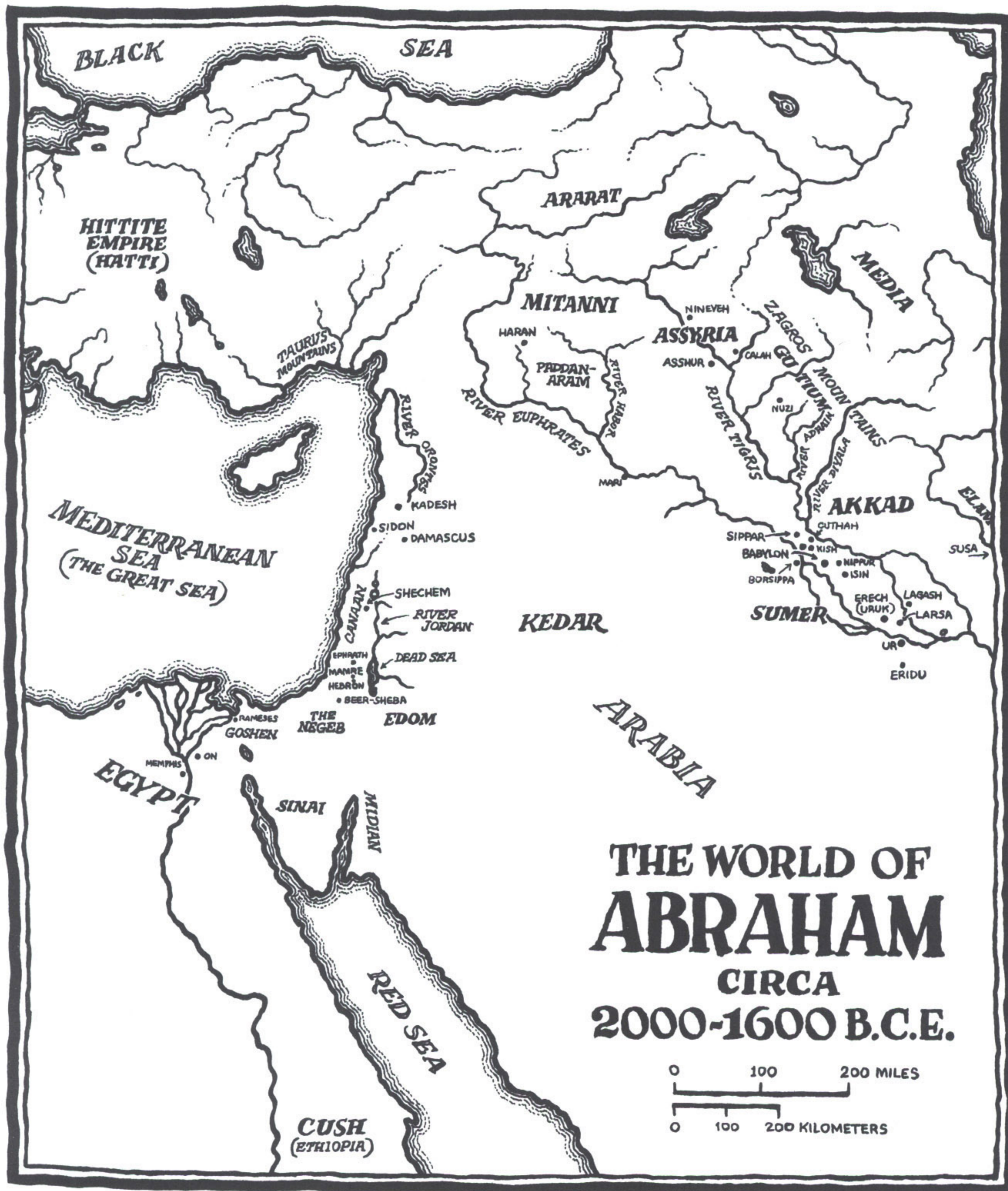


The Book of
GENESIS
ILLUSTRATED



BLACK SEA

SEA

HITTITE EMPIRE (HATTI)

ARARAT

MEDIA

TAURUS MOUNTAINS

MITANNI

ASSYRIA

ZAGROS MOUNTAINS

RIVER EUPHRATES

RIVER TIGRIS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA (THE GREAT SEA)

PADDAN-ARAM

NINEVEH

ASSHUR

CALAH

NUZI

ADINI

AKKAD

RIVER ORONTES

KADESH

SIDON

DAMASCUS

SHECHEM

RIVER JORDAN

DEAD SEA

EPHRAIM

MANRE

HEDRON

BEER-SHEVA

EDOM

THE NEGEB

GOSHEN

RAMSES

ON

MEMPHIS

EGYPT

SINAI

MIDIAN

RED SEA

CUSH (ETHIOPIA)

ARABIA

KEDAR

ELAM

SUSA

SUMER

SIPPAR

BABYLON

BORSIPPA

KISH

NIPPUR

ISIN

EREC (URUK)

