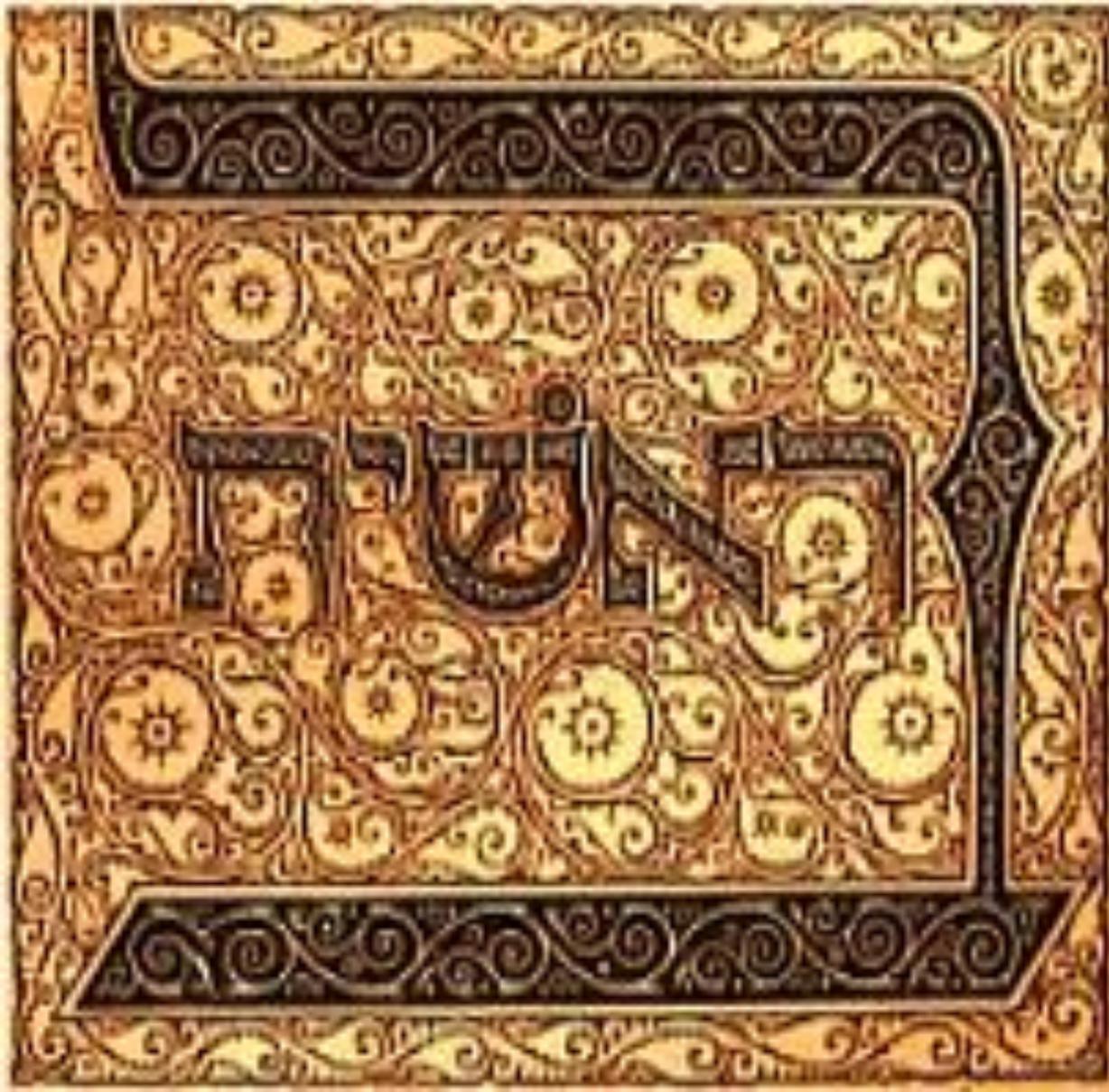


BEGINNINGS



WHAT
GENESIS
SAYS
(AND
DOESN'T
SAY)

The Drama of Relationship: Genesis 2:4b-25



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

Not really a story. . .

