

Where Did *Everything* Come From?

Genesis 1 and 2



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It was a bright, sunny day. Annika and Peter liked playing outside. As they played, they looked at all the things around them. This day they were full of questions.

"Where do the clouds come from?" Annika asked.

"I don't know," said Peter. "But I'd like to know who made the sky."

"There has always been sky," said Annika. "It has been there since the beginning."

"But who made everything at the beginning?" asked Peter.

"Let's go ask Grandpa," said Annika, beginning to wonder about this herself.

Annika and Peter ran around the house and found Grandpa fixing a broken chair on the back porch.

"Were you alive at the beginning when everything was made?" asked Annika.

Grandpa looked up and smiled at the children. "Oh,

no," he said. "I'm not that old! I was alive when this house was made, but that wasn't the beginning of everything."

"We want to know who made things like the sky and the clouds," said Peter. "Annika says the sky has always been here, since the beginning. Can you tell us how things were made and who made them?"

"Well," said Grandpa, "That's quite a story. Let's sit here in the shade on the porch and I'll tell you what I know about it. Peter," he added, "you run inside and bring out the Word. You know where it is, on the special shelf by itself."

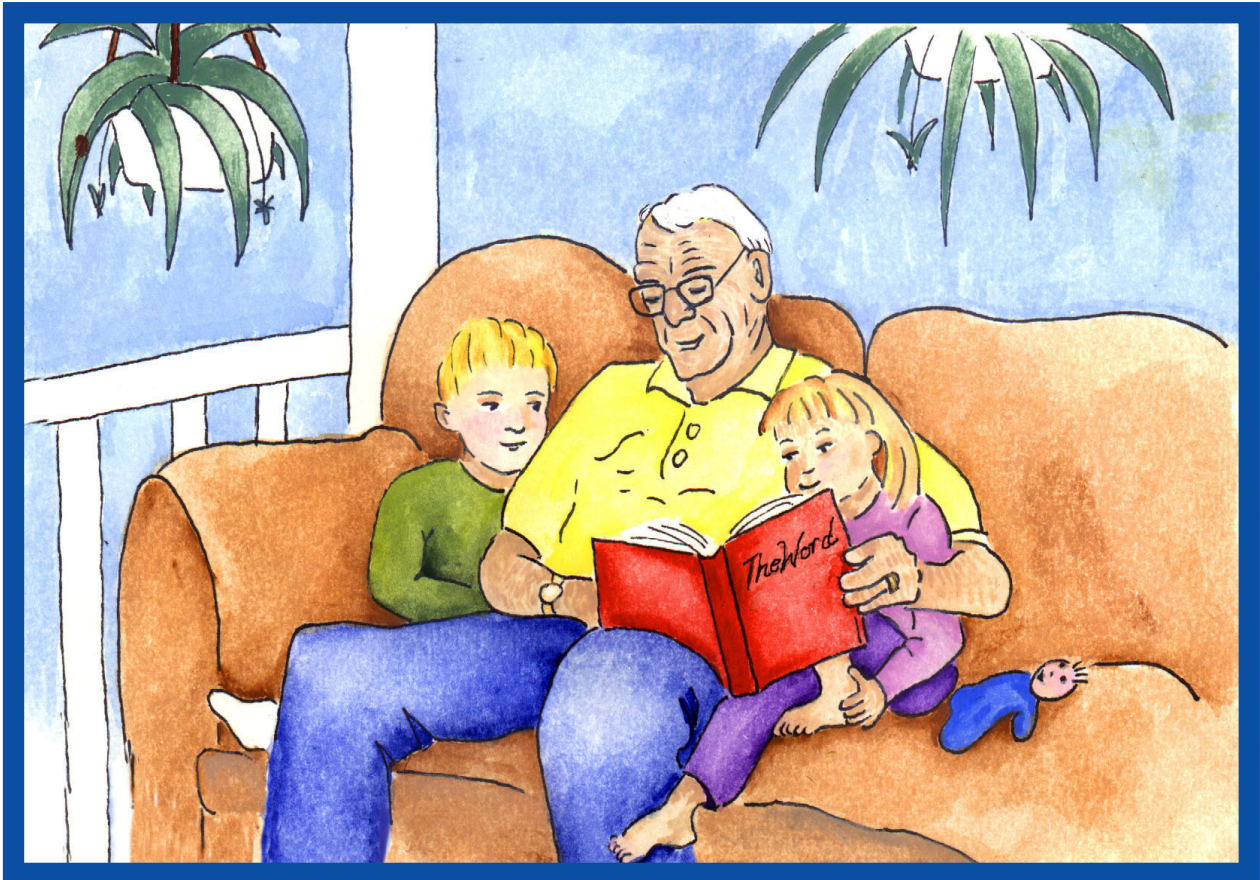
When the children were settled on the porch with Grandpa, he looked at them both, tapped his finger on the Word and said, "The answers to your questions are in here."

