

Comparison of Genesis 1-3 EHV

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.² The earth was **undeveloped**^a and empty. Darkness covered the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over **the surface of** the waters.

³God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” There was evening and there was morning—the first day.

⁶God said, “Let there be an **expanse**^b between the waters, and let it separate the water from the water.” ⁷God made the expanse, and he separated the water that was below the expanse from the water that was above the expanse, and it was so. ⁸God called the expanse “sky.”^c There was evening and there was morning—the second day.

⁹God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together to one place, and let the **dry land** appear,” and it was so. **The waters under the sky gathered to their own places, and the dry land appeared.**^d ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathering places of the waters he called “seas.” God saw that it was good.

¹¹God said, “Let the earth produce **plants**—**vegetation** that produces seed, and trees that bear fruit with its seed in it—each according to its own kind on the earth,” and it was so. ¹²The **earth** brought forth plants, vegetation that produces seed according to its own kind, and trees that bear fruit with its seed in it, each according to its own kind, and God saw that it was good. ¹³There was evening and there was morning—the third day.

NIV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.² Now the earth was **formless** and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over **the waters**.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a **vault** between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

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

¹¹Then God said, “Let the land produce **vegetation**: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹²The **land** produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

^a2 Or *without form*

^b6 Traditionally *a firmament*

^c8 Or *the heavens*

^d9 The Greek Old Testament includes the sentence in half-brackets. It is not in the Hebrew text.

EHV

¹⁴God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to divide the day from the night, and let them serve as **markers to indicate seasons, days, and years**. ¹⁵Let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to give light to the earth,” and it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights: the greater light to **rule** the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set these lights in place in the expanse of the sky to **provide light for the earth**, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to **divide** the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. ¹⁹There was evening and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰God said, “Let the waters **swarm** with living creatures, and **let birds and other winged creatures**^a fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky.” ²¹God created the **large sea creatures** and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their own kind, and every winged bird according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them when he said, “Be fruitful and **multiply**. Fill the waters of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³There was evening and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴God said, “Let the **earth** produce living creatures according to their own kind, livestock,^b **creeping things**, and wild animals according to their own kind,” and **it was so**. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their own kind, and the livestock according to their own kind, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its own kind. God saw that it was good.

NIV

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as **signs to mark sacred times, and days and years**, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the greater light to **govern** the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the vault of the sky **to give light** on the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to **separate** light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the water **teem** with living creatures, and let **birds** fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” ²¹So God created **the great creatures of the sea** and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and **increase in number** and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the **land** produce living creatures according to **their kinds**: the livestock, **the creatures that move along the ground**, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And **it was so**. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. **And** God saw that it was good.

^a20 The Hebrew word ‘*oph* usually refers to birds, but it means “flyers” and can include other flying creatures such as insects and bats.

^b24 Or *domestic animals*

²⁶God said, “Let us make **man**^a in our image, according to our likeness, and let them **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and **over all the earth**, and over **every creeping thing that crawls on the earth.**”

²⁷God created **the man** in his own image.

In the image of God he created **him**.

Male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every **living thing** that moves on the **earth.**”

²⁹God said, “**Look, I have given you** every plant that produces seed on the face of the whole earth, and every tree that bears fruit that produces seed. It will be your food. ³⁰To every **animal** of the earth, and to every bird **of** the sky, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

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

2

The heavens and the earth were finished, along with **everything in them**.^b ²On the seventh day God had finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had been doing. ³God blessed the seventh day and **set it apart as holy**, because on it he rested from all his work of creation that he had done.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make **mankind** in our image, in our likeness, so that they may **rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock **and all the wild animals**,^c and over **all the creatures that move along the ground.**”

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

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and **increase in number**; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every **living creature** that moves on the **ground.**”

²⁹Then God said, “**I give you** every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the **beasts** of the earth and all the birds **in** the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

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

2

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in **all their vast array**.

²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and **made it holy**, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

^a26 The rendering of the Hebrew word *adam* is a key issue in this section. *Adam* may refer to *man*, *mankind*, or *Adam*. This translation retains the article where it occurs with *adam* (*the man*) and retains singular or plural forms of verbs and pronouns according to the Hebrew text.