Not really a story. . .
more like a day planner



Features of narrative

Features of narrative

- Characters

Features of narrative

- Characters
- Dialogue

Features of narrative

- Characters
- Dialogue
- Plot

Features of narrative

- Characters
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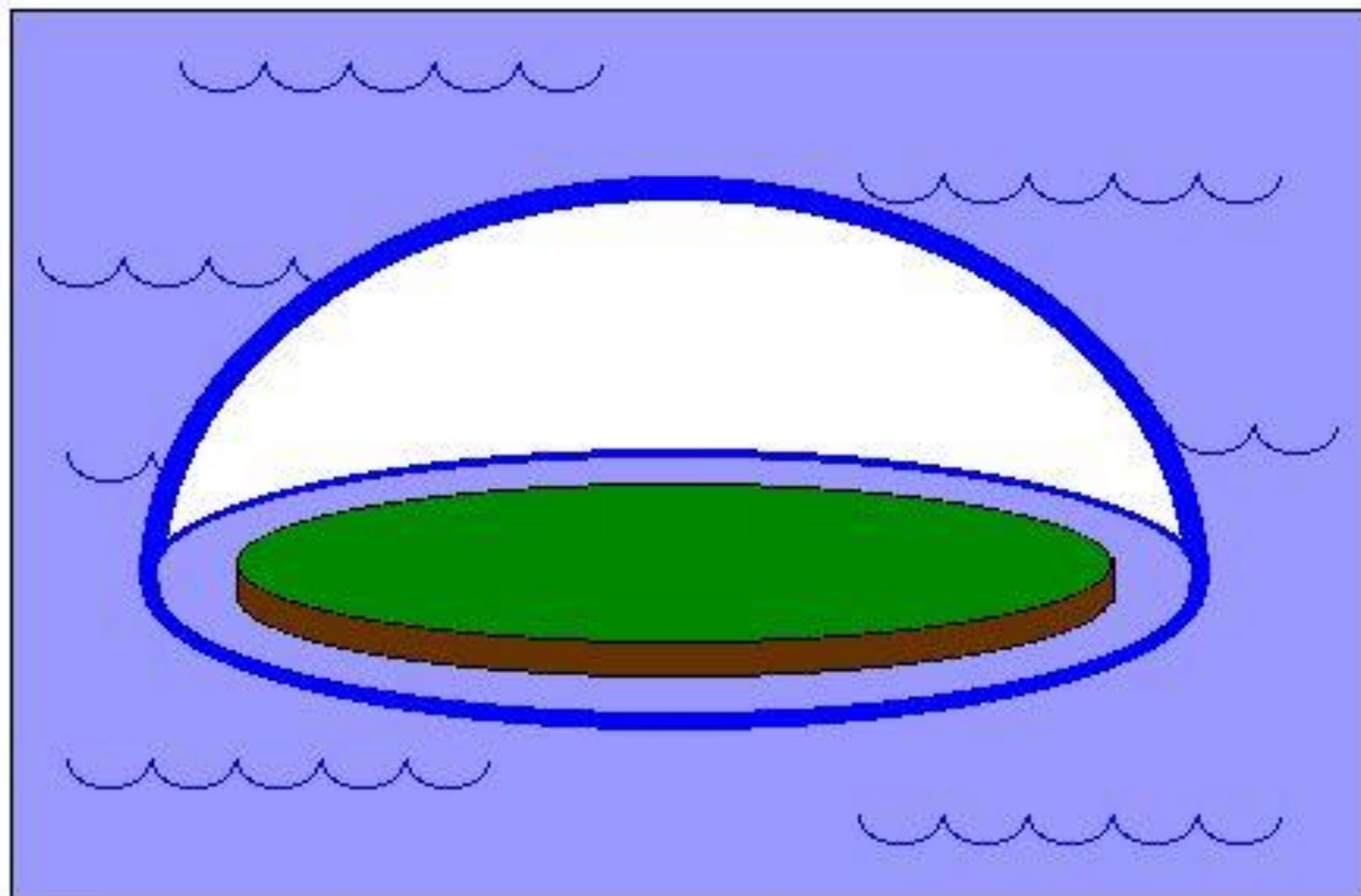
conflict

