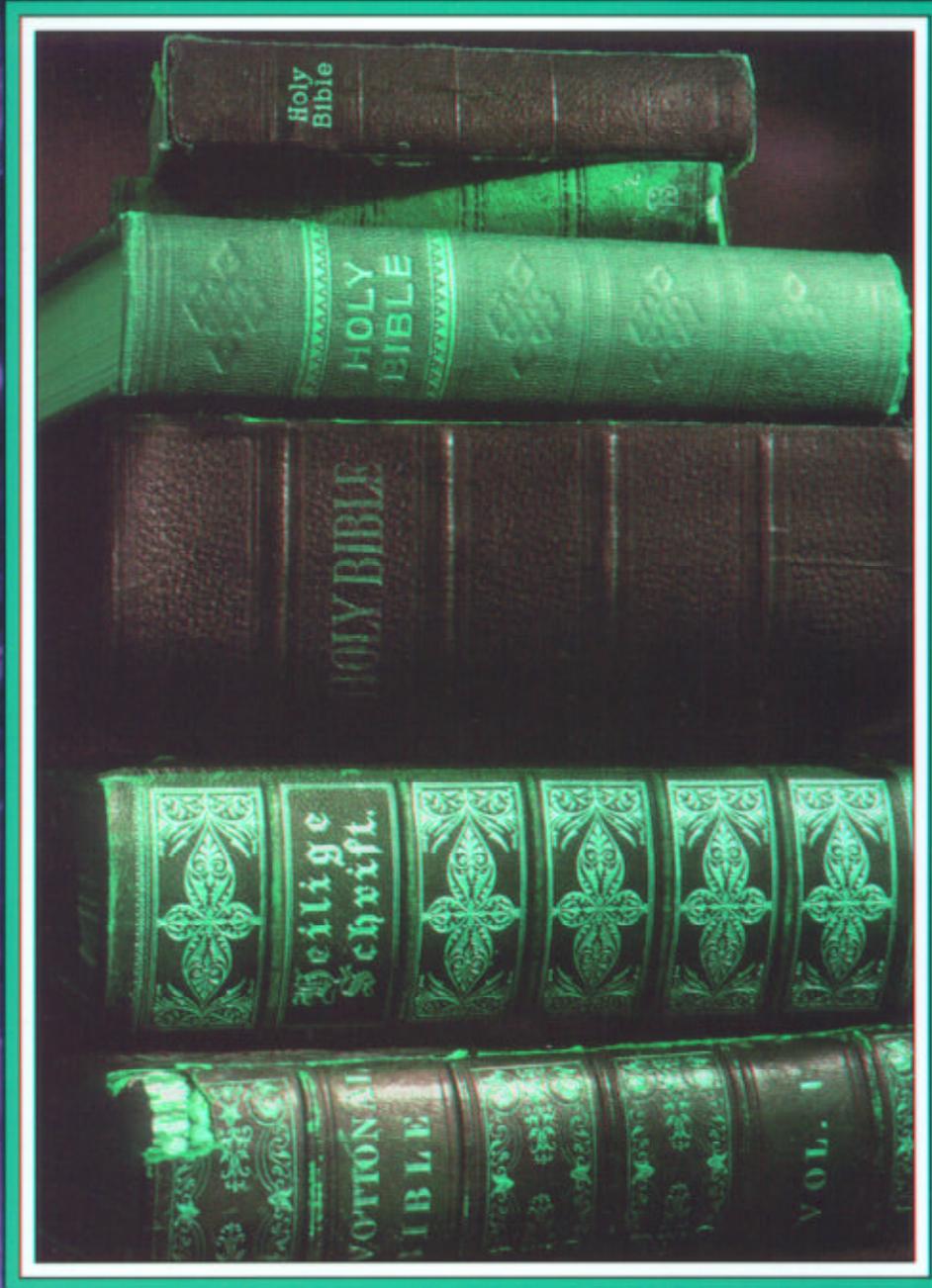


# FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Creation to Christ



*Trevor McIlwain*

Trevor McIlwain with Nancy Everson

# FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM

(edited)

## IMPORTANT NOTE TO TEACHERS:

To effectively use the lessons in this book,  
**READ AND STUDY PART 1 AND PART 2**  
before you begin studying and teaching the lessons  
themselves.

**Firm Foundations**-Creation to Christ was adapted  
from the  
**Building on Firm Foundations Series** by Trevor  
McIlwain.

The original *Building on Firm Foundations* series  
by Trevor McIlwain was written primarily for church  
planters ministering among tribal people. Because of  
the great interest and demand for foundational,  
chronological teaching among a wide variety of people  
in modern societies, the evangelistic phase of these  
original lessons has been adapted into this course,  
*Firm Foundations-Creation to Christ*.

Part 1 of this book contains essentially the same  
material as Volume I of *Building on Firm Foundations*.

Part 2, "How to Use This Bible Study," is changed  
substantially from the similar section in the beginning  
of Volume II of the original series. These changes  
reflect many considerations, such as teaching students  
who have their own Bibles, teaching in various  
environments-home, church, etc., and teaching  
different types of groups: large and small; believers,  
unbelievers, and mixed groups.

Part 3, the Lessons, have been adapted from the  
original lessons for tribal people in Volumes II and III,  
referred to as "Phase I" of the original Chronological  
Teaching Outline. (In this book, Phase I is referred to  
as the "evangelistic phase.") Many considerations  
were incorporated into these adaptations with the  
hope that the teacher will be adequately prepared to  
teach and respond to students who may have had  
varying degrees of exposure to the Scriptures.

The original *Building on Firm Foundations* series is  
still available from New Tribes Mission, Sanford FL  
32771. Please see p. 70 for a more detailed  
explanation of the series.

## Contents

Acknowledgements

Foreword

### Part 1 - Firm Foundations-

#### Building According to Plan

The Master Builder's Plan

Check the Foundations

People Unprepared for the Gospel

Foundations for the Gospel

Divine Building Principles

Building Chronologically in Evangelism

Correct Foundations for Teaching Believers

### Part 2 - How To Use This Bible Study

Practical Questions and Answers

Special Note

Guidelines for the Teacher

Specific Instructions About the Lessons

### Part 3 - The Lessons

Lessons 1-50

## PART 1

### Firm Foundations-Building According to Plan

The Master Builder's Plan

Check the Foundations

People Unprepared for the Gospel

Foundations for the Gospel

Divine Building Principles

Building Chronologically in Evangelism

Correct Foundations for Teaching Believers

### The Master Builder's Plan

With a thunderous sound, the walls cracked and  
crumbled. Timbers splintered. The roof buckled and  
fell into pieces. Floor after floor crashed one upon  
another, crushing, trapping, killing the tenants. In a  
few moments, the high-rise apartments were reduced  
to rubble.

How had the disaster happened? The building

## FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM (edited)

looked sturdy. Why would it suddenly collapse?

Subsequent investigations proved that the builder had not followed the proper building specifications and plans. Willing to gamble with the lives and the safety of human beings for the sake of money, he had cut corners and economized on every part of the building.

The depth of the concrete had been reduced, and not all of the steel reinforcements required for the foundations had been laid down. Thus, the foundations were inadequate for the height and the weight of the building. The walls and floors lacked the necessary steel rods to hold and strengthen the building.

The builder had disregarded the instructions which had been given to him. He had followed his own way because it was easier and quicker and brought him greater profit.

The results? Sorrow! Destruction! Death!

Just as this builder carelessly ignored construction standards and specifications, many Christians all over the world carelessly disregard the Master Builder's plans for building His Church.

In most instances, mass evangelism and personal evangelism, as well as the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, is not being done according to the biblical plans given to the Church by the Divine Architect. Many who are engaged in the work of building the Church are so engrossed in their own ideas and schemes that they do not stop to consider if they are working according to God's divine directions or whether their work will pass His final scrutiny.

God is the Builder of His Church (Matthew 16:18). But He has chosen His earthly children to be laborers together with Him (I Corinthians 3:9). The Christian's work in building the Church is similar to that of a building contractor. Just as a contractor is responsible to follow exactly the plans given to him by the owner of a building, so we are responsible to follow God's plans for building His Church.

God is the true builder of all things. *"For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all*

*things is God'* (Hebrews 3:4). God builds everything according to His eternal plans. He will not change. He will never accommodate man's ideas or go with the times. He will never permit any change in the specifications which He has laid down for all that He has planned to do in what we call "time." His work always has adequate foundations, and He builds carefully, patiently, and precisely. He refuses to take short cuts in anything He does, and He never uses inferior materials or methods which are contrary to His holy and perfect nature.

The first account in Scripture of God's building work is when He created the heavens and the earth. *"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth .... For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast"* (Psalm 33:6,9). God was the Creator Builder of all things, seen and unseen. Satan's lie, the theory of evolution, foisted on foolish, unbelieving man, is contrary to the nature and character of God. Nothing is left to chance with God. He is always in full and complete control of all His works. Everything was created according to His perfect plan, and He declared that it was all good (Genesis 1:31).

Later in the Scriptures, we have the account of God's command to Noah to build an ark. But God did not command Noah to build the ark and then leave Noah to formulate his own plans. God told Noah exactly what must be done; and Noah, God's faithful workman, did everything just as the Lord commanded him (Genesis 6:22).

When God chose to dwell with Israel, He commanded Moses to build the tabernacle. And how was Moses to build it? *"...See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount"* (Hebrews 8:5). Every detail, from the silver sockets which were the foundations for the boards of the tabernacle to the outer coverings of badger skins, was to be made exactly according to the divine pattern shown to Moses on Mount Sinai. Scripture assures us that Moses was faithful to Him that appointed him (Hebrews 3:2). Only on one account is it recorded

## FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM

(edited)

that Moses was careless and did not obey the clear command of the Lord. For striking, instead of speaking to the rock, he was banned from entering the promised land (Numbers 20:7-12). How important it is to do all things according to God's plan!

God's work of building the heavens and the earth was done by the power of His Word. Noah and Moses followed the Word of God in all that they built. God's present work of building His Church is also being accomplished through His mighty Word. *"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"* (II Corinthians 4:6).

The building of the universe was the work of God alone. He did not use any angelic or human agent. But the great work of building the Church, like the work of building the ark and the tabernacle, has been committed to His children. *"...we have this treasure in earthen vessels..."* (II Corinthians 4:7). *"...we are ambassadors for Christ..."* (II Corinthians 5:20). *"...Ye shall be witnesses unto me ... unto the uttermost part of the earth."* (Acts 1:8). God has chosen to bring His Church to completion through the teaching of His Word by the members of the Church.

If the ark and the tabernacle had to be built exactly according to God's plan, should not the Church also be built according to His plan? Surely the Bride of Christ is of even greater importance than the ark or the tabernacle. The use for the ark came to an end, and the tabernacle was superseded by the temple, but the Church is to last for eternity. Therefore, *"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are"* (I Cor 3:17).

Every man's work, in relationship to the building of the Church, will be tried by fire. It will all come under the scrutinizing gaze of the Great Master Builder whose servants and co-laborers we are. *"For we are labourers together with God..."* and must therefore be wise, taking careful note to see if we are doing our work as He has commanded (I Corinthians 3:9-23).

Paul refers to himself as a wise masterbuilder

(I Corinthians 3:10). He laid the foundations of the Gospel on which the Corinthians' faith and hope were built, and he warned the Bible teachers in Corinth to be careful what they built on those biblical foundations which he had laid (I Corinthians 15:1-4).

Which is the clearest, most simple, and yet most comprehensive method of teaching the Word of God to prepare people for the Gospel and to teach them God's way of salvation? How should we teach in order to build up God's children and lead them into a knowledge of the whole counsel of God? These questions should be of great importance to us, whether we are seminary professors, pastors, missionaries, Bible class leaders, Sunday school teachers, youth workers, or concerned parents wishing to see our children taught the Word of God.

Christ and His Gospel are the only foundations which God has ordained as a basis for the faith of guilty sinners (I Corinthians 3:11, 15:1,2). But there is great confusion even among Christians regarding these foundations and the correct way to establish them through preaching God's Word.

In the construction of any building, the foundations are the first part of the structure to be prepared. The majority of Gospel preaching, however, is usually done with very little foundational preparation. This lack has contributed to a multitude of false professions and the uncertainty of many new Christians about the foundations of their faith.

Another obvious mistake in Christian education has been the failure to teach the Bible consistently as one book, just as God has prepared it for us through progressive revelation. Teaching outlines are carefully devised and prepared, but we rarely stop to consider that the Bible has already been prepared for us with an inbuilt teaching outline which, if followed, will give us a clear uncomplicated, comprehensive coverage of the entire Word of God.

The majority of Christian teaching emphasizes individual doctrines of the Bible rather than presenting

## **FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM** (edited)

the Bible as one complete, interdependent revelation of God. Heresies, misinterpretation and overemphasis of certain Scriptures, and denominationalism can, in most cases, be traced to this lack of chronological and panoramic Bible teaching.

After many years of listening to non-sequential, topical, doctrinal sermons, most of which are based on isolated texts, many church members still do not know the Bible as one book. Often repeated verses and some doctrines may be known; but the Scriptures, according to their divinely-given historical structure, are seldom understood.

This is equally true in most Sunday schools. Children are usually taught stories from the Bible out of chronological order, and large portions of God's Word are never taught to them at all. Even a faithful Sunday school pupil is unlikely to graduate with an overall knowledge of the Bible.

Foreign missionaries have not usually been any wiser when teaching the Scriptures to people without any previous Bible knowledge. Few changes are made to the methods used in the homeland. Insufficient time is generally given to teach the Old Testament background and foundations for the Gospel. Syncretism of heathen and Christian beliefs is often the sad result. Many in foreign lands who have professed Christianity do not understand the Gospel and the Scriptures as one book. Many missionaries are so eager to preach the Gospel that they feel it is an unnecessary waste of time to teach tribal people too much of the historical portions of the Old Testament Scriptures. Nevertheless, these Old Testament historical sections form the basis for a clear understanding of the coming of Christ and the necessity of His death, burial, and resurrection. The Old Testament Scriptures, correctly taught, will prepare the heart of the believing sinner to receive the Gospel in true repentance and faith.

Through my own experiences, but more importantly, on the basis of the truth of God's Word, I will endeavor to show that the Scriptures were progressively revealed by God within the context and

framework of history; and, therefore, the best way to teach divine truth in any culture is God's way, within the chronological and historical framework of the Scriptures.

### **Check The Foundations**

The Palawano tribe, living on the island of Palawan in the southwestern region of the Philippines, was downtrodden for centuries.

The proud, fierce Moslems who lived on the smaller islands lying off the coast of Palawan oppressed these timid, fearful jungle people for many years. Numerous stories, now part of Palawano folklore, tell of the massacres and molestations of the Palawano tribal people by the marauding Moslem sea warriors, called Moros.

Then came an unexpected reprieve from their fear and degradation. The U.S.A. liberation forces landed in Palawan. In all my years with the Palawano people, I heard only praise and admiration for these soldiers, never one word of reproach. While visiting in the homes of the tribal people, many of the older Palawano men asked me if I knew some particular officer by whom they had been befriended. They spoke of them with great affection.

They obviously enjoyed remembering incidents when the "Amirikans" had warned the national Filipinos not to ill-treat the Americans' "little Palawano brothers." The Palawanos saw it as a sad day when the U.S. forces withdrew from Palawan and their future became uncertain once again.

Years passed, and then, quite unexpectedly for the Palawanos, another American came to their part of the island. He was even more generous than all the other Americans they had known previously. Meanness and anger are frowned on in Palawano society. This missionary displayed love and kindness. Through his ministry and the ministry of the missionaries who followed him, several thousand Palawanos professed conversion, were baptized, and organized into indigenous churches.

When we arrived years later, we questioned the

Palawanos as to why they had so readily submitted to baptism. One man answered, "We would have done anything for that first missionary. If he had asked us to cut our fingers off, we would have gladly done it for him."

The danger always exists that previously rejected and exploited people will respond to the Christian missionary's message, not because they see their real need as sinners and understand the Gospel, but because of genuine appreciation for the missionary and a longstanding desire to escape their difficult and degraded sociological conditions. This was the major reason for the "people movement" to Christianity which took place almost immediately when the first New Tribes missionary preached to the Palawanos.

### **Confusion regarding the Gospel**

Following this major people movement to Christianity, more missionaries arrived to assist in the work. They faithfully taught the duties of believers to those who had professed conversion. Unbeknown to the missionaries, the majority of the Palawano church members were interpreting the responsibilities of believers in the only way that they could as unsaved people. They thought the duties of the believer were the things they must do so they could continue to be "in God." "In God" was the term they generally used to describe their conversion to Christianity. They had come "into God" by their acceptance of Christ through faith, baptism, church attendance, singing, prayer, not stealing, and not committing adultery. For the truly dedicated, abstinence from alcohol, betel nut, and tobacco were also understood as being necessary to guarantee their continued position "in God."

