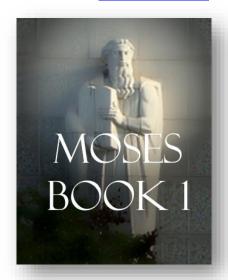


In the beginning God / the starting point in Hebrew was: elohim... This is narrative, not poetry. Strong's Concordance says: plural in form, singular in meaning: translated God/god, 2363 times; gods, 216; goddess, 2; and angels, 1. What this plural noun means, 2 or 3 or more who gather in this Name; it does not exclusively describe God. The OT word EI = God, first used 4 times in chapter 14: by Melchizedek the high priest. Next in chapter 16: Hagar is sent with her son into the wilderness... and the angel of the Lord appears and tells her... Yahweh = the LORD has heard her affliction, and her son would become a wild ass man. Then Hagar confesses: EI = God You see me. So, this Egyptian woman Hagar is the first person we read in detail who prayed to EI.



#### One last comment: two verses of Psalm 82 read:

<sup>1</sup> God stands in the congregation of the mighty; he judges among the gods. <sup>6</sup> I have said, You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High.

But substitute the Hebrew words, and the verses suggest something a little different:

Elohim... stand in the congregation of the El; he judges among the Elohim. <sup>6</sup> I have said, You are Elohim, and all of you are children of the Most High.

Whomever this Elohim is, or are... this plural title, this people? this unity? ... I bet they know who they are! As do all the citizens of eternity, the good ones and the bad ones know. So, I'll leave it in their hands to help correct my faulty thinking... and understand -- if it is important... or just wait till I get there some day.

**In the beginning Elohim... created the heaven and the earth** / in the bible the word: **create** is always associated with the work of God, never the work of any man. Whenever this beginning was... nobody really knows; not even the finest anthropologists, astrophysicists, biologists, botanists, and chemists and all the others... can agree; and the arguments that rage in the halls of academia... are both lively and brutally amazing... often with the maturity of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scrapping on the playground.

Whoever **God** is, **He** created the heaven and the earth... and demonstrated incredible skill. Check out the awesome YouTubes: **God of Wonders** and **The Privileged Planet** My only question before moving to the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse is... since **THEY** are so **creative**... so skillful – because **God** is; then, why do we read?

<sup>2</sup> And the earth was without form, and void / some scholars have placed a gap between the first and second verses. This phrase could read:

And the earth became... a waste and a chaotic desolation / in Hebrew: tohu = formless, waste, empty, a confusion... and bohu = emptiness, desolate, a chaotic state; which makes you wonder: what happened, doesn't it? We might be given a hint in Jeremiah 4... where the exact same words appear...



after the prophet hearing the trumpets blaring, warning the citizens of the approaching enemy; like we see daily in the news, as citizens and their children flee military conflicts in sheer terror... and ask: How long?!

and darkness was upon the face of the deep / Jeremiah says; the birds had fled... and there were dwelling places, but literally... no Adam. And with Jeremiah, the only thing I can conclude about this horrifying event... is that apparently, God is a past Expert dealing with rebellion... and war.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters / Jesus once said, like a mother-hen, I longed to safely gather my children but they would not. And is this perhaps the greatest METANOIA moment ever recorded... as the Spirit of God himself... overlooked some awful destruction due to some outlaw in the heavenlies who led a rebellion? And after a period of deep thinking and reflection and reconsidering... suddenly, it is as if the Spirit of God said, I got it! I know what WE will do... so, turn on the lights.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, Let there be light: and there was light / really, when God speaks things happen immediately; in Hebrew what God said... are only 2 words,

And God said, Light be... and Light was! / in Hebrew: ye-hi o-wr. You know, still today, scientists disagree on what light is: whatever light is, a particle or a wave... before you and I can count 1, 2... light has traveled from the moon to the earth. Check out: Dr. Lisle Distant Starlight and: We Came From Where?

- <sup>4</sup> And God saw the light, that it was good / notice, God wasn't kidding, it is good, but that's the way He always works, to promote good for others: and God divided the light from the darkness.
- <sup>5</sup>And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
  - <sup>6</sup> And God said, Let there be a firmament / this word is often translated: expanse... meaning: to spread out

Let there be an expanse... in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

- <sup>7</sup> And God made the expanse, and divided the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse: and it was so.
- <sup>8</sup> And God called the expanse Heaven / and here is a question: whoever wrote this first page of the Bible, how did they know the heavens are expanding? That is something astronomers for centuries may have theorized, but only in modern times was it proven... the heavens are expanding.
- And the evening and the morning were the second day / so the week has just started, and a lot of beautiful things have been wonderfully created... leaving us to wonder about... along with all those 21st century scientists to argue about.



<sup>9</sup> And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together in one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so / finally, our modern scientists investigating Pangaea, the supercontinent, and the movement of the tectonic plates have understood this to be so.

But how did this writer know it started in one place?

