GOD creates the sky and the land.”
 - b. Background information: Moses describes the conditions present before GOD begins his creative work (see p. 19).
 - c. The story begins: “Then GOD commanded, ‘Let there be light.’”
2. The pattern in Gen. 2:4-7 is:
 - a. A summary statement: “This is the account of the sky

- and the land.”
- b. Background information: Moses describes four conditions existing before GOD begins his creative work (see below).
 3. The story begins: “Then GOD forms the man.” Moses connects Gen. 2:4-7 with Gen. 1:1-3 to reveal his purpose. He will report details in Gen. 2:4-4:26 of what happens to the “very good” creation of Gen. 1:1-2:3 (see ROSS, p. 119).

2:4

1. What: Moses marks the beginning of a new section with the phrase “**this is the account of**.”
 - a. Some believe that Gen. 2:4-25 represents a description of creation from another viewpoint.
 - b. However, the heading “this is the account of” indicates that Moses writes for another reason (see NET).
 - Gen. 2:4-4:26 forms a single unified section.
 - In this section, Moses describes what happens to the sky and the land that GOD created in Genesis 1 (see NET).
 - GOD handcrafts a man, places him in a bountiful orchard, and makes him a perfectly matched companion (see Gen. 2:4-25).
 - The man and woman disobey GOD’s one restriction, so GOD banishes them from the orchard (see Gen. 3:1-24).
 - Death enters the perfect world when one son, Cain, kills another son, Abel (see Gen. 4:1-26).
 - Moses explains in Gen. 2:4-4:26 why we no longer experience the “very good” world GOD created.
2. Links: Moses employs six words from the recap of the creation story (see Gen. 2:1-3) in Gen. 2:4. He repeats these words: GOD, created, made, day, sky, and land.

- a. He did not forget what he just wrote in the prior three verses.
 - b. Moses, a brilliant author empowered by GOD'S SPIRIT, intentionally chooses these words. He shouts, waves his arms, and jumps to confirm the connection between this new section and the previous one.
 - The first section (see Gen. 1:1-2:3) describes how GOD made the "very good" world. This next section (see Gen. 2:4-4:26) reports what happens to that "very good" world.
 - He answers the question, "How did the perfect world become a broken world?"
3. Who: The LORD GOD. Moses uses two names for GOD throughout Gen. 2:4-4:26.
- a. GOD (*Elohim*).
 - Moses uses GOD's name "Elohim" twenty-five times in this section. He combines *Elohim* with "Yahweh" (LORD) twenty times (see below). *Elohim* stands alone five times.
 - *Elohim* describes the Creator of everything and the GOD over all GODs. He exists as the one true GOD. (See comments on Gen. 1:1 on p. 9.)
 - Moses uses *Elohim* exclusively as he records GOD's creation of the sky and the land in Gen. 1:1-2:3.
 - b. LORD (*Yahweh*).
 - Moses employs GOD's name "Yahweh" thirty times in this section. He joins *Yahweh* with *Elohim* (GOD) twenty times. *Yahweh* stands alone ten times.
 - Moses uses the name *Yahweh* when describing GOD as one who makes treaties with people (see WALT, p. 84).
 - GOD reveals the name Yahweh to Moses at the burning bush by stating, "I AM WHO I AM." He then

charges Moses, “Tell the Hebrew people that ‘I AM’ sent you” (see Ex. 3:13-15, ESV).

- GOD describes himself with this phrase to indicate at least three things:
 - He is self-sufficient.
 - He is independent of creation.
 - His presence itself guarantees the fulfillment of his treaties with people (see NET).
 - The Hebrew people avoid saying the name *Yahweh* out loud because they consider this name so holy.
- 4. Actions: Moses creatively summarizes Gen. 1:1-2:3 by recording two actions with similar meanings (“creates” and “makes”) and by reversing the word order of everything created (“sky and land” becomes “land and sky”). Moses emphasizes that the LORD GOD created everything.
 - a. GOD **creates** the sky and the land.
 - b. GOD **makes** the land and the sky.
- 5. When: The Hebrew word for “day” may represent various time periods, including daylight, a twenty-four-hour day, a special day, or even a period of time.
 - a. Moses repeats two patterns in Gen. 1:1-2:3 to show he intends a typical twenty-four-hour day (see p. 24).
 - b. Moses writes in Gen. 2:4, “in the **day** the LORD GOD made the land and the sky.” He summarizes the entire week of creation using the word **day**.
- 6. Challenges:
 - a. Do you believe GOD created everything?
 - b. How does Moses’s use of two of GOD’s names in this section provide a better understanding of our great GOD?
 - Why is the name *Elohim* an appropriate name for GOD in the creation account of Gen. 1:1-2:3?
 - If the name *Yahweh* describes a GOD who makes

treaties with people, what might we expect to read in Gen. 2:4-4:26?

- c. Do you treat GOD's name as holy?
 - Do you use it as a curse word?
 - Do you use it casually (Oh my GOD!)?
 - See Ex. 20:7 for a warning against misusing GOD's name.

2:5

1. What: Moses describes two things that do **not yet** exist when the LORD GOD creates man.
 - a. **Shrubs** are not yet growing. In fact, Moses does not mention shrubs in the creation story of Gen. 1:1-2:3.
 - b. **Vegetation** has not yet **sprouted**. Moses uses these two words from Gen. 1:11-12 to remind us that no vegetation existed yet on the third day of creation.
2. When:
 - a. GOD gathers the waters into one place on the third day to make the dry ground appear (see Gen. 1:9-10).
 - b. Then GOD commands the land to **sprout vegetation** consisting of green plants and trees (see Gen. 1:11-12).
 - c. The conditions recorded in Gen. 2:5 (no shrubs or vegetation) exist after the forming of the dry ground but before the sprouting of the vegetation.
3. Where: Both shrubs and vegetation will grow in the **pasturelands** and open fields.
4. Why: Moses gives two reasons for the lack of shrubs and vegetation:
 - a. GOD has **not yet sent rain**.
 - b. **No man** exists to work the ground.
5. Who:
 - a. **GOD** sends the rain.
 - b. The **man** works the ground.

6. Links: Moses, a gifted writer, previews future events (see ROSS, p. 122).
 - a. The **man** will **work** the **ground** after GOD expels him from the orchard (see Gen. 3:23).
 - b. **GOD** will send **rain** when he destroys the **land** with the great flood (see Gen. 7:4).

2:6

1. What: An underground river forms a spring which provides water.
2. Actions: Moses gives two more examples of what the earth was like before GOD formed man.
 - a. Water from the underground river **goes up** to the surface of the land.
 - b. These springs **water** the surface of the ground.
3. How many: The springs water the **whole surface** of the ground. No area lacks abundant water for vegetation.
4. Challenges:
 - a. GOD created an underground river to water the entire land. What does this tell us about GOD's provision?
 - b. If the original perfect world enjoyed abundant water, why do we see deserts and suffer under droughts?

2:7

1. What: The story of man's creation now begins.
 - a. Moses employs a series of action words using a specific form in Gen. 2:7-9.
 - b. We translate these phrases literally as "and he formed," "and he breathed," "and he became," "and he planted," "and he put," and "and he caused to sprout."
 - c. This structure signals to Hebrew readers that they are reading a true story. Moses reports these actions as facts occurring in the past (see CHIS, p. 95).

