

## Walking Through the Word

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### Creation to Judges (Week 1)

Story: **Creation** (E: How the World Was Made, p 11-12)

Location: **Genesis 1:1-2:3**

#### Bios & definitions

**Genesis:** the name of the first book of the Bible, the Hebrew title is *bereshith*, which means “in the beginning,” and the English title comes from the Greek, *geneseos*, which can mean “birth, genealogy, or history of origin”; divided into 10 major sections by the key words “account” or “record”

Note: Jewish and Christian scholars believe this book along with the next four were authored by Moses, and referenced as the *Pentateuch* (meaning five books) and the *Torah* (meaning law); authorship is disputed by some, but widely recognized universally as the accurate choice

**God:** the Creator of the Universe, whose existence is assumed from the beginning of Scripture, who has always been (see Psalm 90:2); the Hebrew noun used for God’s name, *Elohim*, is a plural noun but used with singular verbs (i.e. the church is a singular noun representing all of God’s people), and expresses the evidence of God as one substance with more than one essence (as affirmed by 1:2 (*Spirit of God* & 26 *Let Us make man*))

**Spirit of God:** present at creation, the Hebrew *ruach* can mean “breath,” “wind,” or “spirit,” and it is described as hovering or moving over the universe prior to the breath of God speaking form into existence

Story: **Man, Woman and the Fall** (E: The First Home, p 12-13)

Location: **Genesis 2:4-3:24**

#### Bios & definitions

**Adam:** the first man, created in the image of God (1:27), whose name may have derived from the Hebrew *adamah*, meaning “ground,” since he was formed from the dust (2:7), placed (not born, see 2:8) in the garden of Eden to “cultivate and keep” the land and given dominion over the land and the living creatures of the earth (see 1:28-30 and 2:15-20)

**Eve:** the first woman, formed as a helpmate for man, since God did not find it suitable for him to be alone (2:18), and formed from a rib from the man (2:21-22), created in the image of God (1:27), named “Woman” by God and “Eve” by Adam “since she was the mother of all the living (see 2:20; but the Hebrew *chavvah* literally means “life” or “lifegiver”), also called the “wife” of Adam in 2:25

**serpent:** “more crafty than any beast of the field” (3:1) and the deceiver of Eve (3:13); cursed by God to “go on your belly and dust you shall eat” and be at enmity with mankind (3:14-15)

Note: There is debate as to whether this was a literal serpent (snake) or another creature inhabited by the “great deceiver,” whom we call Satan, to be the agent through which woman was tempted; part of this question arises because of the language of God’s curse upon the *serpent* – “On your belly you will go.” Whether this creature is recognized as literal or figurative, we do recognize it as the representation in some physical form of the presence of the deceiver (the devil, Satan) in the garden

## Walking Through the Word

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Creation to Judges (Week 1)

Story: **Murder in the First** (E: The First Children, p 15-16)

Location: **Genesis 4**

### Bios & definitions

**Cain**: the first son of Adam and Eve, so named by Eve as his name means “gotten one” or “acquired of God,” known as a “tiller of the ground” (4:2); Cain killed his younger brother Abel because of his anger toward God’s favor toward Abel and his offering, and he “went out from the Lord’s presence” and settled in the land of Nod (see 4:14-16)

**Abel**: the second son of Adam and Eve, described as a “keeper of flocks” (4:2); his name, the Hebrew *hebel*, means “breath, temporary, wind” hinting at the shortness of Abel’s life, as he was murdered by his brother Cain

**Seth**: the third son of Adam and Eve, his name *Sheth* means “put, substituted, appointed, placed, granted” as Eve felt Seth was given “in place of Abel” (4:25); Seth is the father of Enosh (4:26, 5:6) and was born when Adam was 130 years old (5:3); he is the son who is listed in the lineage of Adam beginning in Genesis 5.