

The Temple and Kingdom of the Creator

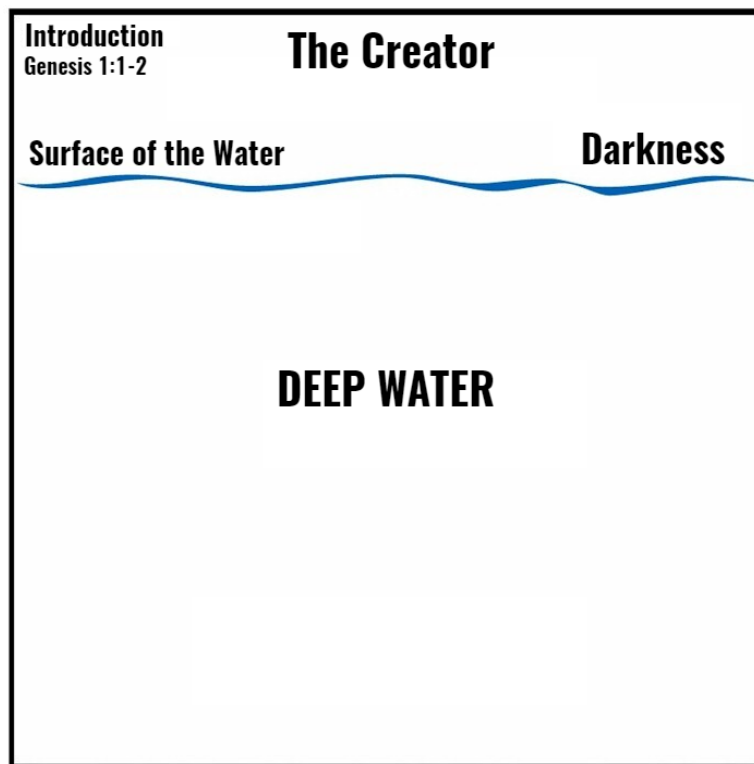
(Genesis 1:1-2:4a)

Biblical Heritage Center, Inc. Translation

Introduction

*1:1-2 When the Creator began creating the sky and the earth,
the earth was shapeless and without substance.*

*There was darkness, deep water,
and the breath of the Creator hovering above the surface of the water.*



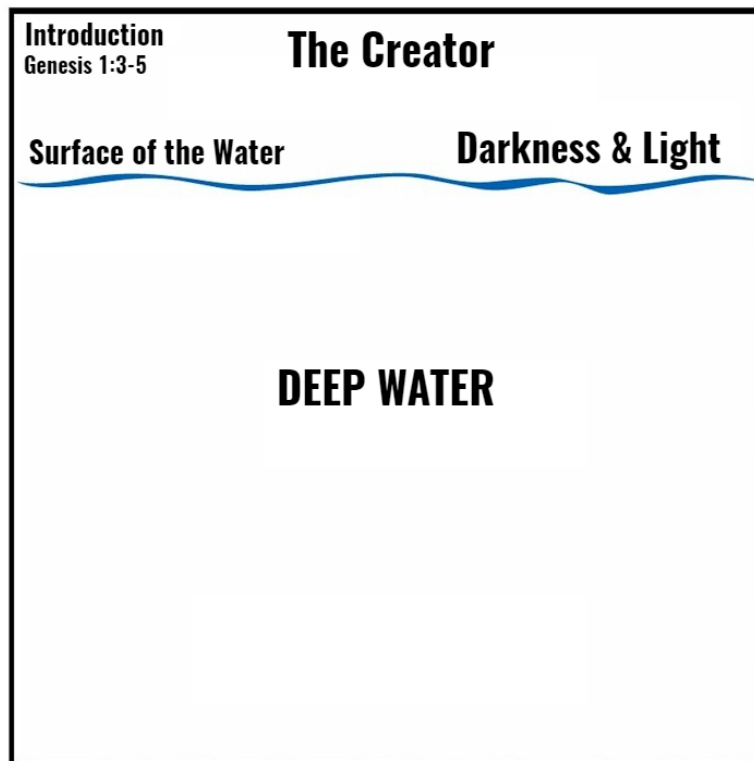
Day One

^{3-4a} *And the Creator said:
“Let Light exists!”
Light existed.*

And the Creator saw the “Light,” that it was TOV.

