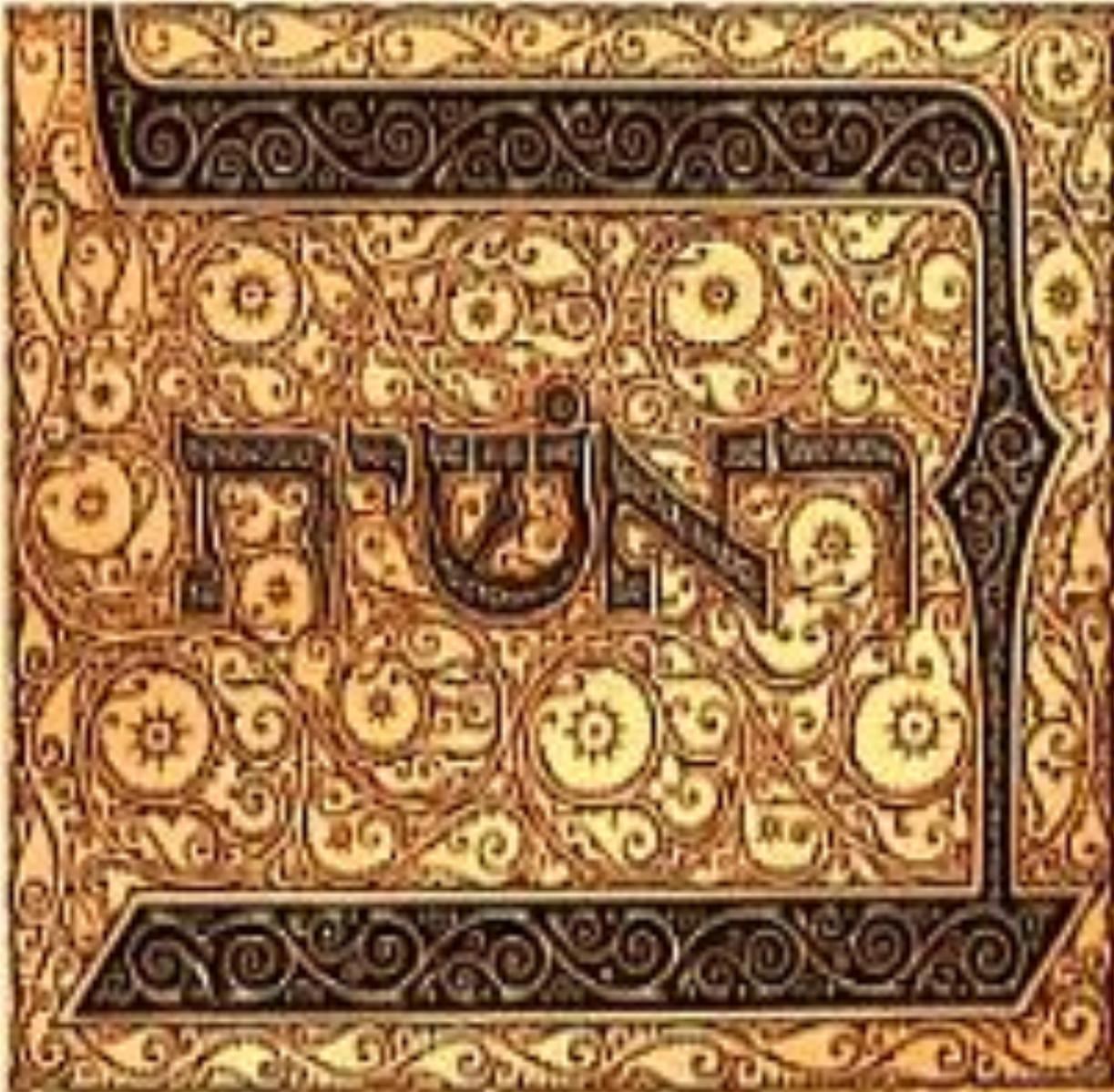


# BEGINNINGS



WHAT  
GENESIS  
SAYS  
(AND  
*DOESN'T*  
SAY)

# Genesis 1:1--2:4a: An Ordered World



From 1820 until his death in 1849, the Quaker preacher and artist [Edward Hicks](#) painted about a hundred different depictions of this same scene. To each painting, Hicks gave the same title: “The Peaceable Kingdom.”



Detail from “Peaceable Kingdom:”  
William Penn’s treaty with the Lenni Lenape Indians,  
1682.



