

**‘THE CREATION’ TEXT:
NEIL JENKINS EDITION****PART ONE****No. 1a**

Overture - The Representation of Chaos

No. 1b

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth;
and the earth was without form, and void;
and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters;
and God said: Let there be light, and there was light.
And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

No. 2

Now vanish before the holy beams the gloomy shades of ancient Night;
the first of days appears. Disorder flees, and order fair prevails.
Affrighted fly hell’s spirits black in throngs;
down they sink in the bottomless pit to endless night.
Despairing, rage, and torment attends their rapid fall.
A new created world springs up at God’s command.

No. 3

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters, which were under the firmament,
from the waters, which were above the firmament; and it was so.

Now raging storms and tempests arise; as chaff before the wind the clouds are impelled.
By heaven’s fire the sky is enflamed, and awful thunders are rolling on high.
Now from the floods in steam ascend reviving showers of rain;
the dreary wasteful hail, the light and flaky snow.

No. 4

The glorious hierarchy of heaven behold, amazed, the marvellous work.

On high th'ethereal vault resounds with praise of God, and of the second day.

No. 5

And God said: Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together in one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering of waters called he Seas; and God saw that it was good.

No. 6

Rolling in foaming billows
 uplifted roars the boisterous sea.
 Mountains and rocks now emerge;
 into the clouds their tops ascend.
 Through verdant plains outstretching wide
 the rivers flow, in serpent error.
 Softly purling glides on,
 through silent vales, the limpid brook.

No. 7

And God said: Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

No. 8

With verdure clad the fields appear delightful to the ravished sense;
 by flowers sweet and gay enhanced is the charming sight.
 Here fragrant herbs their odours shed, here shoots the healing plant.
 With copious fruit the spreading boughs are hung.
 In leafy arches twine the shady groves;
 O'er lofty hills majestic forests wave.

No. 9

And the heavenly host proclaimed the third day, praising God and saying:

No. 10

Awake the harp, the lyre awake!
 In joy and mirth your voices raise!
 In triumph acclaim the power of the Lord!
 For he the heavens and earth has clothed in glorious attire.

No.11

And God said: Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven,
to divide the day from the night, and to give light upon the earth;
and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days, and for years.
He made the stars also.

No. 12

In fullest glory rises now the sun and darts his rays;
appearing as a bridegroom; rejoicing as a giant about to run his course.
With softer beams and milder lustre shines the moon throughout the silent night.
And in the unbounded space of heaven, stars without number animate the sky.
And the sons of God announced the fourth day in hymns and sacred songs;
thus, in praise, proclaiming his power:

No. 13

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The firmament displays the wonder of his work.
From day unto day this knowledge is told.
From night unto night the same shall be shewn.
Their sound goes out into all lands;
There is nothing hidden from the power thereof.

PART TWO**No. 14**

And God said: Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life,
and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

No. 15

With upward pinions the steep-ascending eagle soars,
And cleaves the air in swiftest flight to the blazing sun.
Up springs the lark, the messenger of morn;
And cooing, calls the tender dove his mate.
From every bush and grove the wakeful nightingale
Her amorous descant sings. No grief affected yet her breast,
Nor to a mournful tale were tuned her soft enchanting lays.

No. 16

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth;
and God blessed them, saying:

Be fruitful all, and multiply, ye winged fowl,
 Be multiplied, and sing on every tree.
 Multiply, ye shoals of fish, and fill each watery deep.
 Be fruitful, grow and multiply!
 And in your God and Lord rejoice.

No. 17

And the angels touched their harps of golden wires, and sang in praise of the fifth day.

No. 18a

Most beautiful appear with verdure young adorned the gently sloping hills.
 Their narrow sinuous veins distil in crystal drops the fountain fresh and bright.
 In airy rings they rove, and soar the air sublime, the cheerful host of birds.
 And as they flying whirl they spread their painted wings in glory to the sun.
 See flashing through the watery deep the shoals of fish that glide beneath the wave.
 Upheaved from the deep the immense Leviathan sports on the foaming wave.

How many are thy works, O God? Who may their number tell?

No. 18b

The Lord is great, and great his might; for ever bless his name.

No. 19

And God said: Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind,
 cattle, and every creeping thing, and beasts of the earth after their kind.

No. 20

Straight opening her fertile womb,
 the earth obeyed the word, and teemed
 with numerous living creatures
 in perfect forms and fully grown.
 Cheerfully roaring stands the tawny lion.
 With sudden bound the darting tiger appears.
 The swift stag bears up his branching head.
 And tossing his mane, with hot impulse seized,
 Impatient neighs the trembling steed.

In fields and meadows cattle seek their food,
 alone and in broad herds.
 And o'er the ground, outspread as plants,

are flocks of fleecy bleating sheep.
 Unnumbered as the sands,
 in whirls are rising the host of insects.
 In long dimension creeps
 with sinuous trace the worm.