^{4b-5} *And the Creator distinguished between the Light and the Darkness.
And the Creator named the Light, “Day,”
and the Darkness He named, “Night.”*

And it was evening and it was morning, Day One.



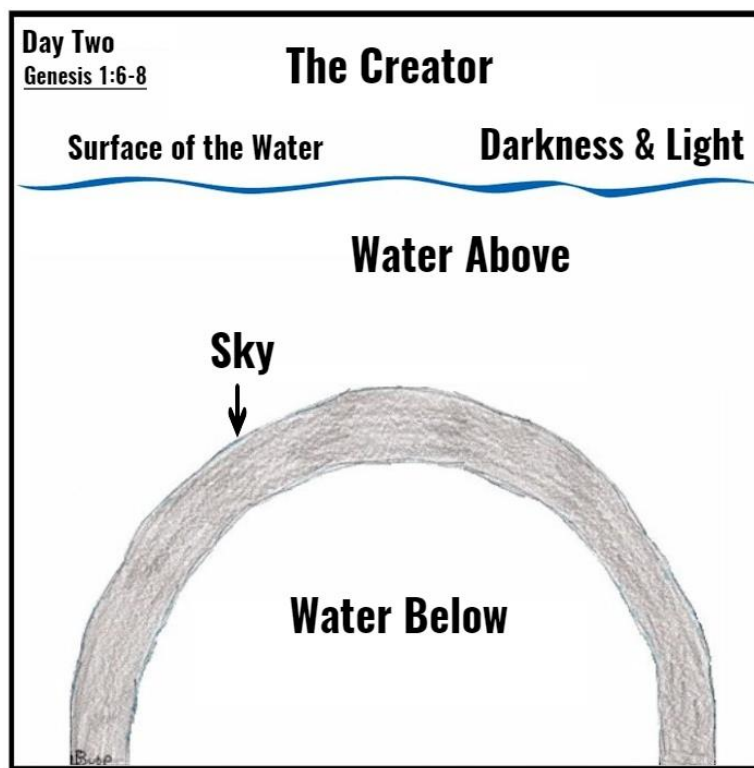
Day Two

⁶⁻⁸ *And the Creator said:*

“Let there be a solid dome-like structure in the middle of the deep water that separates the waters beneath it from the waters above it.”

*And the Creator made the solid dome-like structure.
And the Creator named the solid dome-like structure, “Sky.”*

And it was evening and it was morning, Day Two.

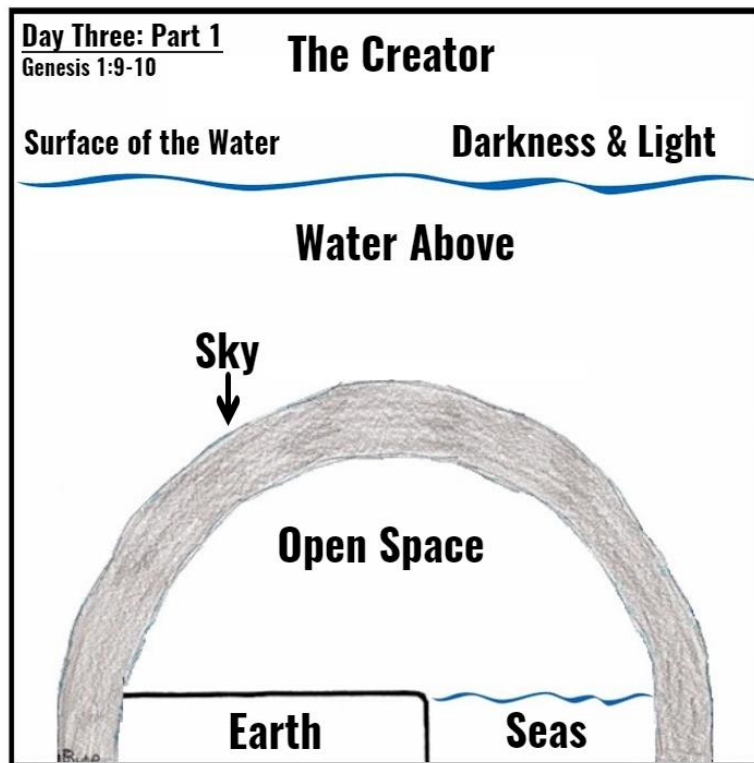


Day Three: Part 1

⁹⁻¹⁰ *And the Creator said,
"Let the waters beneath the sky be gathered together into one place,
and let the dry thing appear."
And it was so.*

*And the Creator named "the dry thing," "Earth,"
and the "gathering of the waters" the Creator named, "Seas."*

And the Creator saw that it was TOV.