During their church meetings, they sometimes spoke of Christ and His death; but more frequently, they testified of their faithfulness to the Lord by abstaining from sinful works and by church attendance. Obviously missing was praise to God for their salvation by Christ through His unmerited favor alone. Even though salvation by faith through grace alone had been taught, the majority had not clearly understood.

They were trusting in a mixture of grace and works.

In spite of the emphasis on Christian living, many failed to live according to biblical standards. Divorce, remarriage, and drunkenness were the normal practice in the Palawanos' old way of life and continued to be major problems in all of the churches. The missionaries and the church elders were very concerned about the condition of the churches and constantly exhorted the people to lay aside these old ways and follow the new way in Christ. The wayward church members would repent and function outwardly as Christians for a while; but often, they would fall back into their old ways until they were once again challenged and "revived," starting the cycle all over again.

Even though there were the faithful ones, the Palawano church was like a building lacking the correct foundations. Large cracks appeared continually in the upper walls. The missionaries and church leaders spent their time running from church to church, trying to patch up the gaping holes. The problem, however, was in the people's basic foundational understanding and acceptance of the Gospel.

Because they had never seen their own personal sinfulness and inability to please God, they had not realized that their only hope was to trust in God's provision for all sinners through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. If they had trusted only in Him for God's acceptance, then their faith would have produced godliness and obedience to the commands of Scripture, not in order to obtain salvation, but as the fruit of true saving faith.

The true spiritual condition of the people became apparent as I began to question them concerning their basis for salvation. I usually began by asking, "What must a person do to be saved?"

They were often reluctant to answer, but after some encouragement and direct questioning of individuals, they would begin to respond. Some answered, "Trust in God," and some said, "Believe on Christ."

To these answers, I replied, "What if a person truly believes and puts his faith in Christ as his Saviour, but

## FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM (edited)

he does not attend church? Could he truly be saved?"

Many answered emphatically, "No!"

Others said, "Yes, if a person truly believes, he is saved, even if he does not attend church."

"But," I added, "What if that person is not baptized?"

Only a few were persuaded that anyone could be saved without baptism.

I then added what seemed to many to be the deciding point, "But what if that person who truly trusts in Christ were to get drunk or commit adultery? Could he really be saved?" Only a few in each congregation believed that such a person could be saved, and even they had grave doubts.

Multitudes throughout the world are members of evangelical churches but have no firm biblical foundations on which they build their hope for eternal life. Illustrations could be given from many areas of the world, including our own home churches, where confusion and syncretism have occurred through the sincere, but unwise or careless, ministry of Christian workers.

From South America, Dave Brown wrote about the Guajibos churches in Colombia:

"The Guajibos have a long history of missionary activity. As early as 1650, the Jesuits made missionary trips into this territory which covers almost the entire eastern plains of Colombia. They were particularly interested in the Guajibos tribe, as it was the largest in this area (today numbering about 15,000). When the Jesuits entered the area, the Guajibos were still nomadic; but with the progress of time, they have now settled in small permanent villages. About 1958, news of a new religion called the 'Evangelical Way' began to trickle into this area. It immediately attracted widespread attention; and before long, with the arrival of more information, many began to accept this new way of life.

Today, almost thirty years later, this new influence from the outside world has made its mark on the Guajibos tribe. Many native-style, thatched-roof churches can be found throughout the region with

religious meetings being held regularly.

"In each locality, a semi-annual evangelical conference is held. The first one I visited was attended by 700 Indians, some having traveled as far as a three days' walk. We were the first white missionaries to visit the area; and yet, here were 700 people gathered together to sing and preach to each other. Was there really any need for us as missionaries? Was this not a New Testament church in action? It was only the assurance that God had led us here that kept us.

"With the passing of time, serious problems have come to the surface in the Guajibos church. We are finding that they never really understood the message in the first place. Even those who seem keenest have hang-ups in the fundamentals of salvation. They quote catechismal answers to questions but do not understand the substitutionary work of Christ. *'Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.'* (II Timothy 3:5). And so, we have been forced to look back at the mistakes and failures of the past to try to determine where we are now and to look to God for divine direction for the future."

We can readily understand and accept that people are going to believe in faith plus works for salvation in places where the Gospel is not taught. But how is it possible that church attendees and members who have been taught the Gospel still do not understand that salvation is by the grace of God alone? What is the answer? Are we missing something in our preaching?

### Shepherds should know their flock

While it is true that the Gospel can be understood and refused, there are other reasons why people can continue in evangelical churches but not be truly saved. One is because many pastors, youth leaders, missionaries, and Christian workers do not check the spiritual foundations of those whom they are teaching. Or, even when Christian workers do make the effort to find out what people are really understanding and trusting in for their salvation, are reluctant to confront people with their true condition before God.

It was only through persistent questioning that I

## FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM

(edited)

found out that some of the Palawano church elders and many members were ignorant of basic biblical truths and had misunderstood the way of salvation. The majority of the people had been trusting in a false message for over ten years, but the missionaries who had taught them were unaware of the misunderstanding in the people's minds. Certainly, we must be wise in questioning people; but many Christian teachers are so cautious not to offend that they rarely, if ever, find out the truth about their congregations.

An elderly Palawano man who had attended meetings for months came down to visit us from his little hut on the side of the hill. As we sat talking, I asked him, "Grandfather, what are you trusting in for your acceptance by God? What is your hope?"

He replied, "Grandchild, haven't I been coming to the meetings? When you pray, I close my eyes. I try to pray. I can't read, but I try to sing." And truly he did. He used to sit right at my feet and stare up into my face as I taught God's Word. He tried to do everything as I did it. But the old man had not understood the Gospel. He thought the things done in the meeting were a ceremony or ritual to please God, in order to be accepted by Him.

I said to him, "Grandfather, if that is your hope, if you are trusting in what you are doing, then God will not accept you. When you die, you will go to Hell. God will not receive you because of these things." We continued to talk for some time about these matters before he returned home. Later, some of the people came and told me that Grandfather was angry and he was not going to come to any more meetings.

I thought, "That's good. That's a beginning. At least he now knows that attending meetings will not save him."

I began visiting Grandfather in order to teach the foundational truths of the Gospel to him personally. He listened attentively, and he did eventually begin once more to attend the meetings. But even when my wife and I moved from that area to live and teach in another place without any Gospel witness, he still had not made a clear profession of faith in Christ.

Sometime later, we returned to visit the church in the area where this old man lived. Stepping out of the Mission plane, I asked the tribal people who had run down to the airstrip to welcome us, "Is Grandfather still living?"

They said, "Yes, he is. But he is blind and crippled."

Immediately, I made my way up the hill to his little old, rickety hut and sat down with him. He was pleased that I'd come. After visiting with him for a while, I said to him, "Grandfather, you are going to leave this world very soon. What is your hope? In what are you trusting for your acceptance by God?"

He answered, "Grandchild, it is like this. When I stand before God, I am not going to say to Him that I am not a sinner. God knows that I am."

I thought, "Well, praise the Lord! He has been taught that much of God."

He continued, "I am going to say this to God, 'God, you see your Son there at your right hand? He died for me!' And then turning to me, he said, "Grandchild, won't God accept me because of Him?"

I answered, "Grandfather, He certainly will!"

### What is the Gospel?

Yet another reason why some people in evangelical churches remain unsaved is the way in which the Gospel is presented. Many dedicated Christians present the Gospel in such a way that unsaved, unprepared people do not understand that they deserve only God's judgment, that salvation is completely God's work, and that sinners are unable to contribute anything towards their own salvation.

Romans 1:3 tells us that the Gospel is God's good news concerning His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. It is God's assurance "*...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures*" (I Corinthians 15:3,4).

The Gospel is first and foremost about Christ. It is the message of the finished historical work of God in Christ. The Gospel is a work of the Godhead alone.

## FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM (edited)

Christ was "...smitten of God..... it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief..." The Lord made "...his soul an offering for sin..." (Isaiah 53:4,10).

Many confuse the Gospel, God's work FOR us in Christ, with God's work IN us by the Holy Spirit. The Gospel is entirely objective. The Gospel is completely outside of ourselves. The Gospel is not about the change which needs to be made in us, and it does not take place within us. It was completed in Christ, quite apart from us, almost two thousand years ago. The Gospel is not dependent on man in any way. The Gospel is distorted when we turn people's eyes to what is to be accomplished in them. We were not and cannot be involved in any part of Christ's historical, finished, redemptive work. The sinner must be taught to look completely away from himself and trust only in Christ and His work of salvation.

### Unscriptural terminology

We distort and confuse the Gospel in people's understanding when we try to present the Gospel using terminology which turns people's attention to what they must DO rather than outward to what God has DONE on their behalf in Christ. We should use terminology which directs repentant sinners to trust in what has been done FOR THEM through Christ, rather than directing their attention to what must be done IN THEM. "Accept Jesus into your heart." "Give your heart to Jesus." "Give your life to Jesus." "Open the door of your heart to the Lord." "Ask Jesus to wash away your sins." "Make your decision for Christ." "Ask Jesus to give you eternal life." "Ask God to save you." These modern and commonly-used phrases confuse people's understanding of the Gospel.

In our preparation of people for the Gospel, we must bring them to the point where they realize they can do nothing. But even when people do understand their inability to do anything, many evangelists, missionaries, and preachers tell enquirers things such as, "Now, you must give your heart to Jesus." Having told them they are unable to do anything, they then

tell them what they must do. The result? Confusion about the Gospel! People's interest and concern is turned inward to their own experience, instead of outward to trust only in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection on their behalf.

If people's attention is directed inward to their own doing, even those who are truly saved will often lack assurance of salvation. The question will constantly arise within their hearts, "Was I sincere enough? Did I do it correctly? Did I truly receive Christ? Did I really give my heart to Jesus?"

The Gospel is not man accepting Jesus as his Saviour, but that God accepted the Lord Jesus as the perfect and only Saviour two thousand years ago. The Gospel is not man giving his heart or his life to Jesus, but that Christ gave His life, His whole being, in the place of sinners. The Gospel is not man receiving Christ into his heart, but that God received the Lord Jesus into Heaven as the mediator of sinners. The Gospel is not Christ enthroned in the human heart, but that God enthroned the Lord Jesus at His right hand in Heaven.

Do we see the great distinction between these two messages? One is subjective and puts the emphasis on what man must do. The other is objective and puts the emphasis on what Christ has already done. The sinner is only to trust in what has already been done on his behalf. The Lord Jesus cried, "...It is finished...." He did it all. He took upon Himself the load of sin, the full responsibility for the sin of mankind. Because Christ paid the complete debt, God raised Him from the dead and accepted Him into Heaven. The resurrection was God's sign to all that He accepted the Lord Jesus Christ forever as the perfect Savior. God is satisfied. Is the convicted sinner? Will he rest the whole weight of his soul's salvation on Christ's acceptance by God as the perfect Saviour? Will the sinner cease once and for all trying to do anything to save himself? Will he trust only in God's Son for salvation?

In most evangelical circles, it is the norm to require people to publicly indicate their decision for Christ

by raising their hand, standing, or walking to the front of the building, and praying a prayer of acceptance of Christ. The majority of Gospel preachers and Christians place so much emphasis on the "invitation" and people's outward response, that many Christians are now convinced that it is an integral and vital part of the ministry of the Church. On one occasion when a relative of mine clearly preached the Gospel but did not give a closing appeal, a Christian lady when leaving the meeting expressed her disapproval by the remark, "He didn't even give people the opportunity to be saved!" The great danger is probably not so much in giving people the opportunity to publicly express their faith in Christ, as in the emphasis before and after the "invitation" which causes people to rest their salvation on their own personal actions in response to God, rather than on the actions of Christ which are declared in the Gospel.

On one occasion, during a conversation with another missionary, he told me how, many years earlier, he had come to assurance of salvation. His assurance came unexpectedly at the close of a meeting when the preacher asked everyone who was saved to raise his hand. Since, at that time, the man did not know if he was truly saved, he tried desperately to keep his hand down, but it was forced up by a power outside of himself. He related that, because of this experience, he never again doubted his salvation. Yet another Christian told me how she was assured of salvation through an unusual experience. When confronted by a wild, vicious bird, poised to attack her, she looked it in the eyes and said, "You can't touch me for I am a child of God." Because the bird did not peck her, she felt certain from that time that she was indeed in the family of God.

Experiences, regardless of their vivid and startling nature, should never be the grounds for believing that one is saved. The Word of God alone must be the foundation for assurance of salvation. John says of his Gospel, *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that*

*believing ye might have life through his name"* (John 20:31). Each Christian is responsible to make certain that his preaching and evangelistic methods focus on Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection as the only firm foundation for his hearers' assurance of salvation. Just as the physical eye does not behold itself but sees only the object on which it is focused, so true faith looks only to Christ. We should never accept any outward act of a professed convert as the basis for acceptance as a born again person. The only scriptural basis for receiving a person's claim to salvation is his understanding and faith in the foundational truths of the Gospel.

### **People Unprepared for the Gospel**

We have already used the biblical analogy of "building" to illustrate the work of preaching the Gospel, but the Lord has also used "farming" in His Word to teach us the correct procedures for doing His work. Therefore, I would like to tell you a parable about a farmer and his sons.

A man, leaving home for a period, left his sons with instructions to plant good seed in every part of his farm. He provided them with the good seed and promised to return at harvest time.

Over the years, their father had written a book in which he recorded his experiences as a farmer. He explained how he had worked with each different type of soil. He recorded how he dealt with various weeds and conditions which hindered the growth of the good seed. Some of his accounts told of useless soil which produced only weeds and thorny bushes. Other soil, if properly prepared, had proven to be productive; but all of the soil, even the best, needed lots of preparation and constant care if it was to yield a good harvest.

The sons were glad to obey their father, so in accordance with his command, they set off for the fields. They took with them the book and the good seed.

Arriving in the fields, they found large trees and an undergrowth of tangled vines and thorny weeds. Even the fields where their father had worked previously

## FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM

(edited)

were now filled with weeds, and the ground was rocky and hard.

Feeling despondent, the sons took up their father's book and reread his last command. Yes, it was clear, "Sow the good seed in every part of the farm." Therefore, they set about to do, as best they could, what their father had commanded. One son cut away some of the undergrowth; and removing some of the weeds, he began to plant the good seed. Another son chopped down some of the trees, while another tore away the undergrowth with his bare hands before he put in the good seed. Each tackled the job with enthusiasm and vigor but with little success. With great devotion, they tried many different ideas and methods. Although their ideas seemed to bring results for a little while, eventually, the weeds choked most of the new plants or they died because of the hard rocky ground. Only a little of the seed actually took root and grew.

Meanwhile, their father's book, containing the account of his experiences and farming methods, was cherished, but not applied to their own work.

Finally, in desperation, the sons took up their father's book and began to read how he had experienced problems which were exactly like their own. They carefully read his methods of preparation before he planted the good seed. Then, following his example, they chopped down the trees, dug up the weeds, ploughed, fertilized, and watered the ground. Once the ground was broken up and well prepared, they planted the good seed. As a result of following their father's recorded methods and principles, more and more seed took root and flourished.

### Unprepared ground

In Jeremiah 4:3, the Lord says, "...*Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.*" This verse teaches a spiritual principle which is emphasized continually throughout the Scriptures, and it highlights one of the greatest failures in most evangelism. The majority of evangelists, preachers, and teachers at

home and on the mission field do not spend sufficient time preparing the minds and hearts of people before they offer the Gospel to them. The Gospel seed is usually sown into hard, unploughed, poorly prepared, thorny ground. In many cases, the results are professions which last only for a short time. There is little permanent growth and fruit.

In the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:3-8, some seed fell on the wayside, some on shallow ground, and some among the thorns. This seed was soon taken away, withered, or choked. Some people believe this parable is teaching us that it is our responsibility to sow the seed of the Gospel, regardless of the condition of the hearts of our hearers. It is true that there will always be the types of people illustrated by the Parable of the Sower. Even some who claimed to believe and follow our Lord Jesus were false professors. But what is Jesus really teaching through this parable?

Was Jesus teaching that we should sow the seed on unprepared and rocky soil? Did the farmer plan to sow seed on the wayside? Was it his intention to sow seed among the thorns? Did he think he would receive a harvest from seed sown on shallow, rocky soil? Indeed not! This farmer had prepared the ground in order to plant it with good seed. His purpose was to plant the seed only in the ground which he had prepared. He did not intentionally throw good seed onto unprepared ground; but, as he sowed the seed on prepared ground, some of it fell on unprepared soil. None of the seed which fell on unprepared soil yielded a harvest. The main point Jesus is teaching through the Parable of the Sower is that good seed grows well and bears fruit only in prepared soil.

