

Lesson I.

GOD THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

July 7, 1901

Genesis 1: 1-2: 3; v. 26 to 2: 3 only printed, by recommendation of International S.S. Lesson Committee. Commit to memory vs. 26, 27.

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a

Revised Version—And; ²Bearing; ³There was evening and there was morning, the sixth day; ⁴And the heaven; ⁵Finished; ⁶Hallowed; ⁷Omni had.

tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

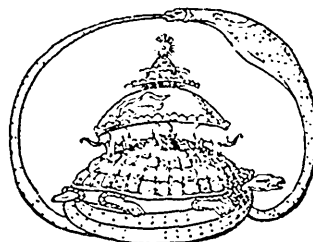
2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

EXPLANATION

Introduction—During the next four months our studies are to be in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. The word "Genesis" means "beginning," and is taken from the opening sentence of the book. To-day's lesson gives God's own account of the beginning of things—of the creation of the heaven and the earth, and the origin of man. As in the other lessons, where the number of verses exceeds a dozen, only a portion is printed, but the "Explanation" covers the whole. This is the plan proposed for this year by the International Lesson Committee, by whom the lessons are chosen.

1, 2. **In the beginning.** How far back in the distant past, no man knows. God created; of nothing, unaided and alone. **The heaven and the earth;** the earth on which we dwell and the sky above it. **Without form and void;** waste and empty, buried, too, in darkness. **The Spirit of God moved;** to bring order out of confusion, and render the earth



East Indian Representation of the Universe.

habitable for man. The story of how this was done follows. Hundreds of volumes have been written upon it. Wise and learned and good men differ in their explanations; but they all agree that the Bible account of creation is as far above all other accounts as the Bible itself is above all other books. It is likely, also, that as what science tells us of how the earth was made and arrived at its present condition, and what the Bible tells us, are more fully understood, they will be found perfectly to agree.

3-5. **And God said.** Nine times (see following verses) do these words occur. God's every word is omnipotent. (Heb. 11:3.) **Light** is the first work. Without it there could be no order or life. The Hebrews always reckoned their days as **evening and morn-**

ing. Their day began and ended at sundown.

6-13. **A firmament;** an "expanse" (Margin, Rev. Ver.) or wide space, between the waters of the world below and those of the clouds above. Then follow the separation of sea and land, and the beginning of vegetable life. The earth is being got ready for its inhabitants.

14-25. **Let there be lights.** The light, before diffused or obscured by dense mists, now becomes centred in the sun, moon and stars. (Ps. 136:7-9.) Then (vs. 20-23) God fills the waters and the air with living creatures; and (vs. 24, 25) finally, the earth itself. **And God saw that it was good.** Note how this is repeated from v. 10 onward. God was well content with what He had done.

26-28. **Let us make man.** The word "us" is the plural of majesty, as the king says "We" in royal edicts. **In our image.** Here is a new note in the narrative. Compare the significant account in ch. 2:7. Man is next to and like God in intellect, and in his moral and spiritual nature. **Male and female.** The detail is given in ch. 2:20-23. (Compare Matt. 19:4.) **Have dominion.** See also ch. 2:19, 20. Man has proved his lordship of creation by subduing it to his will and use.

29-31. **To you it shall be for meat** (food). Man's food was to be from the vegetable world, and apparently without labor. **The right to use animal food followed.** (Gen. 9:3.) **Behold, it was very good.** God rejoices still more (see vs. 10, etc.), now that man has been made.

Ch. 2: 1. **Thus;** a brief re-statement of the work of the six days, as if God Himself were pausing to consider the grandeur of it. **God rested the seventh day . . . blessed . . . and sanctified it** (set it apart as holy). Behold here the basis of the Fourth Commandment (Ex. 20: 10, 11). Traces of a weekly day of rest are to be found in ancient Babylonian and Assyrian records.

[It will be interesting and instructive to place the account of the creation in this chapter, vs. 4-25, with that just studied. Notice the name "Lord God," instead of simply "God"; also the many new details which are given.]