

The Language of Creation

GENESIS 1

**The Beginning of Creation**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

**The Six Days of Creation**

<sup>3</sup>And **God said**, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>**God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.** And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And **God said**, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>**And God called the expanse Heaven.** And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And **God said**, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>**God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.** And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>And **God said**, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And **God said**, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>And God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. <sup>17</sup>And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And **God said**, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And **God said**, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds--livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>And God

made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then **God said**, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>And 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." <sup>29</sup>And **God said**, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food." <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup>And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

## The Adamic Language

### GENESIS 2

#### **The Seventh Day, God Rests**

<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

#### **The Creation of Man and Woman**

<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up--for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, <sup>6</sup>and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground--<sup>7</sup>then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. <sup>8</sup>And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. <sup>11</sup>**The name of the first is the Pishon.** It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup>And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>**The name of the second river is the Gihon.** It is the one that flowed around the whole

land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>**And the name of the third river is the Tigris**, which flows east of Assyria. **And the fourth river is the Euphrates.**

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, **saying**, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>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 surely die."

<sup>18</sup>**Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."** <sup>19</sup>**So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens 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.** <sup>20</sup>**The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field.** But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>**Then the man said, [*the first time Man speaks is to Woman*]**

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;

**she shall be called Woman [*Hebrew: isha*],**

**because she was taken out of Man [*Hebrew: ish*]."**

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

## **Multiplicity of Languages I: Descend from Noah's Sons**

### **GENESIS 10**

#### **Nations Descended from Noah**

<sup>1</sup>These are the generations of the sons of Noah, **Shem**, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood.

<sup>2</sup>The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. <sup>3</sup>The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. <sup>4</sup>The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. <sup>5</sup>**From these the coastland peoples spread in their lands, each with his own language, by their clans, in their nations.**

<sup>6</sup>The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. <sup>7</sup>The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. <sup>8</sup>Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. <sup>9</sup>He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." <sup>10</sup>The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. <sup>11</sup>From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and <sup>12</sup>Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great

city. <sup>13</sup>Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, <sup>14</sup>Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came), and Capthorim.

<sup>15</sup>Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth, <sup>16</sup>and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, <sup>17</sup>the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, <sup>18</sup>the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites dispersed. <sup>19</sup>And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, as far as Lasha. <sup>20</sup>**These are the sons of Ham, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.**

<sup>21</sup>To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, children were born. <sup>22</sup>The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. <sup>23</sup>The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. <sup>24</sup>Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber. <sup>25</sup>To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan. <sup>26</sup>Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, <sup>27</sup>Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, <sup>28</sup>Obal, Abimael, Sheba, <sup>29</sup>Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan. <sup>30</sup>The territory in which they lived extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country of the east. <sup>31</sup>**These are the sons of Shem, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.**

<sup>32</sup>These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.

## **Multiplicity of Languages II: Confusio Linguarum**

### **GENESIS 11**

#### **The Tower of Babel**

<sup>1</sup> Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup> As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

<sup>3</sup> They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, "**Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.**"

<sup>5</sup> But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. <sup>6</sup> The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

<sup>8</sup> So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why it was called Babel —because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

## **Speaking in Tongues (Glossolalia)**

### **ACTS 1**

#### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." <sup>9</sup>And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

### **ACTS 2**

#### **The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup>both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." <sup>12</sup>And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

### **1 CORINTHIANS 12 (PAUL'S EPISTLES)**

#### **Spiritual Gifts**

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.