Genesis 2:4b-7

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, **when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up**

Genesis 2:4b-7

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up —for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground



Genesis 2:4b-7

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—**then the LORD God formed man**

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



Hebrew terms

‘*adamah*=ground

Hebrew terms

‘*adamah*=ground

‘*adam*=Adam, the human
(translated “man” in Gen 2:7)

Hebrew terms

'adamah=ground

'adam=Adam, the human
(translated “man” in Gen 2:7)

nephesh chayah=living being

Formed (Hebrew *yatsar*)



Genesis 2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.



Genesis 2:9



Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:10-14

The Rivers of Paradise

Tigris

Pishon

Eden

Gihon

Euphrates

Eden *is* Zion

Ezekiel 28:13-14

You were in Eden, the garden of God;
every precious stone was your covering,. . .
On the day that you were created
they were prepared.

With an anointed cherub as guardian I placed you;
you were on the holy mountain of God;
you walked among the stones of fire.

Zion in the Hebrew Bible

Psalm 46:4

There is a river whose streams make glad the city
of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

Zion in the Hebrew Bible

Joel 3:18

In that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
the hills shall flow with milk,
and all the stream beds of Judah
shall flow with water;
a fountain shall come forth from the house of the
LORD

Zion in the Hebrew Bible

Zechariah 14:8

On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea; it shall continue in summer as in winter.

Zion in the Hebrew Bible

- **Ezekiel 47:1-12** Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple . . . Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. . . . Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach [the Dead Sea]. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. . . . On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.

Zion in Jewish traditions

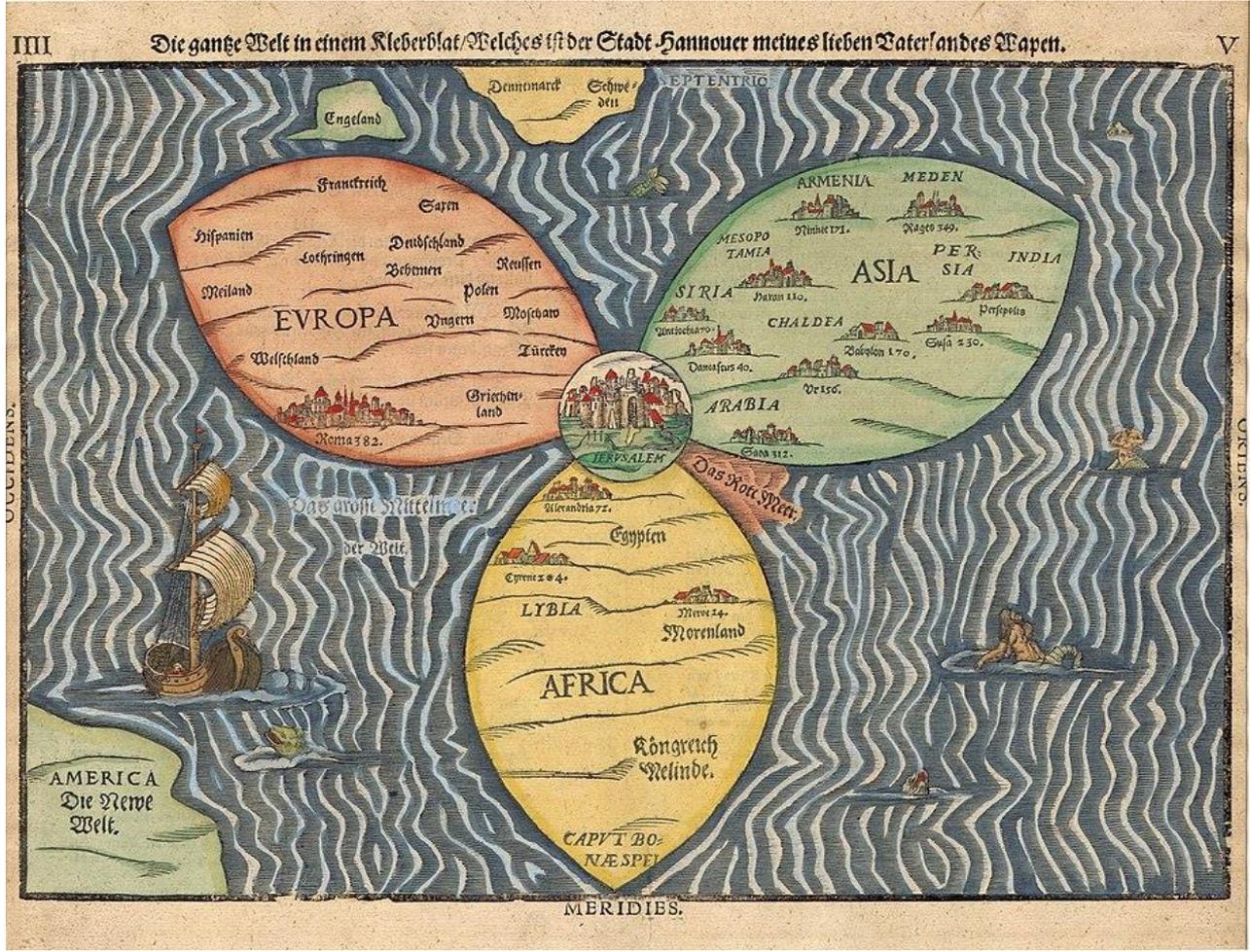
- The rabbis refer to Zion as the navel of the world, for just as a child in the womb grows from the navel outward, so the Lord created the world from Zion outward (*Midrash Hassem Behokmâ Yasad 'Ares*)