^b1 Literally *all their armies*

^c Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text *the earth*^c

EHV

⁴This is the **account about the development**^a of the heavens and the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens:

⁵No **bushes that grow in the field** were yet on the earth,^b and **no plants of the field** had yet sprung up, since the LORD God had not yet caused it to rain on the earth. There was not yet a man to **till the soil**,⁶ but **water**^c came up from the earth and watered the entire surface of the ground.

⁷The LORD God formed **the man** from the dust of the ground^d and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸The LORD God planted a garden^e in Eden in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God made every kind of tree grow—trees that are **pleasant to look at** and good for food, including the **Tree of Life** in the middle of the garden and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

^a4 The Hebrew word *toledoth*, which is used in the headings of the ten sections of Genesis, is related to the Hebrew root for *give birth*, but as used in the section headings of Genesis (such as 2:4; 5:1; 6:9, etc.), *toledoth* seems to refer to the development more than to the origin of the group being discussed. For this reason, in the section headings of Genesis, *toledoth* is regularly translated *account about the development*.

^b5 Literally *every bush of the field was not yet on the earth*. This wording seems to refer to the time before the creation of plants on Day 3, but the context of chapter two seems to be the preparation of the Garden of Eden as a special home for man and woman. Some commentators suggest that this verse refers only to the area of the Garden of Eden, which had been left unfinished, but the wide term *on the earth* does not seem to be a natural way to say this, so this may be a reference back to Day 3.

^c6 A rare word (*'ed*) is used. It may refer to *springs* or, less likely, to *mist*. Genesis 2:10 refers to the presence of rivers.

^d7 Literally *as dust from the ground*. This means man is still dust and will return to dust.

^e8 In Hebrew the term *garden* includes groves of trees.

NIV

⁴This is the **account** of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵Now no **shrub** had yet appeared on the earth and no **plant** had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to **work the ground**,⁶ but **streams** came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.

⁷Then the LORD God formed **a man** from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were **pleasing to the eye** and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the **tree of life** and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.

EHV

¹⁰A river went out from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divided and became the headwaters of four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first river is Pishon. It flows through the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹²and the gold of that land is good. **Incense^a** and onyx stone are also found there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon. It is the same river that winds through the whole land of Cush.^b ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris. This is the one which flows along the east side of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and **settled** him in the Garden of Eden to work it and to take care of it. ¹⁶The LORD God gave a command to the man. He said, “You may freely eat from every tree in the garden, ¹⁷but you shall not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for on the day that you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. **I will make a helper who is a suitable partner for him.**”

¹⁹**Out of the soil** the LORD God had formed every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and he brought them to the man to see what he would **call** them. Whatever the man called every living creature, that became its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal, but for Adam^c no helper was found who was a suitable partner for him. ²¹The LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. As the man slept, the LORD God took a rib^d and closed up the flesh where it had been. ²²The LORD God **built** a woman from the rib that he had taken from the man and brought her to the man.

^a12 The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain. It probably refers to a fragrant resin or a precious stone.

^b13 In the Old Testament, *Cush* often refers to the land south of Egypt. Here the names of the third and fourth rivers suggest an area in Mesopotamia, today’s Iraq.

^c20 Here the Hebrew word *adam* without the article becomes a personal name.

^d21 *Part of his side* is a more literal translation than the traditional translation *rib*.

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¹⁰A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon; **it** winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²(The gold of that land is good; **aromatic resin** and onyx are also there.) ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁴The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and **put him** in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. **I will make a helper suitable for him.**”

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed **out of the ground** all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. 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. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God **made** a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

EHV

²³The man said,
Now this one is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh.
She will be called “woman,”
because she was taken out of man.^a
²⁴For this reason a man will leave his
father and his mother
and will **remain united** with his wife,
and they will become one flesh.^b
²⁵**They** were both naked, the man and his
wife, and they were not ashamed.

3

The Fall Into Sin

Now the serpent was more **clever** than any wild animal which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You **shall not** eat from any tree in the garden?’”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, ³but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’”

⁴The serpent said to the woman, “You **certainly will not** die. ⁵**In fact**, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it **was appealing to the eyes**, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings **for their waists.**^c

^a23 Here the Hebrew word for *man* is *ish* not *adam*. Like the English word pair *man/woman*, the Hebrew words *ish/ishah* correspond to one another.