Day Three: Part 2

¹¹⁻¹³ *And the Creator said,*

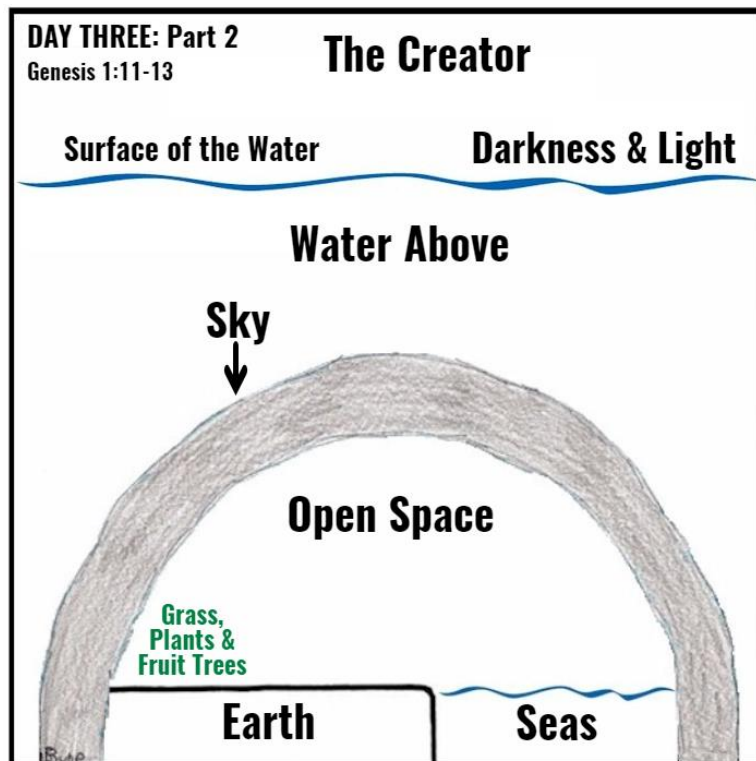
*"Let the Earth cause to sprout green grass, plants that yield seeds,
and fruit trees that yield fruit according to their kind, whose seed is in itself."*

And it was so.

*And the Earth caused to sprout green grass, plants that yield seeds after its kind,
and fruit trees that yield fruit which is after its kind.*

And the Creator saw that it was TOV.

And it was evening and it was morning, Day Three.



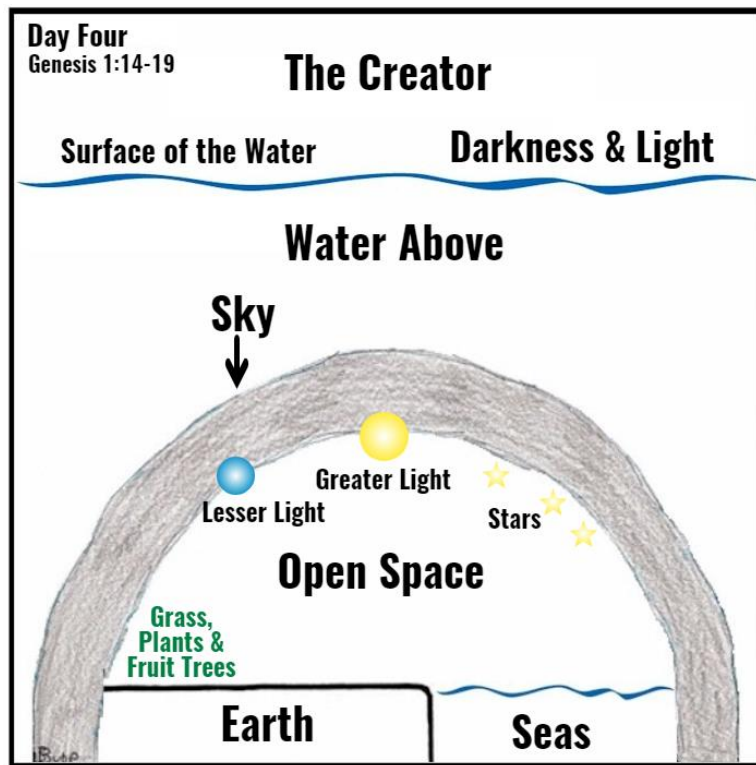
Day Four

¹⁴⁻¹⁹ *And the Creator said,
“Let there be lights in the sky to separate the Day from the Night,
to be signs for seasons, days and years, and to give light on the earth.”
And it was so.*