The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

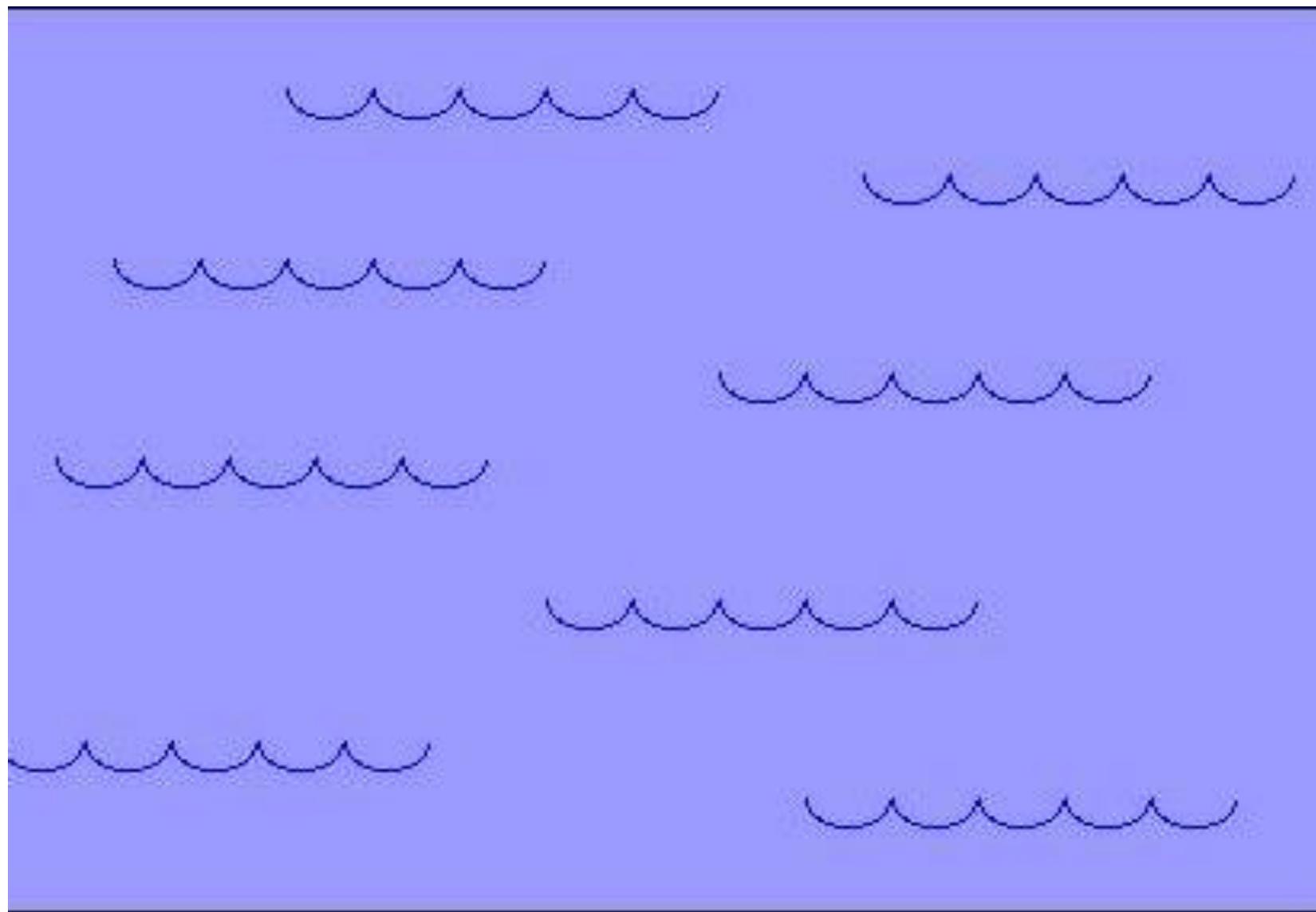
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the  
adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of  
the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea (Isa 11:6-9).

**Genesis 1:29** God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.”



**Genesis 1:1-2** In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a **formless void** and darkness covered the face of **the deep**, while a wind from God swept over the face of **the waters**.



When on high the heaven had not been named,  
Firm ground below had not been called by name,  
Naught by primordial **Apsu**, their begetter  
(And) Mummu-**Tiamat**, who bore them all  
*-Enuma elish*



# Marduk/Asshur and Tiamat



## Psalm 29:3, 10

The voice of the LORD is over **the waters**;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over **mighty waters** . . .