2. Who: The LORD GOD performs the actions in Gen. 2:7-9.
3. Actions:
 - a. GOD **forms** the man from topsoil.
 - GOD creates fish, birds, and animals by issuing commands in Gen. 1:20 and 1:26.
 - GOD uses a different method to create the man in Gen. 2:7-9. He carefully forms the man from the topsoil like a skilled potter making priceless pottery.
 - Perhaps he kneels on the ground, gathers topsoil with his arms, and fashions the topsoil into a man.
 - b. GOD **breathes** the breath of life into the man's nostrils.
 - Birds and animals also possess "living breath" (see Gen. 1:30). Moses doesn't describe how they received their breath.
 - Moses focuses on the man. Intimacy intensifies as the story unfolds.
 - GOD not only handcrafts the man, but he also gives him life.
 - Perhaps after carefully shaping his masterpiece, GOD kneels over the man, puts his mouth on the man's nose, and breathes life into the man.
 - c. People represent the highpoint of creation. They reflect GOD's image and somehow resemble GOD himself (see Gen. 1:26-27). What a mystery! What a picture this story portrays!
4. How: GOD forms the man of **topsoil** from the **ground**.
 - a. The Hebrew word for **man** is "adam."
 - b. The Hebrew word for **ground** is "adamah."
 - c. Moses skillfully writes "GOD forms the adam from the adamah" to remind us of our humble beginnings. When pride tempts us, we should remember we come from the ground.

5. When:
 - a. Gen. 2:5-6 describes conditions present on the third day.
 - b. GOD creates man and woman on the Sixth Day (see Gen. 1:26-27).
 - c. The events of Gen. 2:7-9 occur on the Sixth Day.
6. Why: GOD breathes into the man's nostrils to enable him to become a **living creature**.
7. How many: GOD creates one **man**. No woman exists yet.
8. Challenges:
 - a. How does the picture of GOD carefully forming man affect your understanding of GOD? How does the name *Yahweh* (LORD) fit this picture?
 - b. Does the description of GOD breathing life into the man surprise you? What does this imply about GOD's love and relationship with man?
 - c. Thank GOD for his gift of breath today.
 - d. Does pride or self-sufficiency tempt you? If so, remember that people come from the ground and will return to topsoil at death (see Gen. 3:19).
 - e. Submit to his authority as your Creator. Ask him to guide your steps.

2:8

1. Who: The LORD GOD.
2. What: An **orchard**.
 - a. Most translations use "garden" in this verse.
 - b. A "garden" in central United States describes a small, cultivated area where people grow vegetables. In contrast, no cultivation takes place in Eden's "garden" (see Gen. 2:5).
 - c. GOD packs Eden's "garden" with beautiful fruit trees (see Gen. 1:11-12; 29; 2:9, 2:16-17).

- d. The word “orchard” paints a better picture of this land in Eden (see NET). The *ABH-BFL* will use “orchard” throughout this section rather than the traditional “garden.”
- e. GOD uniquely dwells in this orchard (see WALT, p 84 and Gen. 3:8).

3. Actions:

- a. The LORD GOD **plants** an orchard.
- b. GOD **puts** the man in the orchard.
- c. Moses identifies the man as the one GOD **had formed** from topsoil.

4. Where: Moses locates the orchard in the region of **Eden**.

- a. The name Eden means “pleasure.”
- b. A very old translation (see LXX) uses the word “paradise” for Eden. Moses depicts a paradise in Gen. 2 (see WALT 85-86).
- c. Eden is **east** of the land of the Hebrew people.

5. When:

- a. GOD forms the man (see Gen. 2:7).
- b. Then GOD plants the orchard.
- c. Then GOD places the man in the orchard.

6. How: Moses doesn’t offer details on how GOD **put** the man in the orchard. The words may imply that GOD carried him there.

7. Challenges:

- a. GOD planted an orchard for the man. What does this tell us about GOD and his care for man?
- b. GOD located the orchard in a region named Eden or “Paradise.” What does this tell us about GOD’s goodness?
- c. What happened to Eden? Why does the land east of Israel no longer exist as a paradise?

2:9-A

1. Who: The LORD GOD.
2. How: Moses reports that GOD plants an orchard in Gen. 2:8. He now provides details about how GOD creates the orchard and what the orchard looks like.
3. When:
 - a. This verse explains the origin of the orchard.
 - b. GOD creates this orchard on the Sixth Day after he creates the man.
 - c. GOD created all other trees, those outside the orchard, on the third day.
4. Action: GOD plants the orchard by **causing** trees to **sprout**.
5. Where:
 - a. The trees sprout from the **ground**.
 - b. The orchard grows in the region of **Eden** (see Gen. 2:8).
6. How many: GOD causes **every** tree to sprout. Gen. 1:11-12 indicates that the trees bear fruit.
7. What: Moses describes two characteristics of the orchard's trees.
 - a. These trees displayed incredible beauty that would create a healthy **desire** to feast one's eyes.
 - We can relate to this story by appreciating beautiful trees around us.
 - Maple trees in the northern United States display breathtaking colors in the fall.
 - Cherry blossoms in the spring produce the same effect.
 - This beauty should encourage us to worship the Creator.
 - b. These trees bear **good** fruit for the people's **food**.
 - GOD provides fruit and green plants for food (see Gen. 1:29).
 - This fruit likely includes certain nuts, like almonds,

walnuts, and cashews (see notes on Gen. 1:29).

- The fruit is good, just like everything GOD created. Moses reminds us of his creation account in Gen. 1 where he uses “good” seven times (see page 73).

8. Links: Remember these words when reading Gen. 3:1-7: fruit, tree, orchard, good, food, desirable, see/eyes.

9. Challenges:

- a. GOD filled the orchard with beautiful trees bearing tasty fruit. What does this tell us about GOD’s generosity?
- b. Is GOD good because he creates good fruit?

2:9-B

1. What: Moses captures our attention by mentioning two unique **trees**.

a. **Tree of Life**.

b. **Tree of Knowledge**.

2. Where: Both trees grow in the **middle** of the orchard.

3. Why: Moses amplifies our curiosity with his brief description of the trees. We need to keep reading to learn more.

4. Links:

a. The **Tree of Life** reenters the story in Gen. 3:22, 24. The tree also plays a key role at the end of the Bible (see Rev. 2:7; 22:2, 14, and 19). People who eat from this tree will live forever (see Gen. 3:22).

b. The **Tree of Knowledge** becomes the test case for man’s obedience to his creator (see Gen. 2:17; 3:2, 6, 11, 12, 17). People who eat from this tree will certainly die (see Gen. 2:17).

5. Challenges:

- a. Should we believe these trees really existed? Or should we understand them as symbols?

- b. How should we respond, knowing that the Hebrew readers understood Genesis as a true account of actual events (see p. 86)?

Knowing God

1. GOD creates the sky, the land, and everything in them.
2. GOD provides for his creation. He creates a spring that waters the whole land.
3. GOD prizes people. He handcrafts the first man and gives him the breath of life.
4. GOD gives people everything they need. He plants an orchard filled with beautiful trees bearing delicious fruit and nuts.

Walking with God

1. Treat GOD's name as holy.
2. Thank GOD for giving you life and breath today.
3. Submit to GOD's authority as your Creator.
4. Will you live forever because you possess eternal life?
 - a. If you don't know, take a few minutes now to express your belief and trust in JESUS, GOD's perfect SON (see John 3:16).
 - b. If you currently trust JESUS, thank him for his gift of never-ending life (see John 11:25-26).

Author's Message

The LORD GOD handcrafts a man and plants a beautiful orchard to provide everything he needs.

One Restriction (2:10-17)

10	a) Now a river <u>flows out</u> from Eden to water the orchard. b) And from there it <u>divides</u> c) and <u>becomes</u> four riverheads.
11	a) Now the name of the first is the Pishon. ➤ It <u>surrounds</u> the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.
12	➤ And the gold of that land is good. ➤ Fragrant gum and onyx stone are there.
13	b) And the name of the second river is the Gihon. ➤ It <u>surrounds</u> the whole land of Ethiopia.
14 A	c) And the name of the third river is the Tigris. ➤ It <u>runs</u> east of Assyria.
14 B	d) And the fourth river— ➤ it is the Euphrates.
15	a) Then the LORD GOD <u>took</u> the man b) and <u>settled</u> him in the orchard of Eden ■ to work it ■ and to guard it.
16	And the LORD GOD <u>commanded</u> the man, saying, 1) “YOU MAY CERTAINLY EAT ➤ from every tree of the orchard.