LAGASH

LARSA

UR

ERIDU

Chapter 1

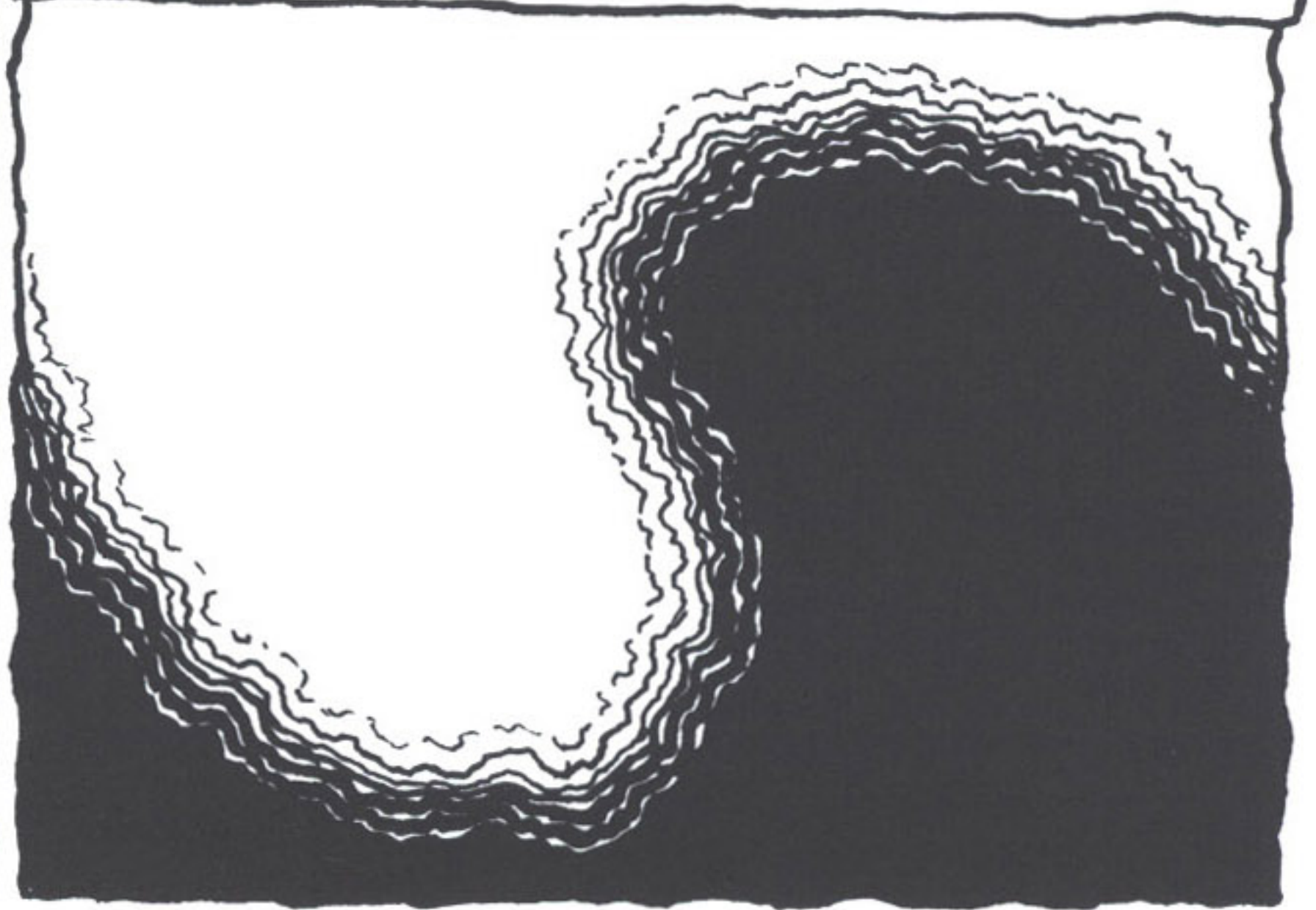
WHEN GOD BEGAN TO
CREATE HEAVEN AND
EARTH, THE EARTH
WAS THEN WITHOUT FORM,
AND VOID, AND DARKNESS
WAS OVER THE DEEP, AND
GOD'S BREATH HOVERING
OVER THE WATERS.



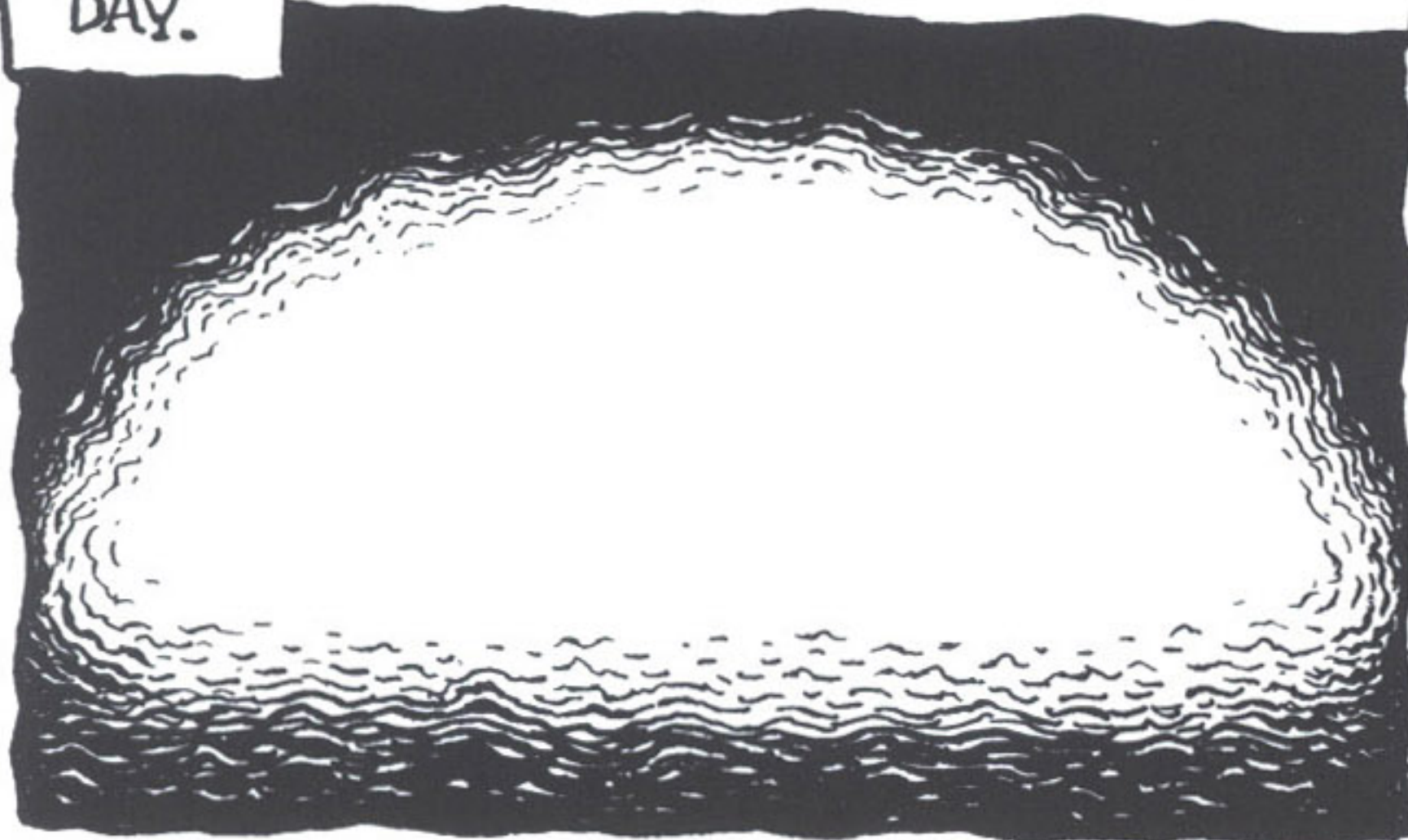
AND GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE LIGHT." AND THERE WAS LIGHT.



AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT, THAT IT WAS GOOD, AND GOD DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. AND GOD CALLED THE LIGHT DAY, AND THE DARKNESS HE CALLED NIGHT. AND IT WAS EVENING AND IT WAS MORNING, A *FIRST* DAY.



AND GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE A VAULT IN THE MIDST OF THE WATERS, AND LET IT DIVIDE WATER FROM WATER." AND GOD MADE THE VAULT AND IT DIVIDED THE WATER BENEATH THE VAULT FROM THE WATER ABOVE THE VAULT, AND SO IT WAS. AND GOD CALLED THE VAULT HEAVENS, AND IT WAS EVENING AND IT WAS MORNING, A *SECOND* DAY.