^b24 Verse 24 may be a continuation of the words of Adam or a comment of the inspired writer. In either case, Jesus recognizes them as part of the divine institution of marriage (Matthew 19:4–5).

^c7 The Hebrew word often means *belt*, but here it apparently is an apron or a loincloth.

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²³The man said,
“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”
²⁴That is why a man leaves his father and mother
and **is united** to his wife,
and they become one flesh.
²⁵**Adam and his wife** were both naked, and they
felt no shame.

3

Now the serpent was more **crafty** than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You **must not** eat from any tree in the garden?’”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴You **will not certainly** die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵**For** God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and **pleasing to the eye**, and also desirable **for gaining wisdom**, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

EHV

⁸They heard the **voice** of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the **cooler part**^a of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰The man said, “I heard **your voice** in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

¹¹God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree **from which** I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you **gave to be with me**—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, “**What have you done?**”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than all the livestock,
and more than every wild animal.
You shall crawl on your belly,
and you shall eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put **hostility**
between you and the woman,
and between your **seed** and her seed.^b
He will crush your head,
and you will **crush** his heel.

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⁸Then the man and his wife heard the **sound** of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in **the cool** of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard **you** in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten **from** the tree that I commanded you not to **eat from?**”

¹²The man said, “The woman you **put here with me**—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “**What is this you have done?**”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put **enmity**
between you and the woman,
and between your **offspring** and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will **strike** his heel.”

^a8 Literally *the wind or breeze of the day*, that is, late afternoon or evening.

^b15 In the promises of Genesis and their fulfillment, the translation retains the literal expression *seed* rather than *offspring* or *descendants* to keep the imagery of the Messiah as the Seed of the Woman.

EHV

¹⁶To the woman he said:
I will greatly increase your pain in
childbearing.
With painful labor you will give birth to
children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
but^a he will rule over you.
¹⁷To Adam he said: Because you listened to
your **wife's voice** and ate **from the tree** about
which I commanded you,
“You **shall not** eat from it,”
the **soil** is cursed on account of you.
You will eat from it with painful labor
all the days of your life.
¹⁸Thorns and thistles will spring up **from**
the ground for you,
but you will eat the **crops** of the field.
¹⁹By the sweat of your **face**
you will eat **bread**
until you return to the **soil**,
for out of it you were taken.
For you are dust,
and to dust you **shall** return.

²⁰The **man** named his wife Eve^b because she
would be the mother of all the living. ²¹The
LORD God made **clothing** of **animal skins** for
Adam and for his wife and clothed them.

²²The LORD God said, “**Look**, the man has
become like one of us, knowing good and evil.
Now, **so that he does not** reach out his hand and
also take from the Tree of Life and eat and live
forever—” ²³the LORD God **sent him out** from
the Garden of Eden to work the soil from which
he had been taken. ²⁴So he drove the man out,
and **in front of^c** the Garden of Eden he **stationed**
cherubim^d and a flaming sword, which **turned in**
every direction to guard the way to the Tree of
Life.

^a16 Or *and*

^b20 *Eve* means *life*.

^c24 Or *east of*

^d24 *Cherubim* are angels who are part of God's honor
guard. The translation retains the Hebrew form of
the plural because *cherubs* has a different
connotation in English.

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¹⁶To the woman he said,
“I will make your pains in childbearing very
severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷To Adam he said, “Because you listened to
your wife and ate **fruit from the tree** about which
I commanded you, ‘

You **must not** eat from it,’

Cursed is the **ground** because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the **plants** of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your **brow**
you will eat your **food**
until you return to the **ground**,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you **will** return.”

²⁰**Adam** named his wife Eve, because she would
become the mother of all the living.

²¹The LORD God made **garments** of **skin** for
Adam and his wife and clothed them.

²²And the LORD God said, “The man has now
become like one of us, knowing good and evil.
He **must not be allowed** to reach out his hand
and take also from the tree of life and eat, and
live forever.” ²³So the LORD God **banished him**
from the Garden of Eden to work the ground
from which he had been taken. ²⁴After he drove
the man out, he placed **on the east side** of the
Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword
flashing back and forth to guard the way to the
tree of life.