

earth was without form and in darkness, until by the divine command the sun and moon and stars burst into being and cast their first light upon the new world. The light and darkness were now separated so that at appointed times the earth should be bathed with the sun's rays, and again be covered with darkness, and these changes God designed should occur every twelve hours. The former He therefore called day, and the latter night.

He divided the waters and made the dry land to appear, and in the latter planted the seed of every kind of tree, grass, and herb, which were made to spring up and yield their fruit to bless the earth, and the creatures which were speedily to be brought into being. The waters were now made to bring forth fish of every species, including the great whales and other monsters which belong to the deep, and winged fowls were made to fly above the waters and the earth. Then followed the creation of all manner of beasts and cattle, and things that creep as well, so that on the last day of God's labor the earth was teeming with life, both great and small, blessed by His generous hand, and ready for the dominion which He was about to give to a creature yet unborn to exercise over them.

Over all this beautiful world, so fresh and perfect, so wondrous with rich vegetation and marvellous with abundant and diversified life, God cast his gratified eye, and was pleased with His labor. But His great work was yet incomplete, for though all things which He had made were beautiful and perfect, He had given to none of His creatures the divine attribute—reason—which could make them mindful of His goodness and their dependency upon His bounty and mercy. To complete the measure of His omnipotence, God therefore said unto the celestial host by which He was surrounded, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." And so God fashioned Adam in His own image, and gave to him dominion over every living thing that was on the earth, and made every tree and herb to bring forth fruit for him.

It was on the seventh day that God completed His work of creation, and He rested on that day and blessed and sanctified it, being greatly pleased with what He had done.

But after resting one day God returned to His labor, not of creating, but of preparing the earth for the being He had fashioned in His own likeness.

The record of Moses tells us that "the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed." In this garden God made to grow every tree and flower that was beautiful to the sight, and that yielded the most delicious of fruits. In this garden Adam was placed and told to freely eat of everything that pleased him except of the fruit of a single tree that stood in the centre of this earthly paradise, and of this he was forbidden to touch. God told Adam that this tree bore fruit which was mortal to the taste, and that if he ate of it the penalty would be death.

After giving possession of the garden to Adam, God caused every species of bird, animal and reptile that He had created to pass before Adam, who gave