AND GOD SAID, "LET THE WATERS UNDER THE HEAVENS BE GATHERED IN ONE PLACE SO THAT THE DRY LAND WILL APPEAR," AND SO IT WAS. AND GOD CALLED THE DRY LAND EARTH, AND THE GATHERING OF WATERS HE CALLED SEAS, AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.



AND GOD SAID, "LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH GRASS, PLANTS YIELDING SEED OF EACH KIND, AND TREES BEARING FRUIT OF EACH KIND, THAT HAS ITS SEED WITHIN IT UPON THE EARTH." AND SO IT WAS.



AND THE EARTH PUT FORTH GRASS, PLANTS YIELDING SEED OF EACH KIND, AND TREES BEARING FRUIT THAT HAS ITS SEED WITHIN IT OF EACH KIND, AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD, AND IT WAS EVENING AND IT WAS MORNING, A *THIRD* DAY.



AND GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE LIGHTS IN THE VAULT OF THE HEAVENS TO DIVIDE THE DAY FROM THE NIGHT, AND LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS FOR THE FIXED TIMES AND FOR DAYS AND YEARS, AND THEY SHALL BE LIGHTS IN THE VAULT OF THE HEAVENS TO GIVE LIGHT UPON THE EARTH." AND SO IT WAS.



AND GOD MADE THE TWO GREAT LIGHTS, THE GREATER LIGHT TO DOMINATE THE DAY AND THE LESSER LIGHT TO DOMINATE THE NIGHT AND THE STARS.



AND GOD PLACED THEM IN THE VAULT OF THE HEAVENS TO GIVE LIGHT UPON THE EARTH, AND TO RULE OVER THE DAY AND OVER THE NIGHT, AND TO DIVIDE THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD. AND IT WAS EVENING AND IT WAS MORNING, A **FOURTH** DAY.



AND GOD SAID, "LET THE WATERS BRING FORTH SWARMS OF LIVING CREATURES AND BIRDS THAT FLY OVER THE EARTH ACROSS THE VAULT OF THE HEAVENS." AND GOD CREATED THE GREAT SEA MONSTERS, AND EVERY LIVING CREATURE THAT CRAWLS, WHICH THE WATER HAD BROUGHT FORTH IN SWARMS, AND ALL THE WINGED BIRDS OF EVERY KIND, AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.



AND GOD BLESSED THEM, SAYING, "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY AND FILL THE WATER IN THE SEAS AND LET THE BIRDS MULTIPLY IN THE EARTH." AND IT WAS EVENING AND IT WAS MORNING, A **FIFTH** DAY.



AND GOD SAID, "LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH LIVING CREATURES OF EACH KIND, CATTLE AND CRAWLING THINGS AND WILD BEASTS OF EACH KIND." AND SO IT WAS. AND GOD MADE WILD BEASTS OF EACH KIND AND CATTLE OF EVERY KIND, AND ALL CRAWLING THINGS ON THE GROUND OF EACH KIND, AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.



AND GOD SAID, "LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR OWN IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS; AND LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA AND OVER THE BIRDS OF THE HEAVENS, AND THE CATTLE, AND OVER THE EARTH, AND OVER EVERY CRAWLING THING THAT CRAWLS UPON THE EARTH."

AND GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM, MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM.

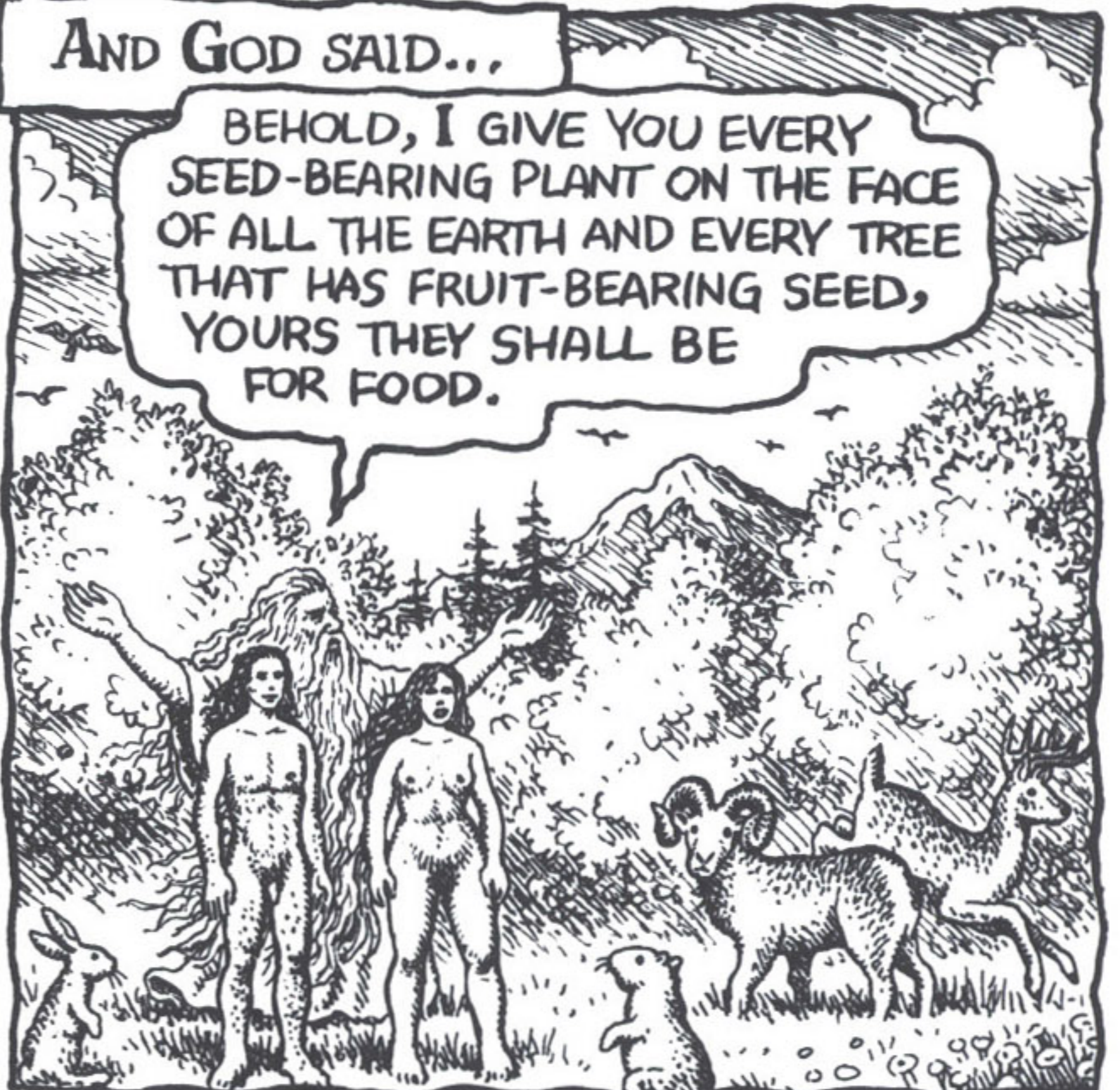


AND GOD BLESSED THEM, AND GOD SAID TO THEM...

BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY AND FILL THE EARTH AND MASTER IT, AND HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, AND OVER THE BIRDS OF THE HEAVENS AND EVERY BEAST THAT CRAWLS UPON THE EARTH.

AND GOD SAID...

BEHOLD, I GIVE YOU EVERY SEED-BEARING PLANT ON THE FACE OF ALL THE EARTH AND EVERY TREE THAT HAS FRUIT-BEARING SEED, YOURS THEY SHALL BE FOR FOOD.



"AND TO EVERY BEAST OF THE EARTH, AND TO EVERY BIRD OF THE HEAVENS, AND TO EVERYTHING THAT CRAWLS ON THE EARTH, WHICH HAS THE BREATH OF LIFE WITHIN IT, I GIVE ALL THE GREEN PLANTS FOR FOOD." AND SO IT WAS.

AND GOD SAW ALL THAT HE HAD MADE, AND BEHOLD, IT WAS VERY GOOD. AND IT WAS EVENING AND IT WAS MORNING, THE *SIXTH* DAY.



Chapter 2

THUS THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH WERE COMPLETED, AND ALL THEIR ARRAY. AND ON THE *SEVENTH* DAY GOD FINISHED THE WORK WHICH HE HAD BEEN DOING, AND HE CEASED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL THE WORK WHICH HE HAD DONE. AND GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY, AND MADE IT HOLY, FOR ON IT HE HAD CEASED FROM ALL HIS TASK THAT HE HAD CREATED TO DO.



SUCH IS THE TALE OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH WHEN THEY WERE CREATED.

ON THE DAY THE LORD GOD MADE EARTH AND HEAVEN, WHEN NO SHRUB OF THE FIELD WAS YET ON EARTH AND NO GRASSES OF THE FIELD HAD YET SPROUTED, BECAUSE THE LORD GOD HAD NOT SENT RAIN UPON THE EARTH AND THERE WAS NO MAN TO TILL THE SOIL, BUT WETNESS WOULD WELL UP FROM THE GROUND TO WATER ALL THE WHOLE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, THEN THE LORD GOD FORMED MAN FROM THE DIRT OF THE GROUND, AND BLEW INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE BREATH OF LIFE, AND MAN BECAME A LIVING CREATURE.



AND THE LORD GOD PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN, TO THE EAST, AND THERE HE PUT THE MAN WHOM HE HAD FORMED. AND OUT OF THE GROUND THE LORD GOD CAUSED TO GROW EVERY TREE THAT WAS PLEASING TO THE SIGHT AND GOOD FOR FOOD, WITH THE TREE OF LIFE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN, AND THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.



A RIVER RUNS OUT OF EDEN TO WATER THE GARDEN, AND IT THEN DIVIDES AND BECOMES FOUR STREAMS. THE NAME OF THE FIRST IS PISHON, THE ONE THAT WINDS THROUGH THE WHOLE LAND OF HAVILAH, WHERE THERE IS GOLD. THE GOLD OF THAT LAND IS GOOD; BDEL-LIUM IS THERE, AND LAPIS LAZULI.



AND THE NAME OF THE SECOND RIVER IS GIHON, THE ONE THAT WINDS THROUGH THE WHOLE LAND OF CUSH.



AND THE NAME OF THE THIRD RIVER IS TIGRIS, THE ONE THAT GOES TO THE EAST OF ASHUR, AND THE FOURTH RIVER IS EUPHRATES.



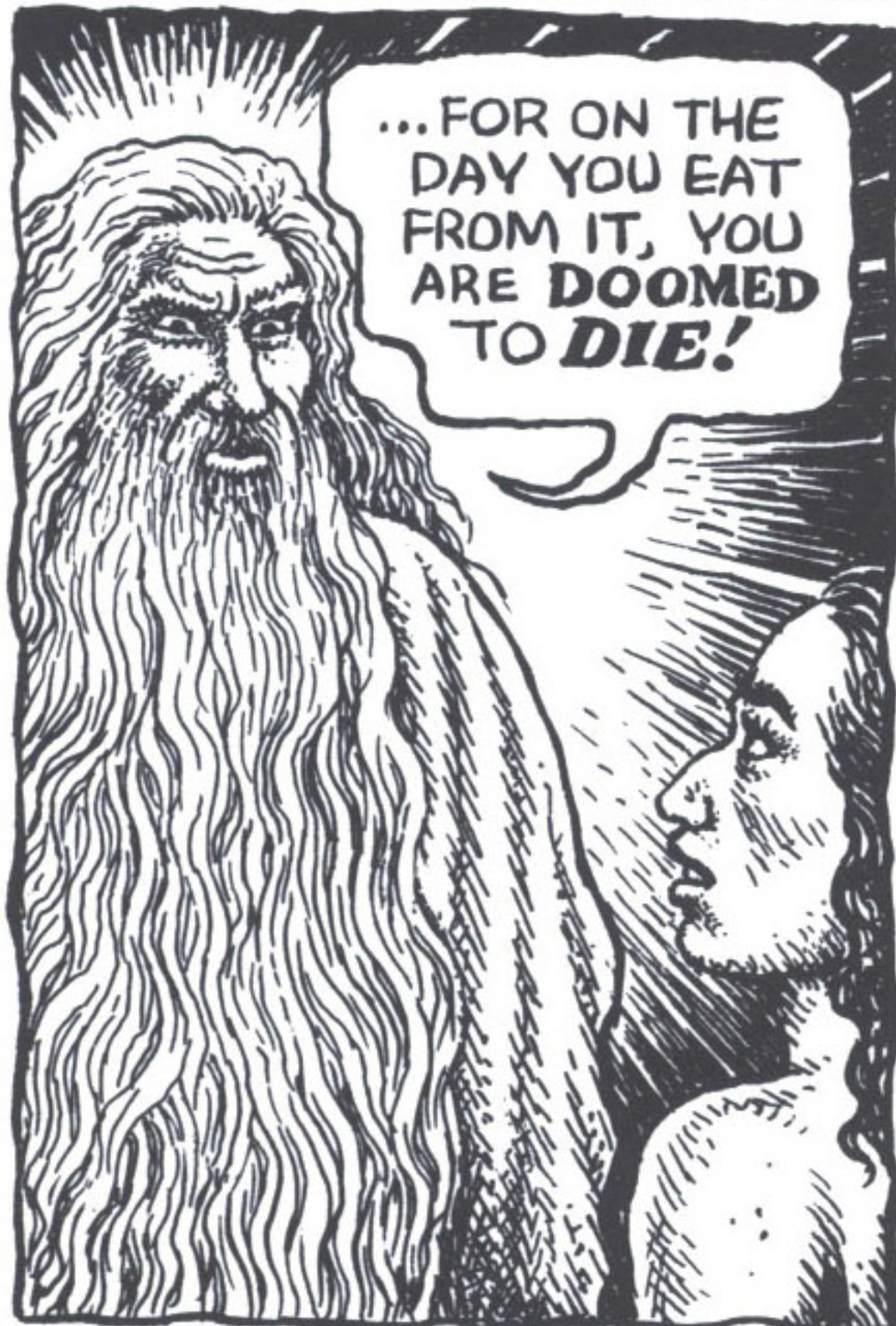
AND THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN AND SET HIM DOWN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, TO TILL IT AND TO WATCH OVER IT. AND THE LORD GOD COMMANDED THE MAN, SAYING...



