

A watercolor illustration of a celestial scene. In the center is a large, irregularly shaped celestial body with a yellow and orange core and a blue and purple outer layer. To its left is a smaller, ringed planet with a yellow and orange core and a blue and purple outer layer. The background is a dark, swirling mass of purple, blue, and yellow, with several small white dots representing stars. The overall style is artistic and ethereal.

IN THE BEGINNING

THIS STORY IS FOUND IN GENESIS 1

Long ago, before time began, there was nothing in this world. There were no boys or girls, no moms or dads. There were no puppies or kittens and no chirping birds. No squirmy frogs or lizards or ants. In fact, there was no sun and no moon. No stars twinkled in the sky. Really? That's right, and there were no roses to smell or apples to eat either. No bubbling streams to play in, no grassy hills to roll down, no trees to climb. There was nothing.



It's hard for us to imagine that today, but it's true. The Bible says so. We can read all about it at the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis 1. Here's the story.

One day, God said, "Let's create a beautiful world. Let's make a place where boys and girls can have fun with lots of things to see and do and smell and eat."

So God came to this earth. The Bible says there was only darkness and water everywhere, but God was about to change all that. It was time for Creation week to begin.

On the first day of the week, God said, "Let's make some light," and suddenly there was light everywhere. It was amazing! The light brightened up the whole world as if someone had turned on a giant light switch.

And God said, "This is good."

On the second day of Creation, God said, "We need to make a blue sky," and in a moment, it was there. Then He added oxygen and carbon dioxide so His creation could breathe, and He hung big, white clouds that looked like mashed potatoes.

"This is excellent!" God said.

On the third day, God said, "Let's make some land," and presto! Beaches, plains, valleys, and hills slowly rose out of the water. God was pleased, but day three of Creation wasn't finished yet. Suddenly, there was green grass everywhere and fields full of flowers and trees with peaches on them. It was astonishing to see God make it happen so fast!

And God liked it. "Fantastic!" He said.

On the fourth day of Creation, God said, "It's time to make the sun and the moon," and quick as a wink, they showed up! The sun shone by day, and the moon lit the night.

And God said, "This is very nice."

On the fifth day, God said, "Let's make some fish and other creatures to swim in the waters of the earth and birds to fly in the air." And just like that, there were dolphins in the seas, trout in the streams, and goldfish in the ponds. There were bluebirds, yellow birds, and red birds flying everywhere singing beautiful songs.

"Wonderful!" God said.

On the sixth day of Creation, God had lots to do, so He got an early start. He created iguanas to crawl on rocks and dogs to dig in the dirt. He made monkeys to climb trees, bees to fly through the air, and horses to run in the fields.

Then He said, "Let's make a man and woman. We can make them loving and kind to be just like God."

So God made a man out of clay. He breathed into him the breath of life and called him Adam. Then He made a woman from one of Adam's ribs, and Adam called her Eve.

And God said, "Everything is amazing!"

That was the end of God's work on the sixth day. He had made so many nice things. As the sun went down, the seventh day began, and God called it the Sabbath. To make it very special, He decided to bless it and make it holy. Why? Because He wanted Adam



and Eve to remember that He created a beautiful world to show them His love.

Wow! The Sabbath was the most special gift of all! Creation week was finished, and God saw that everything was perfect.

God still wants us to remember that He created our world, and the seventh-day Sabbath reminds us of that. It's the very best day of the week! He asks us to spend it with Him so that we will know how much He loves us.