

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Lesson 2: How Things Began

In the first lesson we looked at the Bible and some of the great prophecies that foretold future events. In the next few lessons, we will be learning answers to some of the questions that arise in everyone's mind like, Where did I come from? Why am I here? Is there a master plan of some kind, or do things just happen like they do? We are going to study these questions and a great number of others in this Bible Course.

You may be surprised to find how many of these questions are answered right in your Bible. It is wonderful how many everyday questions in the minds of young people are answered in the Bible. As you study, you will be surprised how clear the Bible will become. If we ask, God has promised us that in our study of His Word, we will not be alone in trying to understand the things He has written there; His Holy Spirit will be right with us to help us understand the truths it contains. In fact, we are told: "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth." John 16:13

Many today are neglecting the study of the Bible. When you finish this course you will know much more about God's Word and will be able to help others to understand it too.

If you are going to understand all that God has for you to know in His Word, it is very important that before starting this, and every other study, that you kneel and ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to teach you His truth, making it clear to your mind.

The Creation

1. Who does the Bible say made the world? Genesis 1:1 _____

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Note: If people would just believe this Bible statement! God made everything! Men, however, do not choose to believe this, because of what it would mean to them. You see, if we accept that God is our Creator, then it means responsibility on our part to be obedient to His authority. This is something that the natural heart resists doing.

2. Who helped in the work of creating? Hebrews 1:1, 2

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

Note: Jesus helped in this wonderful work of making the world. Some people have not realized that Jesus lived in heaven with His Father before He was born a babe in Bethlehem. Referring to Himself as the Bread of Life, He once said to His listeners, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven." John 6:51. And again He said in John 17:5: "And now, O Father, glorify thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was." You can see why Jesus is so interested in this world, since He helped to make it in the beginning.

**3. Who was the third Person that helped in the Creation of this world?
Genesis 1:2 _____**

"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."

Note: Here we see that three Persons called the "Godhead" all cooperated in the Creation of this world of ours. Someone may ask, "But I thought we believed in only one God." We do, but our one God is represented by three Personalities; (1) God, the Father, (2) God, the Son-Jesus, (3) God, the Holy Spirit. These three are one in purpose, work, and plan. Let us illustrate it this way: Here is a rope. I ask, "How many ropes do you see?" You answer, "One." And that is right. But now look carefully and you will see that it is made up of three strands, yet it is one rope. In heaven all three persons of the Godhead are interested in us and in our salvation.

4. How many did Jesus say make up the Godhead? Matthew 28:19

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Note: In this great gospel verse Jesus shows clearly that there are three; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (The Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit are the same Person.)

There Must be a Creator

5. What does the Bible say of a person who claims that there is no God? Psalm 53:1 He is a _____.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

Note: Suppose I point to a clock on the wall and say: "Have you noticed how regular that clock is: No one ever made it, it just sort of happened. Not only that, but no one even has to wind it." Again, pointing to a car driving down the street, I say: "That car just happened. No one ever made it. Some iron in one part of the country came together with some rubber from another place and kept evolving until it turned into an automobile."

You would say, "He is not in his right mind; what a fool!" And that is exactly what God says about people who are so unreasonable as to say: "There is no God. The world just happened."

6. What does the Bible say that some would foolishly worship, rather than God? Romans 1:22, 23, 25 _____

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever."

Aren't those wonderful verses? It has only been a little more than a hundred years since many people began to teach the false idea that the world just *happened*, that animal life on the earth started from some slimy mass millions of years ago, and that it kept changing until it eventually developed into a man.

But that is not what the Bible teaches. In the text above, Paul states that people would actually be more willing to say that they came from animals, than that they were made by the Creator.

Origin of Animals and Trees

7. Who made the trees and the animals in the beginning of our world? Genesis 1:11, 25. _____

"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."

"And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good."

Note: If you will read the first chapter of Genesis, you will see that God made the fish, fowls, seas, etc. This chapter explains the origin of all forms of life on this earth-God created them all.

8. Whose image was man made in? Genesis 1:27. _____

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Note: It was God who created man on this world in the first place. He created man in His image. Are you not glad to know that you were made by God, the Ruler of the universe, instead of just *happening* from some animal?

Origin of the Stars

9. What else has God made? Genesis 1:16. _____

“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.”

