

April 20, 2008  
Genesis 1:1-2:3

“And God Said”

There was nothing to begin with. Zilch. Zero. Nada. Negatory. Nothing.

Nothing to be or do. Nothing to speak of. Nothing to laugh about or talk about or bark about or meow about or crow about. Nothing to enjoy.

Nothing to talk about. Nothing to say.

Then God said, let there be light. And there was light and it shone in the darkness. And God made day with its opening eyes and yawning and stretching and things about to be. And God made night with its droopy eyes and rest and time to let things be. God saw that both doing and resting were good. And we say, it IS good.

But not enough had been said into the nothing yet, so God said let there be sky above. And there was sky above with its deep deep blue. And its clouds of billowing pillowing white and blankets of grey. The sky with its dampening rains and sharp sleet and gentle snow. And God said let there be water below. Oceans deep and rich. Rivers and streams and lakes and ponds winding and rushing and lapping. And God saw the sky above and water below were good. And we say, it IS good.

But not enough had been said yet, so God said, let there be earth. And there was dry ground, firm and solid. And God said, let there be plants and trees. And life began to grow. Algae and mosses and grass. And there were trees, branching and climbing, shading. And plants that sprouted and flowered with different seeds and fruits. Nuts and berries, apples, peaches, tomatoes, artichokes, corn, beans, onions, peas, blueberries, cabbage. God made an amazing garden. And God saw that it was good. And we say, it IS good.

But not enough had been said yet, so God said, let the heavens be filled too. And God made the stars and the Milky Way and comets and quasars and galaxies and nebula, a stunning vast expanse that on a dark night that would take anyone's breath away. And God made the sun for beautiful sunrises and sunsets and warm faces and freckles. And God made the moon that turned from a tiny sliver to a full-faced glow. And their movement brought spring and summer and fall and winter. And God saw that it was good. And we say, it IS good.

But not enough had been said yet, so God said, let there be life in the waters and the skies. And God created the humpback whale, the great

white shark, squid, plankton, salmon, trout, shrimp, oysters, starfish, seahorses, coral reefs. Large, small, grey, yellow, purple, shy, playful. Wonderful. Then God created the birds of the air. Herons, flamingos, hummingbirds, eagles, hawks, herons, doves, cardinals, bluejays, robins, mockingbirds, sparrows. And the sea creatures and birds found they had voices. They were the first part of creation that could say something back to the Creator. So they did. They whistled and chirped and hummed and sang and squawked as they lived and moved and had their being. And God saw it was good. And we say, it IS good.

But still, not quite enough had been said, so God said, let there be creatures on the earth. And God created panthers and wolves and sloths and polar bears and groundhogs and penquins. Otters playing in the river and ants carrying 50x their weight. Cows and horses and pigs and chickens and dogs and cats and rabbits and snakes and hamsters. Every living thing of every shape and size. And they could talk to the Creator too so they mooed and barked and whinnied and meowed and roared and hissed. And God blessed them because it was all amazing and wonderful and good. Then God rolled up God's sleeves and made something

special. From the dust, God created people in God's own image. And God blessed them. And God said, I need you to take care of all this. To rejoice in it. To appreciate it. To wonder and delight and be amazed. To raise our voices and shout and sing because God spoke into the nothing and made something wonderful. And God sees that it is still good. And we say, it IS good. Amen.