Zion in Jewish traditions

- The rabbis refer to Zion as the navel of the world, for just as a child in the womb grows from the navel outward, so the Lord created the world from Zion outward (*Midrash Hassen Behokmâ Yasad 'Ares*)
- Talmud records the teaching of Rabbi Eliezar the Great that creation began with Zion (*b. Yoma 54b*)

Zion as the Center of the World

1581 "Cloverleaf" map, Heinrich Bunting



Foreshadowing

Genesis 2:15-17

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

conflict

Genesis 2:18 Then the Lord God said, 'It is **not good** that the man should be alone; I will make him **a helper as his partner.**'

Hebrew terms

- *‘ezer kenegedo*

Hebrew terms

- *'ezer*=helper

Hebrew terms

- *'ezer*=helper (most commonly used of God)

Hebrew terms

- *'ezer*=helper (most commonly used of God)
- *kenegedo*

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- *'ezer*=helper (most commonly used of God)
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- **KJV**: “an help **meet for him**”

Hebrew terms

- *'ezer*=helper (most commonly used of God)
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- KJV: “an help **meet for him**”
- NIV: “a helper **suitable for him**”

Hebrew terms

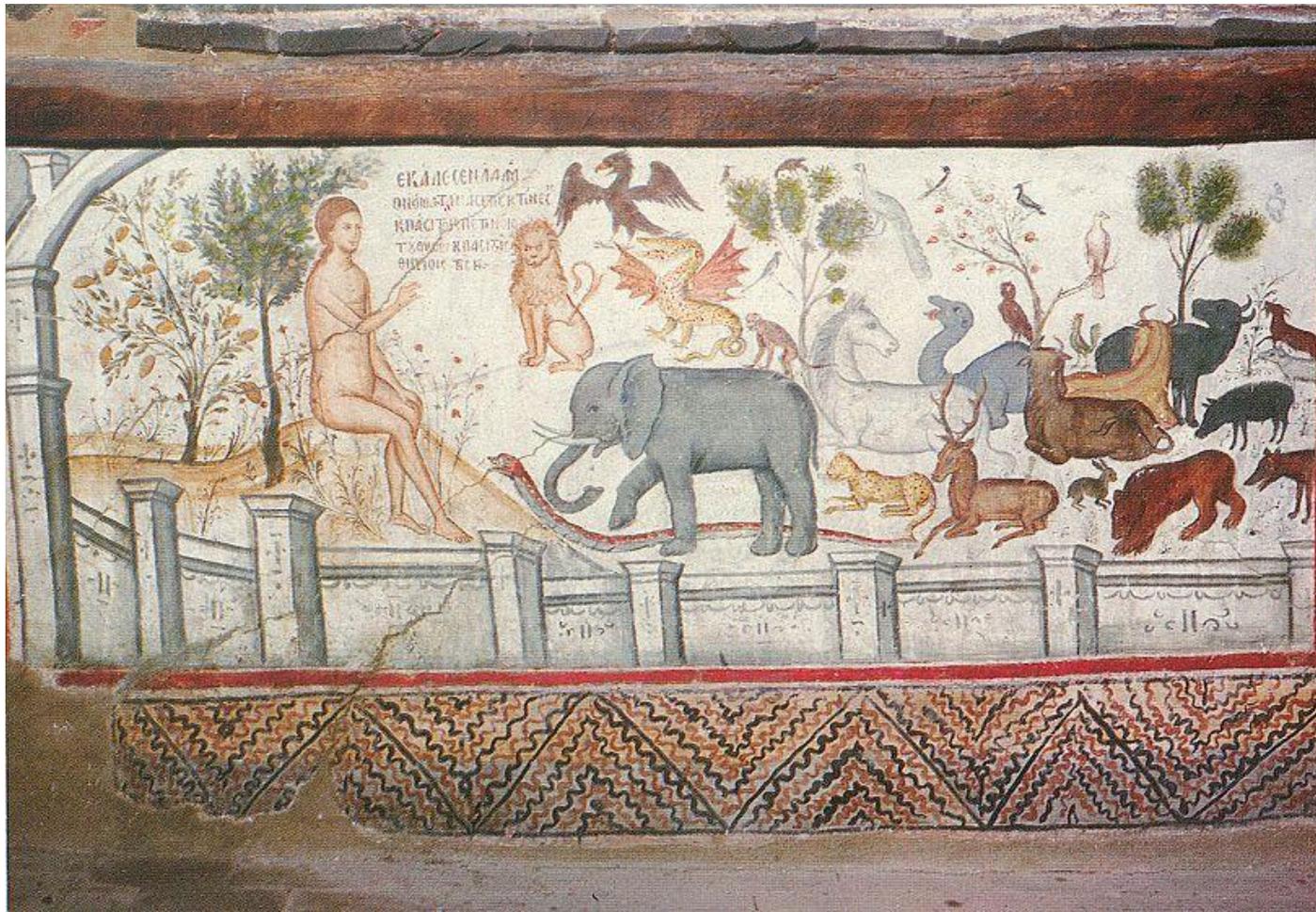
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Hebrew terms

- *'ezer*=helper (most commonly used of God)
- *kenegedo*
- KJV: “an help **meet for him**”
- NIV: “a helper **suitable for him**”
- NJPS: “a **fitting** helper **for him**”
- NRSV: “a helper **as his partner**”

Genesis 2:19

So **out of the ground** the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every **living creature**, that was its name.



Hebrew terms

‘*adamah*=ground

Hebrew terms

'adamah=ground

nephesh chayah=living being
(translated “living creature” in
Gen 2:19)

Joined to the earth

Like the animals, we
are:



Joined to the earth

Like the animals, we
are:

- **formed** (Hebrew *yatsar*)



Joined to the earth

Like the animals, we
are:

- **formed** (Hebrew *yatsar*)
- made from the ground (Hebrew *'adamah*)



Joined to the earth

Like the animals, we
are:

- **formed** (Hebrew *yatsar*)
- made from the ground (Hebrew *'adamah*)
- Called “living beings” (Hebrew *nephesh chayah*)



