

# THE BREATH OF LIFE

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Genesis 2:4-31 (p. 3-4)

January 20, 2019

*When the Lord God made the earth and heavens  
. . . . the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground  
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.*  
Genesis 2:4-7

## **“This is the account”**

*This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.  
When the Lord God made the earth and heavens . . . .* Genesis 2:4

## **Under the shadow of two trees**

*In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*  
Genesis 2:9b

## **Searching for an ‘ezer**

*The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*  
Genesis 2:18

## **God’s “one flesh” plan**

*The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she will be called ‘woman’ for she was taken out of man.” For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.* Genesis 2:23-24

## The God who breathes

. . . and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:2

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching . . . .

2 Timothy 3:16

### Resources for further study of Genesis 1-3

Contemporary Jewish thinking about creation is helpful. This “Genesis of Genesis” article from *Ha Eretz* is at good place to start: <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/.premium-where-did-creation-story-come-from-1.5404560>

Julie Roy’s *Redeeming the Feminine Soul* (Nelson, 2017) is the best new book I’ve read on male and female in God’s image.

The CRCNA’s “Our World Belongs to God” has a wonderful statement of creation at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/contemporary-testimony/our-world-belongs-god>

The Belgic Confession, especially Articles 13-14, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>

Richardson’s “A Theology of Sexuality in the Beginning” at [http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted\\_hildebrandt/OTeSources/01-Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Davidson\\_SexGen1\\_AUSS.pdf](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/OTeSources/01-Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Davidson_SexGen1_AUSS.pdf)

John MacArthur’s sermons on Genesis at <https://www.gty.org/library/resources/sermons-library/scripture/1?book=1&chapter=0>

Commentaries I like include John Sailhamer (*Expositor’s Bible Commentary* and *Genesis Unbound*); Bruce Waltke (*Genesis*, Zondervan, 2001); Allen P. Ross (*Creation and Blessing*, Baker, 1988).

Study Bibles on creation I like include Zondervan’s *NIV*, Nelson’s *New King James Version*, and Crossway’s *ESV*.

Francis Schaeffer’s Genesis trilogy: *The God Who Is There*, *He Is There and He Is Not Silent*, and *Genesis in Space and Time*.

J. Logon Duncan’s sermons on Genesis at <https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/by-scripture/genesis>

C. Leupold’s helpful commentary at [https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible\\_book/genesis\\_leupold.html](https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible_book/genesis_leupold.html)

Alexander Maclaren’s “Sermons on Genesis” at [http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible\\_book/genesis\\_maclaren.html](http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible_book/genesis_maclaren.html)

## Isaiah's Creation Hymn

*Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up,  
let righteousness grow with it; I, the Lord, have created it.*

Isaiah 45:8b

After a week of inductive study, this week's reading invites us to celebrate creation with Isaiah. Chapters 40-45, the opening six chapters of Isaiah's encouragement to exiles like us, are a great hymn to the God who creates. This week we'll read six stanzas of Isaiah's hymn and reflect on God's continuing creative work in our lives.

Monday: Read Isaiah 40. Pray for God's leading this week.

How does God's strength (vs. 28-31) compare with that of the idols (vs. 18-20). Yes, the same word for image!

Tuesday: Read Isaiah 41. Pray for God's help this week.

How does God being our helper direct our understanding of "helper" in Genesis 2?

Wednesday: Read Isaiah 42. Pray for the Spirit's leading.

How does the Spirit who continues to give breath (vs. 5) help you apply this Servant Song?

Thursday: Read Isaiah 43. Pray for a new experience of God's salvation. How are you experiencing the "through the waters" work of God in your life?

Friday: Read Isaiah 44. Pray to know God's power over idols.

How does God's creative work help you discern the idols in your life?

Saturday: Read Isaiah 45. Pray for God's righteousness to be revealed. How have you experienced God's purpose (see verse 18) in creating you to inhabit his earth?