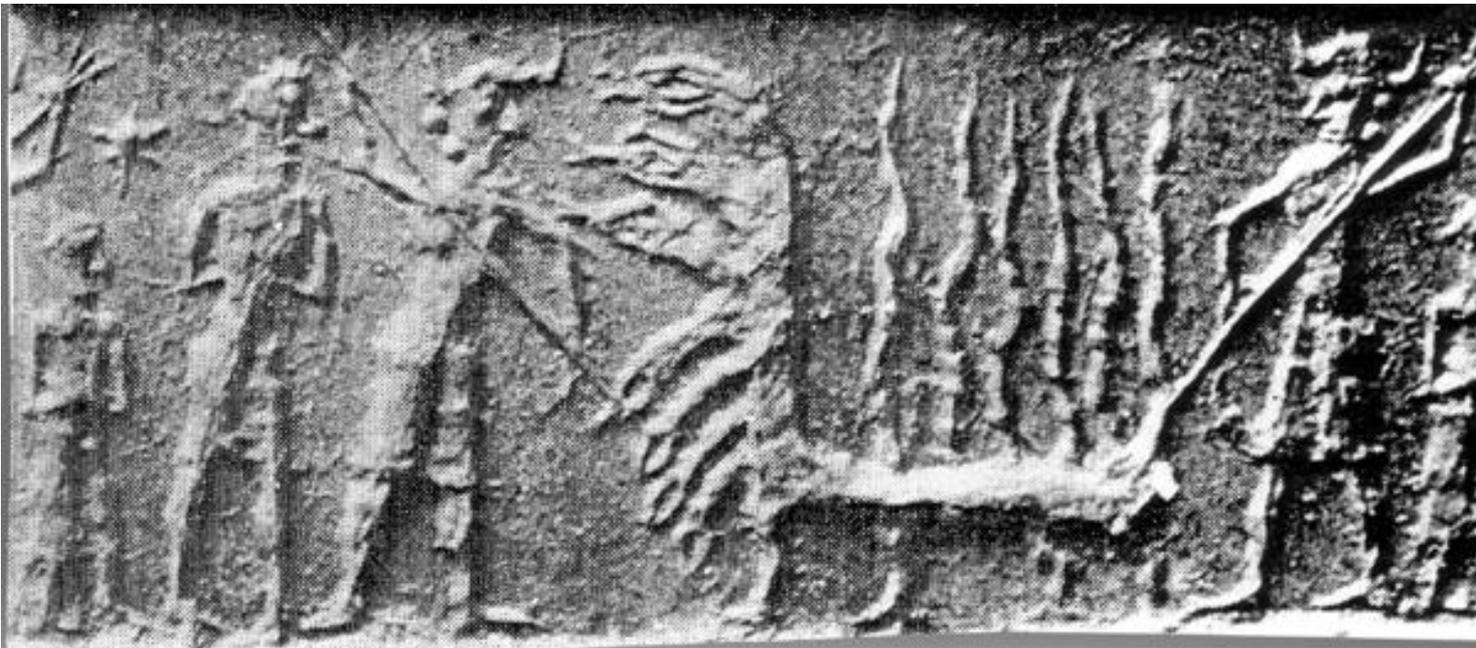
The LORD sits enthroned over **the flood**;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king  
forever.

Isaiah 27:1 On that day the LORD with his cruel and great and strong sword will punish **Leviathan** the fleeing serpent, **Leviathan** the twisting serpent, and he will kill **the dragon that is in the sea.**



## Psalm 74:13-14

You divided the sea by your might;  
you broke the heads of **the dragons in the waters**.  
You crushed the heads of **Leviathan**;  
you gave him as food for the creatures of the  
wilderness.



# Genesis 1:3

Then God said,  
“Let there be  
light”; and  
there was  
light. And  
God saw that  
the light was  
good



Hebrew *hibdil*  
“*separate*”  
Day One

Light=Day



Darkness=Night



# Genesis 1

Day 1:

(1:3-5)

Light/dark



TIME

Hebrew *hibdil*

“*separate*”

Day two

Water above

SKY DOME

Water below

Hebrew *hibdil*

“*separate*”