One Restriction (2:10-17)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 17 | 2) But YOU WILL NOT EAT
➤ from the Tree of Knowledge
of Good and Evil,
for you will certainly die
in the day
when you eat from it.” |
|----|---|

Moses provides additional background information in Gen. 2:10-14. He resumes the creation story in Gen. 2:15-17.

2:10

1. What: An unnamed **river**.
 - a. An underground river forms a spring (see Gen. 2:6).
 - b. This spring creates a river above ground and waters the orchard.
2. Actions:
 - a. The river **flows out** of the region of Eden.
 - b. The river **divides** outside of Eden.
 - c. The river **becomes** the headwaters for four new rivers.
3. When: Moses uses present tense action words (flows, divides, becomes) not typical for a historical story. This implies that Eden, its rivers, and perhaps even the orchard existed when Moses wrote Genesis (see NET).
4. Where: The river flows out **from Eden**.
5. Why: GOD uses the river **to water** his orchard.
6. How many: Eden's river becomes **four** new rivers.
7. Links: The River of Life will flow from GOD's throne on the New Earth when GOD again dwells with people (see Rev. 22:1-2).
8. Challenge: If Eden and its rivers still existed when Moses wrote Genesis, how would that information affect your trust

in this story? In the book of Genesis?

2:11-12

1. What: Moses lists the **Pishon** River first. This river does not exist today.
2. Action: The Pishon **surrounds** the ancient land of Havilah.
3. Where: The Pishon flows around **Havilah**.
 - a. People named lands in the ancient world after their first settlers. The **land** of Havilah received its name from the person Havilah.
 - b. Moses describes the **person** Havilah as a great-grandson of Noah, who built the ark. Havilah's father was Cush and his grandfather Ham (see Gen. 10:6-7).
 - c. It seems Havilah left his father's region of Cush (see Gen. 2:13) and migrated to the east of the Red Sea.
 - d. Bible students locate the **land** of Havilah in western Saudi Arabia to the north of Yemen (see PEB, vol. 3, p. 48).
4. How many: The Pishon encircles the **whole** land of Havilah.
5. When:
 - a. Moses employs an action word indicating the Pishon River still existed when he wrote Genesis (see NET).
 - b. The land of Havilah also still existed at the time of Moses's writing (see Gen. 25:18).
6. Why: Moses describes both the Pishon River and the land of Havilah since the Hebrew people did not know about them.
7. How: Three features made the land of Havilah famous.
 - a. Havilah contained an abundant supply of pure gold.
 - b. Certain trees in that region produced fragrant yellow gum.
 - c. The land contained precious onyx stones. This gem is often solid black, but some display parallel bands of color.

2:13

1. What: Moses identifies the second river as the **Gihon**. This river does not exist today.
2. Action: The Gihon **surrounds** the ancient land of Cush.
3. Where: The Gihon flows around the **land of Cush**.
 - a. The **person** Cush was the grandson of Noah and father of Havilah.
 - b. Cush settled west of the Red Sea in what we now call Ethiopia. The **land** of Cush bore his name.
4. How many: The Gihon encircled the **whole** land of Cush.
5. When: The Gihon River and the land of Cush both existed when Moses wrote Genesis.
6. Why: Moses identifies the location of the Gihon River because people didn't know about this river either. He doesn't need to describe the land of Cush.

2:14-A

1. What: Moses identifies the third river as the **Tigris**. It still exists today.
2. Action: The Tigris River **runs** along the eastern side of ancient Assyria.
3. Where: The Tigris flows **east** of Assyria.
 - a. When Moses wrote Genesis, Assyria existed as a small, obscure nation that had lost its independence (see PEB, vol. 1, p. 374).
 - b. Centuries later, Assyria became a world power. It controlled modern-day Iraq and portions of Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Egypt.
4. When:
 - a. Maps picturing Assyria during Moses's day show the Tigris running along the east side of Assyria.
 - b. Maps detailing Assyria in the later period, when it reigned as a world empire, show the Tigris flowing

- through the middle of Assyria.
- c. The phrase “east of Assyria” confirms the accuracy of Moses’s account.
5. Why: Moses merely locates the river. The Hebrew people knew about this river and the land of Assyria.

2:14-B

1. What: Moses identifies the fourth river as the **Euphrates**. It still exists today.
2. Where: The Euphrates runs south and east of the Tigris River. It starts in northeastern Turkey, flows through Syria and Iraq, and empties into the Persian Gulf.
3. Why:
 - a. The Euphrates River needs no introduction to the Hebrews.
 - b. Why does Moses provide so much information about the rivers?
 - Readers could validate Moses’s account by asking travelers about the rivers. Those with means could even travel to the rivers to see them firsthand.
 - The descriptions of these rivers confirm the true nature of Moses’s account (see WALT, p. 87).
4. Challenge: How do Moses’s details about the four rivers affect your belief in the accuracy of his account?

2:15

1. What: Moses resumes his creation story after describing the four rivers.
2. Links:
 - a. The repetition of six words from Gen. 2:8 forms the connection.
 - b. The words are LORD GOD, settled/put, man, orchard, and Eden.

3. Who: The LORD GOD.
4. Actions:
 - a. GOD **takes** the man whom he formed.
 - b. GOD **settles** the man in the orchard.
5. Why: GOD gives the man two responsibilities.
 - a. The man **works** the orchard.
 - GOD assigns this purpose prior to man's rebellion. GOD gives work as part of his good plan for people (see WALT, p. 87).
 - Working the orchard likely involves pruning the fruit trees to make them bear more fruit. GOD himself acts as a master pruner in our lives (see John 15:1-5).
 - Working the **ground** did not play a part in GOD's original plan (see notes on Gen. 2:5).
 - b. The man **guards** and protects the orchard.
6. When: The timeframe of Gen. 2:15 matches Gen. 2:8. Both verses refer to the same event.
7. Where: The man settles in the **orchard** of **Eden**. He works in and guards that orchard.
8. Challenges:
 - a. Why did the man need to guard the orchard?
 - b. What danger existed in GOD's perfect world?
9. Links: Remember the word "**guard**" when you read Gen. 3

2:16

1. Who: The LORD GOD.
2. Action: GOD issues a positive **command**, granting the man permission to eat.
 - a. Moses uses the specific Hebrew word for "command" in this verse, not just "said" like in Gen. 1. (See notes on Gen. 1:3 on pp. 23-24.)
 - b. Moses uses command 252 times in his five books on Hebrew law.

- c. Gen. 2:16-17 records GOD's first formal commands to man.
- 3. What:
 - a. GOD permits the man to **eat** from any and every tree in the orchard.
 - b. Moses repeats the word "**eat**" twice in the original Hebrew to emphasize the **certainty** of the permission.
 - A Hebrew reader might hear, "You may eat to your heart's content" (see ROSS, p. 125).
 - We translate this phrase in the *ABH-BFL* as "you may certainly eat."
- 4. When: GOD issues the command after settling the man in the orchard.
- 5. Where: The man may freely eat from any tree **in the orchard**.
 - a. People already received permission to eat from any fruit tree and any green plants with seeds that grew outside the orchard (see Gen. 1:29).
 - b. Moses contrasts this generous permission of Gen. 2:16 with the strict prohibition of Gen. 2:17.
- 6. How many: GOD gives fruit from any and **every** tree to man for food.
- 7. Challenges:
 - a. What does GOD's permission to freely eat from any and every tree teach us about him?
 - b. Did GOD withhold anything good from the man?
 - c. Did the man lack anything?

2:17

- 1. Who: The LORD GOD.
- 2. Action: GOD issues a negative **command**, forbidding the man to eat.
- 3. What: Moses turns our attention to one of the unique trees he mentions in Gen. 2:9b.

