

Sunday
January 2
2022



life is a garden





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10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9



2 And Jesus was saying to them,
“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
therefore plead with the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into His harvest.

Luke 10



1 Blessed is the person who does
not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
2 But his delight is in the Law of the LORD,
And on His Law he meditates day and night.
3 He will be like a tree planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season,
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalm 1



23 Jesus said,

But the one sown with seed on the good soil,
this is the one who hears the word and understands it,
who indeed bears fruit and produces, some a hundred,
some sixty, and some thirty times as much.”

Matthew 13



31 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying,
“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a
person took and sowed in his field; 32 and this is smaller
than all the other seeds, but when it is fully grown, it is
larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so
that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches.”

Matthew 13



5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

1 Corinthians 3



8 *Jesus said,*
...produce fruit consistent with repentance;

Matthew 3



15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So then, you will know them by their fruits.”

Matthew 7



22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;
against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5



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בְּרָאֵשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

Genesis 1:1



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**The Bible is an ancient text,
written in a different language
and in a different cultural context.**

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Genesis 1:1



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“Effective communication requires a body of agreed-upon words, terms, and ideas, a common ground of understanding. For the speaker, this often requires accommodation to the audience by using words and ideas they will understand. For the audience, if they are not native to the language and cultural matrix of the speaker, this means reaching common ground may require seeking out additional information or explanation. In other words, the audience has to adapt to a new and unfamiliar culture.”

-John Walton

Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament



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“The framers of creation in the Bible inherited a treasure trove of venerable traditions from their cultural neighbors. Instead of creating their accounts ex nihilo [out of nothing], the composers of Scripture developed their traditions in dialogue with some of the great religious traditions of the surrounding cultures, particularly those originating from Mesopotamia and Egypt, as well as those of their more immediate Canaanite neighbors.”

-William Brown,

*Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science,
and the Ecology of Wonder*



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1:1 In the beginning God **created**(*bārā'*) the heavens(*skies*) and the earth(*land*).

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: [7 words in Hebrew]

1:2 And the earth(*land*) was a formless and desolate emptiness, (תוהו ובוהו *tohu va-vohu*) (*wild and waste*) and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit(*breath/wind*) of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. [2x7 words in Hebrew]



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**God's presence is the only
difference in this equation,
but His presence
makes all the difference.**