

The Story Chapter 1, “Creation”
(readings excerpted from Genesis 1-9)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

So God created human beings in his own image. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.

...

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

...

On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy... (*Gen 1:1-2:3*)

...

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden – except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.” (*Gen 2:15*) Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame. (*Gen 2:25*)

...

The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil... It broke his heart. And the Lord said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing – all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.”

But Noah found favor with the Lord... Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. (*Gen 6:5-9*)

[Noah worshipped the Lord,] and the Lord was pleased... [saying,] “I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things. As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.” (*Gen 8:21-22*)

[God reaffirmed his covenant with Noah’s family, giving them stewardship over all creation, all living creatures. And God set the rainbow in the sky as a reminder of this divine promise.]