

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

1:1 – formless	(adjective)	without a clear shape or structure
1:2 – hovering	(verb)	staying in the same position in the air
1:6 – vault	(noun)	a large room or chamber
1:11 – vegetation	(noun)	plants, trees, flowers
1:11 – bear fruit	(phrase)	produce fruit
1:14 – sacred	(adjective)	set aside for God’s purpose
1:16 – govern	(verb)	rule over; control
1:20 – teem	(verb)	be crowded with large quantities of something
1:24 – livestock	(noun)	animals that are kept on a farm (e.g. sheep, cows)
1:28 – subdue	(verb)	bring under control
1:30 – beasts	(noun)	large, dangerous animals
2:1 – vast	(adjective)	extremely large
2:1 – array	(noun)	an impressive display or range of a particular type of thing
2:3 – holy	(adjective)	set apart for God’s purpose

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 (New International Reader’s Version)

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth didn’t have any shape. And it was empty. There was darkness over the surface of the waves. At that time, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day.” He called the darkness “night.” There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

⁶God said, “Let there be a huge space between the waters. Let it separate water from water.” ⁷And that’s exactly what happened. God made the huge space between the waters. He separated the water under the space from the water above it. ⁸God called the huge space “sky.” There was evening, and there was morning. It was day two.

⁹God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place. Let dry ground appear.” And that’s exactly what happened. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land.” He called all the water that was gathered together “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, “Let the land produce plants. Let them produce their own seeds. And let there be trees on the land that grow fruit with seeds in it. Let each kind of plant or tree have its own kind of seeds.” And that’s exactly what happened. ¹²So the land produced plants. Each kind of plant had its own kind of seeds. And the land produced trees that grew fruit with seeds in it. Each kind of tree had its own kind of seeds. God saw that it was good. ¹³There was evening, and there was morning. It was day three.

¹⁴God said, “Let there be lights in the huge space of the sky. Let them separate the day from the night. Let the lights set the times for the holy celebrations and the days and the years. ¹⁵Let them be lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth.” And that’s exactly what happened. ¹⁶God made two great lights. He made the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God put the lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth. ¹⁸He put them there to rule over the day and the night. He put them there to separate light from darkness. God saw that it was good. ¹⁹There was evening, and there was morning. It was day four.

²⁰God said, “Let the seas be filled with living things. Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea creatures. He created every kind of living thing that fills the seas and moves about in them. He created every kind of bird that flies. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them. He said, “Have little ones so that there will be many of you. Fill the water in the seas. Let there be more and more birds on the earth.” ²³There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five.

²⁴ God said, "Let the land produce every kind of living creature. Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals." And that's exactly what happened. ²⁵ God made every kind of wild animal. He made every kind of livestock. He made every kind of creature that moves along the ground. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own likeness.
He created them to be like himself.
He created them as male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them. He said to them, "Have children so that there will be many of you. Fill the earth and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Rule over every living creature that moves along the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I am giving you every plant on the face of the whole earth that produces its own seeds. I am giving you every tree that has fruit with seeds in it. All of them will be given to you for food. ³⁰ I am giving every green plant as food for all the land animals and for all the birds in the sky. I am also giving the plants to all the creatures that move along the ground. I am giving them to every living thing that breathes." And that's exactly what happened.

³¹ God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.

^{2:1} So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on that day he rested from all his work. ³ God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. He blessed it because on that day he rested from all the work he had done.