In this table, list the events of each day of creation in the left-hand column. This will provide you with a basic plot summary of the first story of creation—stupid, but useful. In the right-hand column, determine the location of the same events in Genesis 2:4b-25.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Events in Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a</th>
<th>Ch:vv in Gen 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
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<td>Day 2</td>
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<td>Day 3</td>
<td>A.</td>
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<td>B.</td>
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<td>Day 4</td>
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<td>Day 5</td>
<td>A.</td>
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<td>B.</td>
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<td>Day 6</td>
<td>A.</td>
<td>A.</td>
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<td>B.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Discuss these questions among yourselves. Be prepared to give your answers to the whole group when you return to class:

1. How do you feel about the relationship between the first story and the second story? What is good about each? What is the moral of each story?

2. What does the study of these two stories teach you about reading the Bible?

3. What do you think the two stories have to say about good and evil?
Israel’s Tangled Past: A Glance at Genesis
(Moleski, SJ)

(Illustrations drawn from the New American Bible; women’s stories in bold)

I. The Primeval History
1. First Creation Story
2. Second Creation Story
3. The First Sin: Adam and Eve
4. The Second Sin: Cain murders Abel
5. From Adam down to Noah (Note 5:1-2--male and female are called "man")
6. Angels have sex with humans; beginning of Flood Story
7 - 8. Two stories of The Great Flood woven together (6:5--8:22)
9. Covenant with Noah; Noah gets drunk and sprawls out naked--Canaan peeks at him
10. Table of the Nations
11. Tower of Babel; from Shem to Abraham

II. The Patriarch, Abraham
12. Abram’s Call and Migration; Abram and Sarai in Egypt--Abram lies about Sarai
13. Abram and Lot have a fight
14. The War of the Four Kings--Abram fights for his brother
15. Covenant with Abram
16. Birth of Ishmael <Father of the Arabs in Muslim stories>
17. Covenant of Circumcision; Abram becomes Abraham, Sarai becomes Sarah
18. God visits Abraham and Sarah; Abraham bargains with God about Sodom
19. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; Lot escapes, but his wife doesn’t; Lot incepted by his daughters
20. Abraham lies again about Sarah
21. Birth of Isaac; Hagar and Ishmael sentenced to death, but saved
22. God tells Abraham to kill Isaac, but relents
23. Abraham buys a graveyard
24. Isaac courts Rebekah
25. Abraham’s six sons by Keturah (polygamy or adultery, take your pick); death of Abraham; Ishmael’s kids

III. The Patriarchs, Isaac and Jacob
26. Esau and Jacob born--started fighting in the womb! Esau sells out cheap to Jacob
27. Famine; Isaac lies about Rebekah, gets caught in compromising position
28. Jacob and Rebekah lie to Isaac, steal Esau’s birthright
29. Jacob goes in search of a wife from his people; has a dream; Jacob finds Rachel; serves father-in-law-to-be seven years, but is given Leah instead; another 7 years for Rachel
30. Jacob gets Bilhah pregnant for Rachel, Zilpah for Leah; Leah buys Jacob for a night, gets pregnant; Rachel does, too.
32. Jacob steals the best animals from Laban’s flocks and runs away from Laban; Jacob fights with an angel, becomes Israel
33. Jacob bumps into Esau; kind of an awkward reconciliation--Jacob showers Esau with gifts, refuses to take any; they split
34. A foreigner rapes Jacob’s daughter, Dinah; Jacob’s sons talk the foreign tribe into being circumcised, then massacre all the men while they are in pain
35. Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin--the twelfth and last son of Jacob (Israel)
36. Descendants of Esau

IV. Joseph and His Brothers
37. Joseph sold into Egypt by his brothers
38. Onan gets killed by GOD for spilling his seed; Tamar tricks Judah (her father-in-law) into getting her pregnant
39. Joseph resists seduction by his master’s wife; gets jailed anyway
40. Joseph interprets two dreams: one a blessing, the other a curse
41. Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dream of seven fat cows and seven thin cows; gets promoted
42. Joseph’s brothers come begging for food; Joseph demands Benjamin as a hostage
43. Joseph’s brothers come back for more food, bringing Benjamin
44. Joseph plants a silver goblet in the food bags, accuses his brothers of stealing
45. Joseph reveals himself to his brothers
46. The Twelve Tribes (Israel) move into Egypt
47. Joseph makes a killing in real estate
48. Jacob blesses Joseph’s sons most especially--blesses the youngest more than the eldest
49. Jacob pronounces blessings, curses and prophecies, then dies
50. Joseph buries his father, Jacob; Joseph forgives his brothers; Joseph dies and is buried
A Careful Reading of Genesis 1 - 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events in Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a</th>
<th>Events in Gen 2:4b - 25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>First thing created</td>
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<td>Day 2</td>
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<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Second group of things</td>
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<td>A.</td>
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<td>Day 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>Third group of things</td>
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<td>A.</td>
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<td>B.</td>
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<td>Day 6</td>
<td>Fourth thing</td>
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<td>B.</td>
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<td>Day 7</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moral of Genesis 1</th>
<th>Moral of Genesis 2</th>
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Genesis 3: The Beginning of Sin

1. Who tempts Eve?

2. What does the tempter promise her?

3. What is the nature of the sin committed by Adam and Eve?

4. Is the temptation fair?

5. Are the punishments fair?
In the beginning, there wasn’t anything, not even nothing. All of space-time and matter-energy unfolded together out of the "God particle" (called the "Cosmic Egg" by the materialists) smaller than the diameter of an atom. In the first few moments of the universe’s existence, this particle began to expand dramatically in size, "from the size of an atom to that of a grapefruit" in $10^{43}$ seconds (expanding faster than the speed of light?). It seems to me that if not for that inflationary impetus, which continues to this day in the ongoing expansion of the universe, the God particle would have been the biggest black hole you ever saw.