- a. GOD forbids man from eating of the **Tree of Knowledge**.
 - b. The Tree of Knowledge serves as a test of allegiance to the LORD GOD.
 - Will the man focus on all GOD provided?
 - Will he trust GOD to give good commandments because GOD is good?
 - Will he choose to obey his Creator?
 - c. Moses repeats the word “die” twice in the original Hebrew to emphasize the **certainty** of the punishment.
 - We translate this phrase in the *ABH-BFL* as “you will certainly die.”
 - Moses uses a similar arrangement as the “you may certainly eat” permission of Gen. 2:16. The repetition of the structure adds gravity to the consequences for disobedience.
4. GOD offers two reasons for his command.
- a. The man will know **good** and **evil** if he eats from the Tree of Knowledge.
 - Only GOD possesses infinite wisdom to know what makes life good or bad (see WALT, p. 86).
 - The man will bypass GOD’s plan if he eats fruit from the forbidden tree.
 - b. The man will **certainly die** if he eats from this tree.
 - The original readers understood that this punishment describes physical death. Moses employs the phrase “and he died” eight times in Gen. 5 to emphasize this point.
 - NT authors understand that the punishment also involves “spiritual” death. Paul writes these words to believers in a very old city called Ephesus:

And you were **dead**
in the trespasses and sins
in which you once walked,
following the course of this world,
following the prince of the power
of the air...
and were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of mankind.
(Eph. 2:1-2, ESV, emphasis added)

5. When:

- a. The phrase “**when** you eat from it” implies that GOD knows the man will rebel.
 - GOD knows everything that occurred even in the distant past. He knows everything happening now. He knows everything that will take place in the future.
 - Read these words from the prophet Isaiah:

Remember the former things of old.
For I am GOD,
and there is no other.
I am GOD,
and there is none like me.
I declare the end from the beginning
and from ancient times
things not yet done.
(Isa. 46:9-10a, ESV)

- b. The man will die in the very **day** he eats from the tree.
 - Moses refers to a typical twenty-four-hour day like in Gen. 1.
 - The sting of the warning swells with the expectation

of immediate death.

- Keep this warning in mind as we read Gen. 3 and 4.

6. How many: GOD forbids only one tree.

7. Challenges:

- a. Did GOD unfairly prohibit the man from eating the fruit of this unique tree? Did GOD act meanly or selfishly?
- b. If you lived in this orchard, would you rejoice in GOD's generous permission to eat to your heart's content? Or would you resent the one restriction?
- c. The name *Yahweh* (LORD) portrays a GOD who makes treaties and agreements with people (see pp. 82-83). Does GOD enact a treaty with the man in Gen. 2:16-17? If so, what benefits does he offer? What does he require? What consequences result if the man breaks this treaty?
- d. Imagine that GOD gave you this command in the orchard. What steps might you take to avoid eating from the prohibited tree?
- e. How carefully would you obey GOD if you knew breaking his command meant certain death?

Knowing God

1. GOD cares for his creation. He waters the orchard with a river and irrigates the land with its four tributaries.
2. GOD delegates responsibility to man. GOD assigns the care of the orchard to the man.
3. GOD is generous, giving people everything they need. He permits the man to eat all he wants from any tree in the orchard except one.
4. GOD knows what makes life good and bad. People need to trust his wisdom and plan.
5. GOD requires obedience and punishes disobedience. People must obey GOD's commands.

Walking with God

1. Trust in GOD's good character. Know that his restrictions protect you from harm.
2. List five important responsibilities GOD gave you. Ask him to help you fulfill these duties.
3. Imagine that GOD gave you the "do not eat" command in the orchard. How would you respond? Would you tell your spouse? Would you build a protective fence around the tree?
4. Do you seek to know and obey GOD's commandments?
JESUS identifies the two greatest.

You shall love the LORD your GOD
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind.

This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

(Matt. 22:37-39, ESV)

Author's Messages

1. GOD settles the handcrafted man in his beautiful orchard. He gives the man the responsibility of working and protecting it.
2. GOD generously allows the man to eat from any and every tree in the orchard except one.
3. GOD forbids the man from eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. He warns that the punishment of certain death follows disobedience.
4. GOD intends for the man to eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.

A Matching Companion (2:18-25)

18	Then the LORD GOD <u>said</u>, a) “It is not good for the man to be alone. b) I will <u>make</u> a helper ➤ fitting for him.”
19 A	a) For the LORD GOD had <u>formed</u> from the ground ■ every living thing of the pasturelands, ■ and every flying thing of the sky.
19 B	b) Then he <u>brought</u> them to the man to see what he would <u>name</u> them. c) Now whatever the man <u>named</u> the living creature, that was its name.
20 A	Then the man <u>named</u> names ■ to all livestock, ■ and to the flying things of the sky, ■ and to every living thing of the pasturelands.
20 B	But for Adam, there was not <u>found</u> a helper ➤ fitting for him.

21	a) Then the LORD GOD caused deep sleep to fall upon the man. b) While he slept, c) GOD took one part of his side. d) Then he closed it up with flesh in its place.
22	a) Then the LORD GOD built the side, which he had taken from the man, into a woman. b) And he brought her to the man.
23	Then the man said, a) “This one at last is ■ bone from my bones ■ and flesh from my flesh! b) This one will be named ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.
24	a) Therefore a husband will leave ■ his father ■ and his mother, b) and he will cling firmly with his wife. c) Then they will become one flesh.
25	a) For they were both naked— ■ the man ■ and his wife— b) and they were not ashamed.

GOD shocks us when he announces, “It is not good” (see Gen. 2:18). Earlier, GOD evaluated creation and declared, “It is very good” (see Gen. 1:31). Did he make a mistake?

2:18

1. Who: The **LORD GOD** speaks.
 - a. When GOD creates people in Gen. 1:26-27, he says, “Let **us** make people in **our** image.” The words “us” and “our” hint that GOD exists as “three yet one” (see pp. 22, 58).
 - b. GOD announces in Gen. 2:18, “**I** will make a helper fitting for him.” The word **I** emphasizes the oneness of GOD.
2. How many: Man is **alone**.
3. How: Man’s aloneness is the only thing **not good** in all creation.
4. Why: A man alone cannot grow in number nor fill the land. He cannot harness the land nor govern the creatures by himself (see Gen. 1:28).
5. Actions:
 - a. GOD **speaks**.
 - b. GOD will **make** a helper for the man.
 - Moses uses the word “make” to link this account back to Gen. 1:1-2:3 where he employs the word eight times.
 - He specifically connects Gen. 2:18 to Gen. 1:26. Both verses discuss GOD making people.
6. What:
 - a. The LORD GOD will make a **helper**.
 - A helper is not a mere servant or a person of lower rank.
 - Moses describes GOD as his helper (see Ex. 18:4).
 - JESUS teaches that the HOLY SPIRIT serves as our

Helper (see John 14:16, 26; 15:26, 16:7).

- A helper provides what another cannot accomplish for himself.
- The man needs someone to help because he cannot fulfill his responsibilities alone.
- b. GOD will make a helper that **fits** the man.
 - Moses writes a phrase meaning “like the opposite of him” (see NET).
 - The helper will perfectly fit, suit, correspond, and match the man.
- 7. When: As GOD spoke in Chapter 1, his creative work happened immediately and instantly (see p. 73). We expect the same to occur in this story.
- 8. Challenges:
 - a. The man has no helper. Did GOD forget to make one?
 - b. Husband: how do you treat your wife? Does she feel like a servant?
 - c. Wife: do you understand your value as the helper?
 - d. Couples: How do your spouse’s strengths offset your weaknesses? Thank your spouse for marrying you.

2:19-A

1. Who: The **LORD GOD**.
2. What:
 - a. Animals and other **living things** dwelling in the pasturelands.
 - b. Birds and other **flying things** filling the sky.
3. Action: GOD **forms** these creatures.
4. Where: GOD forms animals and birds from the **ground**. Moses supplements his account in Gen. 1:24-25 with this new detail.
 - a. The **land** produces the animals (see Gen. 1:24).
 - b. GOD makes animals according to their varieties (see

- Gen. 1:25).
- c. GOD forms the animals and birds from the **ground** (see Gen. 2:19-A).
 - d. The land **produces** the animals as GOD **makes** them from the ground (see p. 53-54).
5. When:
- a. GOD forms the birds on the **fifth day** of the creation week (see Gen. 1:21-22).
 - b. GOD forms the animals on the **Sixth Day** (see Gen. 1:45-25).
6. How many: GOD creates **every** bird and animal.