The human heart is not naturally good soil for Gospel seed. The history of man recorded in the Scriptures makes it clear that no descendant of Adam is naturally inclined towards God or His way of salvation. "*There is none that under standeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*" "...*the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes*" (Romans 3:11,17,18). "...*the carnal mind is*

*enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).*

The natural person may follow false religions and serve man-made gods or even what he believes to be the true and living God. Some will even gladly accept a gospel which sounds like the true Gospel of Christ. According to the Scriptures, however, no person seeks the true and living God or can come to Christ by faith, unless God first seeks him out by His Spirit through His Word (John 6:44,45).

### **Ignorance and misunderstanding**

The heart must be prepared by God for the reception of the Gospel. Man's evil heart, with its natural, self-centered desires, is not fertile soil for the good seed of the Gospel. Furthermore, the preaching of the message of salvation through Christ will not bear fruit where people's minds remain in darkness, unenlightened to spiritual realities. Saving faith rests on the comprehended truth of God.

### **Foundations for the Gospel**

The Gospel is God's good news about His Son. But to whom does God offer this good news? Whom does God call to eat the bread of life? To whom does He offer the water of life?

It is clear from God's Word that He offers good news to those who know they are spiritually poor. He offers bread to the hungry, water to the thirsty, rest to the weary, and life to the dead. God's good news is meant for all, but the person unprepared by God will never accept God's Gospel of grace. God knows that, and He tells us not to cast the pearl of the Gospel before swine, that is, those who feel no need and have no appreciation of God's mercy

Luke in his Gospel says, "*And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him" (Luke 7:29,30).*

Jesus also said to the people of his day, "...For

*judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind" (John 9:39).* Those who realized they were spiritually blind would be given spiritual understanding through the truth which Jesus spoke, but those who, like the Pharisees, refused to acknowledge their ignorance would remain forever in spiritual darkness. When Jesus said this, "*...some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth" (John 9:40,41).* The proud Pharisees believed they were already enlightened and understood perfectly the will of God. They felt no need to receive spiritual sight, for in their own estimation, they could already see quite well.

They claimed to be guides of the blind (Romans 2:17-20), so why, they felt, should they allow this man to teach them? Because they didn't see their great need and claimed they already had spiritual sight, they were left to perish in their blindness without an understanding of the grace of God available through the Gospel.

When addressing the same hardened Jewish leaders after Christ's resurrection and ascension, Stephen said, "*Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7:51).*

Nicodemus came seeking Jesus, but Jesus did not immediately tell Nicodemus the good news of the Gospel (John 3:1-21). Instead, Jesus said to him, "Nicodemus, you must be born again." The teaching of the necessity of the new birth is not the Gospel. That was bad news for Nicodemus, who like his fellow Pharisees, depended largely on his birth as a son of Abraham for his acceptance by God. Jesus knew that Nicodemus wasn't ready for the Gospel. Nicodemus first had to face the impossibility of his entering God's kingdom by virtue of his Jewish birth or his own goodness.

While on a visit back to Palawan, I was asked to

teach a seminar for some of our missionaries on the chronological approach to evangelism and church planting. During one of our sessions, I emphasized that, if a person's mind is filled with his own self-righteousness, he will not see any need or feel any hunger for the Gospel.

As it is in the natural realm, so it is in the spiritual. While people are filled with their own self-righteousness, it is useless to try to force the Gospel on them. The Gospel is for the hungry, for the thirsty, and for the weary. It is for those broken before God through a realization of their own sinfulness.

But how is a person brought to this realization? How is the heart of man prepared for the Gospel? The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to prepare the mind and heart of a person for the Gospel. But what particular part or message from God's Word accomplishes this preparatory work?

### **The knowledge of God**

Years after missionary work had begun in a highland tribe in Papua New Guinea, some of the people announced that they were not going to tithe anymore. Why? Because they had decided that they had repaid God enough for giving Jesus to die for their sins. The judicial system of this tribe was based on a monetary "pay-back" arrangement, so it is easy to see why they thought they had to recompense God for giving Jesus to die for their sins. But why did they think it was possible to pay God back for the gift of His Son? What didn't they understand? These tribal people obviously had failed to comprehend the nature and character of God as revealed in the Old Testament and finally in the Gospel. They thought God was like the spirits and human beings. Because they demanded "pay-back," they thought God did also. To have told them that salvation is a gift would not be sufficient. They needed to see, through the Scriptures, the true nature and character of God. If they were to see God as He really is, they would have also seen themselves as helpless and hopeless sinners. In the light of God's

majesty and their own depravity, they would have understood the futility of every endeavor to "pay God back."

Furthermore, through the teaching of the Old Testament, beginning with God's warning to Adam regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "*...in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*" (Genesis 2:17), they should have realized that death, eternal separation from God, is God's just judgment on sinners. This emphasis on death as the only payment for sin continues through the Old Testament historical accounts of God's judgment on sinners and ends with the New Testament account of Christ's death as the only satisfactory payment for sin. If the tribal people had understood the Old Testament emphasis on death, they would have also recognized that only the death of Christ could pay for sin and satisfy God who is holy and righteous.

The Aziana tribe in Papua New Guinea were sun worshippers. Missionaries claiming to preach Christianity preceded New Tribes missionaries into this area. But in spite of being "missionized," the Aziana tribesmen had no clear understanding of the God of the Bible. They thought He must be similar to their sun-god.

In their ceremonial worship of the sun, they killed a pig, cooked a mixture of its liver and blood in a piece of bamboo; and, as the sun set, they gathered together to worship and appease the sun. The priest first ate of the cooked blood and liver, after which all present partook. The priest also spat some of the mixture at the sun to blind it, so their sins would not be seen and avenged, for they believed this would appease the sun, a malicious and malevolent god, and make their souls invisible to it.

When the first missionaries to the Aziana people taught them to commemorate the Lord's supper, the people gave it the same name as this feast to the sun. They believed that, by partaking of the Lord's supper, they were appeasing God and blinding Him to their sins. But these people would never have misinterpreted the Lord's supper in this way if they

had been taught and understood who and what God is. They would have realized that God is not malicious in His intents, that He cannot be appeased like their heathen deities, and that He, the omniscient, immutable God, can never be blinded to man's sinfulness. These people were not prepared for the Gospel because they did not have an understanding of the holiness and righteousness of God. Because they had never been exposed to the knowledge of God, they did not see themselves as incapable of doing anything which would please God.

Job, David, and Solomon all stated the truth: True wisdom begins with a solemn appreciation of who and what God is. *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom..."* (Psalm 111:10). Only those whose senses have been tuned to know and accept something of God's nature, character, and sovereign position are prepared for the Gospel.

If God is not truly God, as revealed foundationally in the Old Testament and finally in the New Testament through Jesus Christ, then there is no need for the Gospel. Only those who are enlightened through this revelation of God as a righteous and holy God who hates and punishes sin will see their need for the Gospel.

While people are ignorant of God's holiness and righteousness, they will never understand their desperate need for the grace of God in Christ. They may give lip service to the Gospel, speak about Christ, attend church, sing hymns, read the Bible, pray, and even seek to serve Christ, but they will still be unsaved. Man is by nature self-righteous and will never let go of his pride and self-confidence until he realizes God's infinite holiness and righteousness. The unsaved religionist does not understand this, for he is constantly trying, by his own good works and religious activities, to place God in a position where God will feel obligated to accept and bless him.

This knowledge of God, which man naturally hates and seeks to escape, is nevertheless man's greatest need for, apart from it, he will never truly repent, believe, and be saved. A revelation of God's nature

and character is prerequisite to the realization of one's own unrighteousness and abject helplessness to escape the just judgment of God. It was only after Job received new, clearer awareness of God's character, that he said, *"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes"* (Job 42:5,6).

### **The Law**

The Law is yet another means which God uses to prepare the sinner for the Gospel and the realization that, without Christ, he will perish.

By the fall of man and through subsequent history, man has been made aware of his sinfulness through revelations of God's holy character and will. Why then was the Law given? *"...the law entered, that the offense might abound..."* (Romans 5:20). The Law was brought in to classify and clearly define sin. God gave the Law to fully expose man's sinfulness and, thus, prepare the human heart for the Gospel. *"...the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith"* (Galatians 3:24). God gave the Law to Israel, not to save them, but to show them the impossibility of salvation by human goodness. *"...by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin"* (Romans 3:20). *"...the law worketh wrath..."* (Romans 4:15). The Law reveals God's wrath against sin and shows that man can only approach God if the complete, righteous demands of His Law are paid in full.

Jesus told the self-righteous Pharisees to go and learn that sinners are saved by God's mercy and not by their own sacrifices to God (Matthew 9:13). How were the Pharisees to learn this? Who or what was God's ordained teacher? How could they see their true condition before God as helpless sinners needing a Saviour? It was through a correct understanding of the Law!

The Jews had the written Law of God, but the scribes and Pharisees had given it such a carnal interpretation that it did not convict them of their

inner heart attitudes. They did not understand the Law as God intended it to be understood. If they had, they would have realized the impossibility of anyone ever obeying it perfectly, and they would have seen their own unrighteousness. They would have then been prepared for Christ and the Gospel.

Jesus taught them the correct interpretation of the Law (Matthew 5:17-28). But even though Jesus taught them to understand what God's laws really meant, the Jewish leaders would not allow the Law to judge and condemn them. If they had, they would have been broken in heart and truly repentant.

John the Baptist also gave the right interpretation of the Law as preparation for the Gospel. But the religious leaders rejected both the ministry of John the Baptist and of Jesus because their correct interpretation of the Law exposed the true condition of the scribes' and Pharisees' hearts. They rejected this preparatory ministry of the Law; and, therefore, they rejected Christ and the Gospel of God's grace (Matthew 5:17-28).

The majority of the Jews rejected the preparatory work of the Law given through Moses and also taught by John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles. Even though they had received the written Law of God, they were self-righteous and trusted in a mere outward conformity to the Law. Because of their self-righteousness, they were not prepared to come by faith alone and trust in the grace of God. In contrast, many of the Gentiles, who had been without the direct written message from God, accepted the condemnation of the Law and saw the reality of their spiritual bankruptcy. Therefore, they were ready to turn in faith to Christ and the Gospel as their only hope (Romans 3:19).

The problem with many of the tribal professing believers to whom I first ministered in the Philippines was that they had never judged themselves according to the perfection and holiness of God as revealed in the Law. Because they had not been exposed to the correct ministry of the Law, they were trusting in a mixture of works and grace. They were offering God

their own sacrifices of good works instead of accepting God's mercy in the Gospel of Christ.

### **Our responsibility**

Today, in most evangelical circles, the usual practice is to present some verses and evidences of man's need and then swiftly turn to the Gospel. Following this quick presentation of man's need, a great deal of time is spent endeavoring to persuade the hearers to turn to Christ. Our great mistake is turning quickly to the remedy without spending sufficient time preparing people for the Gospel.

Because Western society has a facade of Christianity, most Christian workers presume that people already have the foundations for the Gospel. We assume they already have a basic understanding of God and His nature and character. However, the vast majority of people in so-called Christian countries have little biblical knowledge of God. Of the relatively few in our countries who do attend church, most have a humanistic and unscriptural concept of God. Regardless of this tremendous lack, the average preacher spends little time on this all-important, basic subject. It is small wonder that there is little respect for God and spiritual matters in our day. All true spiritual revivals and movements of the Spirit of God have been the result of the acknowledgment of who God really is. This alone brings true contrition of heart, genuine repentance, faith, worship, and holy living. If evangelists and preachers spent more time teaching about the true nature and character of God and less time trying to convince sinners of the advantages of coming to God, we would hear the question asked more often by repentant, anxious sinners, "...*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*" (Acts 16:30).

While we may agree that there must be a preparatory work done in the heart of a sinner before he will trust only in Christ, some may be of the opinion that this is God's sovereign work in which we have no part. It is clear from the Scriptures that God prepares man's heart through His Word. "*Is not my*

*word like as a fire, saith the LORD, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"* (Jeremiah 23:29).

The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8). God has entrusted us with the proclamation of His message (II Corinthians 5:18-20).

We are responsible to prepare our hearers through the Scriptures before we offer the Gospel to them. I remember beginning to teach a new weekly home Bible study with a couple in Australia. Before I started teaching that first night, the husband interrupted me and said, "Now, just a moment. Before you say anything, I have something to say."

"OK, go ahead," I replied.

He said, "I reckon that if a person keeps the Law and does exactly what it says, he will be all right and will be accepted by God."

When I agreed with him, his head almost swelled visibly. Turning to his wife, he bragged, "There you are. I told you so. That woman at the City Mission didn't know what she was talking about. She told me I couldn't be saved by what I did."

I told him, "I agree with what you said so I want to write it down." So I wrote down, "Wim said that if we obey the Law and do exactly what it says, God will accept us and we will be OK." Of course, at that point, Wim didn't realize that he did not have the ability to obey the Law because he had been born a sinner. After I had written these words, I put the piece of paper in the front of my Bible. My plan was to produce it at an appropriate future date.

After a few months of weekly chronological Bible studies, beginning in the book of Genesis, we finally reached the story of the giving of the Law. It was obvious from Wim's questions and answers that the Lord was working in his life. As we continued studying the Law, giving the spiritual meaning and application of each of the commandments, Wim was listening carefully. Finally, one night, he interrupted my teaching and said, "I haven't got a hope. I break all of God's laws every day."

Praise God! Wim's spiritual eyes had been opened to

see his own sinfulness and inability to please God by personal obedience to the Law. This knowledge had come to him through the study of the Old Testament stories and the Law which revealed the holy and righteous character of God. Later, during our Bible studies, Wim saw that Christ alone had kept the Law and, through His death, had provided a way of salvation for sinful, helpless sinners.

What would have been the result if I had given the Gospel at the beginning of our Bible study, without first exposing Wim to the demands of God's holy Law? Wim would not have clearly understood the absolute necessity of the Gospel. He was not prepared for the Gospel. He felt no need for the grace and mercy of God. He was self-righteous and therefore self-dependent. Possibly, he would have professed faith in Christ; but, in his heart, he would have still been dependent on his own efforts and self-righteousness.

We should, through the correct use of the Law, bring people to see that they need a righteousness equal to the righteousness of God, for only that will satisfy a holy God. The question then arises, "Where can I find this righteousness which will satisfy God? How can God be satisfied with me? I have broken His Law. I am condemned to everlasting punishment. How can my debt of sin be paid? How can I be justified and declared righteous before my perfect Judge?"

### **Divine Building Principles**

During our first years with the Palawanos, many came to understand justification by faith through God's grace. Many who had previously been mere professors of salvation were saved, and others received assurance and clarity regarding their personal salvation. Not only was I teaching justification by faith, but other missionaries among the Palawanos had also realized the true condition of the Palawan churches and were endeavoring to strengthen the basic foundations of the people's faith. What a thrill to see the people trusting in Christ alone!

## FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM (edited)

How could these babes in Christ best be nurtured and fed? With so many people to teach, I felt like a doctor dispensing vitamins to an undernourished and starving people. Our present itinerant teaching program was totally inadequate to meet the needs of these young believers and build them up in the faith. I decided to turn from a predominantly topical teaching approach to verse-by-verse exposition. I relocated my family in the middle of an area with six small churches and began to give these Palawano churches concentrated expositional teaching.

Because the congregations of these six churches were a mixture of saved, mere professors, and a few who didn't even claim to be children of God, I started teaching expositionally through the Gospel of John. Starting with great enthusiasm, it soon became apparent that my hearers were not ready for an expositional study of John. They could not understand any of the verses containing direct references or allusions to people or stories from the Old Testament because they had never been taught the basic Old Testament historical sequence of events as one complete story.

The following examples show a few of the problems I encountered:

John 1:1, "*In the beginning was the Word....*"

Even though the people may have heard about "the beginning" from previous missionaries, it was vague and uncertain in their minds. So, I had to go back to Genesis 1 and teach about the beginning of time.

John 1:1, "*...and the Word was with God...*" After explaining the "th Word" is yet another title for the Lord Jesus, it was obvious that the Palawano people did not understand that Jesus was with the Father in the beginning.

John 1:3, "*All things were made by him...*" The people did not understand that God in Genesis 1 included the Son of God.

John 1:11, "*He came unto his own....*" This meant little to the Palawanos without the background of the call of Abraham, the Messianic promises, and

the history of Israel.

John 1:14, "*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory ..)*"

This alludes to the Old Testament tabernacle and the Shekinah glory wherein God lived in the midst of Israel. The Palawanos didn't know these stories.

John 1: 17, "*...the law was given by Moses....*" The people had insufficient knowledge of the chronology of the Bible story, and they didn't know where the Old Testament and New Testament characters fit in the sequence of events. They questioned if Moses and John the Baptist were contemporaries and wondered if Jesus was on the earth at the same time as the people mentioned from the Old Testament.