"Does it tell us who made the sky?" asked Peter.



"Please tell us more about it," cried Annika. "Tell us what the Lord made."

"All right," said Grandpa, "but it's a long story. It is divided into seven parts or seven days. The Lord tells us what He made each day until He had made everything we would need to live in this world and to live in heaven forever. When He had finished He looked and saw everything that He had made and He saw that everything was very good."



"What came first?" asked Peter.

"Well," said Grandpa, "First, the Lord was alone. The earth was empty and without form. And it was dark everywhere. So the first thing the Lord made was light. 'Let there be light,' He said. And there was light."

"Wow," said Peter. "How could He do that?"

"He just could," said Annika to Peter. "The Lord can do anything He wants."

"That's true," said Grandpa. "But Peter is allowed to ask about it, too. The Lord has told us many things about Himself. The Lord could create light because all light comes from Him. In heaven that light surrounds the Lord. He is so bright that He looks like the shining sun. Then He made another sun for the earth. But that comes a little later."

"Yes, it does," Grandpa answered. "But I think you already know." (Do you know?)

"The Lord made everything, didn't He?" said Annika.

"He certainly did," said Grandpa. "And do you know why?"

The children looked puzzled and shrugged their shoulders.

"He made everything to give to us, for us to use."

"I don't understand," said Peter.

"Wasn't that a lot of hard work?"

"It was work," said Grandpa, "but it was also like playing. Do you remember making flower baskets for your mother's birthday? It was a lot of work to pick all those flowers, but wasn't it fun, too? Weren't you happy when you saw your mother smile and when she kissed you?"

"I love my mama," said Annika. "I like to do things that make her happy."

"That's just like the Lord, then," said Grandpa. "Because He loves us nothing seems too hard for Him to do. The Lord made everything in the world and everything in heaven too, because He wanted to make us happy. He even made us so He'd have someone He could love and someone He could make things for."

"Where does it say the Lord made the sky?" asked Peter, pointing to the Word in Grandpa's lap.

"Right here in the beginning," said Grandpa, opening the Word, "in the book of Genesis. And it tells us everything else He made in the beginning. That's what the name of this first book means, the beginning of things. Some people call it the story of "Creation" because it says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). "To create means to make something."



firmament or sky: the sun, the moon and the stars. But on the third day, the Lord gathered together the waters below the sky into one place so that dry land could appear."

"The dry land must be the earth," said Peter.

"That's right," said Grandpa, "and the waters are called seas."

"Then what?" asked Annika.