2:19-B

1. Who: The **LORD GOD**.
2. Action: GOD **brings** the animals and birds to the man.
3. What: GOD tasks the man with naming the birds and animals.
 - a. Assigning names in the ancient world shows authority (see p. 23 and WALT, p. 56).
 - b. GOD delegates his ruling authority to the man.
4. Why: GOD wants to **see** what the man chooses to name the creatures.
 - a. Moses does not write, "GOD brings the creatures to the man so that the man can name them."
 - b. Moses writes, "GOD brings the creatures to the man so that GOD can see what the man chooses to name them."
 - GOD looks over his creation seven times in Chapter 1 to assess the quality of his work (see p. 64). He concludes six times that creation is good.
 - In Gen. 2:19 GOD watches the man—the highpoint of creation—in action.
 - Perhaps the man's skill in naming the creatures

provides a reason for GOD's "very good" assessment of creation.

5. How:
 - a. GOD accepts **whatever** name the man assigns. GOD approves of the man's judgment.
 - b. Moses does not explain how GOD **brought** the birds and animals to the man.
6. When: GOD delays his creative activity.
 - a. GOD announces he will make a helper for the man in Gen. 2:18.
 - b. But in Gen. 2:19, GOD brings all the animals and birds to the man.
 - c. GOD doesn't make a helper but asks the man to name these creatures.
7. Challenge: Why does GOD delay? Why didn't he create the companion instantly, just like he created everything else instantly (see Gen. 1)?

2:20-A

1. Who: The **man**.
2. Action: The man **names** the creatures.
3. What: Moses employs key words from Chapter 1 to link these accounts.
 - a. The man names the **livestock** (see Gen. 1:24-25).
 - b. He names the **birds** in the **sky** (see Gen. 1:20-21).
 - c. He names the various **living creatures** of the **land** (see Gen. 1:24-25).
4. When:
 - a. The naming occurs after GOD announces his plan to create a helper.
 - b. The naming occurs on the Sixth Day.
5. How many:
 - a. Man names **all** the livestock and **every** living creature.

- We assume he also names all the birds.
- b. GOD creates birds and animals according to their varieties (see pp. 74 and Gen. 1:21, 24-25). The man likely names each variety.
 - c. This naming displays the man's intelligence. He names every variety of bird, livestock, and animal in just a portion of the Sixth Day.
6. How: GOD formed the man as a brilliant adult.
7. Challenges:
- a. Consider the wisdom required to name every animal and bird. Remember the man assigned all the names on the Sixth Day.
 - b. GOD accepts every name the man gave. What does this show us about GOD's trust in the man?
 - c. Imagine you are this man. Would you find satisfaction in naming the animals? Would you feel encouraged when GOD likes the names you give?

2:20-B

1. Who: The man's name is **Adam**.
 - a. The Hebrew word for **man** and **Adam** is the same.
 - b. Moses writes "**the man**" in most of the previous occurrences. The *ABH-BFL* follows Moses's lead and translates these instances as "**the man**."
 - c. He writes just "**man**" here in Gen. 2:20-B. This likely indicates that Moses refers to the man's name, Adam. We translate most of these cases in the *ABH-BFL* as **Adam**.
2. Action: Adam does not **find** a helper.
3. Why: GOD presents all the animals and birds to Adam to see what he chooses to name them.
 - a. GOD likely brings them one pair at a time.
 - b. Adam learns that nothing in all creation corresponds

to him. Nothing matches him or fits him. No suitable helper exists.

- c. Adam now understands GOD's assessment: "It is not good for the man to be alone."

4. Challenges:

- a. Imagine you are Adam. How would you feel when you realized you lacked a companion? Would you feel anger towards GOD for withholding something good? Or would you remember he promised to make a companion (see Gen. 2:18.)?
- b. How did GOD's delay in creating a companion benefit Adam? What did he learn?

2:21

1. Who: The **LORD GOD** and the **man**.
2. Actions:
 - a. GOD performs surgery on the man.
 - He **causes** the man to **fall** into a deep sleep.
 - GOD **takes** part of the man's side.
 - He **closes up** the remaining flesh.
 - b. The man **sleeps**.
3. What:
 - a. GOD removes part of the man's **side**.
 - Many translations use the word "rib" in this verse.
 - The word in the original Hebrew means "side" (see NET). A very old translation confirms the meaning as "side" (see LXX).
 - The *ABH-BFL* follows the Hebrew and uses "side" in its translation.
 - b. GOD replaces what he took with new **flesh**.
4. When: The surgery occurred while Adam **slept**.
5. Why: Moses doesn't offer a reason in Gen. 2:21 for this surgery.

6. How: Moses doesn't provide details describing how GOD performs the surgery.
 - a. GOD already created the sky and the land and everything in them.
 - b. GOD already formed the man from the ground and breathed life into him.
 - c. GOD possesses the wisdom and skill to remove part of Adam's side.
7. Challenges:
 - a. As GOD begins to make Adam's companion, why doesn't he use topsoil from the ground (see Gen. 2:7)? Why does he remove part of Adam's side?
 - b. Does GOD possess the ability to perform a surgery like Moses describes?

2:22

1. Who: The **LORD GOD** and a **woman**.
2. Actions: Moses now reveals the purpose for the surgery.
 - a. GOD **builds** Adam's side into a woman.
 - We expect Moses to use "create," "make," or "form" in this verse. But he selects the word "build."
 - Moses employs this word "build" fifteen additional times in Genesis. For example:
 - Cain builds a city (see Gen. 4:17).
 - Noah builds an altar (see Gen. 8:20).
 - People build a tower (see Gen. 11:2).
 - The woman exists as the only creature in all creation that GOD builds. GOD makes her in a unique way.
 - b. GOD **brings** the woman to the man.
 - Moses uses the same word here that he used in Genesis 2:19b. GOD brings all the birds and animals to the man to see what he decides to name them.
 - GOD now brings the woman to the man to see what

he decides to name her.

3. Why: GOD builds the woman to give Adam a perfectly matched companion. He handcrafts the woman to help the man fulfill his responsibilities. She fits him and corresponds to him.
4. What: GOD crafts the woman from the side removed from Adam. The man and the woman literally come from the same flesh.
5. When:
 - a. GOD builds the woman on the Sixth Day (see Gen. 1:26-27).
 - b. GOD builds the woman **after** he shows Adam his lack.
6. Challenges:
 - a. Why do you think GOD made the woman from the side of man rather than from the topsoil of the ground?
 - b. How do you expect Adam to respond to GOD's handcrafted gift?
 - c. Couples: Do you consider your spouse a handcrafted gift from GOD? If so, thank GOD for his amazing gift. If not, ask him to forgive you and change your heart.
 - d. The name *Yahweh* (LORD) describes a GOD whose very presence guarantees the fulfillment of his treaties (see pp. 82-83). GOD commanded people to populate the land and rule the animals, birds, and fish (see Gen. 1:28).
 - How does GOD's provision of a woman advance his purpose for people?
 - Could the man alone fulfill GOD's purpose?
 - Can we expect GOD to provide what we need to accomplish his purposes?

2:23

1. Who: The **man** and the **woman**.
2. Action: Moses enables us to listen as the man **speaks**. He

records Adam's shouts for joy in response to GOD's priceless gift.

