



*Quaker Universalist Voice*

# Genesis 1–3: Creation Translated for Children

by J.M. Spears

## **Genesis 1:**

1.1 When God began to create the sky and the earth, 2. the earth was without shape and it was empty. There was darkness over the deep oceans and the Spirit of God was moving over the waters.

3. Elohim God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4. God saw that the light was good, and God divided light from darkness. 5. God called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” And there was evening and there was morning: one day.

6. God said, “Let there be a curved ceiling in the waters and let it divide the waters.” 7. And God made the ceiling and divided the waters under the ceiling from the waters above the ceiling. 8. God called the ceiling “Sky.” There was evening and there was morning: the second day. 9; God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place and let dry land appear.” And so, it was. 10. God called the dry land, “Earth” and the waters that were gathered together “Seas.” And God saw that it was good.

11. God said, “Let the earth produce grasses and vegetables with seeds, and fruit trees making fruit with its own kind of seeds inside.” And so, it was. 12. The earth produced vegetation: plants and trees each with its own kind of seeds. God saw that it was good.

13. There was evening and there was morning: the third day. 14. God said, “Let there be lights in the ceiling of the sky to divide day from night. And let them be signs for seasons and for days and years. 15. And let there be lights in the ceiling of the sky to give light upon the earth!” And so, it was. 16. God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, the smaller light to rule the night and the Stars. 17. God put them in the ceiling of the sky to give light upon the earth. 18. To rule the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good. 19. There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day.

20. God said, “Let the waters swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the ceiling of sky!” 21. And God created great sea monsters and every kind of living creature that swarms in the waters, and every kind of creature with wings. God saw that it was good. 22. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful, give birth to more of your kind. And fill the waters of the seas. And let the birds also increase in numbers upon the earth.” 23. And there was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

24. God said, “Let the earth produce every kind of living creature, cattle, reptiles, and every kind of animal, each giving birth to their own kind.” And so, it was. 25. God made the animals of the earth, each according to its own kind, cattle according to its own kind, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its own kind. And God saw that it was good.

26. And God said, "Let us make people in our own image, like ourselves, and let them have power over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, all the animals on earth, and over every thing that creeps and crawls upon the earth."

27. People were created in the image of God. In the image of God were people created. Male and female, God created them.

28. God blessed them, saying to them, "Give birth, have children, fill the earth and control it, and have power over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky and over every living animal on earth. 29. And God said, "I have given every plant with seeds and every fruit tree with seeds to you for food. 30. To animals on earth, all birds of the sky and every thing that creeps and crawls on the earth, I give all of the green plants for food."

And so, it was. 31. God saw all that had been made by God, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

## **Genesis 2:**

2.1 Thus sky and earth were finished and every thing necessary. 2. And on the seventh day, the work of God had been doing was completed. God rested on the seventh day after all the work of creating.

3. So, God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because, after the work of creation, God rested.

4b. Tat the time that Yahweh God (Elohim) made land and skies, 5. no wild plants were growing in the earth. No seeds had sprouted because Yahweh God had not caused it to rain on the land. And there was no earthling to take care of the earth.

6. Then, an underground stream of water began to well up for the land and moisten all of the surface of the earth.

7. Yahweh God made an earthling from dirt of the earth. God blew the breath of life into the earthling's nose and the earthling became a living being.

8. Yahweh God planted a garden in Goodlife, in the east. God put the earthling there. 9. Out of the earth, Yahweh God made every tree grow that was pleasing to see ad good to eat. The tree of life was in the middle of the garden, and the tree of knowing good and bad.

10. A river flowed out of Goodlife to water the garden. From there, it divided and became four rivers. 11. The name of the first river is Gusher. It is the one that winds through all of the land of Havilah where there is the purest gold. 12. Precious stones are there too. 13. The name of the second river is Bubbler. It is the one that winds through all of the land of Cush. 14. The name of the third river is Tigris. It is the one that flows east of Asshur. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

15. Yahweh God took the earthling and put it in the garden of "Good Life," to protect and take care of it. 16. Yahweh God warned the earthling saying "You may eat of every tree of the garden, except for the tree of knowing good and bad. 17. You must not eat any of it because, if you do, you will die."