"The early universe had nearly equal amounts of matter and antimatter, with just a slight excess of matter—about one extra particle for every 100 million photons and particle/anti-particle pairs. Because matter and antimatter annihilate one another in a burst of electromagnetic radiation (energy in the form of particles called photons—visible light is a kind of electromagnetic radiation) the universe we see today is dominated by the extra matter that couldn’t find antimatter with which to annihilate" (http://www.pbs.org/wnet/hawking/strange/html/antimat.html).

In the original condition of the universe, the gravitational forces of the expanding universe were so great that light could not escape. It was hot ($10^{27}$°C) and dark at $10^{-32}$ seconds. Things had to cool down to $10^{13}$°C around $10^{-6}$ seconds before quarks could "clump into protons and neutrons." From 3 minutes to 300,000 years, "charged electrons and protons prevented light from shining; the universe [was] a superhot fog" that slowly cooled down to 10,000°C. When electrons were captured by hydrogen, helium, and deuterium nuclei, the fog lifted, and then there was light. Echoes of the first radiation continue throughout the universe today as cosmic background radiation in the microwave range. Particle accelerators attempt to recreate the high-temperature, high-density conditions which existed in the early universe.

After a billion years, the temperature fell to -200°C. The hydrogen and helium gases expelled by the Big Bang clumped together into clouds, from which stars and galaxies later emerged. Gravitational forces drew the gases into dense spheres and ignited the fires of fission and fusion. All of the other elements of the periodic table were cooked up in the heart of stars. When the stars died, they spewed forth the raw materials for planets, moons, comets, meteoroids, peanut butter sandwiches, and the like. We are therefore literally made of star dust. Some physicists argue that "The inflationary theory ... demands that ... dark stuff makes up between 90 and 99 percent of the universe. Astronomers have yet to determine what constitutes this dark matter, although some leading candidates go by the names MACHOs, WIMPs, and neutrinos" (http://www.pbs.org/wnet/hawking/strange/html/dark.html).

The heavy elements were aggregated into planets, moons, asteroids, comets and clouds of interstellar dust by the gravitational attraction of the stars. By happenstance, some planets fell into orbit close enough to their sun to keep warm but far enough away not to be scalded. On these planets, water exists in liquid form and carbon is readily available for the formation of organic compounds. On some of them, life began and evolved into ever more complex forms. Every living or nearly living thing on the face of the earth uses the same 20 amino acids in its biochemistry; every living thing larger than a virus relies on the same principles of cellular metabolism. We are all relatives of every other living being on the face of the earth.

And so here we are today, perhaps 15 billion years after the beginning (± 5 billion years). We don’t know whether the universe will collapse on itself (the Big Crunch), decelerate indefinitely (the Big Chill), or continue to expand at greater and greater speeds (Scientific American, April, 1999, 18). Folks are looking afresh at Einstein’s anti-gravity hunch, the cosmological constant, which he threw into some equations to pretty them up; he later called the cosmological constant his greatest error. Other scientists imagine a cosmological inconstant, the "quintessence," which plays the same role as Einstein’s hypothetical constant in explaining the ongoing acceleration of distant galaxies.

Disciplines involved in the Big Bang Theory:

- physics (laws of motion)
- thermodynamics (laws of energy)
- optics (how light works)
- astronomy
- nuclear physics
- chemistry
- mathematics
- quantum mechanics
- relativity
Some themes found in Genesis (very incomplete list):

**Sins** challenging GOD: Adam and Eve (3); The Great Flood (6-7); tower of Babel (11); the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah (18-19); Onan's refusal to get Tamar pregnant (38).

**Murders**: Cain & Abel (4); massacre of rapist's tribe (34).

**Attempted murders**: Abraham intends to kill Hagar and Ishmael (21) and Isaac (22).

**Lying, cheating, trickery**: Abram lies about Sarai being his wife (12, 20); Isaac lies in the same way about Rebekah (26); Jacob gets Esau's birthright through some shrewd bargaining and by lying (26, 28); Rachel's dad tricks Jacob into marrying her sister, Leah (30); Jacob's sons trick foreigners into circumcision, then massacre them (34).

**Voyeurism**: Noah's son, Canaan, looks on his father's nakedness (9).

*One straightforward romance*: Isaac & Rebekah.

**Sibling rivalry**: Cain and Abel; Abraham and Lot; Esau & Jacob (26, 28, 33); Joseph & 11 brothers (37 ff).

**Sex, adultery, incest** . . .

*Astonishing salvation*: Twelve Tribes saved by Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers (42-50).