3. When: Adam begins with the exclamation, "This one **at last** is..."
 - a. GOD's delay in building Adam's helper served his purpose.
 - b. The man understands that no one in all creation matches him. No corresponding companion exists.
 - c. Now when Adam sees this woman, he will instinctively know she perfectly completes him.
4. What: GOD built the woman from Adam's side.
 - a. The woman's **bones** came from the bones taken from Adam's side.
 - b. Her **flesh** stems from the flesh removed from the side of Adam.
5. How: GOD **took flesh** and **bones** out of the man to build a fitting helper.
6. Why:
 - a. GOD tasked Adam with naming all the creatures.
 - b. No creature corresponded to man, so Adam did not assign a name similar to his.
 - c. Now Adam aptly names this new creation. He shows his skill with language by using a word for man that sounds similar to a word for woman.
 - The Hebrew word used for man in Gen. 2:23 is "ish."
 - The Hebrew word for woman is "ish-shah."
 - Adam calls her "ish-shah", because GOD took her from the side of the "ish."
 - d. This playful use of words also works in English but not all languages.
 - Adam calls her "woman" because GOD took her from the side of the "man."
 - Similar sounding words are present in languages like

Swahili but not in Spanish.

- c. Assigning names in the ancient world shows authority (see p. 23 and WALT, p. 56.)
- GOD delegated his ruling authority to the man when he tasked Adam with naming the animals.
 - We conclude that GOD assigns Adam authority over the woman as well because Adam gives her a name.
 - Yet man's authority over woman differs from his authority over the animals. GOD commanded both men and women to rule over all creation as a team of equals (see p. 59 and Gen. 1:26, 28).
 - Though equals, Adam takes the lead and assumes responsibility. Any failure belongs to him.
 - Adam carries the responsibility for working and guarding the orchard (see Gen. 2:15).
 - GOD gave Adam the permission to eat from any tree (see Gen. 2:16) and the restriction to not eat from the unique tree (see Gen. 2:17).
 - GOD assigned the responsibility and issued the two commands prior to making the woman (see Gen. 2:22).
 - NT authors confirm the importance of the order in which GOD created man and woman (See 1 Cor. 11:7-10 and 1 Tim. 2:11-15).

7. Challenges:

- a. Do you believe GOD desired for men and women to rule together as equals? Did GOD make both in his image? Did GOD charge both with populating the land and ruling the creation?
- b. Are you willing to consider that GOD assigns men a leadership role within this team of equals?

2:24

1. Who: A **husband** and **wife**.
2. Actions:
 - a. The husband **leaves** his parents.
 - b. He **clings firmly** with his wife.
 - c. The two **become** one flesh.
3. How: Moses pivots from the creation story of Adam and his wife to explain GOD's intention for marriage.
4. What:
 - a. **Leaving** parents. Marriage stands as our most important human relationship. We should prioritize our marriage over:
 - Parents... though we honor our parents.
 - Children... though we teach our children about GOD.
 - Church... though we continue to worship and fellowship.
 - Ministry... though we seek to make disciples.
 - Work... though we provide for our family's physical needs.
 - b. **Clinging firmly** together.
 - The Hebrew word means "to stick to, cling to, hold onto" (see HOLL).
 - Hold fast to your spouse through all circumstances.
 - Stand against anything dividing you.
 - Moses writes, "He clings firmly **with** his wife." He does not say, "He clings firmly **to** his wife."
 - The man doesn't just cling to his wife.
 - Husband and wife together cling to each other.
 - c. **Becoming** one.
 - GOD takes flesh from the man's side and builds it into a woman (see Gen. 2:21).
 - The man and his wife possess the same flesh and

bones (see Gen. 2:22).

- Moses writes “one flesh” in Gen. 2:23 to link these three verses.
 - This oneness becomes the model for all future marriages.
 - A healthy marriage reflects the oneness of the FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT—the Trinity.
 - Each is a unique divine person.
 - Each fulfills distinct roles.
 - Each possesses equal glory, power, wisdom, and love.
 - Each is truly GOD.
 - Oneness in marriage shows harmony, unity, and wholeness.
 - Harmony: The husband and wife get along and enjoy each other.
 - Unity: The wife and husband share the same values and purposes.
 - Wholeness: The husband and wife complete each other. Death, divorce, or adultery causes brokenness.
5. Why: We set the goal for marriage as **becoming one flesh**.
6. When: Moses lists the three actions in logical order: **leave**, **cling firmly**, and **become one**.
- a. Couples must leave their parents in order to cling firmly with each other.
 - b. Couples must cling firmly to become one.
7. How many: One man and one woman. Taking multiple spouses defies GOD’s original plan.
8. Challenges:
- a. Do you consider your marriage more important than any other relationship? Would others watch your marriage and agree?
 - b. How well do you hold fast to your spouse? Do you stand against people and circumstances separating you?

- c. Are you unified with your spouse? Do you talk and seek to understand? Or do you argue and demand your way?
- d. Do you celebrate the uniqueness of your spouse?
- e. Does your culture permit multiple spouses? Does GOD intend for you to take more than one spouse?
- f. If you already keep several wives, what actions do you need to take? Do these steps include providing for each wife and child?

2:25

1. Who: The **man** and his **wife**.
2. Where: Both dwell in Eden's orchard (see Gen. 2:8, 15).
3. How many: Adam and his wife do not yet have children.
4. What: Both live without clothing. Neither experience **shame** in their **nakedness**.
5. Why: GOD now assesses creation as "very good." The man no longer lives alone. His perfectly matched companion stands ready to help him:
 - a. Be fruitful, multiply, and grow in number (see Gen. 1:28).
 - b. Use the land for their advantage and govern all the creatures in the sea, sky, and land (see p. 60 and Gen. 1:28).
 - c. Work and guard the orchard (see Gen. 2:15).
6. Challenges:
 - a. Why don't Adam and his wife feel shame when naked?
 - b. Adam and his wife live in a literal paradise. They enjoy abundant food (see Gen. 2:16) and plenty of water (see Gen. 2:6). How could anything ever go wrong?

Knowing God

1. GOD teaches people through experiences. He commands Adam to populate the land but creates him without a

companion. He asks Adam to name all the creatures to show his need for a helper. GOD then presents the man with a perfectly corresponding woman made from his own flesh. Adam receives this gift with joy.

2. GOD carefully formed man from the ground and breathed life into the man. GOD built the woman from the side of man.
3. GOD gives responsibility and delegates authority to people. Adam names the creatures and his companion.
4. GOD designed marriage for one man and one woman. He desires our marriages to show oneness as if husband and wife were made from the same body.

Walking with God

1. Remind yourself that GOD handcrafted your spouse as a priceless gift. Thank him for his gift.
2. Does your marriage reflect the oneness GOD intends? What needs to change?
3. Trust in GOD's goodness even when he delays answering your prayer, meeting your need, or delivering you. Learn all you can while you wait. Think about the words of this Hebrew song.

I believe that I shall look upon
the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!
Wait for the LORD.

Be strong.
And let your heart take courage.
Wait for the LORD!
(Ps. 27:13-14, ESV)

See Fran Geiger Joslin's book *Hope for Marriage* to learn more about strengthening your marriage.

Author's Messages

1. Adam could not find a fitting companion among the animals or birds.
2. GOD took part of Adam's side and handcrafted a perfect helper for Adam.
3. GOD desires a husband and wife to reflect oneness in their marriage.

