

Portion Bereshit Genesis - Bereshit (1.1-6.8)

In the beginning of God's creating the heavens and the earth, when the earth was empty and astonishingly dark, Divine Presence hovered. And God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw that the light was good and called the light day and the darkness night. It was evening and morning, one day.

God said, "Let the waters separate. Day two. Let dry land be gathered amidst the seas the sky above with seeds for fruit trees and vegetation. Day 3. Let there be a sun, moon, and stars. Day 4. Let there be the living of the waters and those who fly. Day 5. God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures, creeping things and animals. God saw that it was good. God said "Let us make humans, male and female, in the image of God." God blessed them to multiply and rule over the living. God provided food for all. God saw all that God made and it was very good. Day 6. Thus, heaven and earth were created in 6 days. On the 7th day God finished working and rested. God blessed the 7th day and made it holy.

From dust of the earth did God form man and blew into his nostrils the soul of life and man became a living being. God placed the man In the garden of Eden and said "Eat from all the trees but not the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad for you shall surely die. Later, after man names all the animals, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." So, God had the man [Adam} name all the living things, then cast him into a deep sleep and brought forth from his side, a woman, Eve. They were now helpmates on earth, naked and not ashamed.

Now the serpent, the most cunning animal made by God, said to Eve, "Eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad and you will be able to open your eyes like God." Tempted, Eve ate and gave it to Adam and he ate. Suddenly their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked and rushed to make clothes. When God found out what they had done, God curses the serpent, woman and man then sent Adam and Eve outside the garden.

They had two sons: Cain became a farmer and Abel a shepherd. They made offerings to God; Cain from his fruit and Abel the best from his sheep. God smiled upon Abel but not upon Cain and Cain became downcast and angry. God said to Cain, "Why are you so upset? Surely if you do good, you will be elevated. If you do not, then you will be tempted so that you can learn to overcome it." Later Cain said something to his brother then in the field Cain rose up against his brother and killed him. God asked him, "Where is your brother Abel?" And Cain replied, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" But God knew and cursed him.

Later Adam and Eve had a son Seth. After many years, ten generations, God noticed that every day, the hearts and minds of the humans were choosing bad over good. This made God wish God had not created humans. God said, "I will destroy every living thing on the earth."

But Noah found favor in the eyes of God.

Questions: 1) What is good in God's eyes? 2) How do you handle your anger? 3) Do you choose between doing bad and good in your heart, your mind or both?

Illustration Ideas: Any creation of God water, sky, universe, animals, living things, Adam, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad, Eve, Cain and Abel, humans choosing bad over good, Seth, Noah finding favor in eyes of God