OF EVERY FRUIT OF THE GARDEN YOU MAY FREELY EAT...



...BUT FROM THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE, GOOD AND EVIL, YOU SHALL NOT EAT...



...FOR ON THE DAY YOU EAT FROM IT, YOU ARE DOOMED TO DIE!

AND THE LORD GOD SAID...

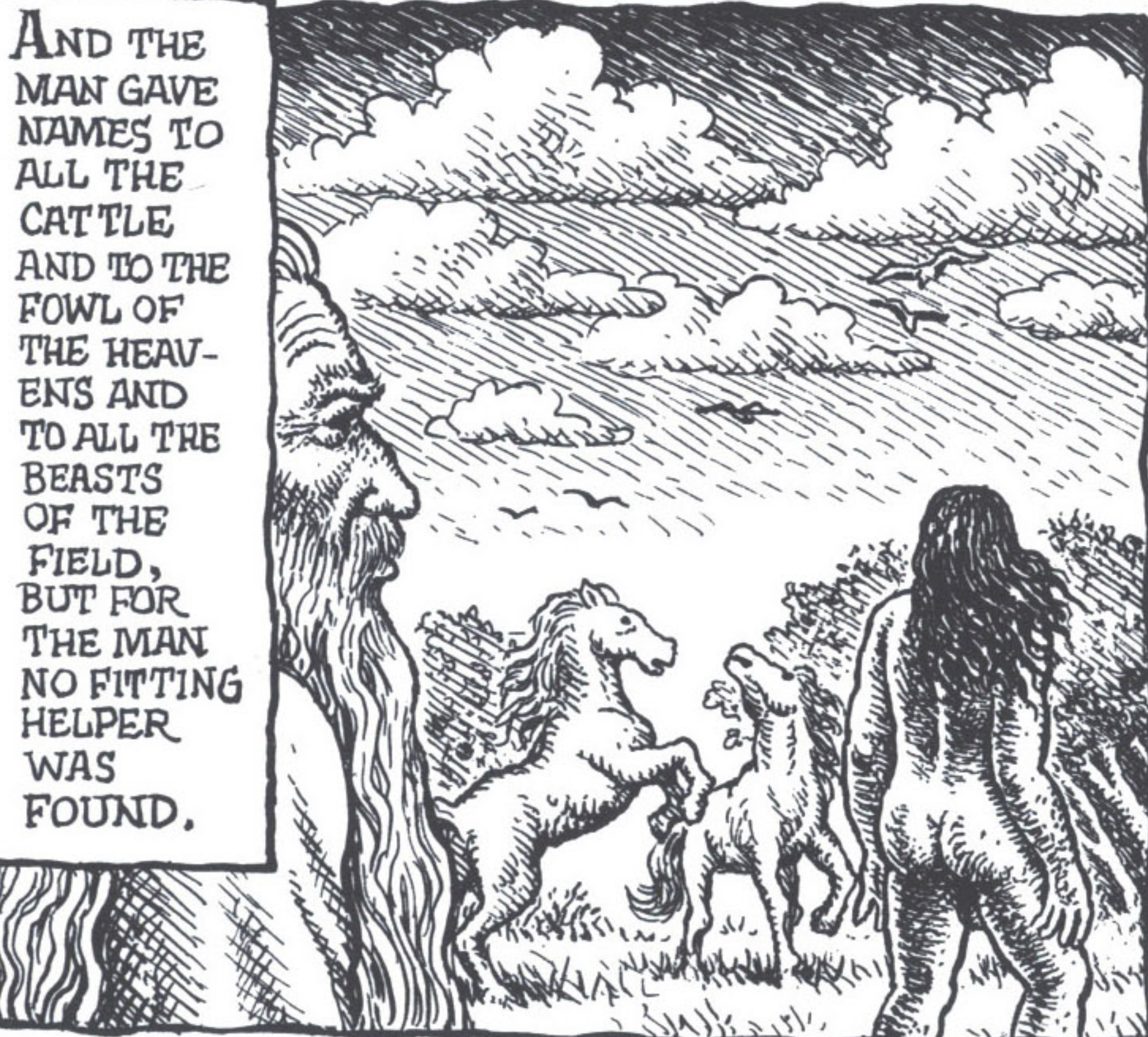
IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE MAN TO BE ALONE. I WILL MAKE A FITTING HELPER FOR HIM.



AND THE LORD GOD FORMED OUT OF THE EARTH EVERY BEAST OF THE FIELD AND EVERY FOWL OF THE HEAVENS; AND HE BROUGHT EACH TO THE MAN TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD CALL IT, AND WHATEVER THE MAN CALLED A LIVING CREATURE, THAT WAS ITS NAME.



AND THE MAN GAVE NAMES TO ALL THE CATTLE AND TO THE FOWL OF THE HEAVENS AND TO ALL THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD, BUT FOR THE MAN NO FITTING HELPER WAS FOUND.



AND SO THE LORD GOD CAST A DEEP SLEEP UPON THE MAN, AND HE SLEPT, AND HE TOOK ONE OF HIS RIBS, AND CLOSED OVER THE FLESH WHERE IT HAD BEEN.



AND THE LORD GOD FASHIONED THE RIB HE HAD TAKEN FROM THE MAN INTO A WOMAN, AND HE BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN.



AND THE MAN SAID...

THIS ONE AT LAST, BONE OF MY BONES, AND FLESH OF MY FLESH, THIS ONE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN, FOR FROM MAN WAS THIS ONE TAKEN.