18. Yahweh God said, "It is not good for the earthling to be alone. I will make a friend for it." 19. So, out of the earth, Yahweh God made all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. Yahweh God brought all of them to the earthling to see what it would call each one. Whatever the earthling called each living creature, that would be its name. 20. The earthling gave names to all the tame animals, to the birds of the sky, and to all the wild animals. But, no friend for the earthling was found. 21. Yahweh God made the

earthling fall into a deep sleep. While the earthling slept, God took one of its sides and replaced the side with flesh. 22. Yahweh God took the side that was taken from the earthling and generated it into a woman. God brought the woman to the earthling. 23. Then the earthling said, "This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one shall be called 'woman', for from 'man' was this one taken." 24. Therefore, a man leaves father and mother and joins woman, so that the two become one flesh. 25. The earthling and the woman were both naked, but they were not ashamed

### **Genesis 3:**

3.1 Now, the snake was the most naked and shameful of all the wild animals that Yahweh God had made. It said to the woman, "So! God really told you not to eat of any tree in the garden!"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of trees in the garden. 3. It is only fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'Do not eat any of it, or so much as touch it, or you shall die.'"

4. Then, the serpent said to the woman, "You are certainly not going to die. 5. God knows that as soon as you eat any of it, your eyes will be opened. And you will be like gods, who know what is good and what is bad."

6. The woman saw that the tree was good for eating and pleasing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable as a way to become wise. She took of its fruit and ate. She gave some to her man. And he ate. 7. Then the eyes of both were opened. And they understood that they were shamefully naked. They sewed fig leaves together to make aprons to go around themselves. 8. They heard the voice of Yahweh God who was moving in the garden at the breezy time of day. They hid from Yahweh God among the trees of the garden. 9. Yahweh God called out to the earthling and said, "Where are you?" 10. The earthling replied, "I heard your voice in the garden. I was afraid because I was shamefully naked. So, I hid."

11. Then, Yahweh God said, "Who told you to be ashamed that you were naked? Did you eat the fruit of the tree that I told you not to eat?" 12. The earthling said, "The woman you made to be with me gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate it." 13. Yahweh God said to the woman, "How could you do such a thing?" The woman replied, "The snake tricked me. And I ate."

14. Yahweh God said to the snake, "Because you did this, all the tame animals and all the wild animals will treat you as shameful and you shall be kept away from them. You shall crawl on your belly. And you shall eat dirt all the days of your life. 15. I will put hatred between you and the woman, and between all future generations of you and the woman. They shall strike at your head. And you shall strike at their heel."

16. To the woman, Yahweh God said, "I will greatly increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth to children. You shall love your man. And he shall rule over you."

17. To the earthling, God said, "You listened to your woman and ate from the tree I told you not to eat. So, the goodness of the earth shall be held back because of you. With hard work and troubles you shall eat its food all the days of your life.

18. The earth shall grow thorn and thistles for you. But, you shall eat the grains of the field. 19. By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, until you return to the earth from which you are taken. You are dirt and to dirt you shall return."

20. The earthling named his woman “life” because she became the mother of everyone who lives. 21. Yahweh God made clothes out of skins for the earthling and his woman to wear.

22. Yahweh God said, “Now, the earthling has become like one of us, knowing what is good and what is bad. What if the earthling should put out his hand again and take from the tree of life and eat and live forever!” 23. So Yahweh God sent the earthling out of the garden of Good Life to take care of the earth from which the earthling was taken.

24. Yahweh God drove out the earthling. East of the garden of Goodlife, Yahweh God put great creatures with wings and a flaming ever-turning sword to guard the way to the tree of life.