Summary Notes (2:4-25)

Repeated Key Words

1. The **LORD GOD makes** (2x): 2:4, 18.
 - The **maker** of the sky and the land **makes** a helper designed for Adam.
2. The **LORD GOD forms** (3x): 2:7, 8, 19.
 - GOD, as a master craftsman, **forms** animals, birds, and the man from the ground.
3. **Trees** (5x): 2:9 (3x), 16, 17.
 - GOD plants an orchard full of beautiful and fruitful **trees** (2:9) to abundantly provide food for people (2:16). He creates the Tree of Life to enable people to experience never-ending life (2:9). He also creates the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil but prohibits the man from eating its fruit.
4. An **orchard** (5x): 2:8, 9, 10, 15, 16.
 - GOD plants an amazing **orchard** for people.
 - This repetition encourages us to view the **orchard** as a real place.
5. **Eden** (3x): 2:8, 10, 15.
 - GOD plants the orchard in **Eden**. This name describes a paradise.
 - This repetition encourages us to view **Eden** as a real place.
6. **Rivers** (4x): 2:10, 13, 14 (2x).
 - Moses describes a **river** flowing out of Eden that forms four additional rivers.
 - The details Moses provides encourage us to view the **rivers** as real.
7. **Ground** (5x): 2:5, 6, 7, 9, 19.
 - Springs water the **ground** (2:6). GOD forms the man (2:7) as well as animals and birds (2:19) from the

- ground.** GOD causes trees to grow from the ground (2:9).
8. **Pasturelands** (4x): 2:5 (2x), 19, 20.
 - Before GOD created man, neither shrubs nor other vegetation grew in the **pasturelands** (2:5). After GOD created man, he brought all the animals of the **pasturelands** to the man to see what he would name them (2:19, 20).
 9. **Work** (2x): 2:5, 15.
 - No man exists to **work** the ground at the beginning of the story (2:5). GOD then creates the man and tasks him with **working** the orchard (2:15).
 10. **Took** (4x): 2:15, 21, 22, 23.
 - The LORD GOD **takes** the man and put him in the newly created orchard (2:15). GOD then **takes** part of Adam's side to build a perfectly matched helper (2:21-22). Adam recognized that his wife was **taken** from his very flesh (2:23).
 11. **Good** (5x): 2:9 (2x), 12, 17, 18.
 - GOD creates fruit trees bearing **good** fruit (2:9). GOD creates a unique tree that somehow imparts knowledge of **good** and evil (2:9, 17, 18) The land of Havilah produces **good** gold (2:12). GOD declares Adam's aloneness as not **good** (2:18).
 12. **Brought** (2x): 2:19, 22.
 - The LORD GOD **brings** all the animals and birds to Adam to see what he will name them (2:19). GOD **brings** the helper to Adam who then names her (2:22).
 13. **Named** (4x): 2:19 (2x), 20, 23.
 - Adam **names** all the animals and birds (2:19-20) yet remains unable to find a helper. Adam **names** his helper "woman" (2:23).

14. **Helper** (2x): 2:18, 20.
 - GOD plans to make a **helper** for Adam (2:18) but waits until Adam understands no **helper** exists (2:20).
15. **Side** (2x): 2:21, 22.
 - GOD took part of Adam's **side** and used it to build the woman.
16. **Flesh** (4x): 2:21, 23 (2x), 24.
 - GOD closed up Adam's side with new **flesh** (2:21). Adam understood that GOD built the woman using his (Adam's) own **flesh** (2:23). The man and woman should become "one **flesh**" through their unified marriage (2:24).

Walking with God

1. Recognize that GOD gives you each breath.
2. Trust in GOD's goodness. As our Creator, he knows what's best for us.
3. Seek to know and obey GOD's commandments.
4. Enjoy your spouse as a GOD-given gift.

Author's Messages

1. The LORD GOD, who created the world by his command, carefully crafts a man from the ground.
2. GOD plants an orchard in a paradise to provide a beautiful home and abundant food for people.
3. GOD gives the man responsibility to work and guard the orchard.
4. GOD permits the man to freely eat from every tree in the orchard except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
5. GOD shows the man his need for a helper. He then handcrafts a perfectly matched companion for the man.
6. GOD wants our marriages to show unity and oneness.

Final Challenges

1. Do you view GOD as someone impersonal and distant? One who lacks care or compassion for you? If so, review Gen. 2:6-9. Consider the care the LORD GOD took to form the man. Remember that he carefully formed you as well. Read these words from one of David's songs.

For you formed my inward parts.
You knitted me together
in my mother's womb.
I praise you,
for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works.
My soul knows it very well.
(Ps. 139:13-14, ESV)

2. What happened to this orchard in paradise? Why do deserts exist? Why do people go hungry and even starve? Why do we wear clothes? Why do so many marriages end in divorce? What happened to GOD's perfect world?

For Additional Study

Many important topics in Genesis 1-2 provide the foundation for the teachings of other biblical authors. Enjoy making connections between the passages listed below and Genesis 1-2.

Creation by God

1. Nehemiah 9:5-8. GOD alone is the LORD. He made the heavens, the earth, the seas, and everything in them.
2. Psalms 8:1-9. GOD's name is majestic. The moon and stars are the work of his fingers. He appoints people to rule over the animals in the fields, the birds of the sky, and the fish of the seas.
3. Psalms 95:3-5. The LORD is a great GOD and King, because he made the seas and his hands formed the dry land. He is our Maker.
4. Psalms 96:1-6. The LORD is great. He should be feared above all GODs because he made the heavens.
5. Psalms 136:1-9. GOD alone does great things. He made the heavens, spread out the earth, and made the two great lights. His steadfast love endures forever.
6. Psalms 146:5-6. The GOD who helps the Hebrew people is the one who made the heaven, earth, sea, and everything in them.
7. Psalms 147:4-5. Our GOD is great. He determined the number of stars and named them all.
8. Isaiah 40:25-31. No one compares to GOD. He created the stars and calls them all by name. He renews the strength of those who wait for him.
9. Isaiah 44:24-28. GOD is the LORD who made all things. He stretched out the heavens and spread out the earth without help.
10. Jeremiah 10:10-13 and 51:15-17. The LORD is the true

GOD. He “made the earth by his power... established the world by his wisdom... and by his understanding stretched out the heavens” (ESV).

11. Jeremiah 32:16-20. GOD made the heavens and the earth by his great power. Nothing is too difficult for him.
12. Revelation 10:5-7. GOD created the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them.

Creation by God’s Command

1. Psalms 33:6-12. GOD made the heavens by his word and created all the stars by his breath. He spoke and gathered the waters to form the dry land. He commanded and the land stood firm. We should fear him.
2. Psalms 148:1-6. Let the sun, moon, and stars—even the highest heaven—praise the LORD. “For he commanded and they were created” (ESV).
3. Isaiah 45:11-18. GOD made the earth and created man. He stretched out the heavens by his hands and commanded all the stars to exist. GOD created the heavens and he formed the earth. He wants a fully populated earth.
4. Hebrews 11:1-3. We know by faith that GOD formed the world by his word. He did not make the world we see from existing materials.
5. Revelation 4:8-11. The LORD GOD Almighty is worthy to receive glory, honor, and power because he created all things by his will.

Creation by Jesus

1. John 1:1-5, 10. All things were created through the Word, JESUS. Not one thing was made without him. JESUS made the world, but the people of the world did not know him.
2. 1 Corinthians 8:1-6. There is one GOD the FATHER and one LORD JESUS CHRIST. All things are from GOD and

- through JESUS. We exist for GOD and through JESUS.
3. Colossians 1:13-20. All things were created by JESUS, through him and for him. This includes things in the heavens and things on earth. It includes what we can see and what we cannot see. JESUS holds all things together.
 4. Hebrews 1:1-4. GOD now speaks to us through JESUS his SON. GOD created the world through JESUS and made him heir of all things.

People in the Image of God

1. Genesis 5:1-5. GOD made people in his likeness as male and female. Adam fathered a son in his own likeness and image. He named his son Seth.
2. Genesis 9:5-6. A person who takes the life of another person will lose his life, because people are made in GOD'S image.
3. Romans 8:26-30. GOD works all things for good for those of us whom GOD has chosen. He works to conform us to the image of his SON.
4. 1 Corinthians 11:2-10. Paul teaches that a man should not cover his head during public prayer and preaching. He bases this instruction on the fact that man reflects the image and glory of GOD.
5. 1 Corinthians 15:42-49. The first man (Adam) came from the ground. The second man (JESUS) came from heaven. Just as we now bear the image of Adam, so we will bear the image of JESUS at the resurrection.
6. Ephesians 4:17-24. We must "put on the new self" (ESV). GOD creates this new self in his likeness and makes us truly holy.
7. Colossians 3:5-11. We must "put on the new self" (ESV). GOD renews this new self in his image.
8. James 3:2-10. Our tongue acts like a fire and it cannot be tamed. Why do we use our tongues to curse people that

GOD made in his likeness?

