

Lesson I.

THE CREATION

January 5, 1913

A FOREWORD—In this Quarter we study the genesis or beginning of things. We see the universe beginning by God's power. We see man beginning as a living soul. We see the beginning of sin which, in turn, means the beginning of sorrow and death. We see the beginning of God's purpose to redeem mankind from sin and sorrow. We see the beginning of that nation through which His grace is to be fulfilled.

GOLDEN TEXT—In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.—Genesis 1: 1.

*Memorize v. 27. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 1: 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 31. Study Genesis 1: 1 to 2: 3. Read Genesis, chs. 1, 2.

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

2 And the earth was ¹without form, and void; and darkness ^{was} upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it ^{was} good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And ^{the} evening and the morning were the first day.

7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which ^{were} under the firmament from the waters which ^{were} above the firmament: and it was so.

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

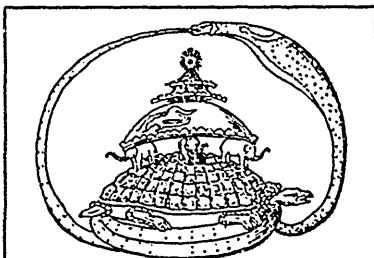
10 And God called the dry land Earth: and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it ^{was} good.

Revised Version—¹I waste; ²there was evening and there was morning, one day; ³Omit and; ⁴its kind, and tree bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after its kind; ⁵the; ⁶the great sea-monsters; ⁷kinds; ⁸its; ⁹the; ¹⁰ground; ¹¹and God; ¹²there was evening and there was morning.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The creation, Gen. 1: 1-15. T.—The creation, Gen. 1: 16-31. W.—A song of praise, Ps. 33: 1-9. Th.—Searching questions, Job 38: 1-15. F.—The Creator, Jer. 10: 10-16. S.—The Creator governs His works, Isa. 40: 9-28. S.—A call to praise, Ps. 148.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE CREATION AND LIGHT.—1-5. In the beginning; at the beginning of the order of things as we know them. God created the heaven and the earth. The verse gives a summary of the whole creative act; it is a general statement of the fact that the universe begins with God. The word for "create" signifies the production of something not yet existent. Nowhere is it used of human production (see Heb. 11: 3).—"What is seen hath not been made out of things which do appear" (Rev. Ver.). The earth was without form, and void; shapeless and empty. Our word chaos expresses the idea. Darkness was upon the face of the deep. Darkness is the third condition. The deep is not the ocean, but is rather the "huge watery mass" enveloping the earth. The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. In the Old Testament the spirit is the principle of life, hence it means here the divine energy. "Moved upon" is better translated by "was brooding upon"



INDIAN REPRESENTATION OF THE UNIVERSE

This picture represents the ancient Hindu's grotesque view of the world. The heavens rest on the earth, the earth on elephants, the elephants on a tortoise, while the whole is surrounded by a serpent swallowing its tail, the symbol of eternity.

(Rev. Ver. Margin). The same word is used in Deut. 32: 11 of an eagle fluttering over its young; the Spirit covers the deep as it were with wings. And God said. These words are used at the beginning of each work of creation; hence there is the Jewish saying, "By ten sayings the world was created." The words imply that God produced the world by a conscious and deliberate act of will. God speaks, and it is. Let there be light. This is the first day and the first work. Light is the first work because it is the necessary condition of progress and action. And God saw . . . that it was good. The divine approval is expressed seven

times in the chapter—after each work except the second. And God divided the light from the darkness. Darkness and light are each to have its own place and time of appearance.

II. THE FIRMAMENT AND THE DRY LAND.—7, 9, 10, 12. And God made the firmament. This is the second day and the second work. The firmament

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.