HENCE A MAN LEAVES HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND CLINGS TO HIS WIFE AND THEY BECOME ONE FLESH.



AND THE TWO OF THEM WERE NAKED, THE MAN AND HIS WOMAN, AND THEY WERE NOT ASHAMED.

Chapter 3

NOW THE SERPENT WAS THE MOST CUNNING OF ALL THE BEASTS THAT THE LORD GOD HAD MADE, AND HE SAID TO THE WOMAN...



EVEN THOUGH GOD SAID YOU SHALL NOT EAT FROM ANY TREE OF THE GARDEN —

AND THE WOMAN SAID TO THE SERPENT...

WE MAY EAT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREES OF THE GARDEN, BUT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN GOD HAS SAID, "YOU SHALL NOT EAT FROM IT AND YOU SHALL NOT TOUCH IT, OR YOU WILL DIE!"



AND THE SERPENT SAID
TO THE WOMAN:

YOU SHALL NOT
BE DOOMED TO DIE, FOR GOD
KNOWS THAT ON THE DAY YOU EAT
OF IT YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED,
AND YOU WILL BECOME AS DIVINE
BEINGS, KNOWING
GOOD AND
EVIL.



AND THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE TREE
WAS GOOD FOR EATING AND THAT IT WAS
LUST TO THE EYES AND LOVELY TO LOOK AT.



AND SHE TOOK OF ITS FRUIT
AND ATE...



... AND SHE ALSO GAVE TO
HER MAN, AND HE ATE.



AND THE EYES OF THE TWO
WERE OPENED, AND THEY
KNEW THAT THEY WERE
NAKED.



AND THEY SEWED FIG LEAVES AND
MADE THEMSELVES LOINCLOTHS.



AND THEY HEARD THE SOUND OF THE LORD GOD
WALKING ABOUT IN THE GARDEN IN THE EVENING
BREEZE, AND THE MAN AND HIS WOMAN HID
FROM THE LORD GOD IN THE MIDST OF THE
TREES OF THE GARDEN.



AND THE LORD GOD CALLED TO THE MAN AND SAID TO HIM...



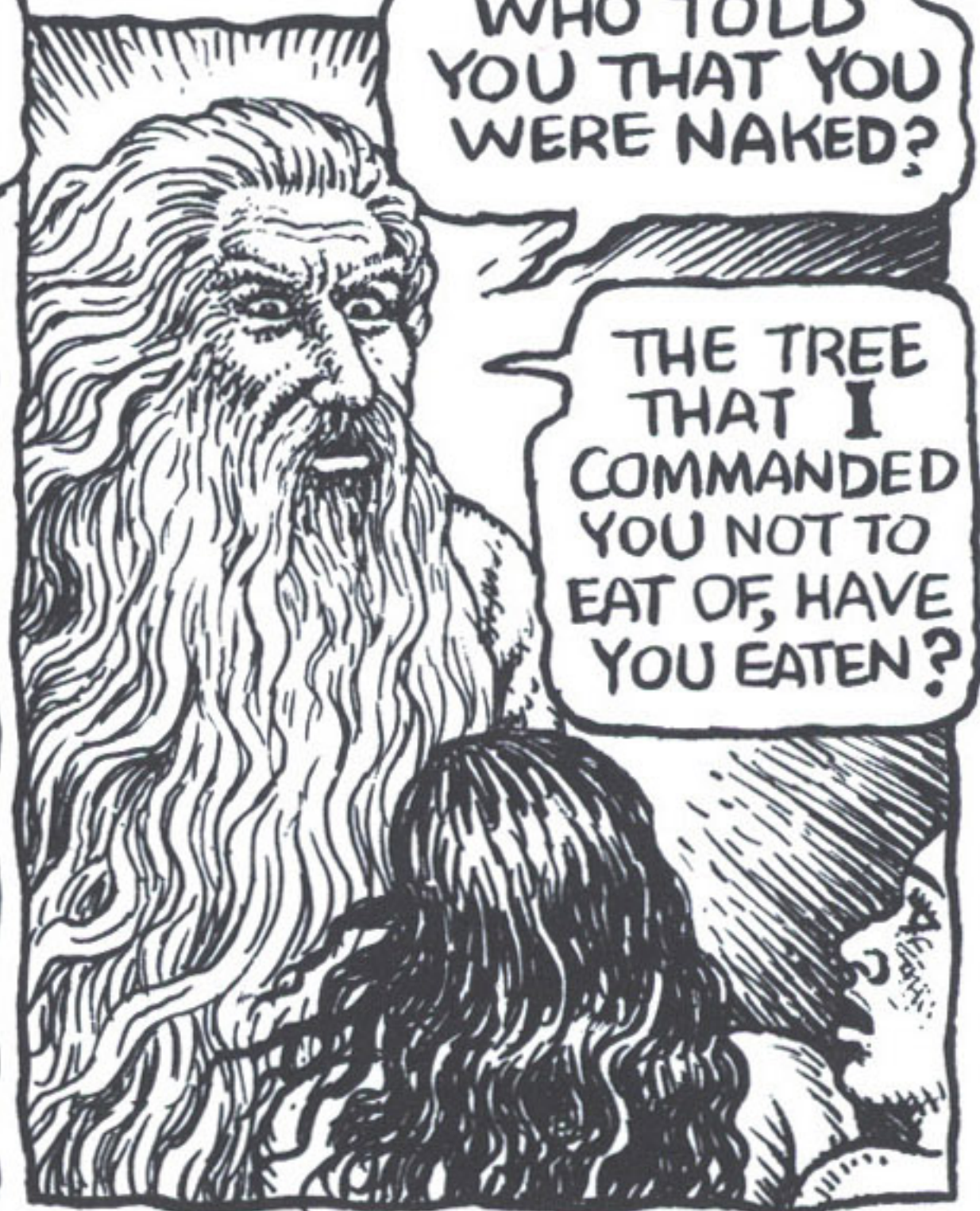
WHERE ARE YOU?

AND HE REPLIED...



I HEARD THE SOUND OF YOU IN THE GARDEN, AND I WAS AFRAID BECAUSE I WAS NAKED, AND I HID.

AND HE SAID...



WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED?