As these few examples show, the Gospel of John is full of references to the Old Testament. Due to the Palawanos' sketchy understanding of the Old Testament, I had to intermittently break off the exposition of John's Gospel in order to teach the Old Testament story or truth to which John referred or alluded. This piecemeal form of teaching was frustrating for me as the teacher and confusing for my hearers. I was forced to conclude that a clearer and less complicated way to teach the Scriptures must exist. A major forward step had been made when turned from predominantly teaching topically to direct verse-by-verse exposition of the New Testament books. Nevertheless, it was now apparent that choosing any book and teaching it expositionally was not the complete answer to teaching the Scriptures clearly. What was the answer?

### One book

The Scriptures were written with a definite beginning and a definite ending. Between the beginning and ending are incidents which, when taught and understood in their historical sequence, form one complete, cohesive, intelligible story. If one were to teach the contents of any other book, he would naturally start at the beginning and follow the forward

movement of the subject as the author develops and brings it to its logical conclusion. Little wonder we had difficulties when teaching the New Testament to the Palawanos!

### One story

The whole Bible is God's message about His Son, the Saviour. God's chief purpose in writing His Book was to reveal Christ. The Old Testament is the preparation for Christ. The New Testament is the manifestation of Christ. The Scriptures reveal Christ from Genesis to Revelation. Jesus said to the Jews of His day, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"* (John 5:39). The entire Scriptures find their meaning in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the origin, the substance, and the object of all divine revelation.

His-story, that is, the story of Christ, begins in the first verse of Genesis, for He was there in the beginning. But it is not until the fall of man that the Son of the virgin is promised, One who will over-come Satan and deliver his captives. The story of

Christ then continues through the entire Old Testament in numerous types and prophecies. The New Testament records the fulfillment of these prophecies through His birth, life, death, ascension, and present glory. The story of Christ as told in the Gospels is the sequel to the Old Testament.

Because the Christ-story cannot be clearly taught or understood apart from its God-given beginnings found only in the Old Testament, it is our responsibility to teach the beginnings in the Old Testament and then teach the fulfillment in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, God has given types and redemptive analogies to prepare people to understand the New Testament story of Christ. These Old Testament types and redemptive analogies point to and interpret the birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The biblical redemptive analogies given by God to Israel were also for the whole world. *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our*

*learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"* (Romans 15:4). God has not spoken directly to the Gentiles, but He has chosen to speak to the Gentiles through His Word given to Israel and the Church. All people must come to God's light shining from the Scriptures. By the infinitely wise and sovereign appointment of God, all of the redemptive story and the beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ is set within the cultural, geographical, and historical framework of the nation of Israel. Therefore, no one can understand the story of the New Testament without a basic knowledge of Israel's origin, development, and history from the Old Testament.

### History

That which God recorded in the Scriptures actually happened in time and space. God spoke. God acted. God interacted with real, historical human beings. The contents of the Bible are relevant to all people in every age, regardless of their culture, because the Bible is a book of case histories. We are able to identify with those people whose lives are recorded in the Bible. God interacted and spoke to real people, people like us.

God has revealed Himself through His acts in history. When God needed to remind Israel of His true identity, He pointed them back to His historical relationship with their forefathers. The Lord said to Moses, *"...Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: This is my name forever.."* (Exodus 3:15).

God was in action in the Old Testament as Jehovah. God was in action in the New Testament as Jesus Christ. God was also in action in the Acts of the Apostles in the person of the Holy Spirit.

### The apostles' emphasis

The apostles recognized the Old Testament as God's record of His involvement in the world and especially with His chosen people in preparation for

the coming of the Saviour. The Old Testament was the Bible of the early Church. The apostolic preaching recorded in the Acts first emphasized God's historical acts in relationship to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, and the nation of Israel. The apostles then linked these acts of God in the Old Testament to the revelation of Himself in the history of His Son, Jesus of Nazareth. The apostles interpreted the whole of Christ's advent, life, death, resurrection, present glory, and all future revelations of His majesty on the basis of the historical accounts and prophecies of the Old Testament. They used the Old Testament to authenticate the claim of Jesus of Nazareth to be the Christ. For them, the story of Christ began long before they met Him beside the Sea of Galilee or at the River Jordan where John was baptizing. The faith of the apostles and those who believed the apostles' message rested on the basis of the testimony given concerning the Christ from the Old Testament. They taught the Old Testament and its history and the events which they had so recently experienced in the company of Jesus of Nazareth as one story.

This method of teaching is clearly evident, beginning with Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. Another classic example is the sermon of Stephen in which he gives an account of Old Testament history beginning with Abraham. Stephen climaxes his sermon with a brief account of the nation of Israel's attitude toward God's final messenger, the Lord Jesus. Acts 8 records the story of Philip who met the Ethiopian eunuch when the eunuch was reading Isaiah 53. Philip linked this Old Testament portion of Scripture to the events which had so recently taken place at Golgotha and brought this man to an understanding of the Gospel. (Note also Acts 2:22-36, 3:13-26, 7, 10:34-43, 13:16-41, 17:2,3.)

### **The Church's responsibility**

The Old Testament Scriptures, which prepare the mind to see the need and purpose for the incarnation, have been badly neglected by the Church. Multitudes misinterpret the whole purpose of Christ's ministry

and death because they have little, if any, understanding of the biblical reasons for His coming. If those who declare the Gospel in homes, churches, Bible studies, and Sunday Schools were to teach the beginnings of the redemptive story from the Old Testament before they teach its fulfillment in the New Testament, many more would clearly understand the advent of Christ as God's plan for their salvation. But, while Christians continue to ignore this divinely revealed order of teaching, the confusion in the minds of many concerning Christ and His mission will continue.

Missionaries who have taken the time to teach people the Old Testament beginnings of the Christ-story and who have carefully followed the unfolding historical drama to its consummation in the New Testament account have testified to the great clarity in their hearers' understanding of the Gospel. In contrast, many have launched almost immediately into the story of Christ with little preparation from the history of the Old Testament. Some, after many years, have found that their message was outwardly accepted but not truly understood.

Bob Goddard, Sr., wrote the following about the Ava tribal people of Paraguay:

"A study of their culture and religion has brought us to the conclusion that we must begin with Genesis and lay a foundation upon which to build so that they can understand who God is, what sin is, how man fell through sin and can be saved only through faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ."

### **Building Chronologically in Evangelism**

As my understanding of biblical principles for teaching the Scriptures grew, so did my desire to put them into practice by evangelizing a new area of Palawan, yet untouched by the Gospel. In 1962, the Lord had used Paul's ambition, "*Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation*" (Romans 15:20) to challenge me to leave full-time evangelism in Australia and go to unreached tribal

people in the Philippines. Once again, the Lord used this verse to challenge me to go to an area in Palawan which was without a Gospel witness. As I prepared to begin this new work farther south, my greatest fear was lest, after a few years, I find that my methods and teaching had produced the same misunderstanding of the Gospel, syncretism, legalism, and inadequate Old Testament foundations for the understanding of the New Testament with which I had grappled for so many years among the Palawano churches. What needed to be included in my evangelistic teaching program to prevent such misunderstanding?

It was now clear to me that, when evangelizing, one should follow the teaching guidelines demonstrated in the Scriptures. These teaching principles have been discussed in the previous chapters. In order to consider the logical and biblical reason for the teaching program which I am about to introduce, a brief summary is in order.

1. The Scriptures taught in evangelism must expose our hearers to the revelation of God's nature and character in order to prepare them for the Gospel. When evangelizing, one should first teach the holiness, righteousness, and wrath of God against sinners so that people will judge themselves in the light of the biblical concept of God.
2. Because God chose to reveal Himself through His acts in history rather than by mere declarations and propositions, our evangelistic teaching must include the historical sections of Scripture wherein God has shown His true nature and character.
3. The Law must be part of our teaching as we prepare hearts to trust only in Christ, for "...by the law is the knowledge of sin.." (Romans 3:20). If we want to avoid syncretism, legalism, and a mixture of works and grace, we must use the Law in the correct way so that the consciences of our hearers will be exposed to the Law's convicting and convincing power.
4. The goal of all true evangelism is to see people trusting only in the Lord Jesus Christ and His

saving work on their behalf. If our hearers are to understand and correctly interpret the story of the Gospels concerning Christ, we should provide adequate Old Testament Christological background information.

5. During evangelism, our hearers should be taught the basic history and culture of Israel, for only then will they be able to understand the story of the Jewish Messiah, the Old Testament redemptive types which Christ fulfilled, Christ's position as the Son of David, King, and righteous Judge of Israel, His specific ministry to the lost sheep of Israel, and His final rejection by His own people.

These biblical teaching guidelines are essential when evangelizing. How then could I be sure that all of these necessary aspects would be included in my evangelistic teaching program? Where could I find a teaching format which included each biblical teaching principle?

Considering each principle brought me to the conclusion that the best way to evangelize is to begin in the beginning and teach chronologically through the Scriptures to ensure that people understand the story of Christ and are properly prepared for the Gospel.

This first section of the Chronological Teaching Outline, which is for evangelism and emphasizes salvation, begins in Genesis and concludes with the ascension of Christ, as recorded in the book of Acts. The fifty lessons in this course, *Firm Foundations- Creation to Christ*, cover this evangelistic segment of the Chronological Teaching outline.

### **Following the flow of biblical history**

Because God has chosen to reveal Himself within the framework of history, the Scriptures will be most clearly taught if we follow the flow of history from Genesis to Revelation.

The Chronological Teaching Outline is based on the historical sections of the books of the Bible which record this forward movement of history. The chart

on the following page illustrates the flow of biblical history.

**It takes too long to teach**

One of the most common complaints regarding the form of teaching suggested in this book is that it takes too long to teach.

This is the day of speed and easy ways to do everything. Precooked frozen meals, instant desserts, and microwave ovens help make sure everything is on the table in minutes. Every conceivable gadget to speed up the process of daily living is available.

The same type of thinking has made inroads into the Christian Church and is often applied to evangelism, church growth, and every other area of church life.

While Christians should be open to learn more efficient and effective ways to do their work, they must never forget that God's power is manifested and His work is accomplished by the declaration of God's truth in the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no other way. God does not change His methods to fit in with modern thought and so-called advancements. "...I am the LORD, I change not..." (Malachi 3:6). This is true of God's nature, and it is also true of His ways of working.

**The Flow of Biblical History**

**The Books of Historical Movement**

- Genesis**.....
- Exodus**.....
- Numbers**.....
- Joshua**.....
- Judges**.....
- I and II Samuel**.....
- I and II Kings**.....
  
- Daniel**.....
- Ezra**.....
- Nehemiah**.....
- Malachi**.....
- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**.....
- Acts**.....
  
- Revelation**.....

**Other Books Written During These Periods**

- Job, Psalms
- Leviticus, Psalms
- Deuteronomy, Psalms
- Psalms
- Ruth, Psalms
- Psalms
- Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Isaiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Psalms
- Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel
- Haggai, Zechariah
  
- Esther
- James, I and 11 Thessalonians, Galatians, I and II Corinthians, Romans, Philemon, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, I Peter, I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy, Hebrews, II Peter, Jude, I, II, and III John

## FIRM FOUNDATIONS - NTM (edited)

The Christian's responsibility is to teach God's Word in total dependence upon the Holy Spirit. No amount of human wisdom, ingenuity, or high-pressure evangelistic methods can hasten the work of the Holy Spirit and the conversion of a soul. It is not our responsibility to determine or try to force the time of the new birth. We are to faithfully teach all that has been committed to us and leave the work of transformation to the Lord.

One of the greatest faults in the ministry of the Church worldwide is the unwillingness to take the time to teach unsaved people over a long period of time and allow God the Holy Spirit to do His work of enlightening, convicting, and leading people to the type of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ which will give them the assurance to say with Paul, "*...I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day*" (II Timothy 1:12). Jack Douglas, missionary to the Pawaia tribe in Papua New Guinea, commented, "To teach right through from Genesis took a long time and much effort, but it was well worth it. The Pawaians know what they believe and why."

Most witnessing programs lead Christians into brief, face-to-face encounters with the unsaved. Insufficient effort is put into preparing the non-Christian to either understand the real reasons for or the meaning of the Gospel. Usually, just a few verses, such as Romans 3:23, are quoted to the unsaved and the person is then urged to make his or her decision for Christ.

The Scriptures make it clear that one person may be given the responsibility by God to sow the seed, another to water it, and yet another may reap the harvest (John 4:36-38; 1 Corinthians 3:6,7). In most methods of evangelism today, the person who sows is also expected to reap immediately. Truly the Lord is not limited. His Word is mighty to save, and He often does use the same person to both sow and reap. But our responsibility is to be sure that we are faithfully preaching all He has told us from His Word so that people are scripturally prepared for the Gospel. Then

we can trust Him to give the increase.

The most effective witnessing programs are those which allow Christians to teach God's Word systematically and to depend upon the Holy Spirit to do the work in His time. God's children should get to know unsaved people, establish Bible studies in their homes and teach consistently, even over weeks or months, those things which God has recorded in His Word as the foundations for the Gospel.

### **Tell the Gospel to the prepared**

I have already given the reasons why the basic structure of the Old Testament should be taught to unsaved people before they are taught the New Testament story of Christ and the Gospel. But it must not be inferred that I am suggesting that no person can be saved until he has heard and understood all of the Old Testament Outline presented in this teaching program. Nor am I saying that the teacher must not give the Gospel to a person prepared for the Gospel until he has been taught the proposed outline. We must not be bound by an outline, but we should be guided by biblical principles which are clearly taught throughout the entire Word of God.

### **Brief encounters**

I trust it is obvious all the way through this book that I have in mind situations where people can be ministered to over an extended period of time. This is possible in well-programmed missionary work, Sunday schools, Bible classes, and the ministry of the local church. But what does one do when he only has a short time to preach to people?

While we should never be bound to any teaching outline, we should always be guided, even in brief encounters, by biblical principles. One clear principle which we have already discussed is that only those prepared and drawn by God the Holy Spirit can and will come to Christ. God does not do what He commands us not to do. He does not "cast pearls before swine."

**Evangelism for mixed groups-  
unbelievers and believers**

Many groups and churches, like those which we first taught in Palawan, are confused regarding the way of salvation. The evangelistic phase of the Chronological Teaching Outline has been effectively used to teach such churches and groups. Many individuals, who previously thought they were children of God, have been enlightened to their true condition through the Old Testament revelation of God's holiness, His demands for perfection as revealed through the Law, and His terrible judgments on rebellious sinners. Then, through the story of the Gospels, they have seen for the first time that they have no need to work for their salvation, for Christ has provided all that God righteously requires.

I wish I had understood this when I first began to teach the tribal churches in Palawan. I tried to straighten out their understanding by first teaching justification topically and then expositively from the Epistle to the Romans even though they did not have solid Old Testament foundations. In spite of the difficulties I faced in teaching and they faced in understanding, many Palawano church members were eventually enlightened to their lost condition and came to trust in Christ. But how much more simple and clear the teaching and learning process would have been if I had followed the divinely revealed order and taught chronologically through the Old Testament as preparation for the Gospel of grace revealed in the New Testament!

Years later, after I had seen my mistakes and had taught the Scriptures chronologically in another area of Palawan, I returned to the area of our initial labors to teach chronologically from Genesis to the ascension of Christ. After teaching them for a short time, some of the elders came to me and asked, "Why didn't you teach us this way from the beginning? This way of teaching makes everything so much clearer!" They could now see how everything they had been taught previously from the New Testament fit together with the Old Testament and was one comprehensive whole.

I readily agreed with them, because it was also obvious to me that those whom I had taught chronologically from the beginning had a clarity of understanding of the Scriptures and the Gospel far beyond those taught only topically or expositively from the New Testament.

**Correct Foundations  
For Teaching Believers**

Our emphasis thus far has been on Biblical guidelines for evangelism. At this point, I would like to turn our attention to biblical principles for teaching believers.

Because I had been schooled in traditional Bible teaching methods, the majority of my early teaching ministry to the tribal believers in Palawan was done topically. The practical difficulties I encountered in topical teaching impelled me to look to the Scriptures for more logical and practical methods of teaching the Word of God. In this chapter, I will share some of my experiences with tribal believers which prompted me to examine God's methods of teaching His children as recorded in the Bible. Even though many of the problems about which I will write are accentuated due to the primitive, poorly-educated people involved, the points are relevant and worthy of consideration by those teaching affluent and well-educated people.

Principally while teaching monthly Bible conferences for Palawano elders and Bible teachers, it became evident to me that topical teaching is not the best form of Bible teaching for those who are poorly-educated, slow in understanding, or easily distracted. Neither is it the best form of teaching for those not well conversant with the location of the individual books in the Bible or those who are lacking a simple but basic understanding of the overall progressive and historical biblical revelation.

