

# Genesis 1- 2:4 (Good News Translation)

## The Story of Creation

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, when God created the universe,<sup>2</sup> the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. <sup>3</sup> Then God commanded, “Let there be light”—and light appeared. <sup>4</sup> God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, <sup>5</sup> and he named the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

<sup>6-7</sup> Then God commanded, “Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places”—and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. <sup>8</sup> He named the dome “Sky.” Evening passed and morning came—that was the second day.

<sup>9</sup> Then God commanded, “Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear”—and it was done. <sup>10</sup> He named the land “Earth,” and the water which had come together he named “Sea.” And God was pleased with what he saw. <sup>11</sup> Then he commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit”—and it was done. <sup>12</sup> So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. <sup>13</sup> Evening passed and morning came—that was the third day.

<sup>14</sup> Then God commanded, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; <sup>15</sup> they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth”—and it was done. <sup>16</sup> So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. <sup>19</sup> Evening passed and morning came—that was the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> Then God commanded, “Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. <sup>22</sup> He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. <sup>23</sup> Evening passed and morning came—that was the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small”—and it was done. <sup>25</sup> So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.” <sup>27</sup> So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, <sup>28</sup> blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. <sup>29</sup> I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; <sup>30</sup> but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food”—and it was done. <sup>31</sup> God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

**2** And so the whole universe was completed. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. <sup>3</sup> He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working. <sup>4</sup> And that is how the universe was created.