

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

GENESIS 2:4-7

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that Yahweh God made earth and heaven.

(Now no *siah* of the field was yet in the earth, no *'esebh* of the field had yet sprung up; for Yahweh God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to work the ground.

But a *'edh* went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the earth.)

Then Yahweh God formed *'adam* of the dust of the *'adama*; and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and *'adam* became a living being.

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Interpretations

1. Parallel (second) Account

- Parallels Gen. 1:2; describing the earth as uninhabitable and a watery chaos.
- Second creation account with man as the focus

2. Positive State

- These are positive descriptions of the earth before man's creation and FALL
- Anticipating the Fall and Curse of man
 - The *siah* of the field = thorns and thistles of the curse
 - The *'esebh* of the field = the cultivated grain fields required after the Fall
 - "No rain" anticipates the flood
 - "work of the ground" = the toil and tilling required as part of the curse
- Harmonizes the order of chapter one with chapter two

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3. Negative State

- These are negative descriptions of the earth that exist because man has not been created and no rain has yet fallen
- At this stage, no sort of vegetation existed
 - No shrub (*siah*—not edible) because there is no rain and no man to irrigate
 - No plant (*'esebh*—produce fruit) because there is no man to cultivate or irrigate
 - The great spring was useless for vegetation because there was no man to irrigate
- Rain is viewed as positive
- No attempt to reconcile these verses with chapter one because chapter one is not meant to be chronological