

## Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27; 2:1-4

When beginning he, God, created the heavens and the earth, the earth was shapeless and formless and bleakness covered the face of the deep, while the Spirit of God, she, fluttered over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, and let them rule the fish of the sea, and the birds of the heavens, and the animals, and the whole earth, and over every creeping creature that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in God's own image,  
In God's own image, God created them;  
Female and male, God created them.

And the heavens and the earth were complete, along with all their multitude. Then God finished on the seventh day the work that God had done, and rested on the seventh day from all the work that they had done. So God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

These are the generation of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

— Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney  
*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year A*

*Gender matters. Gender matters in the text, in the world, in the world of the text, in the world of the translator. Gender matters to me and to countless numbers of women hearers and readers of the biblical text for whom it is Scripture. Gender matters significantly to those who have been and are marginalized because of gender, especially when it is done in the name of God, appealing to the Scriptures. And gender matters to men. Gender matters to hearers and readers of the Scriptures who are privileged to share the gender of the dominant portrayal of God, the majority of biblical characters, the majority of biblical characters who have speaking parts, the majority of translators of biblical texts, and the majority of interpreters of biblical texts.*

Wilda Gafney, *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Woman of the Torah and the Throne*, 289, quoted in the above.