**Difficult to follow**

When I gave a Scripture reference for the Palawanos to find, there would immediately be a great deal of

mumbling and whispering. They could not easily remember the reference given, so they were continually inquiring what the reference was from whomever was sitting near them. The first ones to find the verse would often begin reading the section laboriously, audibly sounding out letters and words. Instead of paying attention to my teaching, they were absorbed in inquiring from one another or trying to read the passage which they were so pleased to have found.

Instead of their minds being occupied with the subject being taught, they were repeatedly distracted because they had to find the portions from many parts of the Bible.

We make the teaching and learning of the Scriptures unnecessarily hard when we insist on topical teaching as our primary method of instruction. Western culture approaches most subjects analytically. We feel it necessary to dissect everything, examining and categorizing each portion. But many cultures do not approach the teaching and learning process in this way.

When the Lord prepared the Scriptures, He had all people in mind. If He had planned to speak only to us Westerners and had asked us what literary form His writing should take, our answer would probably have been, "A systematic theology." Wisely, the Lord did not do this. The Scriptures were not prepared in an analytical, topical form, for apparently this is not the preferable way to teach God's Word, even in Western culture.

### God's teaching

God's fundamental form of teaching throughout all history is clearly progressive. God gradually unfolded the Bible's message over the ages. This God-controlled unfolding of truth has been likened to the growth of grain, " *...first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear*" (Mark 4:28). God chose to make known His nature and character, His plan for the world, His purpose of redemption through Christ, and all other spiritual matters through progressive revelation.

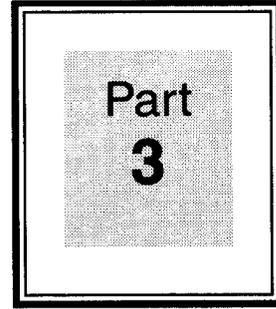
God never taught all there was to know about any particular doctrine or subject at one specific time. He often revealed some new area of truth, but He never immediately gave the whole truth regarding any one subject. God's method of teaching can be compared to the way most people prefer their meals served. A man would be surprised if he went home to find his wife had prepared a meal consisting only of potatoes and if he heard her say, "Today, we are having potatoes. Tomorrow, we will have beans. The day after tomorrow, we will have just meat on the menu." Who would be happy with that type of menu? We usually like a meal to consist of different types of vegetables and some meat. This is how God wrote His Word. This is how God feeds us from His Word when we study it just as He has given it.

Turn anywhere in God's Word, and you will readily see that one verse can give information, either directly or indirectly, about many different subjects. Whole books could be written by carefully examining and expounding one verse. Just as there are many facets on a diamond, a verse, when scrutinized under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will reveal many different points of truth relating to many different doctrines.

God's method of revelation and instruction is clearly progressive in the life of every individual He prepared for His service during the history of the Old Testament. When God created Adam, it was God's desire and purpose that Adam should be taught to know Him, in all His sovereignty, majesty, and glory. How then did God begin to teach Adam? What method did God use? Did He systematically and topically teach Adam all there was to know about Him, his Creator?

No! How mundane and limited God's first revelation to Adam appears to be! God said, "*...Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth*" (Genesis 1:28). The Lord then told Adam what he and Eve were to eat. In this initial

revelation, God did not even speak directly of Himself. Yet, by what He said and commanded, God revealed basic and important truths about Himself. By commanding Adam to be fruitful and to multiply, the Lord clearly declared Himself to be Adam's lawgiver and master of every area of life. By authoritatively placing Adam as His vice-regent over the whole earth and by commanding Adam to have dominion over every living thing in the earth, He was showing Adam that He, the Lord, is the rightful owner of the earth and all things in it. After God had placed Adam in the garden of Eden, He again spoke to him and commanded him regarding the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was but a further revelation of God's role in His relationship to man, for by the solemn declaration that death would be the inevitable punishment for disobedience, He was showing Adam that He alone is God, the judge and executor of righteousness in the earth. These are the only accounts that we have of the words of God to Adam before Adam's disobedience. But, as God met with man, it would seem that He planned to teach Adam progressively, adding slowly to those initial revelations of His will and plan, according to Adam's ability to assimilate the information given to him.



# The Lessons

## **PART 3**

### **The Lessons**

1. Introducing the Bible . . . . . 97
2. God Alone . . . . . 109
3. God Created the Spirit Beings; Lucifer Rebelled 119
4. God Created the Heavens and the Earth—Part 1 129
5. God Created the Heavens and the Earth—Part 2 137
6. God Created Man . . . . . 147
7. God Placed Adam in Eden . . . . . 157
8. God Made Eve . . . . . 169
9. Review of Lessons 1-8 . . . . . 175
10. Adam and Eve Disobeyed God . . . . . 181
11. God's Promise and Curse . . . . . 195
12. God's Provision and Judgment; The Birth of  
Cain and Abel . . . . . 207
13. God Rejected Cain and His Offering, but  
Accepted Abel and His Offering . . . . . 217
14. God Judged the Whole World and Delivered  
Noah and All in the Ark . . . . . 229
15. God Remembered Noah and All in the Ark; God  
Scattered the Rebels at the Tower of Babel . . . . . 241

## **PART 3**

### **The Lessons**

16. God Chose, Called, and Guided Abram; Lot Chose the Fertile Plains of Sodom and Gomorrah . . . . . 251
17. God Destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah; God Renewed His Promises to Abraham . . . . . 261
18. God Gave Isaac; God Delivered Isaac from Death 271
19. God Chose Jacob and Rejected Esau; Jacob's Son Joseph . . . . . 279
20. God Promoted Joseph and Took Israel Into Egypt 287
21. God Preserved Israel Enslaved in Egypt; God Chose, Protected, and Called Moses to Deliver Israel . . . . . 293
22. God Sent Plagues on Egypt; God Passed Over Israel . . . . . 303
23. God Delivered Israel at the Red Sea and Provided Them with Food and Water in the Desert . . . . . 315
24. Preparation for the Giving of the Ten Commandments . . . . . 327
25. God Gave the Ten Commandments . . . . . 337
26. The Tabernacle . . . . . 349
27. Israel's Unbelief; God's Judgments and Deliverances . . . . . 359

## **PART 3**

### **The Lessons**

28. Israel in the Promised Land Under Judges and Kings . . . . . 369
29. God Sent His Messengers, the Prophets, to Israel; Israel Refused to Respond to Their Warnings . . . 379
30. God Foretold the Birth of John and Jesus . . . . . 391
31. God Began to Fulfill His Promises Concerning John and Jesus . . . . . 399
32. God Fulfilled His Promises by Giving Jesus, the Deliverer . . . . . 409
33. God Sent John to Teach and Baptize; John Baptized Jesus . . . . . 417
34. Jesus, When Tempted, Resisted and Rebuked Satan . . . . . 427
35. Jesus Began His Ministry . . . . . 435
36. You Must Be Born Again . . . . . 443
37. Jesus Evidenced His Divinity, but the Religious Leaders Rejected Him; Jesus Chose Twelve Disciples . . . . . 451
38. Jesus Calmed the Storm and Delivered the Demon-Possessed Man of Gadara . . . . . 463
39. Jesus Fed Five Thousand People . . . . . 471

## **PART 3**

### **The Lessons**

40. The Way of the Scribes and Pharisees Is Not  
God's Way . . . . . 479
41. Jesus Is the Christ, the Son of God; Jesus Was  
Transfigured . . . . . 487
42. Jesus Is the Only Doorway to Eternal Life . . . . . 495
43. Jesus Raised Lazarus from the Dead . . . . . 503
44. Jesus Loved the Children and Taught the  
Rich Young Ruler . . . . . 511
45. The Foolishness of Trusting in Riches . . . . . 519
46. Jesus Rode into Jerusalem; Judas Planned to  
Betray Jesus; Jesus Instituted the Lord's Supper 527
47. Jesus Was Arrested by His Enemies . . . . . 535
48. Jesus Was Crucified and Buried . . . . . 545
49. The Meaning of Christ's Death from the Old  
Testament . . . . . 557
50. Jesus Was Raised from the Dead, Appeared to  
His Disciples, Returned to Heaven, and  
Promised to Come Again . . . . . 569

**LESSON**

**1**

**Introducing the Bible**

**LESSON PREPARATION**

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note:** Please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.

Joshua  
1:8  
Psalm  
19;  
119  
Isaiah  
40:8;  
55:6-11  
Luke  
24:27,  
32,44  
John  
1:1,2,17

**LESSON GOALS:**

- To present the Bible as God's authoritative, inerrant, effective Word.

**THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:**

- To understand where the Bible came from.
- To gain confidence in its authority.
- To gain respect for its uniqueness as God's written Word.

**PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:**

Many of us live a society which was founded on biblical principles. Family structure, law and order, morality, social concerns, and many other basic elements of our culture were established by God and clearly recorded in His Word.

Though some people in our society have never set foot inside the door of a church, they have probably heard about the Bible; they may even own one. Other people may go to church week after week but never open their Bibles. Most people in our culture are not unaware of the Bible; but sadly, most people do not know what it says because they have never taken the time to read and study the Bible for themselves.

To many, the Bible may call to mind thoughts of "religion" and whatever religious experience they had as a child (regardless of whether or not it was based on God's true Word). Many presume its message to be out-of-date or irrelevant. Some people think that the Bible is a book from which men can pick and choose the ideas they like. Yet, deep within, most people realize that the Bible deserves respect, even if they do not really know or believe what it says.

God's Word is powerful. As you present His truth, God can give clear sight to confused, blinded minds and penetrate sin-stained hearts. Pray that God will open the minds and hearts of your students to learn and to believe this Book of all books, the Bible.<sup>1</sup>

**REFERENCE MATERIAL:**

Following is a list of books which may help you in preparing for this lesson:

*From God to Us—How We Got Our Bible*, by Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix. Moody Press, Chicago, 1974.

*What You Should Know About Inerrancy*, by Charles C. Ryrie. Moody Press, Chicago, 1981.

**OVERVIEW**

This lesson is designed to introduce the Bible to your students. Included are some interesting facts and general information about the Bible and how it came to us. The main point of this lesson is to establish the fact that the Bible is the Word of God.

This lesson also presents to the students the general guidelines for the entire study:

- God-centered
- chronological
- panoramic (rather than in depth of detail)
- dealing only with foundational issues.

<sup>1</sup>You will probably learn quite a bit about your students' knowledge of the Bible as you go through this lesson. Some may be students of the Bible themselves; others may have never opened a Bible with the purpose of studying it.

Don't assume that just because a student is a successful businessman or woman that he or she is familiar with the basic operations of finding books, chapters, and verses. And don't let a student know if you are surprised at how little he knows. They have come to study the Bible with you; try to find ways to encourage them in their progress. Consider even the most elementary question important. If their questions are off the subject, you may have to tell them that you must wait until a later lesson to fully answer. But let them know that you appreciate their interest. □

*Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell, Here's Life Publishers, San Bernadino.

You may find additional reference materials such as these a great help in encouraging interested students. If a student asks questions which you don't have time to answer during class, you can refer him to the selected reference material so that he can research answers for himself. This will save class time and keep the discussion on track while still giving the student a thoughtful response to his questions.

---

### VISUALS:

---

- Chronological Picture No. 1, "God's Word Written"
- Map or globe of the world
- Map of the Mideast
- Map of Israel

The maps could be from a current atlas so that the students may see that you are relating to present-day locations. (In future lessons you will use the Chronological Maps provided with these lessons. Chronological Map 1 may be used for this lesson.)

If possible, bring to class a few Bibles translated into other languages.

---

### LOOKING AHEAD:

---

Suggestion: Read through Lesson 4, "God Created the Heavens and the Earth," and consider which reference materials you may want to locate or order and study ahead of time. Though you will **not** be debating creation versus evolution, you will find it helpful to be prepared to handle the discussion which may arise as you teach Lesson 4. By making available selected books, tapes, and/or videos, you will be able to concentrate on the primary goals of the lesson during class time and still provide the students opportunity to seek out answers to their questions as they study the additional materials on their own.

---

### NOTES REGARDING THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE:

---

The inerrancy of the Scriptures is an extremely important fact. It can be shown to be true through many avenues of proof, some of which are explored more fully in the resource materials listed above.

For us who teach, it is **vital** that we believe in the inerrancy of the Bible. If you are not clear on this issue yourself, it would be wise to study some of these resources so that your faith can rest more firmly in God's true Word.

But for your students, some of whom may not even be believers, it is **not** essential that you "prove" or force the issue of inerrancy at this point.

The Bible itself is its own strongest proof. As stated in Hebrews 4:12, "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...*" As you teach God's Word, His Spirit will be working on blinded minds and hardened hearts.

The need at this early stage of your teaching is to make sure that you are communicating the facts in such a way that the students are hearing what you intend to say to them. Don't be upset if they don't believe you. Just be sure you are delivering the truth. God will do the rest.

You may be amazed at how, after you have taught many lessons, the person who scoffed at the Bible will become a more open-minded, interested listener, thirsty to learn more about our wonderful God from His matchless Word!

**ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:**

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

**DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!**

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

**LESSON FORMAT:** The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

---

**TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS**  
(Center Column Only)

---

**LESSON OUTLINE:****A. Introduction**

We have met for one purpose: to study the Bible.

Many people have Bibles in their homes, but most people know very little of what is in the Bible.

- It IS a big book.
- Many people start to read it and get "bogged down."

We want to help you understand the Bible because it is God's personal message to each one of us.

- A person can spend a lifetime enjoying the study of this book.
- But in our study we are going to examine some of the **basic** things the Bible teaches. Once you understand these basic truths, the rest of the Bible will begin to make more sense.

**B. God is the focus of our study.\***

We are going to study who God is and what He does.

- God really wants us to get to know Him; that's why He gave us the Bible.
- God is the central character of the Bible.
- As we study, you will learn what He is really like:

Who He is

What He does

What He is like—His personality.

God will be the main focus of our study because He is the main focus of the Bible.

\*Remember that these lettered, bold outline headings are not to be spoken; the thought is included in the lesson text. □

**C. We will study the Bible chronologically.**

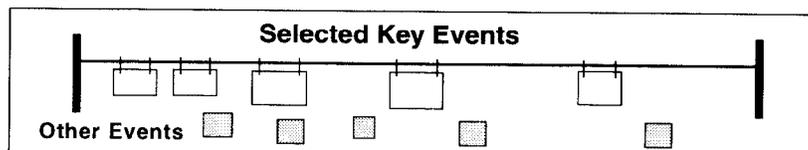
The Bible is not just a book of doctrines, or teachings, about God; it is the story of history as seen from God's perspective.

It is God's recounting of history from its very beginning.

Therefore, in our study of the Bible we are going to walk through history, so to speak, seeing little by little what God reveals about His own character, about Satan, and about mankind.

We are going to study the Bible chronologically; that is, in the order in which events took place.

*Suggested Visual:*



- Explain:

*Studying this way is a little like stretching out a clothesline and then hanging clothes on it.*

*We will be stretching out the Biblical time line and placing selected events on that line.*

*You may already know about certain details of the Bible but not yet have a clear understanding of where they fit into the overall picture.*

*But when the events we study are securely "hung in place," the details you may have wondered about will begin to fit into their proper position among the things already on the line.*

*We will concentrate on "setting up the clothesline," that is, establishing the basic time line of Bible history; and we will be placing some key events on that line. But we will not have time, so to speak, to put everything on the line.*

We are going to begin our next lesson in Genesis, which is where God's story of history begins.

Genesis is the foundational book of the Bible.

- You might make a comparison to the way that a house is built:

Foundations are laid first.

Then structures can be added on top of firm foundations, one piece at a time.

If the foundations aren't first built properly, the rest of the house is structurally weak.

For this reason, it is very important that you attend every lesson.

- Everything we study will be important and will become part of the "foundation" for our future studies.

- If you miss a session, you will find it more difficult to understand later lessons.<sup>2</sup>

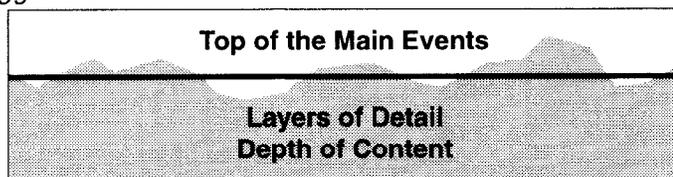
**D. We will be skimming the surface of events but laying firm foundations for understanding the Bible.**

The Bible is rich and deep in content and themes.

We are only going to skim the surface of the vast wealth contained in it.