*And the Creator made two large lights;
the largest to rule the Day and the smaller to rule the Night;
and He made the stars also.
And the Creator set them in the solid dome.*

And the Creator saw that it was TOV.

And it was evening and it was morning, Day Four.



Day Five

²⁰⁻²¹ And the Creator said,

*“Let the waters swarm with a swarm of creatures with a living soul
and let a winged creature fly above the earth and below the sky.”*

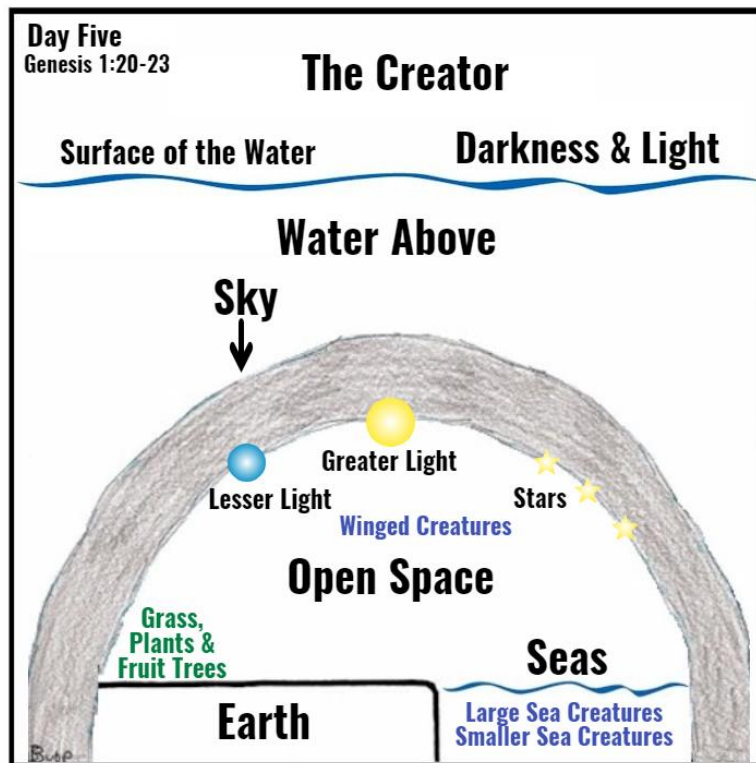
*And the Creator created large sea creatures,
every living soul that moves which swarm the waters
and every winged creature that flies.*

And the Creator saw that it was TOV.

²²⁻²³ And the Creator blessed them:

*“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the seas.
And let the winged creatures multiply on the earth.*

And it was evening and it was morning, Day Five.

