

The *Exemplar* Translation – Genesis Chapters 1 and 2

God inspired Moses to write a creation story that was easily understood, yet correctly explained the origin of the heavens, Earth and life. God knew that any attempt to explain in ancient Hebrew the complex physics and chemistry of creation would be futile. In contrast, He knew that a story could be easily memorized and handed down through generations. God wanted a straightforward engaging story humankind could believe during its years of development. On the other hand, He wanted an account that was credible when humanity became more culturally and scientifically advanced. Today we know that simple cultures and children are best taught by stories. In advanced cultures, abstract concepts are best explained, understood and remembered through stories. Good stories have the unique ability to transcend time, culture and language. To this end, God orchestrated the events of the Genesis story to create an abbreviated, non-technical account of our origins that is absolutely true.

The words in italics in the following *exemplar* translation are not in the original Hebrew text and are added for grammatical and explanatory purposes, similar to the King James Version of the Bible.

Chapter 1 – *Undefined time in the past*

1. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth.
2. And the Earth was vacant and empty *of life*. And darkness *was* over the surface of the deep *waters*. And the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the waters.

Day one of the six-day chronicle

3. And God said, “There is light, and light exists.”
4. And God saw that the light *was* good. And God distinguished between the light and between the darkness.
5. And God called the light “day” and called the darkness “night.” And evening was, and morning was—day one.

The second day

6. And God said, “There is an expanse in the middle of the water, and it exists to separate between water *above* from water *below*.”
7. And God *is the one who* made the expanse and separated between the waters which *were* under the expanse and between the waters which *were* over the expanse. And *it* was so.
8. And God called the expanse “sky.” And evening was, and morning was—second day.

The third day

9. And God said, “The waters under the sky wait in one place and the dry ground is seen.” And *it* was so.
10. And God called the dry ground “land” and called the collection of waters “seas.” And God saw that *it* was good.
11. And God said, “The land is sprouting sprouts: plants seeding seeds and the fruit trees making fruit—to which kind is in the seed—over the land.” And *it* was so.
12. “And the land brings forth sprouts: plants seeding seeds *according to their* kind, and the trees making fruit—in which seed is to kind.” And God saw that *it* was good.
13. And evening was, and morning was—third day.

The fourth day

14. And God said, “There are luminaries in the expanse of the heavens to distinguish between the day and between the night, and *they* are a sign *for* appointed times and days and years.”

15. “And luminaries exist in the expanse of the heavens to give light over the Earth.” And *it* was so.
16. And God *is the one who* made two great luminaries: the greater luminary to rule the day and the smaller luminary to rule the night and the stars.
17. And God gave them in the expanse of the heavens to give light over the Earth.
18. And to rule in the day and in the night and to distinguish between the light and between the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good.
19. And evening was, and morning was—fourth day.

The fifth day

20. And God said, “The waters swarm *with* swarms of living creatures, and fliers flying over the land and over the surface of the expanse of the sky.”
21. And God *is the one who* created the great reptiles and every moving living creature with which the waters swarm, *according to their* kinds, and every winged flier *according to its* kind. And God saw that *it was* good.
22. And God blessed them saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas and multiply the fliers on the land.”
23. And evening was, and morning was—fifth day.

The sixth day

24. And God said, “The land brings forth living creatures *according to their* kind: beasts and moving *things* and animals of the land, *according to their* kind.” And *it* was so.
25. And God *is the one who* made the animals of the Earth *according to their* kind: the beasts *according to their* kind and every moving *thing* upon the ground *according to its* kind. And God saw that *it was* good.
26. And God said, “*We shall* make man in our image, after our likeness. And *he shall* have dominion on fish of the sea and on fliers in the sky and on beasts and on all the Earth and on all the moving *things* that move over the land.”
27. And God created man in His image, in God’s image created him, male and female *God* created them.
28. And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it and have dominion on the fish of the sea and on the fliers of the sky and on all living *things* that move over the land.”
29. And God said, “Behold, *I* give to you every plant seeding seed which is over the surface of all the land, and every tree in which fruit is seeding seed. As food *they* are for you.”
30. “And to every animal of the land and to every flier in the sky and to all *that* moves over the land—in which is the living creature—every green plant is food.” And *it* was so.
31. And God saw everything that *He* did, and behold *it was* very good. And evening was, and morning was—the sixth day.

Chapter 2 – *The seventh day*

1. And the heavens and Earth *were* finished, and all their multitude *of miscellaneous things*.
2. And on the seventh day God finished His work that *He* did, and rested on the seventh day from all His work that *He* did.
3. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on it *He* rested from all His work—that God did *when* creating.

Introduction to a detailed account of the sixth day

4. The *following is the* account of the heavens and the Earth when created; on the *sixth day when* Yahweh God did *things to the* Earth and heavens.

The Garden of Eden

5. And each bush of the field was not yet on the land, and each plant of the field *did* not yet grow, because Yahweh God had not caused rain over the land and there was no man to cultivate the ground *of the garden*.
6. And mists rose up from the land and watered all the surface of the ground *of the garden*.

7. And Yahweh God formed the man *of* dust from the ground and breathed in his nostrils the breath *of* life. And the man existed as a living creature.
8. And Yahweh God planted a garden from the east in Eden, and there *He* put the man whom *He had* formed.
9. And Yahweh God grew from the ground every tree *that was* desirable to the sight and good for food, and the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
10. And a river went out from Eden to water the garden and from there diverged and became four branches.
11. The name of the first is Pishon; it winds through all the land of Havilah, where there is gold.
12. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone *are* there.
13. And the name of the second river is the Gihon. It winds through all the land of Cush.
14. And the name of the third river is the Tigris; it goes east of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

Man in the garden

15. And Yahweh God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and to keep it.
16. And Yahweh God commanded to the man saying, “From any tree of the garden, you *may* eat-eat.”
17. “And from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, *do* not eat from, because on the day you eat from it *you shall* die-die.”
18. And Yahweh God said, “*It is* not good that the man be alone. For him *I shall* make as his counterpart a helper.”

Living things of the garden created

19. And Yahweh God formed from the ground each animal of the field and each flier of the sky *within the garden*. And *God* brought *them* to the man to see what he *would* call them and whatever the man called the living creature, that *was its* name.
20. And the man called names to all the beasts and to the fliers of the sky and to all animals of the field *within the garden*. And for Adam *was* not found as his counterpart a helper.

Woman is created

21. And Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall over the man and *during* sleep took from one of his ribs and closed up under the flesh.
22. And Yahweh God built—which *He* took *of* the rib from the man—into a woman, and brought her to the man.

Marriage is established

23. And the man said, “This is now bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh; for this *shall* be called woman, because this *was* taken from man.”
24. So over *this reason*, a man *will* leave his father and his mother and hold fast on his wife. And *they shall* be as one flesh.
25. And the two were naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.