

CREATION, LITERALLY¹

Abstract

One story in the Hebrew Scriptures that accounts for creation is recorded at Genesis 1:1 to 2:4a, while a second account follows on immediately. This Paper examines the text of each account.

Focus is commonly placed on the details and assumptions made by evolutionists. This Paper places a level of scrutiny on the core texts that Creationists rely on.

Is the text solidly based? Are there significant gaps? Are there inconsistencies? Are the texts credible?

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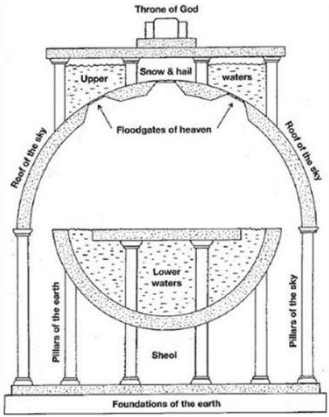
¹ Available at https://jwstudies.com/Creation_literally.pdf

GENESIS 1:1-2:4b (NRSV)

Light, Darkness

	Genesis 1: Day 1	Commentary
 	<p>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.</p> <p>Then 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.</p> <p>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.</p> <p>And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.</p>	<p>When the heavens were created, the gaseous earth was a void, nothingness, and the face of this deep was covered by darkness.</p> <p>God’s wind swept over existing waters but their locations relative to the void are not specified.</p> <p>Light was created by God, who is named EL, either through his speech or by unidentified spirit sources.</p> <p>God liked the idea.</p> <p>This darkness, now called “Night” was separated from the light, which was given the name of “Day”.</p>

Sky dome separates the waters

	Genesis 1: Day 2	Commentary
	<p>And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”</p> <p>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.</p> <p>God called the dome Sky.</p> <p>And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.</p>	<p>A dome was created that separated waters above it from waters beneath it.</p> <p>The dome was given the name of “Sky”</p> <p>In some manner, Darkness and Light created the second day.</p>

Land; seas; vegetation with seeds; fruits

	Genesis 1: Day 3	Commentary
	<p>And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.</p> <p>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.</p> <p>Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.</p> <p>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.</p> <p>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.</p>	<p>Without explaining the fluid dynamics involved, God instructed the waters under the sky dome be moved and gathered, which allowed dry land to appear.</p> <p>The dry land was given the name of <i>Earth</i> and the gathered waters were named <i>Seas</i>.</p> <p>God was pleased.</p> <p>Then, at God’s instruction, the first living entities having the ability to reproduce were created spontaneously out of the inanimate earth, which was converted into living plants that yielded seeds and fruits.</p> <p>Darkness gave way to Light; the third day.</p>

Lights in the sky dome; stars

	Genesis 1: Day 4	Commentary
	<p>And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night;</p> <p>and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,</p> <p>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.</p> <p>God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars.</p> <p>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the</p>	<p>As the sky dome was solid, lights were placed under it to indicate Day and Night.</p> <p>These lights were also used: as signs in the sky; to indicate the seasons; and to shine Light upon Earth.</p> <p>God made two lights, a greater one and a lesser one, to rule and separate Day and Night. They likely mean that God manufactured the sun with its nuclear processes and at the same time he manufactured the Moon, but they do not say whether these were created out of existing material or out of nothing. The sun and moon are thus the same age and are</p>

	<p>earth, to rule over the day and over the night,</p> <p>and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.</p> <p>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.</p>	<p>younger than Earth or its vegetation.</p> <p>Presumably stars were created on this day. They too would have been located under the Sky.</p> <p>The plants now had sunshine.</p> <p>The dark and the light created the fourth day.</p>
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Jaekelopterus rhenaniae: one of the two largest arthropods to have ever lived, reaching a length of over 2.5 metres (8 feet).²

Every kind of flying bird; every kind of living creature in the waters; sea monsters

Genesis 1: Day 5	Commentary
<p>And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”</p> <p>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.</p> <p>God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”</p> <p>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.</p>	<p>Having created life on the third day, with its plants manifesting life’s capability to reproduce, God turns his attention to creating swarms of creatures with life that were capable of reproducing as well as pollinating the plants.</p> <p>Winged birds could fly across the sky dome, although no mention is made of birds that cannot fly, such as the cassowary, emu, or kiwi.</p> <p>God created great sea monsters, every creature in the waters and the winged birds of the air. It is not clear how the birds survived without having insects or grubs to eat. Maybe they were vegetarian, so presumably they survived on the fruit that developed in an instant on the previous day.</p> <p>These creatures of the air and the sea possessed life’s ability to reproduce.</p> <p>The Dark and the Light created the fifth day</p>

² <https://www.toptenz.net/top-10-terrifying-prehistoric-sea-monsters.php> (accessed 9 September 2019)



Kronosaurus: Carnivorous. Length 9 metres (10 feet); longest tooth 28 cm (11 inches)³