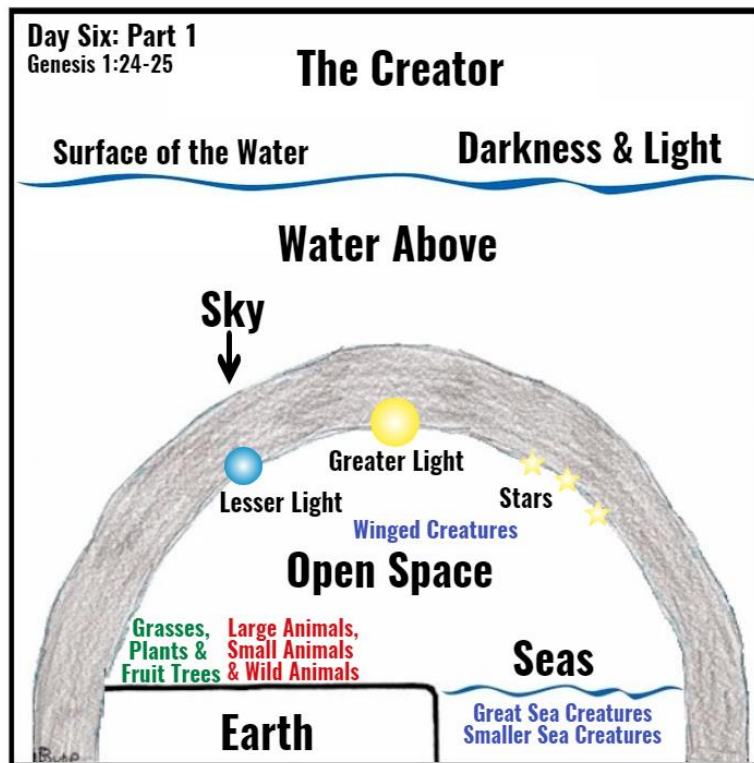


Day Six: Part 1

*1:24 And the Creator said to the Earth,
"Bring forth a living soul for your kind –
large animals, smaller animals, and wild animals.
And it was so.*

*1:25 And the Creator made the wild animals,
the large animals, and the small animals.*

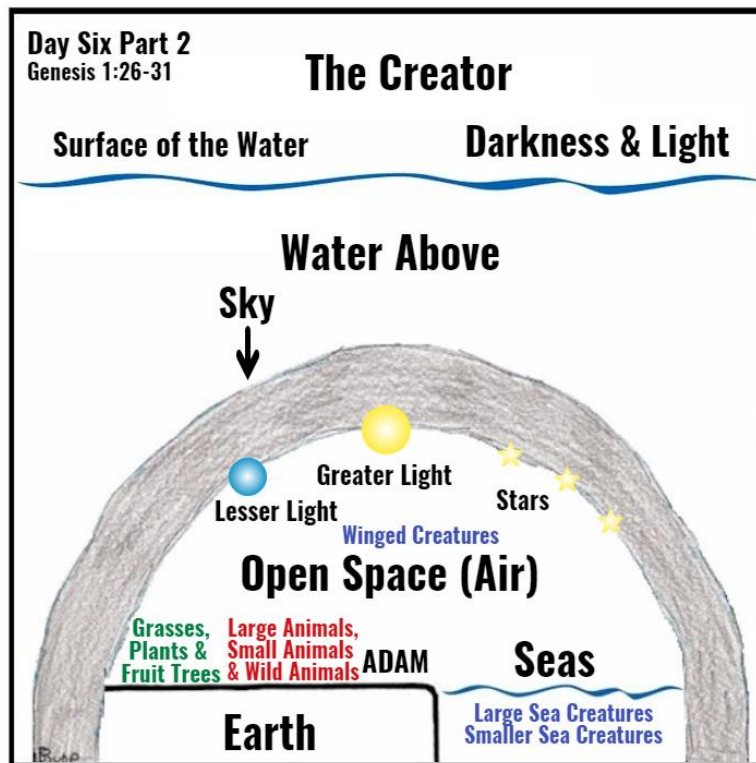
And the Creator saw that it was TOV.



Day Six: Part 2

^{1:26} And the Creator said,
"Let us make ADAM in our image after our likeness and
let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air,
and over the large animals, and over all the earth
and over every small animal that moves upon the earth."

And the Creator created ADAM in His image;
in the image of the Creator He created ADAM;
male and female He created them.



And the Creator blessed ADAM:
"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the Earth;
and subdue her.
Have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the winged creatures of the sky
and over every living thing that moves on the Earth.

*I have given you every plant yielding seeds
that is on the surface of all the earth,
and every tree which has fruit yielding seeds,
it shall be food for you.*

*To every wild animal of the earth,
every winged creature,
and everything that moves on the earth that has life,
I have given green plants for food.
And it was so.”*

*^{1:31} And the Creator saw everything that He had made.
Behold, it was very TOV.*

And it was evening and it was morning, Day Six.

The Blessing & The Alliance

Using related information from Babylonian, Persian, and Egyptian writings, we discovered that what we thought was a blessing in Genesis, is actually a blessing and an alliance.

