







Yosemite National Park (yoh-SEM-ih-tee) is an American national park in California, surrounded on the southeast by Sierra National Forest and on the northwest by Stanislaus National Forest. The park is managed by the National Park Service and covers an area of 759,620 acres (1,187 sq mi; 3,074 km²) and sits in four counties – centered in Tuolumne and Mariposa, extending north and east to Mono and south to Madera County. Designated a World Heritage Site in 1984, Yosemite is internationally recognized for its granite cliffs, waterfalls, clear streams, giant sequoia groves, lakes, mountains, meadows, glaciers, and biological diversity. Almost 95 percent of the park is designated wilderness. Yosemite is one of the largest and least fragmented habitat blocks in the Sierra Nevada, and the park supports a diversity of plants and animals.

The geology of the Yosemite area is characterized by granite rocks and remnants of older rock. About 10 million years ago, the Sierra Nevada was uplifted and tilted to form its unique slopes, which increased the steepness of stream and river beds, resulting in the formation of deep, narrow canyons. About one million years ago glaciers formed at higher elevations which eventually melted and moved downslope, cutting and sculpting the U-shaped valley that attracts so many visitors to its scenic vistas.

**“Between every two pine trees there is a door
leading to a new way of life.”**

**“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature’s peace will flow into you
as sunshine into trees.”**

"The snow is melting into music."

"How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains! To behold this alone is worth the pains of any excursion a thousand times over."

“The mountains are calling and I must go.”

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Genres in Scripture

- 43% Narrative (Historical, parables, biographical)
- 33% Poetry (Songs, wisdom, prophets)
- 24% Narrative-Discourse (Speeches, letters, essays)

Source: The Bible Project, "Literary Styles"

**“Every disagreement about interpretation is usually
a disagreement about genre.”**

E.D. Hirsch

It is a disgraceful and dangerous thing for an infidel to hear a Christian, presumably giving the meaning of Holy Scripture, talking nonsense on these topics; and we should take all means to prevent such an embarrassing situation, in which people show up vast ignorance in a Christian and laugh it to scorn.

***Augustine, A.D. 401
(Context of interpretation of Genesis)***

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Genesis 1:3-5

Genesis 1:3-10

Days 1-3

Series of creations (“*Let there be’s*”) & separations

Light from darkness (1st day)

Water above sky from water below (2nd day)

Dry land from water (3rd day)

Genesis 1:11-31

Days 4-6

Series of creations (“*Let there be’s*”) & fillings

Plants, trees, fruit (3rd day)

Sun, moon, stars (4th day)

Sea creatures, birds (5th day)

Land creatures (6th day)

Humans (6th day)

29 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground— everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” 31 And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 1:29-31

The creation story ends with a menu.

Peter Leithart

24 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground (*ha'adamah*) according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let us make *adam* in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27 So God created ha'adam in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male (zakar) and female (neqebah) he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and
increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule
over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and
over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 1:24-28

adam/ha-adamah

Range of meaning

- A human being (no gender), literally an “earth creature” (!)
- Humanity/humankind
- A male human being
- Adam, the first, male human being (1st unambiguous use of this is in Genesis 4)







God envisioned his sons and daughters forging a Blessed Alliance that would become an unstoppable force for good in this world. We know this because when he created his male and female image bearers, Genesis tells us “God blessed them” and then spread before them the global mandate to rule and subdue on his behalf. Like the owner of a cosmic family business, God deployed his sons and daughters to fulfill his good purposes throughout the earth. In a sense, the cross isn’t the only vulnerable moment for God, for at creation he is vulnerable too — lavishing a world on us, giving us the place of highest honor in his heart, and setting us free to make the most of it—with every intention of looking on our efforts together like a proud Father.

Carolyn Custis James
Half the Church: Recapturing God’s Global Vision for Women