Day two

Water above

SKY    DOME

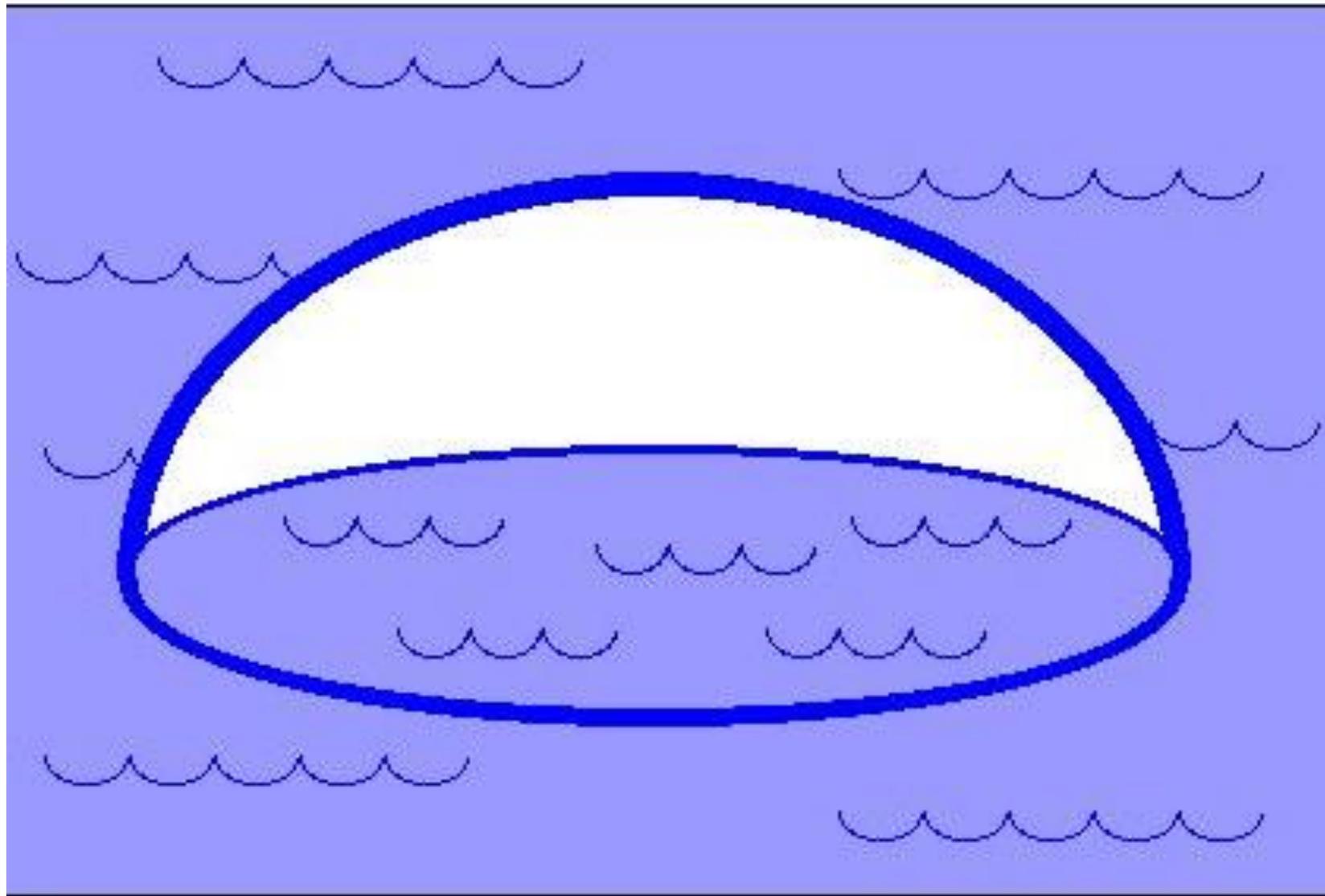
Hebrew *raqiya*’

“beaten out”

Water below

KJV “firmament”





Then the lord paused to view her dead body,  
That he might divide the form and do artful  
works.

He split her like a shellfish into two parts:

Half of her he set up as a covering for heaven,  
Pulled down the bar and posted guards.

He bade them to allow not her waters to escape.

*-Enuma elish*

# Genesis 1

Day 2:

(1:6-8)