Animals on the earth – cattle, creeping creatures; wild beasts

Genesis 1: Day 6	Commentary
<p>And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so.</p> <p>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good</p>	<p>Inanimate earth is used to create every living kind: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals.</p> <p>It is not made clear whether the wild animals were vegetarian nor whether the plants were able to bring forth seeds and fruits without the interaction with the creeping things, created on this sixth day.</p> <p>God liked what he (or she) saw.</p>

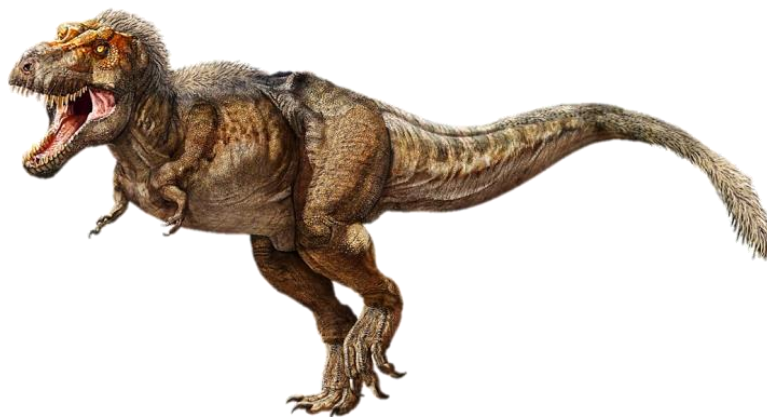


Hatzegopteryx: The largest flying animal. Weighed 110 kg (250 lb); wingspan 12 metres (40 feet); skull 3 metres (10 feet). Flesh-eating.⁴

³ <https://www.toptenz.net/top-10-terrifying-prehistoric-sea-monsters.pph> (accessed 9 September 2019)

Humankind – male and female

Genesis 1: Day 6 (continues)	Commentary
<p>Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness;</p> <p>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 wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.</p>	<p>God (EL) instructs others (presumably meaning the Elohim cohort by “us”) to manufacture humankind in their image, without explaining what that means.</p> <p>Humankind is permitted to dominate fish, flying birds, cattle, wild animals, and creeping things.</p>
<p>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.</p>	<p>When the narrative breaks into verse, it says the “male and female” humankind were the image of God.</p>
<p>God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”</p> <p>God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that 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.</p> <p>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.</p> <p>And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.</p>	<p>God blessed the male and female, instructing them to dominate every moving living creature created on days 3 (plants), 5 (birds, sea life), and 6 (cattle, creeping things, and wild animals).</p> <p>Every living thing that had the breath of life, including humankind, birds, and creeping insects, was permission to eat the seeds from every green plant. This does not mention the sea creatures and this suggests the “wild animals” were vegetarian.</p> <p>Now God was able to declare say that everything was <i>very good</i>”.</p> <p>The dark and the light created the sixth day</p>



Tyrannosaurus rex: carnivorous. Height 3.5 metres (12 feet); length 13 metres (42 feet); skull 1.5 metres (5 feet); weight 9000 kilos (20,000 lb)⁵

⁴ <https://www.toptenz.net/top-10-dinosaurs-that-make-jurassic-park-look-like-a-petting-zoo.php> (accessed 9 September 2019)

⁵ <https://www.businessinsider.com.au/t-rex-discovered-in-canada-biggest-oldest-2019-3?r=US&IR=T> (accessed 10 September 2019)



Hyperodapedon Gordoni: length 1.3 metres (4 feet); weight 50 kilos (110 lb)⁶

The Sabbath is blessed by God (E)

Genesis 1: Day 7	Commentary
<p>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.</p> <p>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.</p> <p>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.</p> <p>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created</p>	<p>The highlight and focus of the creation story is the institution of the seventh day Sabbath.</p> <p>Everything was now so “very good” that God rested from “all work” he had done in creation.</p> <p>God blessed the seventh day, calling it holy.</p> <p>The writers did not conclude with: “And there was evening and there was morning, the seventh day”. The Sabbath Day was left open-ended as an ongoing institution.</p> <p>These writers, who were not eye witnesses, had achieved their religious objective.</p>



Titanis: Flightless carnivorous land bird. Weighed 130 kilos (300 lb); height 3 metres (10 feet); speed 65 kmh (40 mph).⁷

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperodapedon#/media/File:Paradapedon_1DB.jpg (accessed 10 September 2019)

⁷ <https://www.toptenz.net/top-10-dinosaurs-that-make-jurassic-park-look-like-a-petting-zoo.php> (accessed 9 September 2019)

GENESIS 2:4b – 2:25 (NRSV)

