Days of Creation

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

Bible Memory Verse

Genesis 1:1 NIV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Bible Story

There was nothing. No existence. No light. Then, out of the creative goodness of the revealed God in Jesus, there was something. A universe. A world. Light. Ex nihilo, out of nothing, there became something. Amazing. What was once non-existence, there became existence—being, meaning, life. God speaks and the world comes into being. Ten times he speaks:

1. "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness…the first day" (Genesis 1:3-5).
2. "And God said, 'Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.' God called the expanse sky…the second day" (Genesis 1:6-8).
3. "And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.' God called the dry ground 'land,' and the gathered waters he called 'seas.' And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:9-10).
4. "Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And God saw that it was good…the third day" (Genesis 1:11-13).
5. "And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.' God made two great lights—the greater to govern the day and the lesser to govern the night. He

also made the stars. And God saw that it was good…the fourth day" (Genesis 1:14-19).

6. "And God said, 'Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.' So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to its kind. And God saw that it was good…the fifth day" (Genesis 1:20-23).
7. "And God said, 'Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.' And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:24-25).
8. "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27).
9. "…and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground'" (Genesis 1:28).
10. "Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.' God saw all that he had made, and it was very good…the sixth day" (Genesis 1:29-31).

"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array" (Genesis 2:1). God spoke the entire world into existence.

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:2-3).

Every story has a beginning, a starting point. The story of this world begins with a Supreme Creator powerfully ushering in, through his words, the created order. It was good, very good. The Creator magnificently and perfectly made a world where everything worked, and where man, in the likeness of God, was to rule and have dominion. The beginning of the story is a perfect world. The Creator's dream was realized.

It is interesting to note that the probable author of this text (Genesis through Deuteronomy) is Moses. Moses as a character doesn't come into the biblically written story for a while. And yet he is the one who wrote the "beginning" account of the world?

If we read the opening lines and subsequent texts of Genesis from a later perspective, we tend to “take in” different things. Moses’ point in writing the first twelve chapters of Genesis was probably not to eventually combat evolutionism in the 20th century, but rather to introduce God and the characters (i.e. eventual people of Israel) and location (i.e. land of Israel) of the story of humanity. Genesis 1-12 is most likely the prologue to the story of God’s created order and His people within it.

A further connection with Moses is in the 10 “and God saids” in Genesis chapter one. Moses also had another set of ten… it is the Ten Commandments. Interesting.

Life Application

All of creation reflects the mark of its Creator—God. Creation joyfully and intentionally worships God. Take time in your comings and goings to:

- stop and smell the roses
- stare at the trees in our area
- enjoy the lakes and rivers
- thank God for the wonderful world he created for us

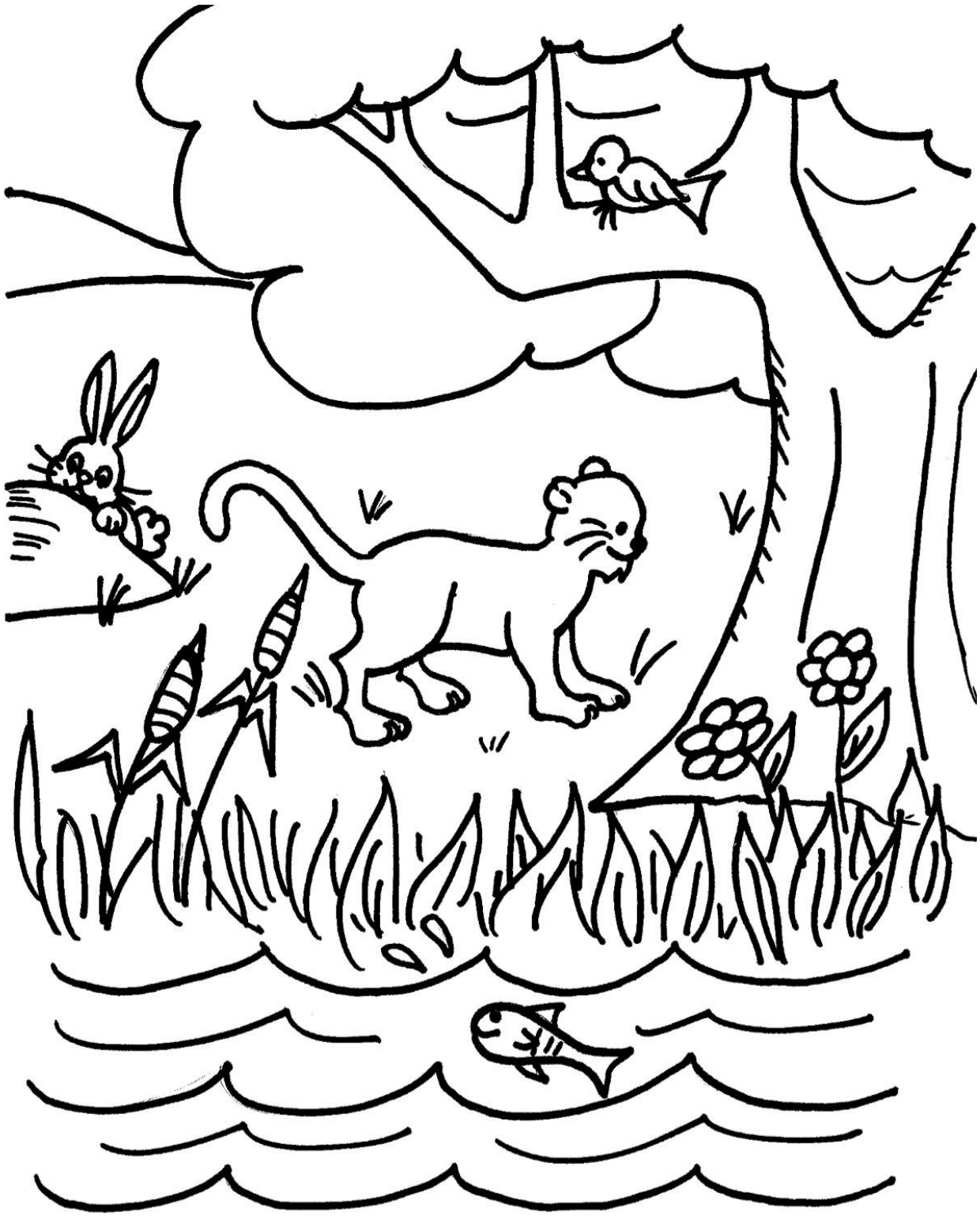
God created this world for mankind to rule just like God rules the entire universe—in love and respect. Let's do that and be entirely thankful.

Review Questions

1. What did God create on the first day? Light.
2. What did God create on the second day? Sky.
3. What did God create on the third day? Vegetation. Plants and trees and fruit with seed.
4. What did God create on the fourth day? Sun, moon and stars. Day and night, and the seasons.
5. What did God create on the fifth day? Living creatures in the water and creatures in the sky. Fish and birds.
6. What did God create on the sixth day? Living creatures on the land; livestock and wild animals. Mankind.
7. What did God do on the seventh day? He rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

Coloring Sheet

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