<sup>2</sup>You may want to tape your lessons and offer a tape to any student who can't attend a particular session. □

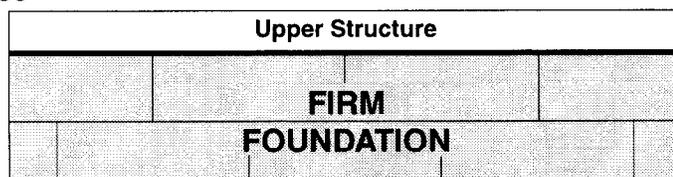
**Suggested Visual:**<sup>3</sup>



- Explain:

*Just like this visual shows, there are many layers and depths of details and content in the Bible. We are not going down deeply into these layers. Rather, we are going to skim the top of some of the main events.*

**Suggested Visual:**



- Explain:

*As we mentioned, we are going to be laying blocks for a firm foundation. We are going to study the basic things that will help you later to understand some of those depths and details of the Bible.*

*If a building is to stand, it needs a firm foundation. That is the purpose of this study. We are going to concentrate on the foundation and will not work on the upper structure until the foundation is firmly built.*

*So when you ask a question that goes down deeply into the details or pertains to the upper structure, I will have to hold off on answering you.*

We are laying a solid foundation upon which we can later build more understanding.

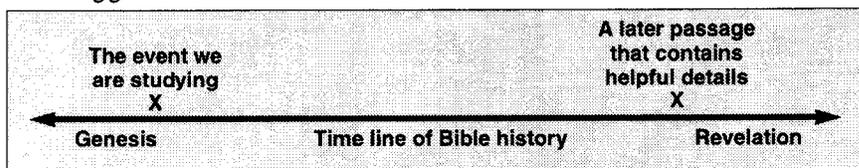
**E. We want to avoid sidetracks and the confusion that comes from mixing the themes of the Bible.**

We will try to stay on target with our lesson outline and not get sidetracked.

We want you to be able to learn these foundational truths of the Bible and not be distracted.

The Bible is basically written in a chronological order, but we will reach certain events in the time line that are expanded upon in greater detail in later portions of the Bible.

**Suggested Visual:**



- As we study chronologically, we may draw certain details from these later portions to enhance our understanding.

<sup>3</sup>If wisely used, these two simple illustrations and the one on the previous page will be a help throughout the entire chronological study. If possible, keep these three illustrations on the wall or have them handy so that you may point to them as needed to pull a discussion back on track.

Using simple visuals takes the attention away from the student (who is pulling the discussion away from the main subject) and puts the focus on the direction of the course. It is a polite, non-threatening way to stay on track and to avoid arguments and confusion.

For example, if a student wants to go into details that are not covered in the outline, you could thank them for their question but say, "Just like our illustration here shows, we're only going to skim along the top of the main events. We don't want to get bogged down in details."

Or, if a student starts to discuss one of the themes, such as sanctification, which is not covered in the course, you might say, "That is an interesting thought, but, like our illustration, the issue you're talking about pertains to the upper structure. We want to stick to building the foundations right now."

Or, if a student wants to ask a question about an event that runs ahead, chronologically, of the current lesson (but an event you will not be covering later), you might say, "Just like our clothesline illustration shows, that's one of the details we won't be covering in this course. But later in our studies we will be filling in some events of that time period that will help you see how what you're talking about fits into the overall picture." □

<sup>4</sup>The three issues we are speaking of are:

1. penalty of sin
2. Salvation from the power of sin (sanctification)
3. Salvation from the presence of sin (glorification).

Don't discuss these issues; just go on with the lesson. (For your own reference, see the discussion of foundational themes on page 77.)

In reference to the first issue a student may ask, "What is the problem sin has caused?" Assure him that the answer to this question will be covered in a later lesson. □

<sup>5</sup>Don't get into a discussion of the various religions, denominations, cults, etc.!

This point is made here because it addresses one of the major issues in the minds of many students; that is, "Where did all of the different religions come from? Why are there so many denominations?"

If someone wants to venture into this subject, tell them that this is not the purpose of this study. We are, instead, looking at what the Bible has to say.

You might tell them that when a person knows what the Bible really says, then he has a basis for evaluating the various religions and denominations. □

<sup>6</sup>Some of your students may not be familiar at all with the Bible. They may not know how to find books, chapters, verses, etc. Take time to give whatever help they need. □

- When we do this, we need to be very careful to stick to the original topic of our study.

We need to understand that the Bible deals with many different issues, questions, and themes.

- Some of these themes and questions and answers begin in the earliest parts of the Bible and continue through to its closing pages.
- Often you will find two or more themes or questions being addressed in one portion.
- This could be confusing—indeed it has been to many people.

One example of this confusion is that the Bible addresses three major issues about the topic of sin:<sup>4</sup>

1. What God has done so people can be saved from the first great problem sin has caused.<sup>4</sup>
2. What God has done to set people free from sin that is controlling their lives.
3. What God will do so people will be completely free from all the problems sin causes.

The mixing of these three issues has been one of the major contributing factors to the existence and increase of the many different cults, religions, and denominations.<sup>5</sup>

We, too, will get confused unless we tenaciously stick to the first issue: **What God has done so people can be saved from the first great problem sin has caused.**

- Therefore, as we study chronologically, there will be times when you may ask questions or we may look at verses which include other issues or themes that are not part of this foundation.
- When this happens, my job as a teacher is to make sure that we stick to the subject at hand.
- We, too, will become confused unless we build our understanding one step at a time.

**Indeed, the other themes in the Bible cannot be clearly understood unless we first understand the foundational themes.**

- Therefore we are going to limit our discussion to the foundations; that is what this study is all about!
- So you might say, in light of our illustrations, that we will be building a firm foundation, skimming the peaks of the details, and stretching a line upon which we can place the events in time.

## F. A look at the Bible

Now open your Bible.

Let's take a look at the many things the Book contains:<sup>6</sup>

- Table of Contents
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Chapters, verse numbers
- Footnotes, various helps.

The Bible is God's Word.

- When we talk about the Bible being God's Word, we are referring to the text of the Bible, not the various notes that men have added.<sup>7</sup>

The Bible means a lot to me.

- Example:

*"The Bible is my favorite book. I know that when I read God's Word, I'll find the help I need for every day. The Bible tells me what God is like. He's wonderful! The more I read, the more I want to read and to know Him better".<sup>8</sup>*

**G. The Bible is the most important and unique book in the whole world because it is the Word of GOD.**



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**



**Theme: God communicates with man.**



READ II Timothy 3:16: **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."**<sup>9</sup>

God spoke to men called "prophets" the exact messages He wanted written down.

- Sometimes He spoke audibly.
- Sometimes He spoke to them in visions.
- Sometimes He just put the message directly into their minds.
- God caused the prophets to write exactly what He spoke to them.



READ II Peter 1:20,21.

The Bible is not men's ideas, but God's own Word.

**Suggested Visual:**



*This picture portrays a prophet writing down on a scroll the message given him by God.*

**CHRONOLOGICAL PICTURE NO 1, "GOD'S WORD WRITTEN"**

The Bible is the only book in the world authored by God.

God wrote the Bible over the course of 1,600 years, using over 40 men.



**Theme: God does not change.**

But the Bible has absolute unity, from beginning to end, because **God is its one Author.**

- Illustrate:

*If several people standing together witnessed the same incident, they would have different stories about what actually happened.*

<sup>7</sup>Some Bibles have extensive footnotes which can be very misleading. If you are providing Bibles for your students, use Bibles which have only the Bible text without commentary.

If your students have brought their own Bibles, take the time to point out for the students, in their Bibles, which part is God's Word and which part is not. □

<sup>8</sup>This is not a salvation testimony; rather, it is a simple testimony of your appreciation for the Bible. □

<sup>9</sup>Remember that when the verse is printed in the lesson like this, the high-lighted portion is the part you want to talk about.

The other part of the verse contains themes that you do not want to cover at this point. Stick tenaciously to the subject!

Also, you may want to tell your students how to find II Timothy. You could tell them that this book is almost to the end of the Bible; that is, if they open their Bibles in the middle, II Timothy is almost all the way to the right...etc. □

*But the Bible, written in vastly different cultures and different times by different men is one unit.*

- The only answer for the unity of the Bible is **one author—God!**

**H. The Bible is God's message to the world which He gave through the Jewish people.**

 **Theme: God communicates with man.**

 **Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

All but one of the men whom God used to write His Word were Jewish. (Luke was apparently a Gentile—a Gentile is anyone who is not Jewish.)

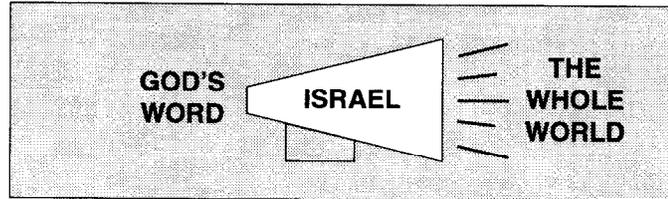
In Isaiah 43:10, God says of Israel (that is, the Jewish people), "*Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD....*"

SHOW MAP OF WORLD, MIDEAST, ISRAEL.

God used one group of people through whom He expressed His message to and for the whole world.

In Isaiah 45:22 God says, "*Look unto me...all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else.*"<sup>10</sup>

*Suggested Visual*



- Explain:

*You might say that Israel was like God's megaphone, broadcasting God's message to the whole world.*

**I. The Bible has been passed down to us intact and with extreme accuracy.**

 **Theme: God does not change.**

Originally, God's prophets wrote down God's message.

As the original documents wore out from use and age, new copies had to be made.

Copying was done with extreme care.<sup>11</sup>

- In the *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*,<sup>12</sup> we read the following statement regarding the men who made handwritten copies of the Bible:

*"They used every imaginable safeguard, no matter how cumbersome or laborious, to ensure the accurate transmission of the text. The number of letters in a book was counted and its middle letter was given. Similarly with the words, and again the middle word of the book was noted...."*

- Though every word was hand copied, there are more ancient manuscripts of the Bible than of any other ancient document.

<sup>10</sup>This verse contains themes that you should not cover at this point. That is why you are only quoting part of the verse. Don't get sidetracked! □

<sup>11</sup>See "Notes Regarding the Inerrancy of Scripture" in the Lesson Preparation section at the beginning of this lesson.

The issue of inerrancy is hotly contested by many scholars, and you do not want to set the stage for a debate. However, you do want to make it clear that the **Bible is true**.

If the discussion seems to be getting out of hand, simply refer the student to the suggested reference books, thank him for his questions, and tell him that you must go on with the lesson. □

<sup>12</sup>The *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Part 3, J. D. Douglas, Editor, p. 1538, Inter-Varsity Press, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, IL, 1980. □

Romans 3:1,2

- All of the ancient manuscripts that have been found are extremely close in content, differing only in minute details that do not affect the meaning.

Example:

*In 1947, about 15 miles from Jerusalem, a shepherd boy threw a rock into a cave, hoping to scare out one of his animals that had strayed into the cave. He heard the sound of pottery breaking and went inside the cave to investigate. To his amazement, he beheld pottery urns holding ancient scrolls. He reported his find, and when scholars investigated, they found hundreds of scrolls. These "Dead Sea Scrolls" had been hidden in area caves by a religious sect sometime during the first century before Christ.*

*At the time of this discovery, translators were using manuscripts which had been copied in about 900 A.D. When scholars compared the Dead Sea Scrolls with the manuscripts which they had been using, there were no significant differences in text! Though separated by 1,000 years, these ancient manuscripts said the same thing. God preserves His Word.*

- *The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*<sup>13</sup> gives us more insight regarding the Old Testament texts:

"...it is important to recall the attitude of the Jews toward their Scriptures. It can best be summed up in the statement by Josephus [a Jewish writer of the 1st century A.D.]. 'We have given practical proof of our reverence for our own Scriptures. For, although such long ages have now passed, no one has ventured either to add, or to remove, or to alter a syllable; and it is an instinct with every Jew...to regard them as the decrees of God....'"

How did we get the Bible in our language?

- For many centuries, only a few people were able to have copies of the Bible.

In the time of Christ, the scribes kept the scrolls (rolls of parchment or leather on which text was written in ink) in the temple.

Many of the New Testament books were originally written as letters which were circulated from one church to another.

- The original texts of the Bible were written in one of three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek.

Down through the ages, God enabled men to translate the Bible into different languages.

Many copies of the ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts are still in existence. Translators have been able to study these as they translate the Bible.

Today, we have a variety of printed Bibles readily available in our language.

- The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book.<sup>14</sup>

#### J. The Bible is an accurate historical record.

Archeological discoveries in recent years have revealed many pieces of ancient information that agree in minute detail with the Bible.

- Places
- Cultural details

<sup>13</sup>J.D. Douglas, Editor, p. 1537. □

<sup>14</sup>If you have brought Bible translations, show them to your students. □

- Names
- Dates.

Writings contemporary with the Bible agree in historical detail, cultural information, writing style, etc.

Over the years, thousands upon thousands of archeological and historical evidences relating to the Bible have been uncovered, and ALL of these support the accuracy of the Bible.

In *Archeology and Bible History*, Joseph Free wrote that "...numerous passages of the Bible which long puzzled the commentators have readily yielded up their meaning when new light from archeological discoveries has been focused on them....archeology has confirmed countless passages...."<sup>15</sup>

As we study future lessons, we will discuss some of these archeological and historical discoveries.

Many of the cultures, places, and names mentioned in the Bible are visible today, having remained almost unchanged over the centuries.

The Bible has withstood the test of time.



**Theme: God does not change.**

- New discoveries only serve to echo and reinforce the absolute accuracy, authority, and authenticity of every word God has given us in His Book.
- By contrast, books written by men, such as school textbooks, reference books, and scientific texts, all must be drastically changed every few years as more is learned and old theories are replaced.
- The Bible has not and will not change because God is its author.



READ Psalm 119:89.

**K. The Bible has the answers for the most important questions of life.**

The Bible is not just another "religious" book.

- Many men have written books, trying to tell men about God.
- God is the author of the Bible, and in it He reveals Himself to us. In the Bible God tells us who He is: what He wants us to know about Him—what He is like.

In the Bible, God tells us about ourselves: our relationship to Him, to the world around us, to one another, for now and for all eternity.

Only the Bible addresses these issues with absolute authority.



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**



**Theme: God communicates with man.**



READ Hebrews 4:12.

The Bible is God's voice speaking to us.

Through His Word He shows us what we really are inside.

<sup>15</sup>Quoted from *More Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell, p. 21. □

**L. The Bible is God's personal message to each of us; it is the most important message we will ever be given.**

Why is it so important for you and me to study the Bible?

Why should we take the time to study the Bible?

- A lot of other things call for our attention:<sup>16</sup>

- Our work
- Our home
- Recreation
- Studies.

- Lots of other material is available:

- Books and magazines
- Television, movies, and videos.

The Bible is unique.

- The Bible alone has God's message for our lives today.
- The Bible alone tells us what God thinks of us and what He sees as our greatest need.

**The Bible is important because it is God's personal message to each one of us!**

- Young, old, man, woman, or child—God wrote the Bible to each one of us personally.
- God wants you and He wants me to know what is in this Book; that's why He wrote it.

**M. Conclusion:**

It will take time to go through these lessons, but you will find it to be one of the most worthwhile investments you will ever make.

- You will be learning about God.
- And you will be learning what He has written for you in His Book, the Bible.

In the book, *From God to Us, How We Got Our Bible*, the authors open by saying that the Bible is "the most quoted, the most published, the most translated, and the most influential book in the history of mankind."<sup>17</sup>

The Bible is also God's personal message to us. He wrote it to communicate with people—with you and with me. If someone writes us a letter, we want to read it. This Bible is God's letter to us. Let's study God's Word together and find out what it says!

<sup>16</sup>The tone here should be objective. You are hoping to encourage your students to come back and study the Bible. The Word itself will, in time, bring conviction. □

<sup>17</sup>*From God to Us—How We Got Our Bible*, by Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix. Moody Press, Chicago, 1974, p. 7. □

**QUESTIONS:**

1. When God wanted His words written down, did He get just anyone to do it? *No, He chose special men.*
2. What are these men called? *Prophets.*
3. Did these men all live during the same time in history? *No, many of them lived at different times. It took about 1,600 years before all of God's words were written.*
4. How many men were there? *Approximately forty.*
5. What nationality were they? *They were all Jewish, except one man. (Luke was a Gentile.)*

*Lesson 1: Introducing the Bible*

Teacher's Notes

Scripture  
Reference

6. Did they write God's words in English? *No. (They were written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.)*
7. Who is the author of the Bible? *God.*
8. Why should a person study the Bible? *The Bible is God's personal message to every individual.*

**LESSON**  
**2**

**God Alone**

**LESSON PREPARATION**

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note:** If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:1

**LESSON GOALS:**

- To present the fact of God's existence before all things.
- To establish the fact of God's sovereignty.<sup>1</sup>

**THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:**

- To have an increased awe of God as the sovereign and eternal Lord.
- To consider God's account of the beginning.

**PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:**

In our culture, self is exalted and assigned that place of control and supremacy that belongs to God alone.<sup>2</sup> Here are just a few of the evidences of this self-centered thinking: People in our country spend millions of dollars every year to improve their self-image and to try to exert more control over their lives and over the world around them. Our schools are being swiftly and subtly taken over by humanistic philosophies that put man in the place of God. At every turn, men are seeking knowledge and boasting of their discoveries as if they had originated life and the laws that control the universe. To be anything but the best and the one in control of one's own destiny seems unthinkable in our culture.

These lessons will cut against the grain of this type of thinking. To some who have been accustomed to putting self on the throne, it may seem that they are showing weakness if they allow God His rightful place. But God says that this is the beginning of wisdom. (Note Proverbs 1:7.)

God's Word, taught in the power of the Holy Spirit and with prayer, is able to transform minds and hearts.

**INTRODUCING THE TRINITY:**

Point "D" of the lesson outline introduces that God is a Trinity. The word "Trinity" does not appear in Scripture, but the fact of the Trinity is evident from Genesis to Revelation. (The Scripture Reference column gives some examples.)

The Trinity is introduced at this point in the lessons because:

1. The Trinity is eternal and, chronologically, existed before the beginning.
2. The word "God" in Genesis 1:1 is the Hebrew word *Elohim*. Because of its ending, *Elohim* is a plural name with a singular meaning (indicated by

**OVERVIEW**

This lesson begins to lay the foundational truth of God's sovereignty by showing that God existed alone before the beginning and that He exists independently of all else and needs nothing. It gives a very brief introduction to the Trinity.

It also establishes the fact that because God was the only one there before the beginning, He alone can tell us what happened in the beginning.

<sup>1</sup>In presenting His sovereignty, we will be introducing several characteristics and attributes of God: His eternality, His omnipresence, the fact that He is Spirit; the fact that He is a Trinity.

We will use a few selected proof texts to establish these points. But remember, this study is **foundational**. Do not turn this lesson into a topical study with many proof texts. **Keep it simple.** Let the Word do its work in hearts by carefully planting selected portions, a little at a time. □

<sup>2</sup>Be alert to your students' comments and questions. Their responses to the lesson will begin to reveal their understanding of God.

Some of your students may be deeply involved in humanistic thinking. Avoid debating with them. Rather, try to show them that the difference is not between what they think and what you think, but between what they think and what God's Word says. □

Job 38:4  
Psalm  
50:21;  
90:2  
Isaiah  
43:10;  
46:9,10;  
55:8,9  
Colos-  
sians  
1:17  
Hebrews  
1:10-12  
Revela-  
tion 1:8

Daniel  
11:36;  
12:4

The  
Trinity:  
Genesis  
1:1,2;  
1:26;  
3:22  
Matthew  
28:17-  
19  
Romans  
8:26,34  
II Corin-  
thians  
13:14  
Ephe-  
sians  
1:17;  
2:13,18  
Hebrews  
9:14

the fact that it is used with singular verbs). This suggests the uni-plurality of the Godhead.

3. God the Son was there in the beginning. He is included with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit in the words, *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*

John  
1:1-3

4. If we fail to teach the Trinity in the beginning and throughout the Old Testament, it will be more difficult to teach the deity of Jesus when we come to the story of His birth. It is much easier for us to teach and for our students to understand if we have taught—from the beginning—that Jesus was forever co-equal with the Father, active in creation, and in the entire Old Testament story. A statement such as, *"...Before Abraham was, I am"* (John 8:58), will be less difficult for people to understand if we have taught them that God the Son was there, even before the beginning.

NOTE: We will not use His name, Jesus, or His title, Christ, while teaching the Old Testament. Both are connected with His earthly ministry. Refer to Him only as God the Son during the Old Testament teaching.

5. Since the Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Old Testament, the subject of the Trinity cannot be avoided (Genesis 1:2, cf. 6:3).

6. Genesis 1:26 uses the plurals "us" and "our."

**Do not try to explain the Trinity. It is impossible, and all illustrations (e.g., water, egg, triangle) fall far short of the truth. It is better to admit that we cannot understand the Trinity.**

#### A WORD OF CAUTION:

If you have a student who is a Jehovah's Witness or who has been exposed to their teachings, you may find that he will try to argue the fact of the Trinity.

If this situation arises, graciously tell the student that the purpose of this class is to study the Bible. You will be presenting foundational truth, a little at a time. If he is interested and wants to listen with an open mind, he is welcome. Tell him that if he really wants to get to know God, you are really interested in helping him.

Tell them that honest questions relating to the subject are always welcome, even though you may hold off on answering until a later lesson. But arguments and debates just aren't appropriate here. (See II Timothy 2:24-26.)

Talk with him after class if needed. But if he still won't comply, you may have to ask him not to continue the study with the group. You may want to offer to study with him alone. But in some instances, you may need to refrain. (See Titus 3:10.)

---

#### VISUALS:

---

- "The Bible Is HIS STORY"—This can just be written on a board as you teach, or, it could be a small poster that you keep on the wall in your class throughout the course. Small posters like this can brighten your classroom and are excellent reminders of the truths you are teaching.
- Chronological Chart
- Chart comparing GOD and man (see below)

For this lesson, you may want to make a chart comparing God and man. This could be done beforehand on a sheet of poster board; or it could be done as you teach, using a chalkboard or other visual surface; or you may want to prepare the chart for use on an overhead projector. Notes for adding to the chart as you teach are included in the lesson.

Write in man's characteristics, but do not comment on them. The purpose of the chart is to exalt God as sovereign and to help the students to think about God's greatness. The comments on man are just visual "seeds" to plant in your students' minds.

The completed chart will look like this:

GOD	MAN
GOD had no beginning, will have no end.	MAN is born and dies.
GOD is a Trinity of three persons.	MAN is only one person.
GOD needs nothing.	MAN needs food, water, air, sleep, light, protection, etc.
GOD knows everything.	MAN needs to be taught.
GOD is Spirit and has no material body.	MAN has a material body.
GOD is everywhere all the time.	MAN is only in one place at a time.
GOD is greater than all and more important than all; He is the highest authority.	MAN should be under God's authority and listen to everything God says.
GOD was there before the beginning of everything.	MAN was not there before the beginning.

**ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:**

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

**DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!**

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

LESSON FORMAT: The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

**TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS  
(Center Column Only)**

**LESSON OUTLINE:**

REVIEW questions from Lesson 1.

**A. Introduction**

Who is God?

What is He like?

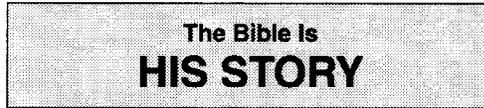
How can we know Him?

In our first lesson we said that God is the main character, the central focus, of the Bible.

- He is the one who gave this message to us.
- The Bible is a book of true history—history from God's perspective.

- It is God's story, or, as someone has so correctly said, the Bible is "HIS STORY."

Suggested Visual:



We are going to learn about God from God Himself.

We will study what He has said about Himself in His Word.

- Sometimes, as in today's lesson, we will study specific statements He has made about Himself.
- Other times we will learn about Him by studying **what He does**.
- His nature and character are revealed through what He has done in and through events He recorded for us in His Word.

God has given us a wealth of knowledge about Himself.

- Why would He do this?
- Why? Because He wants us to know Him!
- In Jeremiah 9:23,24 God says, "*Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: **But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD...***"<sup>3</sup>

How great is God?<sup>4</sup>

- How important is He?
- Did He have a beginning?
- Will He have an end?
- Where did He come from?
- What does God need?

Let's see how God answers these questions in His Word, the Bible.

### B. Only God is eternal. All else has a beginning.



READ Genesis 1:1.

The first words God wrote for us in the Bible are, "*In the beginning...*" (Genesis 1:1).<sup>5</sup>

- God gave us these words so that we would know there was a beginning to all things.
- Everything that we can see and everything that we know about but can't see had a beginning, except God Himself.
- Before the beginning, there was:
  - No universe
  - No earth
  - No angels
  - No Devil
  - No plants
  - No animals
  - No people.
- All these had specific beginnings.

<sup>3</sup>The teacher reads this verse in part because the rest of it (not printed here) contains themes that run ahead of the lesson. The words in bold type are what you want to emphasize. □

<sup>4</sup>Do not pause long enough for discussion to begin on these questions. They are not intended to evoke answers; they are posed to cause the students to think. □

<sup>5</sup>Genesis is the foundation for all the Scriptures and Genesis 1 is the foundation for Genesis. Do not rush through Genesis 1 because the basic revelations of the nature and character of God are presented in it. □

**C. God alone had no beginning; God will have no end; God is ETERNAL.**



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

Before anything came to be, God existed as He does now and will forever.

We're going to make a chart listing some things about God and about man. We'll begin with this: <sup>6</sup>

BEGIN CHART:

GOD	MAN
GOD had no beginning, will have no end.	MAN is born and dies.



Read Psalm 90:2.

- There never was a time when God did not exist.
  - He did not have a beginning.
  - He was not created.
  - He has always been alive.
  - He has always been and will always be the same.
  - There never will be a time when God does not exist.
  - God can never die.

**D. God is a Trinity.<sup>7</sup>**

SHOW CHRONOLOGICAL CHART DISPLAYING THE WORDS: GOD—FATHER, SON, HOLY SPIRIT.

God is eternally one God.

But look at Genesis 1:26: *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."* <sup>8</sup>

We aren't going to study this verse right now; we just want to look at the pronouns "us" and "our."

Even in Genesis 1:1 the Hebrew word for God is a plural word.

As we study God's Word, we will discover that, although there is only one God, there are three persons who are equally God:

Who are these three persons?

All of the three are named in Matthew 28:19: <sup>8</sup>

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit ("Holy Ghost" means "Holy Spirit")

We use the word "Trinity" to describe these three persons who are the one Eternal God.

ADD TO CHART:

GOD is a Trinity of three persons.	MAN is only one person.
------------------------------------	-------------------------

As we study the Bible, we will see these three persons at work and we will learn much more about them.

<sup>6</sup>Remember that the statements about man are written without comment. They are just there to make your students consider God's greatness and to prepare their minds for later studies.

If a student starts discussing man, remind him that in this lesson we are just focusing on God. □

<sup>7</sup>As mentioned in the introduction, do not try to explain the Trinity.

This subject will probably stir up many questions, and some students will have a hard time waiting until later lessons for answers. As tactfully as you can, try to assure them that their questions are good, but that you must wait to answer them. Unless you hold your ground in this, you may find yourself on a "rabbit trail" that detracts from the lesson and confuses those who haven't enough knowledge to understand the answer. How much you can answer will depend upon the level of understanding of your students. Always keep in mind that those who do not have a background in Scripture may be easily confused. If you have students at several levels of understanding, it may be necessary to spend time separately with those who have some previous knowledge and understanding of the Word.

If you encounter a student who wants to debate the fact of the Trinity, please note the suggestion under "Introducing the Trinity," in the Lesson Preparation section of this lesson. □

<sup>8</sup>Be careful to stick to the subject here. Both of these verses, Genesis 1:26 and Matthew 28:19 are used only to show specific words. Don't get sidetracked into the subject of the verses themselves. □

But for now we will just establish that these three persons are **one God** who is eternal and that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all equally God.

There is the Father who is God, the Son who is God, and the Holy Spirit who is God.

Confusing? Yes, to us it certainly is!

God is so much greater than we can imagine.

- The Trinity is beyond our understanding.
- We can only describe what we understand from God's Word.

The amazing fact of the Trinity is just one of the things that shows us the greatness of God—greatness that is beyond our ability to comprehend.

**E. Because God alone existed before all things, God is completely independent of everything and everyone.**



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

Because God existed before all things, we know that He had need of nothing to sustain Him.<sup>9</sup>

- God was there alone, before the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, the galaxies.

He does not need the earth nor anything on it.

- He doesn't need air to breathe.
- He doesn't need food to eat.
- He doesn't need water to drink.

God does not need the sun.

- He can see perfectly without any light.
- He doesn't need to sleep; He has no need of day or night.

God doesn't need any source of energy.

- He never gets tired, thirsty, or hungry.

Psalm 121:3  
Isaiah 40:28

ADD TO CHART:

GOD needs nothing.



Read Isaiah 40:28: "*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that **the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.***"<sup>10</sup>

God doesn't need anyone to teach Him.

- He knows everything; He possesses all knowledge.
- He is aware of everything.



Read Psalm 147:5: "*Great is our Lord, and of great power: **his understanding is infinite.***"



Read Romans 11:33,34.

<sup>9</sup>To support this point, you may want to use God's name, "I Am," (Exodus 3:14), which implies that God is the self-existent one. (See further treatment of this name in Lesson 21, Point I.) □

<sup>10</sup>Be sure to keep on the subject, indicated by the boldface type. □

ADD TO CHART:

GOD knows everything.

What about us? <sup>11</sup>

- Could we have been born into the world without parents?  
    Could we have survived as infants without care?  
    Could we have learned to be productive adults without someone to teach us?
- What about our bodies?  
    How long could we live without food and water?  
    How long could we live without oxygen?  
    How many days could we function rationally without sleep?  
    How long could we survive without protection against the sun's ultraviolet rays?
- We are totally dependent in these areas; but God does not need anything or any person.

ADD TO CHART:

MAN needs food, water, air, sleep, light, protection, etc.  
MAN needs to be taught.

**F. God is Spirit.**

God does not need the earth to live on and the many other things which we humans need because God does not have a body as we do.

John 4:24 says that "*God is a Spirit.*" <sup>12</sup>

- God does not have flesh and bones like humans, animals, birds, or reptiles.
- Because He does not have a material body, He does not have bodily needs.

ADD TO CHART:

GOD is Spirit and has no material body.      MAN has a material body.

We cannot comprehend one who has such ability, yet has no material body.

But it is important for us to take note of the fact that God is Spirit.

He is not just a "force," as some would describe Him.

No, God is Spirit, a Trinity of three persons, all with mind, personality, and will.

He is the God who has personally given us His Word so we can know Him.

We are very limited in our understanding.

We are very limited by our bodily needs.

But God has none of these limitations.

<sup>11</sup>Again, these are not discussion questions; they are simply intended to make your students think. □

<sup>12</sup>The teacher reads this verse only in part because the rest of the verse (not printed here) contains themes not covered in these lessons. Be sure to keep the lesson on track. Stick to the main themes. □

**G. God is in all places at the same time.**



**Theme: God is everywhere all the time.**



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

Where is God?

Where was He before everything else existed?

We cannot see God, and we cannot know where He is unless He tells us.

- Through our study of the Bible, you will see repeatedly that God is everywhere.
- God made everything, and He is present everywhere.
- He is **not** "in everything." <sup>13</sup>
- He is the Creator, distinct from His creation.

God is higher than all.

God is greater than all He has made.

- God fills the universe.



Read Jeremiah 23:23,24.

- He is in all places on the earth.
- God is here right now and can see us all.
- Illustration:

*Sometimes when we are especially busy, it might seem to us that we would like to be in more than one place at a time! But, obviously, as much as it might seem to help to be able to be "everywhere" at once, we are limited to being in one place at a time.*

- Note:

*One little boy, when hearing this teaching said, "God is so big He doesn't have to go anywhere!"*

ADD TO CHART:

GOD is everywhere all the time.

MAN is only in one place at a time.

- God and God alone is able to be everywhere all the time. Since God is everywhere all the time, is there any place you can be or go where He is not?<sup>14</sup>

Is there any place you can "hide" from God?



Read Psalm 139:7-12.

**H. God alone was before all things; He alone is greater than all; God is SOVEREIGN.**

God is beyond our comprehension:

AS YOU TEACH, POINT TO THE CHART YOU HAVE MADE.

- We cannot comprehend one who had no beginning and will have no end.
- We cannot imagine one who is three persons in one.
- We cannot understand one who is never in need of anything.

<sup>13</sup>Be certain that you make a clear distinction between God the Creator and His creation. Pantheistic religions (such as New Age) believe that god is everything and everything is god.

(Do not get into a discussion on creation here; it is simply mentioned to clarify the point of God's sovereignty.) □

<sup>14</sup>Some of your students may think that Satan can be everywhere, all the time. He cannot, though he has many demons spread over the earth. Each demon, also, can only be in one place at one time.

At this time, avoid getting into a discussion on Satan and his demons, as this will be addressed in the next lesson. □

Proverbs 15:3

Romans 11:33-36

- We cannot fathom one who knows everything.
- We cannot see one who is Spirit.
- We are unable to know what it is like to be everywhere at the same time.



Read Jeremiah 10:6.

We must simply admit that there is one who is infinitely greater than all—who is in every way superior to us.

The way we describe God's infinite superiority is to say that God is SOVEREIGN.