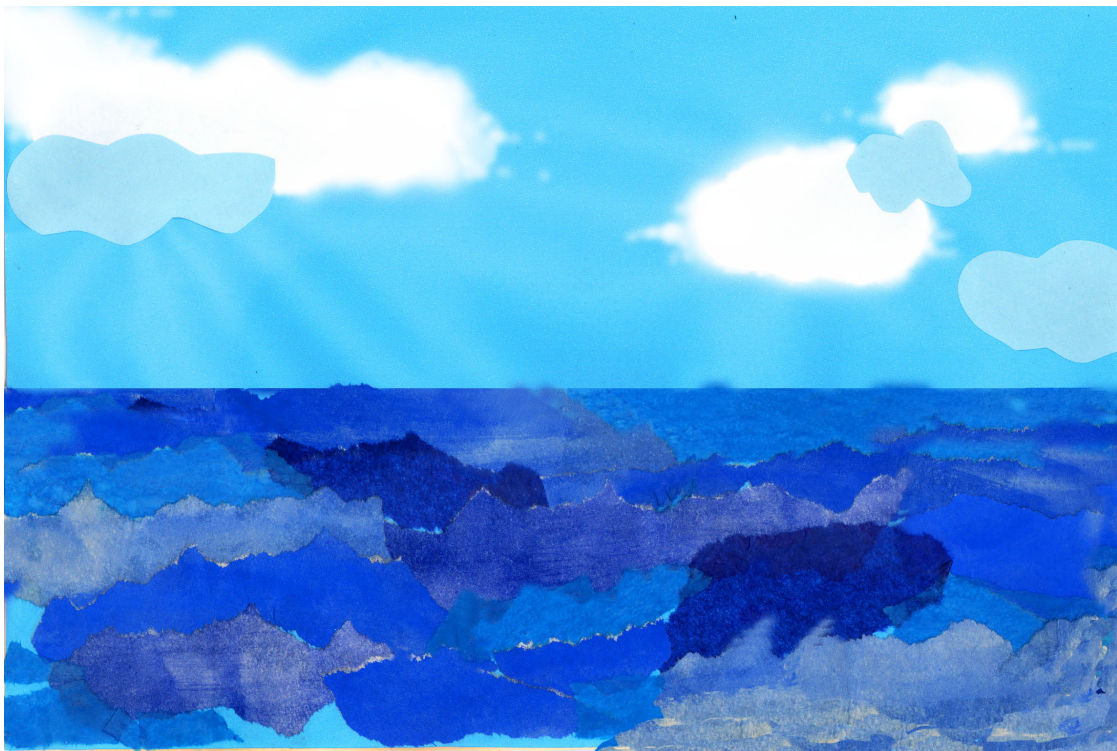
"The Lord made things start to grow on the earth," Grandpa said. "Grass, bushes and trees, things with seeds in them so they can spread and grow everywhere."

"That was a lot of work on the third day," said Peter.

"Yes, it was," said Grandpa, "but just wait until the sixth day!"

"What about the fourth and fifth days?" asked Annika, not wanting to miss anything.

"Grandpa said the Lord put the sun, the moon and the stars in the sky. That must have been on the fourth day," Peter reminded her. "But I don't know what happened on



the fifth day."

"Well," said Grandpa. "What has the Lord made so far?" He began counting off on his fingers: "We have light, a sky with sun, moon, and stars, dry land with grass, bushes and trees, and the seas. What is missing?"

"People," said Annika.

"That's true," said Grandpa. "People need to be made, but the Lord saves them until

“What about the sky?” asked Peter. That’s what they had asked about first, and it seemed like Grandpa was taking a long time to get to that part.

“Hold on,” said Grandpa. “We’re getting to the sky. First, we need light. The Lord made the light and divided the light from the darkness. He called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. This is the first part of the story, the first day of creation.”