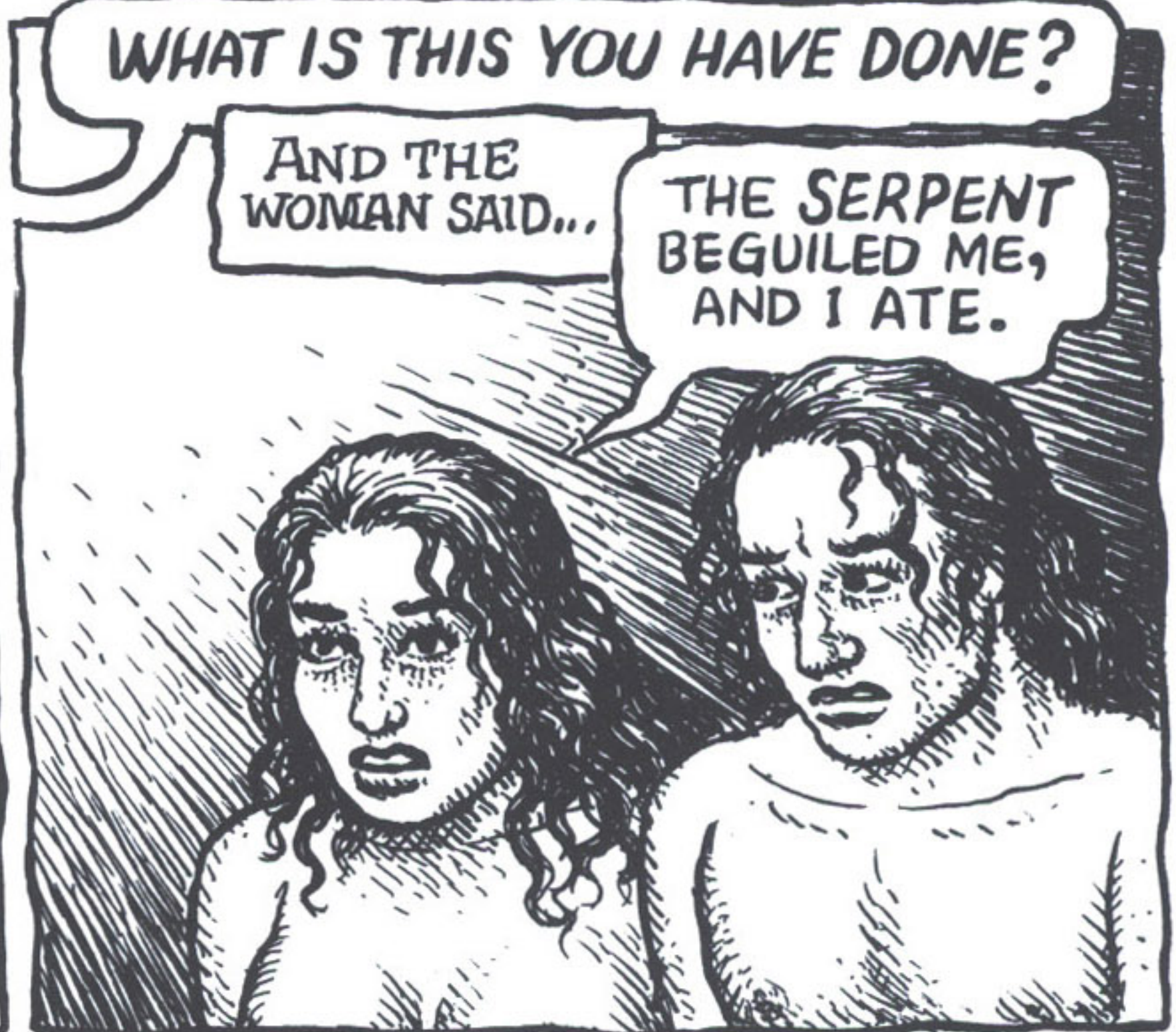
THE TREE THAT I COMMANDED YOU NOT TO EAT OF, HAVE YOU EATEN?

AND THE MAN SAID...



THE WOMAN WHOM YOU GAVE TO BE WITH ME, SHE GAVE ME FROM THE TREE, AND I ATE...

AND THE LORD GOD SAID TO THE WOMAN...



WHAT IS THIS YOU HAVE DONE?

AND THE WOMAN SAID...

THE SERPENT BEGUILED ME, AND I ATE.

AND THE LORD GOD SAID TO THE SERPENT...



BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE THIS, CURSED BE YOU OF ALL THE CATTLE AND ALL THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD!

ON YOUR BELLY SHALL YOU CRAWL AND DIRT SHALL YOU EAT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE! ENMITY WILL I SET BETWEEN YOU AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN YOUR SEED AND HERS! HE WILL TRAMPLE YOUR HEAD, AND YOU WILL BITE HIS HEEL!



TO THE WOMAN HE SAID...



I WILL TERRIBLY SHARPEN YOUR BIRTH PANGS! IN PAIN SHALL YOU BEAR CHILDREN! AND FOR YOUR MAN SHALL BE YOUR LONGING, AND HE SHALL RULE OVER YOU!

AND TO ADAM HE SAID...

BECAUSE YOU LISTENED TO THE VOICE OF YOUR WIFE AND ATE FROM THE TREE OF WHICH I COMMANDED YOU, "YOU SHALL NOT EAT FROM IT," **CURSED BE THE GROUND BECAUSE OF YOU!**



IN SORROW YOU SHALL EAT FROM IT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE! THORNS AND THISTLE SHALL IT SPROUT FOR YOU, AND YOU SHALL EAT THE GRASSES OF THE FIELD! BY THE SWEAT OF YOUR BROW SHALL YOU EAT BREAD, TILL YOU RETURN TO THE GROUND, FOR FROM THERE YOU WERE TAKEN!



FOR DUST YOU ARE, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN!



AND ADAM CALLED HIS WIFE'S NAME EVE, FOR SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF ALL THE LIVING.



AND THE LORD GOD MADE COATS OF SKINS FOR THE MAN AND HIS WOMAN, AND HE CLOTHED THEM.



AND THE LORD GOD SAID...

NOW THAT THE MAN HAS BECOME LIKE ONE OF US, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL, HE MAY REACH OUT AND TAKE AS WELL FROM THE TREE OF LIFE AND LIVE FOREVER!



AND THE LORD GOD SENT HIM FORTH FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO TILL THE GROUND FROM WHICH HE HAD BEEN TAKEN.



AND HE DROVE THE MAN OUT, AND SET UP EAST OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN THE CHERUBIM AND THE FLAME OF THE WHIRLING SWORD TO GUARD THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.