Jesus is the Image of God.

1. John 1:14-18. JESUS became a man and dwelt among us. No person has ever seen GOD, yet JESUS makes GOD known to us.
2. 2 Corinthians 4:3-6. JESUS is the image of GOD.
3. Philippians 2:5-8. JESUS did not cling to his equality with GOD but emptied himself to become a servant. He took on the likeness of men so that he could obey GOD by dying on the cross.
4. Colossians 1:13-17. JESUS is the image of the invisible GOD with the right of the firstborn over all creation.
5. Hebrews 1:1-4. JESUS displays GOD's glory and clearly shows us GOD's character.

Created as Male and Female

1. Genesis 5:1-5. GOD made people in his likeness as male and female.
2. Matthew 19:3-9 and Mark 10:2-9. JESUS responded to a question on divorce by asking, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female?" (ESV)
3. 1 Corinthians 11:2-10. Paul teaches that a wife should cover her head during public prayer and preaching. One basis for this instruction is that GOD made the woman (Eve) from the man (Adam) and for him.
4. 1 Timothy 2:9-15. Paul writes that a woman should not teach or exercise authority over a man. He bases this conclusion on the fact that GOD formed Adam first and because Satan deceived Eve.

Created to Become One

1. Matthew 19:3-9 and Mark 10:2-9. The two—a man and his wife—become one flesh. We must not separate by divorce what GOD joined together.
2. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20. The two—a man and his wife—become one flesh. We must not become one with a prostitute.
3. Ephesians 5:28-31. A man leaves his parents and clings to his wife. The two become one flesh.

Tree of Life and the River of Life

1. Ezekiel 47:1-12. A river flows from GOD's temple. Trees grow on each side of the river and bear fresh fruit each month. The fruit provides food and the leaves grant healing.
2. Revelation 2:1-7 and 12:11. We become "conquerors" when we rely on JESUS's death for our righteousness and we keep our faith even at the threat of our death. GOD gives conquerors the privilege of eating from the Tree of Life in his paradise.
3. Revelation 22:1-5, 14-15, 18-19. The River of Life flows from the throne of GOD. The Tree of Life spans this river and bears a different kind of fruit each month. Its leaves provide healing for all the nations.

Creation of the New Heaven and Earth

1. Isaiah 11:1-9. The SPIRIT of the LORD rests upon the coming Promised One. Righteousness serves as his belt. The cow and the bear graze together. The lion eats straw like the ox. Nothing hurts anyone anywhere. The earth becomes filled with the knowledge of the LORD.
2. Isaiah 65:17-25. GOD creates new heavens and a new earth. People live many years, build houses, and plant vineyards. GOD answers people before they call to him. The wolf and

lion graze together. The lion eats straw like the ox. Nothing hurts anyone anywhere.

3. Isaiah 66:18-24. The new heavens and new earth remain forever before GOD. All nations gather to worship him each month and every week.
4. 2 Peter 3:8-13. The Day of the LORD comes like a thief. GOD burns up the heavens and exposes people's unGODly works. We wait for the promised new heavens and new earth where only righteousness dwells.
5. Revelation 21:1-6. John saw a new heaven and a new earth where GOD wipes away every tear. We will never again experience death, mourning, crying, nor pain. GOD makes all things new.
6. Revelation 22:1-5. GOD and JESUS rule from their thrones and people worship them. We see GOD's face and he writes his name on our foreheads. Night no longer exists because GOD is the light.

Moses's Outline of Genesis

1. Creation of the Sky and Land (1:1-2:3)
2. Account of the Sky and Land (2:4-4:26)
3. Account of Adam (5:1-6:8)
4. Account of Noah (6:9-9:29)
5. Account of Noah's Sons (10:1-11:9)
6. Account of Shem (11:10-11:26)
7. Account of Terah (11:27-25:11)
8. Account of Ishmael (25:12-18)
9. Account of Isaac (25:19-35:29)
10. Account of Esau, Part 1 (36:1-8)
11. Account of Esau, Part 2 (36:9-37:1)
12. Account of Jacob (37:2-50:26)

Adapted from WALT, p. 17-18.

Abbreviations

Old Testament Abbreviations	
Gen.	Genesis
Ex.	Exodus
Lev.	Leviticus
Num.	Numbers
Deut.	Deuteronomy
Josh.	Joshua
Judg.	Judges
Ruth	Ruth
1 Sam.	1 Samuel
2 Sam.	2 Samuel
1 Kings	1 Kings
2 Kings	2 Kings
1 Chron.	1 Chronicles
2 Chron.	2 Chronicles
Ezra	Ezra
Neh.	Nehemiah
Est.	Esther
Job	Job
Psalms	Psalms
Prov.	Proverbs
Eccl.	Ecclesiastes
Song	Song of Solomon
Isa.	Isaiah
Jer.	Jeremiah

Old Testament Abbreviations	
Lam.	Lamentations
Ezek.	Ezekiel
Dan.	Daniel
Hos.	Hosea
Joel	Joel
Amos	Amos
Obad.	Obadiah
Jonah	Jonah
Mic.	Micah
Nah.	Nahum
Hab.	Habakkuk
Zeph.	Zephaniah
Hag.	Haggai
Zech.	Zechariah
Mal.	Malachi

New Testament Abbreviations	
Matt.	Matthew
Mark	Mark
Luke	Luke
John	John
Acts	Acts
Rom.	Romans
1 Cor.	1 Corinthians

New Testament Abbreviations	
2 Cor.	2 Corinthians
Gal.	Galatians
Eph.	Ephesians
Phil.	Philippians
Col.	Colossians
1 Thes.	1 Thessalonians
2 Thes.	2 Thessalonians
1 Tim.	1 Timothy
2 Tim.	2 Timothy
Titus	Titus
Philem.	Philemon
Heb.	Hebrews
James	James
1 Peter	1 Peter
2 Peter	2 Peter
1 John	1 John
2 John	2 John
3 John	3 John
Jude	Jude
Rev.	Revelation

Book and Resource Abbreviations	
ABH-HEB	<u>ABH</u> 's color-coded <u>Heb</u> rew text
ABH-TN	<u>ABH</u> 's <u>T</u> ranslator <u>N</u> otes
ESV	<i>English Standard Bible</i> published in 2001 by Crossway of Wheaton, Illinois.
HOLL	<i>A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> edited by William <u>Holl</u> aday. Published in 1971 by Eerdmans of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
HALOT	<i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> by Ludwig Kochler and Walter Baumgartner. Published in 2001 by Brill of Leiden, the Netherlands and Boston, Massachusetts.
PEB	<i>Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible</i> edited by Merrill C. Tenney. Published in 1975 by Zondervan in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
NET	<i>New English Bible</i> published in 2003 by Biblical Studies Press of Richardson, Texas. Online version available at www.NetBible.com
ROSS	<i>Creation & Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis</i> by Allen P. <u>Ross</u> . Published in 1998 by Baker of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
TALK	<i>Talk Thru the Bible</i> by Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth D. Boa. Published in 1983 by Thomas Nelson of Nashville, Tennessee.

Book and Resource Abbreviations

WALT	<i>Genesis: A Commentary</i> by Bruce K. <u>Waltke</u> . Published in 2001 by Zondervan of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
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Misc. Abbreviations

ABH	<u>A</u> uthenticity <u>B</u> ook <u>H</u> ouse; also called ABH Books (www.ABHBooks.com)
ABH-BFL	<u>ABH</u> 's <i>Bible for Learning</i> series
LXX	A very old Greek translation of the Old Testament
NT	<u>N</u> ew <u>T</u> estament
OT	<u>O</u> ld <u>T</u> estament
p.	<u>P</u> age number
pp.	A range of page numbers