It had never rained; there were no field plants or field herbs	Commentary
<p>In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,</p> <p>when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up —</p> <p>for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth,</p> <p>and there was no one to till the ground;</p> <p>but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground.</p>	<p>In contrast to the other Creation story, which employed the name EL for God, these writers name God as YHWH EL (Yahweh EL).</p> <p>This story does not involve a structured cosmology (sky, sun, moon stars, waters, and so on). Unlike the other account, with its focus on the Sabbath, this account is not concerned with time. This story's focus is the institution of marriage.</p> <p>This description of the creation of the earth and the heavens begins with a land without field plants or field herbs. There had thus been no need for rain and there was no farmer.</p> <p>Despite the lack of rain, a stream rose from the earth and it watered the whole earth.</p>

Man created from dust	Commentary
<p>Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground,</p> <p>and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;</p> <p>and the man became a living being.</p>	<p>YHWH EL formed an inanimate body from inanimate soil (presumably without a navel).</p> <p>This inanimate body instantly became a living being when God breathed “the breath of life” into its nostrils.</p> <p>Does this mean God shared his breath and that God literally has to breathe? Did God literally place a literal mouth over the inanimate body's nose? Does God have lungs?</p>

God plants a garden; Man put into the garden	Commentary
<p>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east;</p> <p>and there he put the man whom he had formed.</p>	<p>Unlike the account at Genesis 1, where plants were created before the creation of humankind, in this story man is created before YHWH EL planted a garden in the east.</p> <p>After planting the garden, God put the man in it.</p> <p>Unlike the austere, distant, demanding God of Genesis 1, this story pictures God as an involved caring gardener.</p>

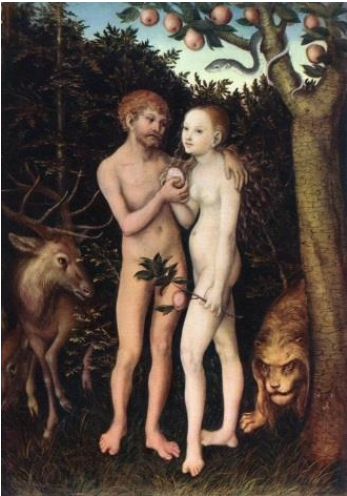
Trees	Commentary
<p>Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food,</p> <p>the tree of life also in the midst of the garden,</p> <p>and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.</p>	<p>God made every visually and nutritious tree grow out of the ground. They produced food but there is no explanation whether they had to receive “the breath of life”.</p> <p>In the garden, God grew:</p> <p>(a) the tree of life</p> <p>(b) the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.</p> <p>Did a tree possess the “breath of life”?</p> <p>How can a tree possess knowledge?</p>

Rivers	Commentary
<p>A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.</p> <p>The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.</p> <p>The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush.</p> <p>The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria.</p> <p>And the fourth river is the Euphrates.</p>	<p>Previously, a stream had arisen from the earth and watered the whole face; now a river came out of Eden to water the garden built by God.</p> <p>Literally, this means that the garden was not in Eden; rather, Eden was the source of the river that watered the garden.</p> <p>The river divided into four tributaries: Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, and Euphrates. These flowed in the regions of: Havilah, Cush, and Assyria.</p>

Man is to care for the garden and is restricted from the fruit of one tree	Commentary
<p>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.</p> <p>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”</p>	<p>YHWH El assigned Man the task of caring for the garden.</p> <p>Man was told he could eat the fruit of every tree in the garden apart from the tree that would provide him with all knowledge. If he did eat of it, he would lose his immortality.</p> <p>It is not clear whether the Tree of Life was involved in this prohibition.</p>

Field animals and flying birds formed and named	Commentary
<p>Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner."</p> <p>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.</p> <p>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.</p>	<p>YHWH EI decided that he had to provide Man with the help he needed to meet the task of tending the garden.</p> <p>Therefore YHWH EI formed all field animals and flying birds from the inanimate soil. There is no indication how these ones became living, nor how this happened with other birds and animals.</p> <p>Creeping insects and creatures of the waters are ignored. Giving them the "breath of life" would be an interesting experience.</p> <p>God involved himself by bringing the field animals and flying birds to Man so find out what the man would call them. He gave a name to the cattle, to the flying birds, and to all the field animals.</p> <p>Unfortunately, man could not name a suitable partner among the cattle, birds, and animals.</p>

Woman made from Man's rib	Commentary
<p>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.</p> <p>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.</p>	<p>Although YHWH EI was able to form animals, birds and Man from the inanimate earth, God chose instead to remove one of Man's ribs and use it to form all of Man's partner's cells and organs, including the organs that made her to be female.</p> <p>Probably YHWH EI did not need to provide woman with "the breath of life" as she was produced from a living soul, namely, Man.</p>

	This shall be called "Woman"	Commentary
	<p>Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."</p>	<p>The account breaks into verse.</p> <p>The painting (1533) shows an anaemic European Original Man and Woman.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Therefore leave your parents and get married</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Commentary</p>
<p>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.</p> <p>And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.</p>	<p>The purpose of this narrative and its focus is reached: marriage is a divinely ordained universal institution.</p> <p>For this reason, a man leaves his parents. Not that this Man and Woman had parents they left behind.</p>