Introduction

I, R. CRUMB, THE ILLUSTRATOR OF THIS BOOK, HAVE, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, FAITHFULLY REPRODUCED EVERY WORD OF THE ORIGINAL TEXT, WHICH I DERIVED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING THE KING JAMES VERSION, BUT MOSTLY FROM ROBERT ALTER'S RECENT TRANSLATION, *THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES* (2004). IN A FEW PLACES I VENTURED TO DO A LITTLE INTERPRETATION OF MY OWN, IF I THOUGHT THE WORDS COULD BE MADE CLEARER, BUT I REFRAINED FROM INDULGING TOO OFTEN IN SUCH "CREATIVITY," AND SOMETIMES LET IT STAND IN ITS CONVOLUTED VAGUENESS RATHER THAN MONKEY AROUND WITH SUCH A VENERABLE TEXT. EVERY OTHER COMIC BOOK VERSION OF THE BIBLE THAT I'VE SEEN CONTAINS PASSAGES OF COMPLETELY MADE-UP NARRATIVE AND DIALOGUE, IN AN ATTEMPT TO STREAMLINE AND "MODERNIZE" THE OLD SCRIPTURES, AND STILL, THESE VARIOUS COMIC BOOK BIBLES ALL CLAIM TO ADHERE TO THE BELIEF THAT THE BIBLE IS "THE WORD OF GOD," OR "INSPIRED BY GOD;" WHEREAS I, IRONICALLY, DO NOT BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS "THE WORD OF GOD." I BELIEVE IT IS THE WORDS OF MEN. IT IS, NONETHELESS, A POWERFUL TEXT WITH LAYERS OF MEANING THAT REACH DEEP INTO OUR COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS, OUR HISTORICAL CONSCIOUSNESS, IF YOU WILL. IT SEEMS INDEED TO BE AN INSPIRED WORK, BUT I BELIEVE THAT ITS POWER DERIVES FROM ITS HAVING BEEN A COLLECTIVE ENDEAVOR THAT EVOLVED AND CONDENSED OVER MANY GENERATIONS BEFORE REACHING ITS FINAL, FIXED FORM AS WE KNOW IT DURING THE "BABYLONIAN EXILE," CIRCA 600 B.C.E. IT WAS THE PRIESTLY CASTE WHO, IN THAT PERIOD, COMPILED AND PUT INTO A COHESIVE ORDER THIS COLLECTION OF STORIES, LEGENDS, AND TRIBAL LINEAGES, SOMETIMES WEAVING TOGETHER TWO DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE SAME STORY, AND PROCLAIMED THE FINISHED PRODUCT A SACRED, HOLY DOCUMENT, THE SCROLLS THAT BECAME OBJECTS OF VENERATION, FOR PRIVILEGED EYES ONLY. THE STORIES OF THIS PEOPLE, THE HEBREWS, WERE THEN SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST STORIES, THEY WERE THE FOUNDATION, THE SOURCE, IN WRITING, OF RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL POWER, HANDED DOWN BY GOD HIMSELF. THIS DOCUMENT WAS WRITTEN PROOF THAT YOU WERE ONE OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE, SPECIAL, AND DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER PEOPLES. MODERN SCHOLARS SAY THAT THE PRIESTS INTERJECTED WORDS AND DOCTORED THE ALREADY ANCIENT STORIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POLITICAL PURPOSES. MANY SCHOLARS, EXAMINING CLOSELY THE TERSELY WORDED CHAPTERS OF GENESIS, PERCEIVE IN THEM EARLIER, LOST MEANINGS AND INTENTIONS, THINGS THAT HAD BEEN ALTERED BY THE INCREASINGLY ENTRENCHED PRIESTS, AND THE TRIUMPH OF PATRIARCHY OVER AN ANCIENT AND EVER MORE DIMLY REMEMBERED MATRIARCHY. MUCH HAS BEEN LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME. MUCH OF WHAT THE SCHOLARS SAY IS EDUCATED GUESSWORK, AS THEY PORE OVER THE CLUES AND HINTS AND TRY TO FILL IN THE MISSING FRAGMENTS, THE DETAILS THAT GOT LOST OR WERE SUPPRESSED TOO LONG AGO TO EVER BE RETRIEVED. WHILE WORKING ON THIS BOOK I READ SOME OF THESE SCHOLARLY EXAMINATIONS OF GENESIS AND FOUND THEM HELPFUL IN ENRICHING THE BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR THE CONTENT OF THE DRAWINGS.

IF MY VISUAL, LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS OFFENDS OR OUTRAGES SOME READERS, WHICH SEEMS INEVITABLE CONSIDERING THAT THE TEXT IS REVERED BY MANY PEOPLE, ALL I CAN SAY IN MY DEFENSE IS THAT I APPROACHED THIS AS A STRAIGHT ILLUSTRATION JOB, WITH NO INTENTION TO RIDICULE OR MAKE VISUAL JOKES. THAT SAID, I KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYBODY.

I WOULD LIKE TO PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE MY GRATITUDE TO ROBERT ALTER FOR ALLOWING ME TO LIBERALLY USE, AND HOPEFULLY NOT ABUSE, HIS TRANSLATION, AND TO PETE POPLASKI FOR PROVIDING ME WITH AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF VISUAL SOURCE MATERIAL TO WORK FROM, INCLUDING HUNDREDS OF PHOTOS FROM HOLLYWOOD BIBLICAL EPICS WHICH HE TOOK BY FREEZE-FRAMING THEM ON A TELEVISION SCREEN, FROM D.V.D.S OR VIDEO TAPES. BEING AN ARTIST AND ILLUSTRATOR HIMSELF, PETE KNEW WHAT I WAS UP AGAINST WITH THIS PROJECT. ROGER KATAN, ANOTHER FRIEND, WAS ALSO VERY HELPFUL WITH VISUAL SOURCE MATERIAL. IT WAS HE WHO COMPELLED ME TO GO BACK AND CORRECT SOME OF THE ARTWORK ON THE EARLIER PAGES AFTER HE LAUGHED AT HOW I'D DRAWN THE CLOTHING, WHICH HE SAID LOOKED LIKE MODERN BATHROBES, AND HOW THE TENTS LOOKED LIKE THEY CAME FROM A SPORTING GOODS STORE. I WAS IGNORANT. I HAD A LOT TO LEARN. KATAN GREW UP IN MOROCCO AND WAS VERY HELPFUL WITH THE DETAILS OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE PRE-MODERN WORLD OF HIS CHILDHOOD, AND, HAVING A PROFESSIONAL INTEREST IN INDIGENOUS ARCHITECTURE IN NORTH AFRICA, LENT ME BOOKS FULL OF PHOTOS OF STRANGE, "BIBLICAL"-LOOKING CITIES, PEOPLE WEARING ROBES AND USING IMPLEMENTS THAT HADN'T CHANGED OVER MILLENNIA. I ALSO WANT TO PUBLICLY THANK BETSY SANDLIN, AN OLD FRIEND, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF HEBREW HELPED CLARIFY CERTAIN AWKWARD PASSAGES. SOME OF IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT. EVEN THE MOST DEDICATED SCHOLARS WILL ADMIT THEY'RE NOT SURE WHAT, PRECISELY, IS MEANT BY SOME OF THE OLD WORDS, OR THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THEY ARE USED. THERE'S DISAGREEMENT AMONG THEM OVER SOME OF THESE WORDS. THE TEXT IS, AFTER ALL, SO VERY, VERY OLD!