10. Who does David say made all the stars and planets in the universe? Psalm 8:3. _____

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.”

Note: Not only is God the Creator of our world, our moon, our sun, and the planets in our system, but He also created all the other stars or suns.

How Did God Create?

11. How did God create all things? Psalm 33:6, 9. By His _____.

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

Note: These verses tell us plainly that God spoke the word and all things in the universe came into being.

12. Once having been created, how do all things continue on? Hebrews 1:2, 3. Upholding _____.

“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

13. How only can we understand God’s ability to make something out of nothing? Hebrews 11:3. Through _____.

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

Note: We can understand Creation only by faith. Let’s not say we don’t believe in God simply because we do not see Him or understand exactly how He works. Let’s imagine that you have a little blind dog. He can’t think as you can. He can’t do the things you can. Wouldn’t it be foolish for your little dog to ignore you, as though you didn’t exist just because he couldn’t see or understand you?

God’s Memorial of Creation

14. At the end of Creation week how did God celebrate His wonderful work? Genesis 2:1-3. He _____.

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the

seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”

Note: At the end of His creative work God rested on the seventh day and blessed it and sanctified it. All the created beings in other parts of the universe sang together and shouted for joy in honor of the wonderful work of God’s creation.

Our Duty to Our Creator

15. What is our duty to our Creator? Ecclesiastics 12:13. Fear _____ and keep His _____.

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

It is a wonderful thing that you are studying these lessons while you are young. Thousands of older people wish they had chosen to follow God when they were younger. Now they find that they have wasted their lives and “have no pleasure in them”.

One afternoon a minister was called to visit a lady who was very ill in a hospital. Just before prayer was offered she pleaded: “Oh, do pray for my husband! He is a wonderful man, but he does not believe in God. He says there is no God. Please pray that he will change his thinking.”

Late the next night a call came to the minister to go to a certain hotel where the husband was staying. He was alone in his room sobbing. As he opened the door in response to the knock, he cried; “Oh, my wife died soon after I told her good-by this evening. I can’t believe that she is gone.”

After a short visit, and after prayer, the man said to the minister: “I have always said there is no God. I don’t believe in a Creator. But as I stood here in my room alone tonight, I was looking in the mirror and saw myself as a living, moving person, and I said: Oh, there must be a God! Someone must have made me! Surely there will be a resurrection! I now want to give my heart to God and live for Him so that I may meet my wife in the earth made new.”

How good it is that you are studying these things now, so you need not go through such a painful experience. The Bible answers all the great questions and problems of life.

16. What is God’s will for us? 1 Thessalonians 4:3

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”

Note: The word sanctify, from which the word sanctification comes, means to “make holy” or, “to set apart for a holy use.” While God would have us avoid all impurity, as the text states, sanctification goes far beyond this; it demands purity and holiness in every part of our lives.

17. How is this done in our lives? 1 Thessalonians 2:13

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

In Luke 7 is the story of a centurion whose servant was sick. This man sent word to Jesus, requesting that He should heal his servant. As Jesus began making His way to the man's home, he came himself to Jesus with the message that he was not worthy to have Jesus come to his home, but that if Christ would but speak the word, he knew that his servant would be healed. Jesus testified that He had not found such faith in all Israel. He recognized this man's faith in His word, to accomplish the thing spoken as giving evidence of great faith. Paul states the same truth; there is power in the Word to bring our lives into harmony with its principles, if we are willing.

18. When God's Word is in our hearts, what change will it work in our lives? Psalm 119:11. We won't want to _____ against God.

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Since God is our Maker, we should obey and trust Him. Because He knows how we are made and what the future will bring. He knows what is best for us at all times. We can trust His love and wisdom.

He will accept you as His child and will protect and keep you if you will choose just now, by God's help, to obey Him; for as we read, “This is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13

It isn't always easy to obey. Satan tempts us to do that which is not according to God's will for us. Remember, though, when Satan is tempting you to lie, to steal, to disobey your parents, or to act unkindly, Jesus is right there to give you power to do what is right, if you will only ask. So, next time you are tempted to tell something that isn't exactly true, say, “Jesus, I choose to do Your will, please help me to do what is right,” and His power will fill you with the strength needed to do just that.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13