Water above/

Water below



SPACE

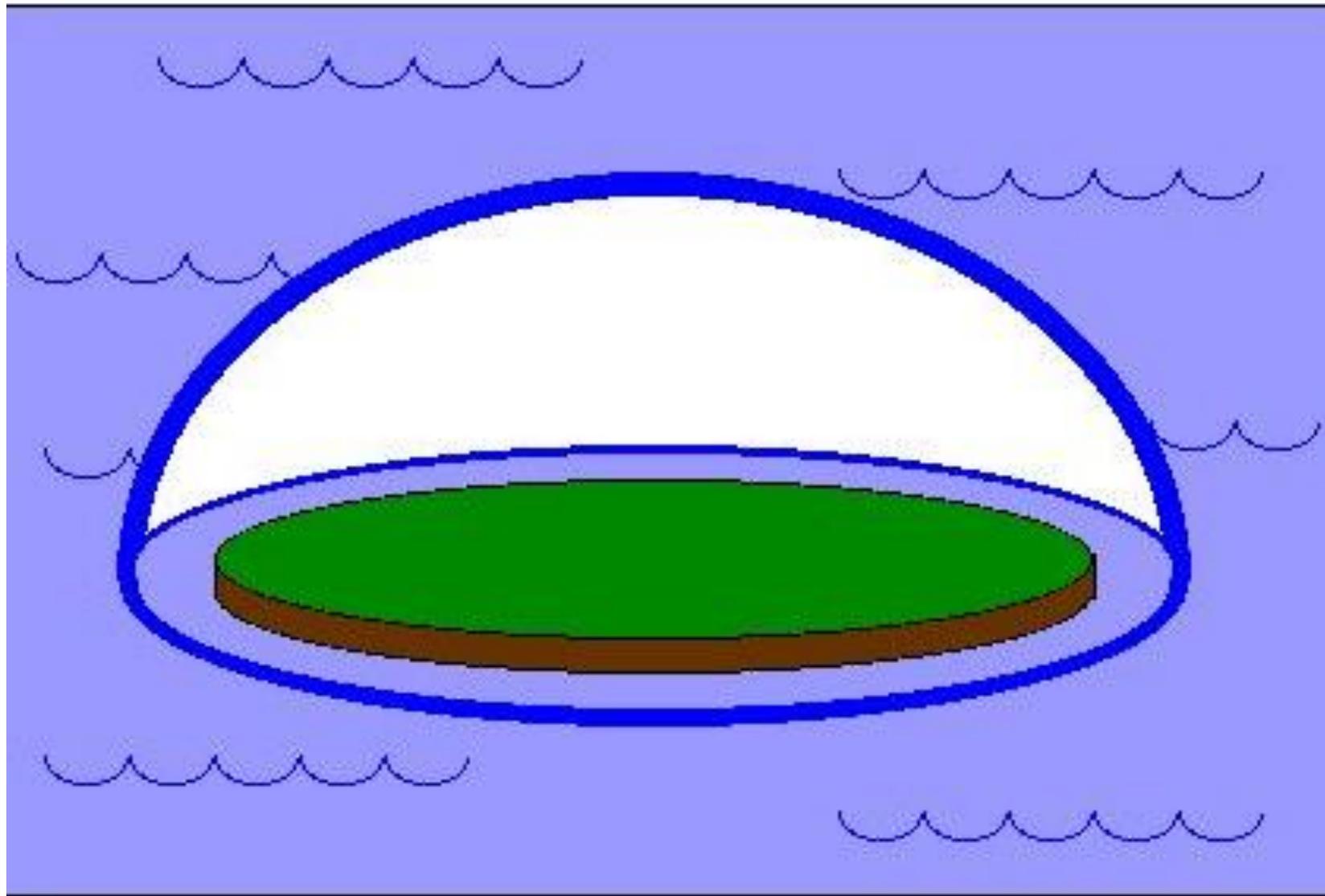
Hebrew *hibdil*

*“separate”*

Day three:part one

Land

Water



## Day Three: part two

**Genesis 1:11** Then God said, “Let the **earth** put forth **vegetation: plants** yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.



# Genesis 1

Day 3:

(1:9-13)

