

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water. **3** God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light! **4** God saw that the light was good, so God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” There was evening, and there was morning, marking the first day.

6 God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters and let it separate water from water.” **7** So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. It was so. **8** God called the expanse “sky.” There was evening, and there was morning, a second day.

9 God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place and let dry ground appear.” It was so. **10** God called the dry ground “land” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” God saw that it was good.

11 God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: plants yielding seeds according to their kinds, and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.” It was so. **12** The land produced vegetation—plants yielding seeds according to their kinds, and trees bearing fruit with seed in it ac-

ording to their kinds. God saw that it was good. ¹³ There was evening, and there was morning, a third day.

¹⁴ God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs to indicate seasons and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.” It was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷ God placed the lights in the expanse of the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸ to preside over the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ There was evening, and there was morning, a fourth day.

²⁰ God said, “Let the water swarm with swarms of living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” ²¹ God created the great sea creatures and every living and moving thing with which the water swarmed, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ There was evening, and there was morning, a fifth day.

²⁴ God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their

kinds: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” It was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the cattle according to their kinds, and all the creatures that creep along the ground according to their kinds. God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth.”

²⁷ God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it! Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground.” ²⁹ Then God said, “I now give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the entire earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the animals of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” It was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made—and it was very good! There was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 The heavens and the earth were completed with everything that was in them. **2** By the seventh day God finished the work that he had been doing, and he ceased on the seventh day all the work that he had been doing. **3** God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it he ceased all the work that he had been doing in creation.

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created—when the Lord God made the earth and heavens.

5 Now no shrub of the field had yet grown on the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. **6** Springs would well up from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. **7** The Lord God formed the man from the soil of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 The Lord God planted an orchard in the east, in Eden; and there he placed the man he had formed. **9** The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow from the soil, every tree that was pleasing to look at and good for food. (Now the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil were in the middle of the orchard.)

¹⁰ Now a river flows from Eden to water the orchard, and from there it divides into four headstreams. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it runs through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² (The gold of that land is pure; pearls and lapis lazuli are also there). ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it runs through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris; it runs along the east side of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for it and to maintain it. ¹⁶ Then the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat fruit from every tree of the orchard, ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die.”

¹⁸ The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion for him who corresponds to him.” ¹⁹ The Lord God formed out of the ground every living animal of the field and every bird of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man named all the animals, the birds of the air, and the living creatures of the field, but for Adam no companion who corresponded to him was

found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was asleep, he took part of the man's side and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the part he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife, and they become a new family. ²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

Genesis 1—2 (NET)

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had ceased to exist, and the sea existed no more. **2** And I saw the holy city—the new Jerusalem—descending out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Look! The residence of God is among human beings. He will live among them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist any more—or mourning, or crying, or pain, for the former things have ceased to exist.”

5 And the one seated on the throne said: “Look! I am making all things new!” Then he said to me, “Write it down, because these words are reliable and true.” **6** He also said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the one who is thirsty I will give water free of charge from the spring of the water of life. **7** The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be my son. **8** But as for the cowards, unbelievers, detestable persons, murderers, the sexually immoral, and those who practice magic spells, idol worshipers, and all those who lie, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. That is the second death.”

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven final plagues came and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife

of the Lamb!”¹⁰ So he took me away in the Spirit to a huge, majestic mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. ¹¹ The city possesses the glory of God; its brilliance is like a precious jewel, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper. ¹² It has a massive, high wall with twelve gates, with twelve angels at the gates, and the names of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel are written on the gates. ¹³ There are three gates on the east side, three gates on the north side, three gates on the south side and three gates on the west side. ¹⁴ The wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ The angel who spoke to me had a golden measuring rod with which to measure the city and its foundation stones and wall. ¹⁶ Now the city is laid out as a square, its length and width the same. He measured the city with the measuring rod at fourteen hundred miles (its length and width and height are equal). ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, one hundred forty-four cubits according to human measurement, which is also the angel's. ¹⁸ The city's wall is made of jasper and the city is pure gold, like transparent glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city's wall are decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth ame-

thyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates are twelve pearls—each one of the gates is made from just one pearl! The main street of the city is pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² Now I saw no temple in the city, because the Lord God—the All-Powerful—and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God lights it up, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light and the kings of the earth will bring their grandeur into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be closed during the day (and there will be no night there). ²⁶ They will bring the grandeur and the wealth of the nations into it, ²⁷ but nothing ritually unclean will ever enter into it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or practices falsehood, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life—water as clear as crystal—pouring out from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ² flowing down the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life producing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month of the year. Its leaves are for the healing of the nations. ³ And there will no longer be any curse, and the throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city. His servants will worship him, ⁴ and they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ Night will be no more, and they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will shine on them, and they will

reign forever and ever.

⁶ Then the angel said to me, “These words are reliable and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must happen soon.”

⁷ (Look! I am coming soon!

Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy expressed in this book.)

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things, and when I heard and saw them, I threw myself down to worship at the feet of the angel who was showing them to me. ⁹ But he said to me, “Do not do this! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets, and with those who obey the words of this book. Worship God!” ¹⁰ Then he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy contained in this book, because the time is near. ¹¹ The evildoer must continue to do evil, and the one who is morally filthy must continue to be filthy. The one who is righteous must continue to act righteously, and the one who is holy must continue to be holy.”

¹² (Look! I am coming soon,

and my reward is with me to pay each one according to what he has done!

¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the first and the last,

the beginning and the end!)

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes so they can have access to the tree of life and can enter into the city by the gates. **15** Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the sexually immoral, and the murderers, and the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood!

16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star!” **17** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say: “Come!” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wants it take the water of life free of charge.

18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy contained in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. **19** And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

20 The one who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! **21** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

Revelation 21–22 (NET)