

IN THE BEGINNING

Elohim the Creator

In the beginning, Elohim, God, created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form. There was nothing, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light."

And there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening, and there was morning, one day.

And God said, "Let there be a vault in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

And God made the vault and separated the waters which were under the vault from the waters which were above the vault. And it was so. And God called the vault Heaven. And there was evening, and there was morning, a second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place. And let the dry land appear."

And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters

that were gathered together He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the earth put forth plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth."

And it was so. The earth brought forth plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning. It was a third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs to mark seasons and days and years. And have them shine from the vault of the heavens to give light upon the earth."

And it was so. And God set two great lights in the vault of the heavens to separate the light from darkness. The greater light would rule over the day, and the lesser light would rule over the night. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning, a fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the heavens."

And God also created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

And there was evening, and there was morning. It was a fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds; cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds, and the cattle according to theirs. And everything that creeps upon the ground, according to its kind."

And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created man in His own image, after our likeness, and He let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have power over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding

seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

“And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.”

And it was so. And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, a sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day, God finished His work which He had done, and He rested. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. Because on that day, God rested
from all His work which He had done
in creation.

COMMENT: This wondrous and sacred creation text is taken from the Holy Bible, Genesis, Chapters One and Two, which is also the First Book of the Hebrew Pentateuch, known as The Five Books of Moses. The Jewish name for Genesis is Bereshith, or In The Beginning, which is the first Hebrew word in its opening sentence. The version derives from a text called “P” for Priestly text, said to have been written by several individuals and proclaimed as the Law of God in Jerusalem by the Hebrew Priest, Ezra, 397 B.C. It was expanded and worked on until about 300

B.C. *Elohim*, the Hebrew word for the Creator, is the intensive plural of the word *el* and is always translated as "God." It is used in the above narration with due respect for the Hebrew scribes of the time who used it.

The Old Testament creation accounts are called Hebrew Myths or the myths of *genèsis* by modern scholars. The Hebrew creation is part of a *mon-o-the-is-tic* (one god) religious structure. The one-god concept is the main religious form in both Judaism and Christianity. Having one god means having one time and one world in which the heavenly Father is the supreme being. It is creation from the Word. God utters, "Let there be Light," and there was light . . .