Land/Water

Plants



## GEOGRAPHY

# Genesis 1

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Sky dome

Day 3: Dry land

Plants

# Genesis 1

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Sky dome

Day 3: Dry land

Plants



# Genesis 1

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Sky dome

Day 3: Dry land

Plants

An empty world



# Genesis 1

Day 1: **Light**

Hebrew

*'or*

Day 4: **Lights**

Hebrew

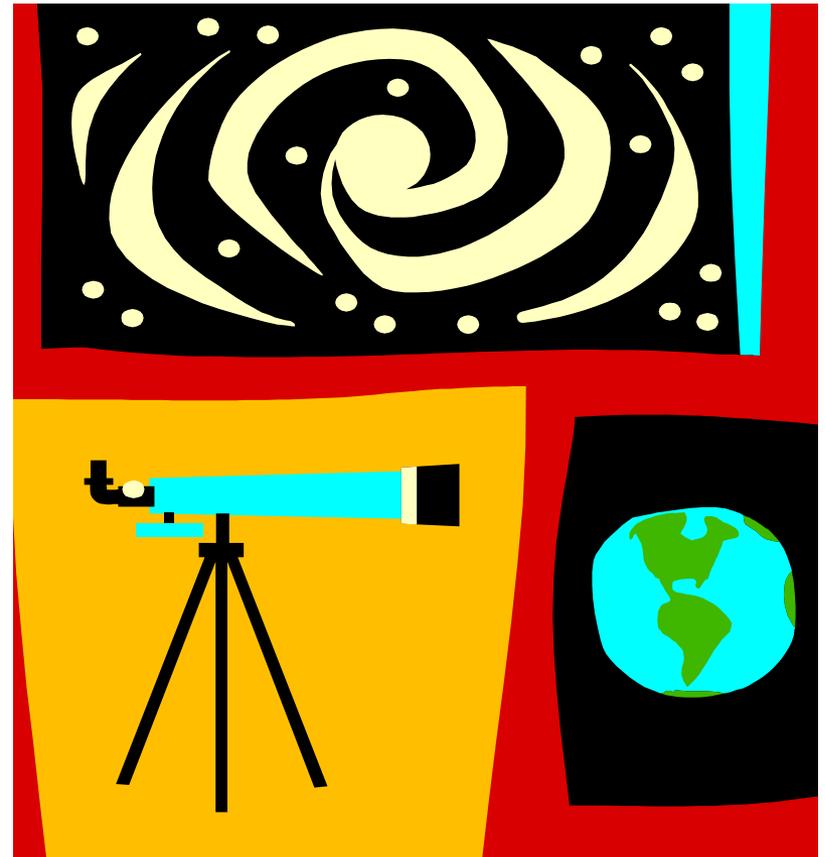
*me'orot*

(Sun, moon,  
stars, to  
populate the  
sky dome)

# Genesis 1:14-19

## Day Four

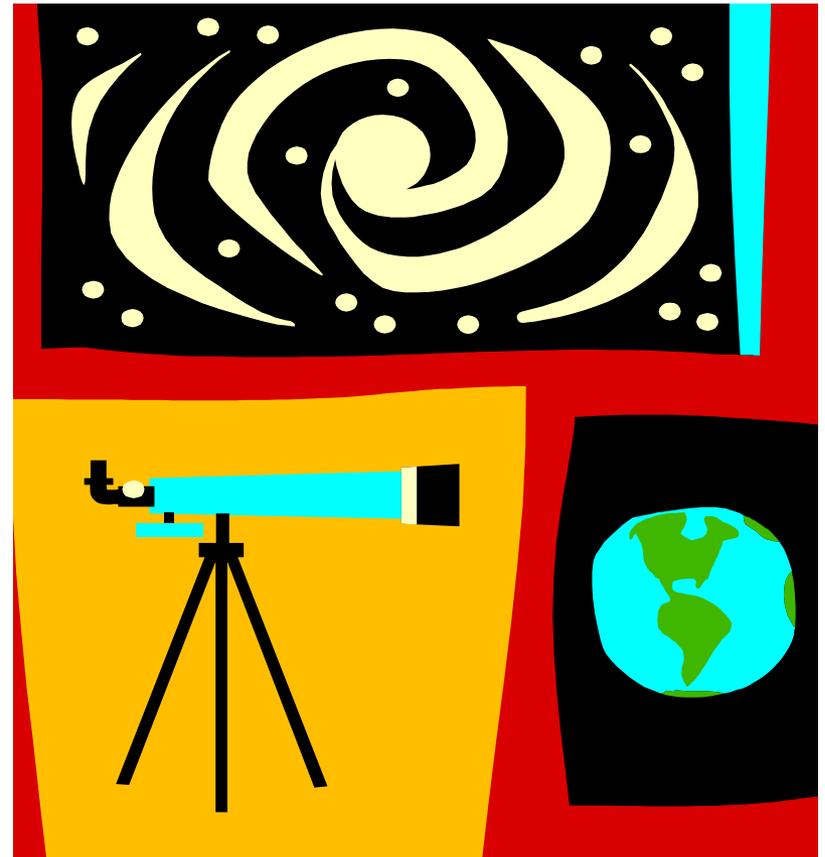
- In contrast to *Enuma elish*, sun, moon, and stars are not divine



# Genesis 1:14-19

## Day Four

- In contrast to *Enuma elish*, sun, moon, and stars are not divine
- “Disenchantment” of the world restricts divine power to God alone



# Genesis 1:14-19

## Day Four

- In contrast to *Enuma elish*, sun, moon, and stars are not divine
- “Disenchantment” of the world restricts divine power to God alone
- Makes science possible



# Genesis 1

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Sky  
dome

Day 4: Sun,  
moon, stars

Day 5: Birds  
and fish

(to populate the  
sky and the  
seas)

**Genesis 1:20** And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures



Genesis 1:21 So God created the **great sea  
monsters**



## Psalm 104:25-26

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.

There go the ships,  
and **Leviathan** that you formed to sport in it.



# Genesis 1

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Sky dome

Day 3: Dry land

Plants

Day 4: Sun, moon, stars

Day 5: Birds and fish

Day 6: Land animals

Humanity

## Day Six: Part One

Gen. 1:24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: **cattle** and **creeping things** and **wild animals** of the earth of every kind.” And it was so.



## Day Six: Part Two

### Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let **us** make **humankind** in our **image**, according to our **likeness**; and let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

# Plural?



**Genesis 6:1** When people began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, **the sons of God** saw that they were fair; and they took wives for themselves of all that they chose.

