
1: CREATION

GENESIS 1 & 2

LONGING FOR HOME

God created a good world—a paradise, a garden of delight called Eden. And He placed man there.

Man walked with God and with his perfect companion in Eden. The man and the woman enjoyed responsibility as caretakers and boundless creativity, and were rich with resources and beauty.

Man and woman were where God designed them to be, overseeing a creation that operated in perfect harmony, a place where God was present. *Life* was good. But the man and woman had to leave.

Some think everything written in these two chapters are part of a myth...the God-created-the-world part, and the garden of Eden part. People believe that Eden is too good to be true, and too fanciful to be historically real.

And yet, the evidence for Eden, this paradise that God created just for mankind, runs through the bloodlines of history. The desire for that paradise is the common longing all people share for a place called home where we do not feel alone...where we don't feel small and limited...where we don't feel disjointed or lost...where we can only feel a sense of fullness, communion, and calling.

Talk to anyone, and you will find he or she has a longing for a home, a lover, a purpose, and, whether they know it or not, a Father God. *Eden*—the place on earth that's like heaven.

Can our longing ever be satisfied for this long-lost, not-at-all-mythical place?

Jesus tells us to pray for a kingdom to come to earth that reflects heaven's harmony, just like the place called Eden long ago. He tells us to open our eyes to see that, even now, *the kingdom of heaven is at hand*. Can it be that Jesus is restoring the place our hearts are craving? Indeed, He is restoring *home* as God created it.

Eden is not a myth, and paradise is not forever lost. We get to go home.

May we tell any person who is longing for something of this Good News—Good News that means everything.

CREATION: GENESIS 1 & 2

SHARE THE STORY

Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."

DESIGN: The Bible begins with the words, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Before the creation of the universe, there was only a watery, chaotic void. But God spoke. First He created light, and then He created the land and sea.

Question: Do you believe the universe was designed or did it come to exist by chance?

NATURE AND SKY: God then created: plants and trees; the sun, the moon, and the stars; and the sea, air, and land animals. He called all of it good. By this point, He was on the sixth day of the creation process.

Questions: Do you appreciate nature? What is your favorite aspect of the creation?

MAN AND WOMAN: After creating the animals, while it was still the sixth day, God decided to create man, a being in His own image. He created the man out of the dust, breathed life into him, and set him in a beautiful garden. He gave the man, Adam, authority over all of the plants and animals. But God said it was not good for man to be alone, and while Adam was in a deep sleep, God removed his rib and from it created woman.

Questions: In what ways do you think man is created in the image of God? Do you agree that it is not good for a man to be alone?

VALUE: God dedicated the seventh day as a day of rest. His creation was complete and He was pleased with it. He called it "very good."

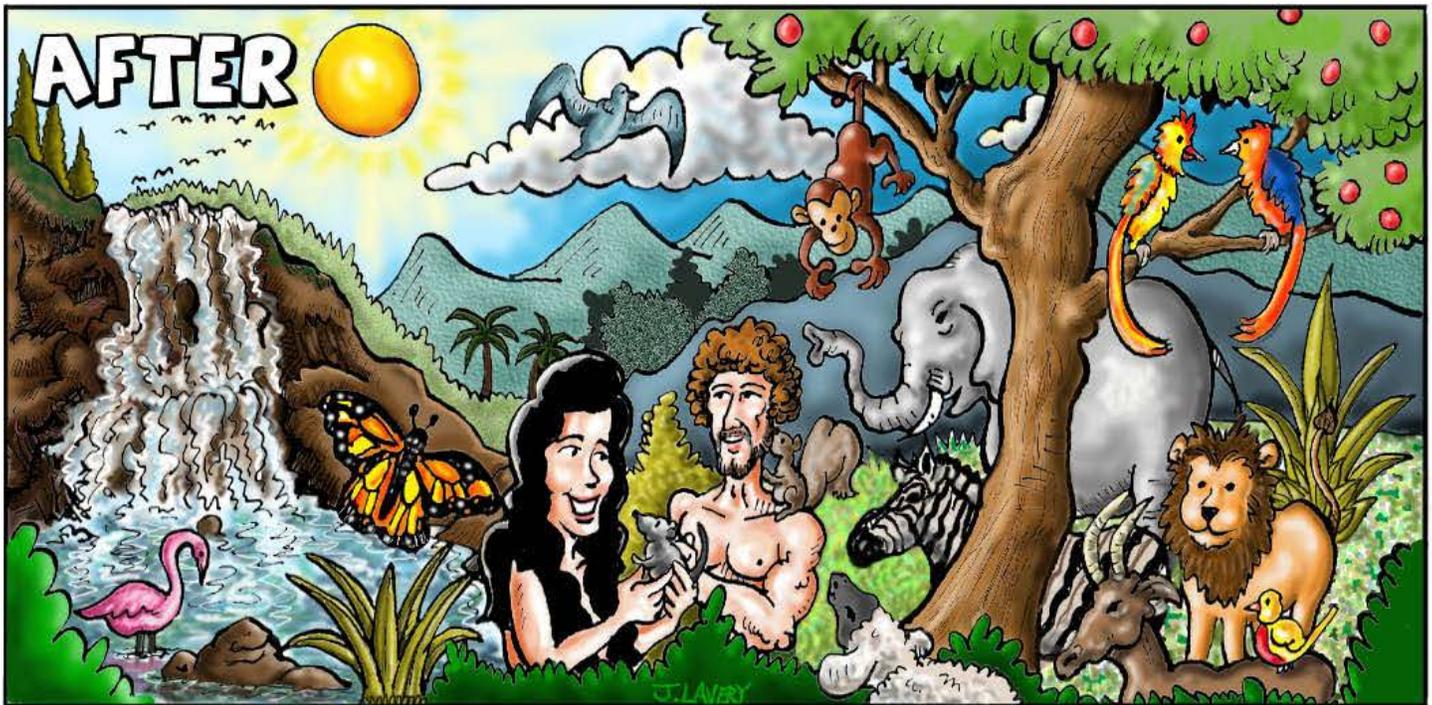
Questions: Do you think the creation is very good? Do you have a day of rest when you cease from work? Why do you think God created the world and you and me?

Isaiah 45:18 "For thus says the LORD that created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, he has established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), I am the LORD, and there is none else."

In The Beginning (Genesis 1-2)

< Alpha • Omega >

BEFORE



God likes this



Ben Freedman Wow—this is very eye-opening!

Definitely food for thought!

January 1 at 12:00am

Scribe a comment...