No. 21

Now heaven in all her glory shone;
 Earth smiled in al her rich attire.
 The air was filled with feathered fowl;
 The water swelled by shoals of fish;
 By heavy beasts the ground was trod.
 But all the work was not complete.
 There wanted yet that wond'rous being,
 That should God's mighty work admire;
 With heart and voice his goodness praise.

No. 22

And God created man in his own image.
 In the image of God created he him.
 Male and female created he them.
 He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,
 and man became a living soul.

No. 23

In native worth and honour clad,
 with beauty, courage, strength adorned,
 Erect with front serene he stands,
 a man, the Lord and King of nature all.
 His large and arched brow sublime
 of wisdom deep declares the seat,
 And in his eyes with brightness shines
 the soul, the breath and image of his God.
 With fondness leans upon his breast
 the partner for him formed;
 A woman fair, and graceful spouse.
 Her innocent and modest looks
 are fairer than the spring,
 Inspiring love and joy and bliss.

No. 24

And God saw everything that he had made; and behold it was very good;

and the heavenly choir proclaimed the close of the sixth day in song divine:

No. 25a

Completed is the glorious work;
the Lord beholds it and is well pleased.
In lofty strains let us rejoice!
Our song must be the praise of God!

No. 25b

On thee, O Lord, each soul awaits;
That thou may'st give to them their food.
Thou openest thy hand,
and they are filled with good.
But when thy face, O Lord, is hid,
With sudden terror they are struck.
Thou tak'st their breath away;
They turn again to dust.
But when thy breath goes forth again,
Thou dost renew the face of Earth.
Revived, it now unfolds
new strength and new delights.

No. 25c

Completed is the glorious work;
our song must be the praise of God!
Blessed be his name for ever.
He sole on high doth reign in glory.
Alleluia.

PART THREE

No. 26

In rosy mantle appears,
by sweetest sounds awaked,
The morning, young and fair.
From heaven's angelic choirs
pure harmony descends
On ravished earth.
Behold the blissful pair,
where hand in hand they go!

Their glowing looks
 Express the feeling in their hearts.
 A grateful hymn of praise
 Their lips shall offer now.
 Then let our voices ring,
 united with their song!

No. 27

By thee with bliss, O bounteous Lord,
 The heaven and earth are filled.
 This world, so great, so wonderful,
 Thy mighty hand has framed.

O praise his majesty and power;
 Extol his name for evermore.

Thou fairest of stars, sure pledge of day, that crowns the smiling morn!
 Of this great world, O sun, thou art both eye and soul of all!

Proclaim in your extended course the glorious power and might of God!

O moon that rul'st the silent night, and fliest with the stars,
 Resound his joyful praise in song around his throne.

Ye mighty elements, multi-formed, who ceaseless changes make;
 Ye dusky vapours, mists and steams, that rise and fall through the air;
 Acclaim the power of God on high!
 Great is his name, and great his might.

Ye murmuring fountains tune his praise, and wave your tops, ye pines!
 Ye fragrant herbs and flowers shed on him your balmy scent!
 Ye, that on mountains stately tread, and ye that lowly creep;
 Ye birds, that sing at heaven's gate, and ye that swim the stream;
 Praise him, all creatures that have breath!
 Praise him, all ye that dwell on earth!

Ye valleys, hills, and shady woods, made vocal by our song,
 From morn to eve you shall repeat our grateful hymn of praise.

Hail, bounteous Lord! Creator, hail!
 Thy word called forth this wond'rous frame.
 Both Earth and Heaven worship thee.
 We praise thee now and evermore.

No. 28

Adam : Our duty we have now performed,
 in offering up to God our thanks.
 Now follow me, dear partner of my life!
 Thy guide I'll be; and every step
 shall pour new joy into our breast,
 With wonders all around.
 Then may'st thou feel and know
 The high degree of bliss
 the Lord hath granted us,
 And with devoted heart
 his bounty celebrate.
 Come, follow me; thy guide I'll be!

Eve: O thou, for whom I am!
 My help, my shield, my all!
 Thy word is just and right.
 So God, our Lord, ordains:
 To know no more
 is my happiest knowledge, and my praise.

No. 29

Adam : Graceful consort! At thy side softly fly the golden hours.
 Every moment brings new rapture; every care is put to rest.

Eve : Spouse adored! At thy side purest joys o'erflow the heart.
 In devotion all I am is thine; my reward shall be thy love.

Both : The dewdropping morning, O how enlivening!
 The coolness of evening, O how refreshing!
 How pleasing is the savour of the fruit!
 How charming is the fragrance of the bloom!
 But without thee what is to me
 the morning dew, the evening air,
 the savoury fruit, the fragrant bloom?
 With thee is every joy enhanced;
 With thee delight is ever new;
 With thee is life incessant bliss;
 Thine it all shall be.

No. 30

O happy pair, and happy evermore,
 unless, misled by false conceit,
 ye strive at more than granted is,

and more would know than know ye should!

No. 31

Sing to God, and raise your voices!
Praise him, every living creature!
Great his name, and great his glory:
Let his name resound on high!

To God on high sing praise for evermore.
Amen.