**Deuteronomy 32:8** When the Most High apportioned the nations, when he divided humankind, he fixed the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of **the gods**

**Psalms 29:1** Ascribe to the LORD, **O heavenly beings**, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Job 2:1** One day **the heavenly beings** came to present themselves before the LORD

“humankind”

Hebrew *‘adam*, meaning “human”

“humankind”

Hebrew *‘adam*, meaning “human”

Hebrew *‘ish*, meaning “man”

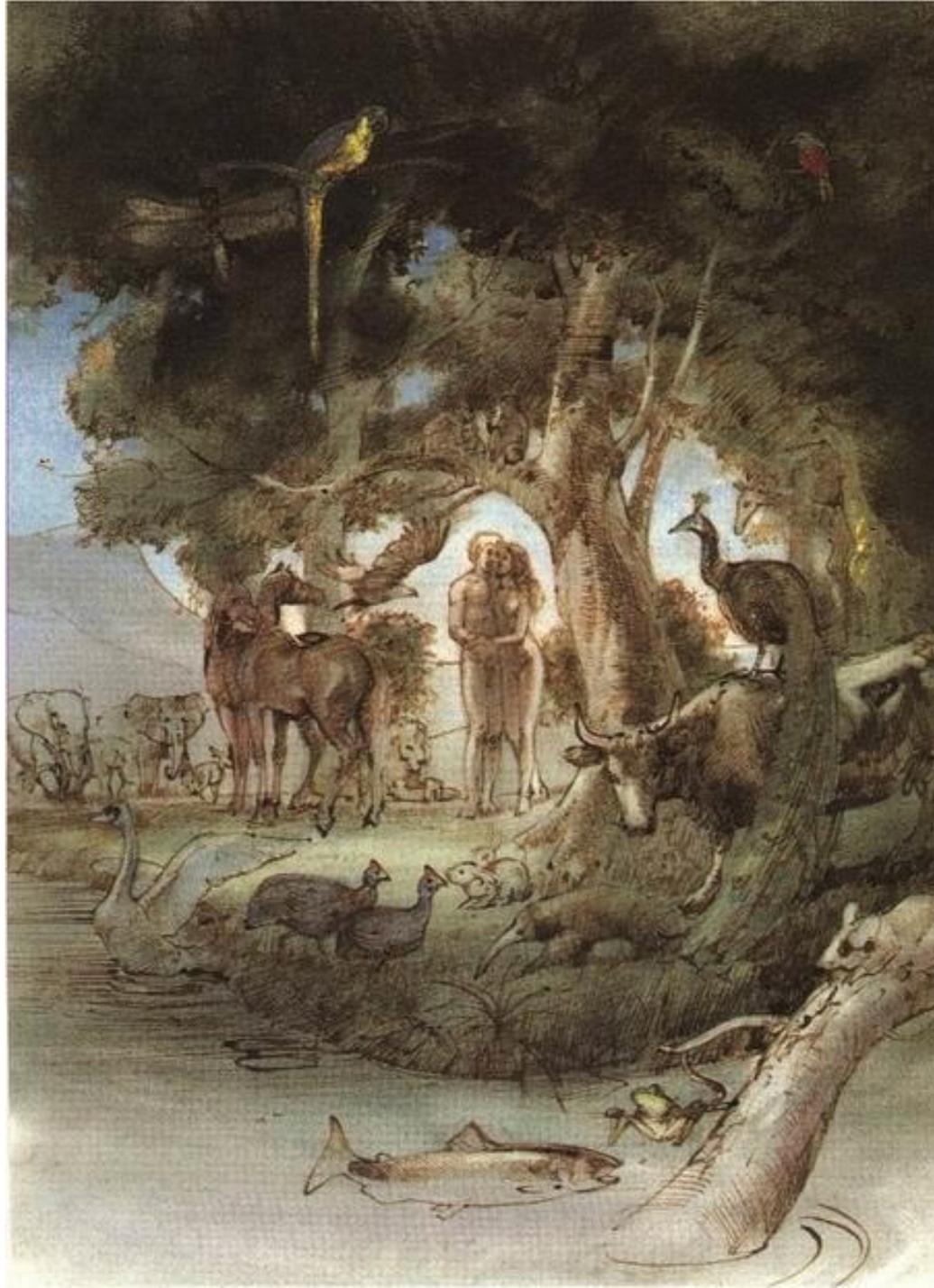
George Kelsey, mentor to Dr.  
Martin Luther King, Jr. at  
Morehouse College





# Genesis 1:27

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



Likeness

Hebrew *demut*

Image

Hebrew *tselem*

# Likeness and image

Tell Fekhariya  
inscription: means  
“appearance”