- **Blessing**: *Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.*
- **Alliance**: *Subdue the earth, have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the winged creatures of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*

In the past, biblical scholarship has viewed covenants as simply a *list of legal obligations*. An alliance is a type of covenant in which **the relationship of the parties is a very important aspect**. Understanding an alliance requires an awareness of the following:

- *Diplomacy through alliances shared cultural ideas of family.*
- *Parties of the alliance are viewed as members of the same family and household, united by bonds of love and friendship.*
- *Friendship, peace, good relations, and material well-being of the parties are core aspects of the alliance.*

- *Analogies rooted in brotherhood and family are used to communicate the terms of treaties.*

In Genesis 1, there are two parties involved in this alliance – **the Creator** and **the ADAM** (*a man and a woman*). Their relationship is viewed as that of **“father and son.”** Below is quick overview of the terms of the alliance.

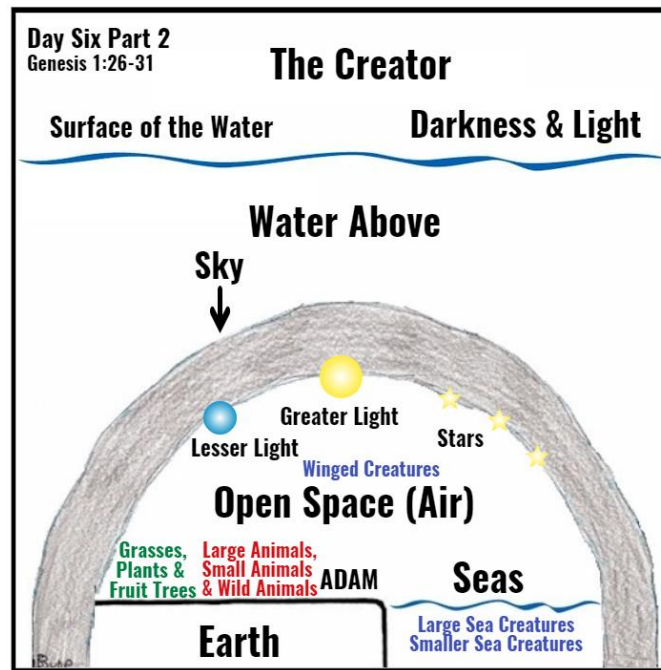
- The Creator has created everything the ADAM will need to survive, thrive, and fulfill the terms of the alliance.
 - The ADAM is a creature with an earth soul, which means it has appetites, desires, and longings related to the earth. Animals also have an earth soul, but unlike the animals, the ADAM has the power to **“subdue”** *their appetites, desires, and longings by exercising impulse control and self-discipline*. The man and woman are to help each other do this.
 - The ADAM is the **Creator’s Representative** over the fish of the sea, over the winged creatures of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.
 - The ADAM is to exercise power over all living things -- **like a shepherd exercises power over the animals of his flock.**
 - **“specific diets”** – Humans may eat any plant that yields seed and fruit from any tree that yields seeds. Only humans may eat fruit. Animals and winged creatures may eat any green plants.
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Day Seven

2:1-4a And the sky, the earth, and all their host were finished.

And the Creator finished on the seventh day all His work which It had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

And the Creator blessed the seventh day and set it apart, because on the seventh day He rested from all His work which the Creator had created and made.



These are the generations of the sky and of the earth when they were created.

Note about Day Seven

A reader from the ancient world would know immediately what was going on and conclude that this is a **Temple Wisdom Text**. *Day Seven is the most important day.* The phrase “**and He rested**” signaled that the work on the **Creator’s Temple** has been completed and **the Creator has mounted His throne as the King of His Kingdom.**

Families are to gather every Day Seven and read this story and explore it.

- *Day One begins at sundown on Saturday and ends at sundown on Sunday: The Light of Life*
- *Day Two begins at sundown on Sunday and ends at sundown on Monday: The Sky.*
- *Day Three begins at sundown on Monday and ends at sundown on Tuesday: The Earth, Sea, Open Space, Grass, Plants, and Trees.*
- *Day Four begins at sundown on Tuesday and ends at sundown on Wednesday: Sun, Moon, and Stars.*

- *Day Five begins at sundown on Wednesday and ends at sundown on Thursday: Large Sea Creatures, Smaller Sea Creatures, and Winged Creatures.*
- *Day Six begins at sundown on Thursday and ends at sundown on Friday: Large Animals, Smaller Animals, Wild Animals, ADAM, and Alliance with ADAM.*
- *Day Seven begins at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday: Temple Completed and Kingdom Established.*