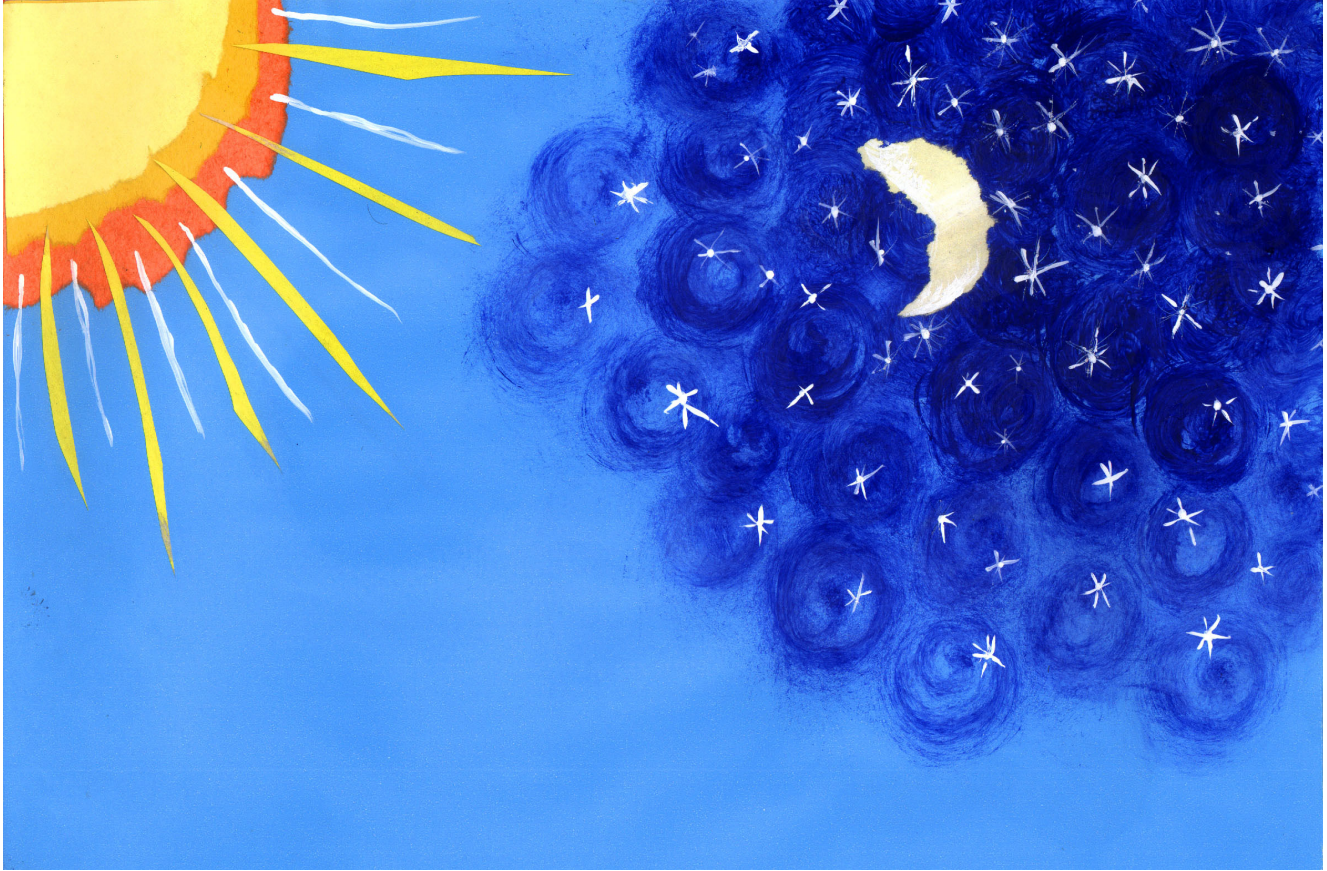
“Now we come to the part about the sky,” he continued. “At first, everything seemed to



be water: water below, water above, water everywhere. So the Lord made a ‘firmament’ in the midst of the waters, to make a space between the waters below and the waters above.”

“What is a ‘firmament,’ Grandpa,” said Annika. “I’ve never heard of a ‘firmament’ before.”

“That’s the sky,” said Grandpa. “It’s what you have when you pull apart the waters. The Lord opened up a space in the waters and put the sky in that space. That’s the second part of the story, the second day of creation. Later, we’ll see how the Lord put lights in the



"People," the children shouted. "The Lord made the people, too."

"Yes," said Grandpa. "God made people in His own image, male and female. He blessed them and told them that all the things He had made were for them and for all use and enjoy. At the end of that sixth day the Lord saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."

"But what about the seventh day?" asked Peter. "I thought there seven days."

"That's right," said Grandpa. "The seventh day was important, too. What do you think the Lord did on the seventh day, after all His work of creating was finished?"

"He rested," said Annika.

"That's right," said Grandpa. "He rested from all the work which He had done. And do you know what? That's why we have one day in the week for rest from our jobs. The Word calls it the 'Sabbath' day. It is a day to stop and think about all the wonderful things the Lord does for us."

last, so that everything else is ready for them on the earth. What else is missing?" (Do you know?)

"There's nothing in the water," said Peter.

"Right!" said Grandpa. "On the fifth day the Lord created the fish in the seas and all



the other living creatures in the seas. And...something else in the firmament."

"Let's see," said Annika. "The firmament means the heavens or the sky, doesn't it? What do we see in the sky?" (Do you know?)

"Birds!" said Peter.

"Good," said Grandpa. "On the fifth day the Lord made all the things that live in the water and all the things that fly in the sky. Now we come to the sixth day," Grandpa continued. "On the sixth day, the Lord created all the animals that live on the earth. That was a big job. But that wasn't all the Lord did on the sixth day. Remember, I said it was a big day? What else was left for the Lord to make?" (Do you know?)



“Now Peter,” said Grandpa. “Please put the Word carefully back on the shelf. We’ll learn more from it another day. You two go on and play. Right now, I think I’m going to take a little rest myself.”