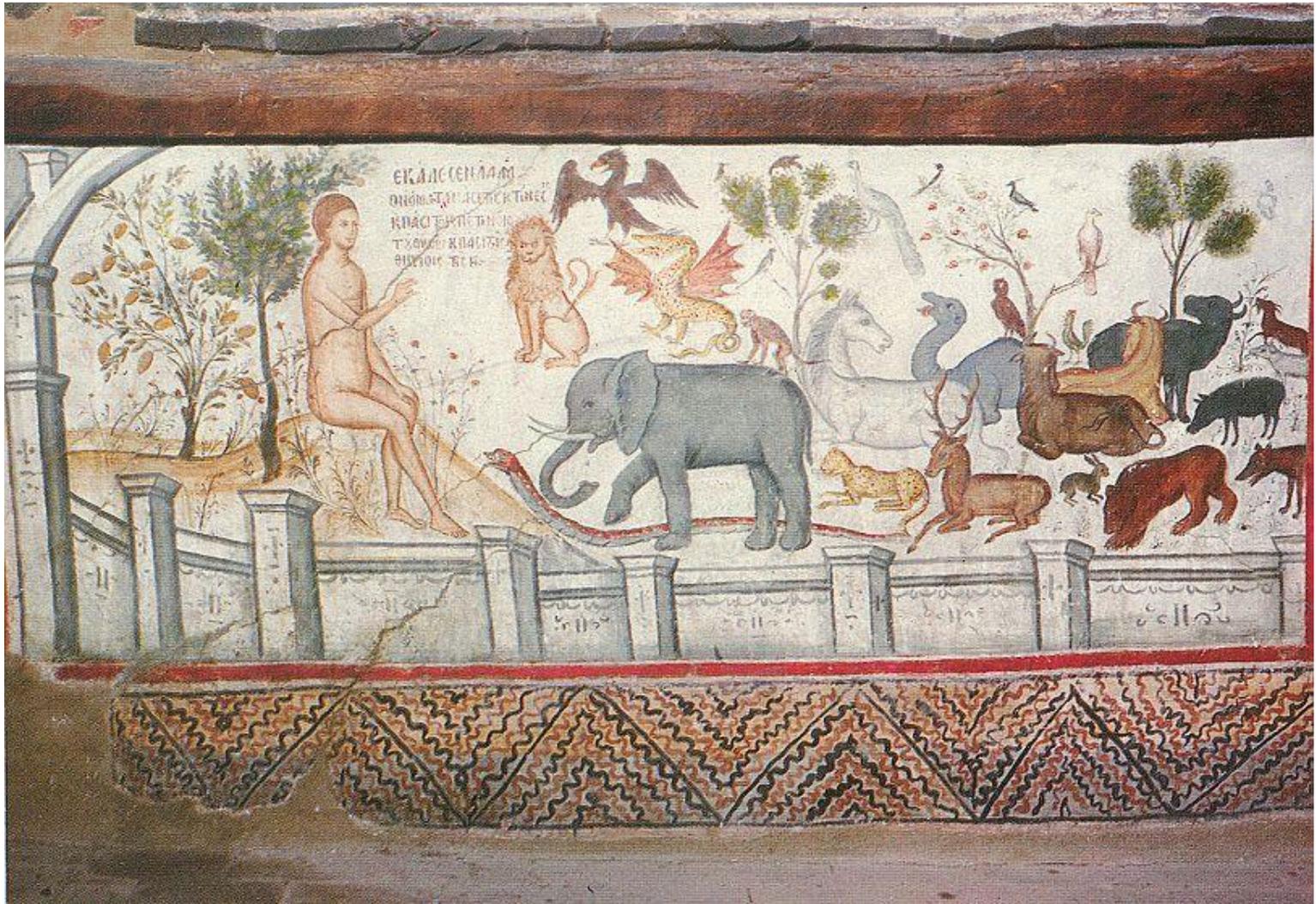
## **A STATUE FROM SYRIA WITH ASSYRIAN AND ARAMAIC INSCRIPTIONS**

**A. R. Millard  
and P. Bordreuil**

*The oldest extant Aramaic text engraved on this recently found statue of an Assyrian provincial official in Syria provides some exciting new clues for the early history of this language and script.*

In recent years the soil of Syria has yielded many major archeological discoveries, the palace at Ebla with its extensive archives being the most sensational. Now another object of first importance has come to light. Enlarging his field with a bulldozer in February 1979, a farmer unearthed a life-size stone statue of a man, engraved with many lines of writing.

**Genesis 1:28** God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”



**Genesis 1:29** God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.”



## Genesis 2:3

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.



# Genesis 1

Day 1: Light

Day 4: Sun, moon, stars

Day 2: Sky dome

Day 5: Birds and fish

Day 3: Dry land

Day 6: Land animals

Plants

Humanity

Day 7: Sabbath

# A temple in time

