

# Genesis 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

## Analysis

**And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding frui...** This verse is part of the creation account that establishes God's sovereign power and purposeful design. The structured pattern of the seven days reveals divine order, intentionality, and progressive development from formless void to a world prepared for human habitation.

The recurring phrases "And God said," "and it was so," "And God saw that it was good" create a liturgical rhythm emphasizing:

1. creation by divine decree
2. immediate fulfillment of God's word,
3. divine evaluation of creation's goodness.

This pattern refutes both polytheistic chaos-and-conflict creation myths and modern materialistic chance-based origins.

Each stage builds toward the climax of human creation in God's image. The theological themes include divine transcendence and immanence, purposeful design, creation's inherent goodness, and humanity's unique role as God's image-bearers and stewards. The creation account provides the foundation for understanding work and rest (Sabbath), male and female relationships (marriage), human dominion (stewardship), and moral accountability to the Creator. These

opening chapters establish the worldview framework for all subsequent biblical revelation.

## Historical Context

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Genesis 1 stands in stark contrast to ancient Near Eastern creation accounts like the Babylonian Enuma Elish, Egyptian creation myths, and Ugaritic texts. While these portrayed creation resulting from conflicts between deities or sexual generation of gods, Genesis presents a sovereign monotheistic God who creates effortlessly by divine decree. This would have been revolutionary to ancient readers accustomed to polytheistic cosmogonies.

The Hebrew text's literary structure (seven days, recurring formulas) suggests careful composition as theological proclamation rather than primitive mythology. Archaeological discoveries of creation tablets from Mesopotamia (2000-1500 BCE) reveal that Genesis addresses similar questions but provides radically different answers about the nature of God, humanity, and the cosmos. The absence of theogony (origin of gods) and theomachy (conflict between gods) distinguishes Genesis from its ancient Near Eastern context.

For Israelites emerging from Egyptian bondage or later facing Babylonian captivity, this truth that Yahweh created everything would have been profoundly liberating and countercultural. The gods of Egypt and Babylon were mere creations, not creators. Genesis 1 establishes that Israel's God alone is supreme, rendering pagan deities powerless and their worship futile.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does this passage reveal about God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
2. How does this passage challenge modern cultural assumptions about identity, purpose, or morality?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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לְמִינֵּךְ הוּא יְרָעָה מִזְרָחָה יְשָׁעָה וַתֵּתֶן אֶת־  
brought forth And the earth grass and herb yielding seed after his kind  
H3318 H776 H1877 H6212 H2232 H2233 H4327

וְרָא לְמִינֵּךְ הוּא בְּזֶה יְעַשֵּׂה  
and the tree yielding fruit seed after his kind saw  
H6086 H6213 H6529 H2233 H0 H4327 H7200

טֻובְּנָה כִּי אֱלֹהָ יְמִינָה  
and God that it was good  
H430 H3588 H2896

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 4:28** (Parallel theme): For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

**Luke 6:44** (Parallel theme): For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

**Isaiah 61:11** (References God): For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

**2 Corinthians 9:10** (Parallel theme): Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;

**Galatians 6:7** (References God): Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

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