- <sup>10</sup> And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas: and God saw that it was good / it's all good, everything He does, in every detail is good.
- <sup>11</sup>And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit

after its kind / 10 times this Hebrew word appears in this chapter; in spite of all the MGO experiments ... there are fixed boundaries beyond which reproductive processes cannot go.

whose seed is in itself upon the earth: and it was so / the seeds were already there... in the ground... what? from an earlier time?

<sup>12</sup> And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after its kind, and the tree yielding fruit, its seed was in itself, after its kind: and God saw it was good.

<sup>13</sup> And the evening and the morning were the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heaven, to divide the day from the **night** / so we are going to learn something about the stars God placed in the heavens that are spreading out... though it seems Orion and the Pleiades did not get the memo;

and let them be for signs / what? The starry signs even have a purpose? We know signs give valuable information when traveling, right? And we know signs are placed in strategic positions... to point a clear and safe direction, aren't they? So let's read it again...

#### and for seasons, and for days, and years:

- <sup>15</sup> And let them be for lights in the expanse of the heaven to give light upon the earth and it was so / well we know this second part... but isn't that first reason a curiosity? let them be for signs... starry signs, indicating a clear and safe direction. The most enlightening explanation of this verse, the most illuminating scripture on this subject is found in Psalm 19... the heavens declare the glory of God:
- <sup>16</sup> And God made two great lights the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night / now, we are to learn some detail about the sun and the moon; and isn't that interesting? All the old mythological stories found in cultures throughout the world included sun worship as the greatest light ruling the sky; but this verse uses comparatives... not superlatives; leaving lots of room to discover stars greater than our puny sun. Nonetheless, the writer of Genesis amid all the others... wrote accurately:





the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night...

**He made the stars also** / and God is funny, He says, but don't forget about those starry signs; billions of galaxies with billions of stars, God said, Yep! I made them; no big deal and I call them by name.

- <sup>17</sup> And God set them in the expanse of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
- <sup>18</sup> And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good / God's goodness is undeniably printed in every detail of his creation. Obviously, God didn't need it; He made it all for his creation to enjoy.
- 4
- <sup>19</sup> And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.
- <sup>20</sup> And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that has life, and fowl that fly above the earth in the open expanse of heaven.
- <sup>21</sup> And God created great whales, and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after its kind / birds, bees, fireflies, gnats and mosquitos included: and God saw that it was good.
- <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply on the earth.
- 5
- <sup>23</sup> And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.
- <sup>24</sup> And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after its kind, cattle, and the creeping thing, and beast of the earth / even dinosaurs after its kind: and it was so.
- <sup>25</sup> And God made the beast of the earth after its kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the earth after its kind: and God saw that it was good.
- <sup>26</sup> And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness / what God said in Hebrew are 4 words:

na-a-seh... a-dam... be-sal-me-nu... kid-mu-te-nu we make... adam... our image... our likeness...

...and throughout the bible, these 4 words spell out the grand intentions of a very creative, very loving GoD who spelled out the itinerary: starting with Adam... and all who would come from him, who would freely walk with the LORD, and freely choose to be taught by HIM -- not coerced. Men and women renting a life not really our own; we did nothing to be able to claim ownership; it is a gift of life capable of freely loving GoD and freely loving one another, too. This is what God previously planned; this is what He intended as the destination of all who came from the first Adam. This verse is the simple, clear meaning of predestination. (Sadly, and very early in the story, something went terribly wrong. We learn some chose not to walk with the LORD; and decided to go their own way!)



Even so, to those in Ephesus Paul writes, we are His workmanship... the word is: **poema,** where we get our word **poem**... we are His poem, created in Christ Jesus to work His good. God is a very creative Father; He is arranging each part in the poetry... since He knows **His story** He is writing.

And some scientists who believe God created as Genesis tells us, wonder if the next 2 verses describe a general creation of men and women; and in the next chapter we learn about the special creation of Adam and Eve, because we read:

and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth / to rule over the animals; notice, not over people.

<sup>27</sup> So God created men in His own image, in the image of God, He created them male and female / created free to do lots: particularly free to love; which includes the option: free to hate; with their male or female DNA prewired and placed in every cell of their body from the start.

And God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it / replenish = refill to fill up again. So, is this the first time or not?.

and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth / repeating; to rule over fish, fowl and critters; not people.

<sup>29</sup> And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is on the face of all the earth / all this is evidence of a very loving Creator who didn't eat 1 apple; He did this for Adam, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it will be for food / apple, and almond, and apricot, and avocado, and cherry, and coconut, and fig, and grapefruit, and guava, and lemon, and lime, and mango, and orange, and peach, and pear, and plum, and pomegranate, and all the others – there is over 100,000 ... you get the impression God loves variety!

<sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and every fowl of the air, and everything that creeps on the earth, where there is life, I give every green herb for food: and it was so.



<sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that He made, and, behold, it was GOOD GOOD / and it all is good! And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Wow! After all that... I'd be tired!

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