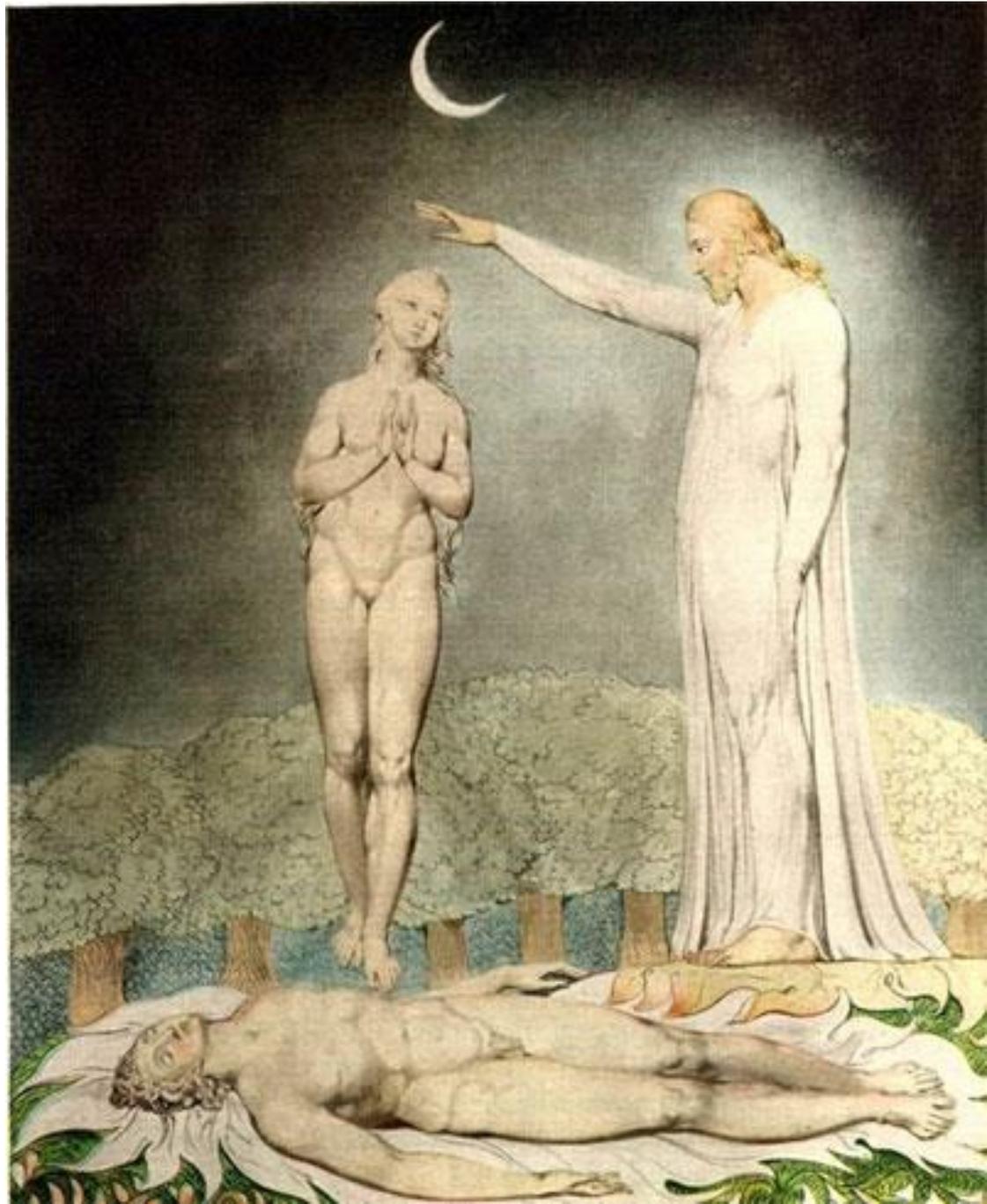
conflict

Genesis 2:20-23

The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; **but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.**

Genesis 2:21-22

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.





Genesis 2:23

Then the man said,
“This at last is bone of
my bones
and flesh of my
flesh;
this one shall be
called **Woman**,
for out of **Man**
this one was taken.”

Hebrew terms

- Woman = *'ishah*

Hebrew terms

- Woman = *'ishah*
- Man = *'ish*

Hebrew terms

- Woman = *'ishah*
- Man = *'ish* (NOT *'adam!*)

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.



In harmony with God, the world,
and one another