- Webster's Dictionary says that "sovereign" means "ruler, supreme in power, chief, efficacious [effective] in highest degree..."
- The Bible often refers to God as "The Most High."
- Psalm 83:18 calls God "*the most high over all the earth.*"
- In Isaiah 45:5, God says, "*I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me....*"

ADD TO CHART:<sup>15</sup>

GOD is greater than all and more important than all; He is the highest authority.	MAN should be under God's authority and listen to everything God says.
---	--

<sup>15</sup>Again, it is not necessary to comment on the note about man. □

**I. God alone can tell us about the beginning.**



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

Only God was there in the beginning!

ADD TO CHART:

GOD was there before the beginning of everything.	MAN was not there before the beginning.
---	---

He who had no beginning knows all that came to be and how it came to be.

And in the Bible He has given us the record of all beginnings.

**J. Conclusion**

God is great beyond our imagination:

- He is truly greater than all.
- He is sovereign.

He alone had no beginning.

He will have no end.

He is a Trinity, the great God who is three in one: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

He has need of nothing.

He has no bodily needs because He is Spirit.

He is in all places at the same time.

God is greater than all and more important than all; He is the Most High. He is sovereign.

He alone can tell us about the beginning, and we will study in the weeks ahead what God, the only one who was there, has told us about the beginning.

---

## QUESTIONS

---

1. Was there ever a time when God was not living? *No.*
2. What does God need in order to exist? *God doesn't need anything.*
3. Does God have a body? *No.*
4. How many Gods are there? *There is only one God.*
5. Who are the three living beings who are the one God? *God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*
6. Is there some remote place you could go on this earth or in this galaxy or this universe or anywhere that God would not be? *No.*
7. What do we mean when we say that God is sovereign? *He alone is ruler, supreme in power, chief, and efficacious [effective] in highest degree; He is the Most High.*

**LESSON**  
**3**

**God Created the Spirit Beings;  
Lucifer Rebelled**

**LESSON PREPARATION**

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note:** If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.

**LESSON GOALS:**

- To show the sovereignty and holiness of God in His creation of the spirits and in His dealing with Lucifer and the other spirits who rebelled against God.

**THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:**

- To see the sovereignty and omnipotence of God.
- To see the seriousness of rebellion against God.

**PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:**

In our society, Satan has been given increasing attention in films, books, music, games, and even as a focus for worship. People from all economic levels and backgrounds have become involved in satanic-oriented practices. II Corinthians 11:14 says that Satan masquerades as an angel of light. The Enemy's subtlety has fooled some (like Eve), while others have simply made knowing steps of rebellion (like Adam).

Anything that causes people to search for answers or "power" from any source other than God is of Satan. Satan is a liar, a thief, a deceiver, an accuser, and a murderer. He wants to fill the Lake of Fire with as many people as he can draw away from God.

As this lesson is studied, you may find that your students have many questions. You may even find that some are involved in satanic things, such as (to name only a few), horoscopes, ouija boards, mediums, seances, satanic games, or rock music with filthy words.

But remember: no matter what opposition we face to the message of the Bible; no matter what difficulties, entanglements, and sins may be manifest in our students, we have assurance in God's Word that He is stronger than all. Nothing is too hard for Him. In Jesus Christ, we have victory.

God will use His Word in hearts and will give you wisdom in dealing with your students. Our Enemy is strong, but **OUR GOD IS STRONGER THAN ALL!**

**NOTE:**

Before we teach how God created all the material things which can be seen, we will first teach that God created the spirit world which generally cannot be seen. It is best to teach about the spirits and Satan at this stage because:

1. All spirits—that is, all angels—witnessed the creation of the earth (Job 38:4-7).

**OVERVIEW**

This lesson establishes that God created all the spirit beings. It presents God who is sovereign and holy, greater than all created beings, creating all things perfect. It also shows God's sovereignty and holiness in dealing with Lucifer's willful rebellion against God.

Isaiah  
14:12-20  
Ezekiel  
28:11-18  
Romans  
8:37-39  
Ephesians  
6:10-18

Revelation  
20:10-15

Jeremiah  
32:27  
Matthew  
16:18  
Revelation  
1:8

2. It is much easier for both teacher and learner if each actor is introduced into the story at the time of its creation or birth, rather than the teacher having to return to an earlier point in the story to fill in the gaps.
3. The story of Genesis 3 is complicated enough in itself, without adding the teaching of the creation and fall of Satan and his hosts.

The Bible does not give a clear chronology of the fall of Satan. For this reason, theologians have often come to differing conclusions regarding whether this took place before, after, or during the creation of the world. (Many point to Genesis 1:31, "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good..." to support the view that all the spirit beings were still in their original, perfect state at this point.) In these lessons we will not deal with this issue, as it is not critical to a foundational understanding of the Word.

**CAUTION:** Two of the key Old Testament passages relating to the doctrine of Satan are Isaiah 14:12-20 and Ezekiel 28:11-18. These are used carefully in the outline because they are difficult passages to interpret, since they also contain prophecy pertaining to men. **Be very careful to limit any discussion to the subject at hand.**

A good source of Scriptures relating to angels and to Satan and demons is Vine's *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*.<sup>1</sup> This is just a quick reference; obviously, more comprehensive studies and books are available.

<sup>1</sup>An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, W. E. Vine, M.A. Fleming H. Revell Co., 1966. □

---

## VISUALS:

---

- Chronological Chart
- 

### ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

#### DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

**LESSON FORMAT:** The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

---

## TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS (Center Column Only)

---

### LESSON OUTLINE:

---

REVIEW questions from Lesson 2.

#### A. Introduction

Have you ever wondered:

- Where did the angels come from?

- What about Satan?
- What about demons?

In this lesson we are going to briefly study the creation of all of the spirit beings.

To gain an understanding of the spirit beings requires knowledge of many Scriptures throughout the Bible.

- For our study we will simply present a summary of the basic truths (doctrine) about the spirits.
- We will not go through a lot of Scripture references because to do so would require considerable study and background understanding of each text.
- Many questions may come to your mind as we study.
- This lesson may not answer all your questions, but future lessons may help clear up some issues.

God's Word tells us what we need to know about the spirit beings. Let's look at some basic truths as they are taught in the Bible.

## B. God created all of the spirits.

SHOW CHRONOLOGICAL CHART DISPLAYING THE WORDS: GOD'S ANGELS, LUCIFER.



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

In the beginning, God created all of the spirit beings.

- The Bible refers to these spirit beings with many different terms:
    - Spirits
    - Angels
    - Cherubim
    - Seraphim
    - The host of the Lord or host of Heaven
    - Powers
    - Principalities
    - Rulers in high places
    - Stars or morning stars.
  - The context of each passage must be used to clarify its meaning.
- All of the spirits were created at this time.
- Before the beginning, none of them were alive.
  - It was God who gave them life.
  - They wouldn't have life if God had not given it to them.



Read John 1:3. <sup>2</sup>

- Nehemiah 9:6 says, "*Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host...and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.*"

God is greater than the spirits.

- He lived before them eternally.
- He is the one who made them.
- He gave them life.

<sup>2</sup>Be sure to keep on the subject. Don't go into the surrounding context of this verse at this time. □

God did not give the spirits material bodies when He created them.

- Because they are spirits and do not have flesh and blood, they can move about wherever they want to.
- The spirits are **not** everywhere at the same time like God is. The spirits can only be in one place at one time.
- Even though the spirits do not have material bodies like we do, they sometimes show themselves to people as human beings and may also appear in other forms.

Genesis  
3:24;  
19:1  
Ezekiel  
1:5-24  
Luke  
2:9-14

### C. The spirits were created to serve God.



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

The spirits were all created by God to love and serve Him.

- In the beginning, all of the spirits were God's angels.
- The word "angels" means "messengers" or "servants."
- Because God created them, they belonged to Him.
- They were created to do whatever God wanted them to do.
- Illustrate:

*If you build a house, to whom does that house belong? If you take your own materials and assemble something, then you are the rightful owner of what you have made.*

*Just as you are the owner of what you have made, in the same way everything that God created rightfully belongs to Him. God was the one who made all of the spirits. He gave them life. He made them to serve and obey Him. Therefore, all of the spirits rightfully belong to God.*

Psalm  
103:20  
Hebrews  
1:14

### D. The spirits were created perfect by God.



**Theme: God is holy.**

God created all the spirits perfect; not one of them was evil or unkind.

- God cannot create anything evil because God is holy.
- Everything He thinks, says, and does is perfect.

Genesis  
1:31  
Ezekiel  
28:15

### E. The spirits were created with great wisdom and strength.

God created the spirits with great wisdom and strength.



Read Psalm 103:20.

- Angels are very intelligent, but they are not all-knowing like God is.
- Angels are stronger than we are, and the Bible records that God has given them the ability to do amazing things, but they are not all-powerful like God.

God is wiser and stronger than all of the spirits.

- This is an important truth for us to remember.
- No matter what you may have heard or seen presented in movies or books or anywhere else, the Bible tells us that God is greater than all.

## F. The spirits are innumerable.



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**

God created so many spirit beings that it is impossible for us to count them.

Revelation 5:11 says, "...the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands..."

How could God create so many good, strong, wise spirits?

- He is almighty.
- He can do anything and everything He wants to do.

## G. The spirits lived in Heaven.

All of the spirits lived in Heaven with God in the beginning.

- Where is Heaven?

We don't know where it is.

It certainly isn't here on earth!

But it is a real place, mentioned many times in the Bible.

- Heaven is God's dwelling place.

Though He is everywhere, all the time, Heaven is His home. <sup>3</sup>

Psalms 11:4 says that "*the LORD'S throne is in heaven.*"

The Bible tells us that Heaven is a wonderful place, far better than any place we have ever known or could ever imagine.

## H. Lucifer's original position before God in Heaven

God didn't create all of the angels exactly the same; some were more beautiful, intelligent, and wise than others.

The greatest angel was called Lucifer.

The name Lucifer means "morning star."

God gave Lucifer a very important position in Heaven.

- He was given a place of great authority and power over the other angels.
- Ezekiel 28:14 calls him "*the anointed cherub.*"

He, like all of God's creation, was created perfect.

- Ezekiel 28:15 says, "***Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity [evil, wickedness] was found in thee.***"<sup>4</sup>

## I. Lucifer's rebellion

Because Lucifer was created by God and given the highest position over all of the other angels, he should have loved, obeyed, and served God.

But after a time, Lucifer became very proud of his beauty, intelligence, and position.

Ezekiel 28:17 says, "*Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness....*"

Another passage of Scripture gives us insight into Lucifer's attitude.



Read Isaiah 14:13,14. <sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup>As mentioned in Lesson 2, be careful to clearly present the fact that God the Creator is distinct from His creation: He is everywhere, but everything is not God. □

<sup>4</sup>The boldfaced part of the verse is what you are teaching here. Do not get sidetracked on the rest of the verse. □

<sup>5</sup>As mentioned in the note in the Teacher Preparation section, be careful to avoid discussion on the surrounding verses, as they will be very confusing and will sidetrack away from the lesson goals and themes. □

Lucifer wanted to be like *"the most High."*

- He decided that he wanted to take over God's position as the ruler of all things.
- Lucifer was the first one to do evil. (Evil is anything that is different from what God wants or agrees with.)

You may ask, "If Lucifer was created perfect, how could he rebel?"

- The Bible does not give a clear answer for this, but it does show many examples of the fact that God allows choices to be made regarding obedience and disobedience.
- Look at the passage we just read in Isaiah 14:13,14.
- Note, Lucifer said, **"I will ascend," "I will exalt," "I will sit," "I will ascend," "I will be like the most High."**
- Lucifer's rebellion was an act of the will, a conscious choice.
- An illustration from a human perspective may help:

*Suppose that someone was very kind and helpful to you and told you that he loved you. This might be a very pleasant situation. But what if you learned that this person was under someone's strict control and had been forced to act this way and to say that he loved you. His words and actions would not be meaningful or pleasant; in fact, they would be offensive.*

*God does not "program" His created beings like robots. He allows them to make meaningful choices—to obey or to disobey.*

#### J. Other angels followed Lucifer in his rebellion.

Many of God's angels followed Lucifer, their leader.<sup>6</sup>

They, too, rebelled against God.

We will not discuss this in depth, but a good reference to show that other angels participated in Lucifer's rebellion is Matthew 25:41, which mentions "the devil and his angels."

#### K. God knew what Lucifer and the other spirits were thinking and planning.

 **Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.**

Isaiah 14:13,14 says of Lucifer, **"...thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend...I will exalt...I will be like the most High."**

God created all of the spirits, and He knew what they were thinking and planning.

- He knew that Lucifer had become proud and wanted to take the place of his Maker.
- God knew Lucifer's thoughts and the thoughts of each of the rebellious spirits.

Nothing can be kept secret from God.

- Nothing can surprise God.
- He knows everything before it ever happens.
- He knows what we are going to think before the thought even comes into our minds.
- He is everywhere.
- He sees everything.
- He knows everything.

<sup>6</sup>This point is a deduction made from several Scriptures, including those listed in the reference column at the right.

If a student questions you on this, you may want to use these Scriptures briefly to support your statements; but be very careful not to get sidetracked. □

Matthew 25:41  
 Luke 8:30  
 Ephesians 6:12  
 II Peter 2:4

Isaiah  
14:12-  
15

Ezekiel  
28:16,17

Matthew  
25:41

II Peter  
2:4

Jude 6

- Hebrews 4:13 says, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest [made known] in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him...."

#### L. God removed Lucifer and his followers from their position as God's servants.<sup>7</sup>

 **Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

- Consider:

*Do you think God would let Lucifer take His position? What do you think God's reaction was to Lucifer's selfish ambition?*

*If someone suddenly tried to take over our government, strong defense measures would be taken immediately. Our government is important and powerful, but think how supremely important and powerful God is!*

*Who is wiser than God? Who is stronger than God? He has always lived. He lives by His own power. He doesn't need anything to live. He lived before the beginning. He gave life to all of the spirits.*

God would not allow Lucifer to take His position.

- No one can take God's place, because
- He is the only true God.

God, in great anger, removed Lucifer from his important position of leadership over the angels.

God also removed the other angels who followed Lucifer from their place of service in Heaven.

God is perfect and right in everything He thinks and does.

- Anyone who doesn't think and act like God is totally unacceptable to Him and cannot be His friend.
- God would not allow Lucifer and his spirit followers to continue in their former positions in Heaven.

As we mentioned in the beginning of this lesson, some of these details must be understood in the light of many passages of Scripture which we aren't going to take the time to study in these lessons.

But in numerous instances, the Bible records the activity of Satan and his demons here on earth.

They are no longer recorded as God's servants; they are always in opposition to Him.

Job 1:6,7 and 2:1,2 show us that Satan still had access to God in Heaven but no longer resided there.

Matthew 25:41 refers to the eventual punishment of "the devil and his angels."

#### M. God prepared the Lake of Fire for Lucifer and his spirit followers.

 **Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

God prepared a terrible place of everlasting punishment called the Lake of Fire.<sup>8</sup>

- He is going to send Lucifer, and the other spirits which followed him, to the Lake of Fire to be punished forever.

<sup>7</sup>Point L. of this outline must be deduced from several Scriptures, including those listed at the left.

Note the general deductions in the last four statements in Point L.

Again, do not get side-tracked. □

<sup>8</sup>At this point, teach about the Lake of Fire in relationship to Satan only. Don't teach that people are going to the Lake of Fire. Remember, you have not yet taught the creation of man and his sin. □

- God will not tolerate disobedience to Him; God always punishes those who fight against Him.
- Matthew 25:41 speaks of "everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."
- Revelation 20:10 tells us that at the end of the world, the Devil will be "...cast into the lake of fire...and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

#### N. Lucifer and his angels hate God.

 **Theme: Satan fights against God and His will. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. He hates man.**

Lucifer and his followers hate God and every good thing that God loves.

Right from the time when God removed them from His service until today, Lucifer and these other spirits have been fighting against God and everything He does.

Lucifer is now called Satan, which means "enemy, adversary, opponent, or accuser."

His spirit followers are called demons.

Satan is God's great enemy.

- Satan fights against God day and night to try to stop the things God does.
- Satan's demons help Satan in opposing God.

SHOW CHRONOLOGICAL CHART DISPLAYING THE NAMES: SATAN AND HIS DEMONS.

#### O. Satan and his spirit servants no longer live in Heaven.

Satan and his demons are now active all over the earth.

The passages we mentioned earlier in Job 1 and 2 record conversations between God and Satan in which Satan says he has been "going to and fro in the earth, and...walking up and down in it."

And, as also mentioned before, many passages record demon activity on the earth.

We will talk about this more in coming lessons.

Job 1:7,  
2:2  
(Numerous N.T. passages also refer to demon activity on earth.)

#### P. Closing

 **Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

 **Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

God is the supreme God and the Creator of everything, seen and unseen.

God is greater than all.

Everything He does is perfect and holy.

He is greater than all created beings:

- God is greater than the angels.
- God is greater than Satan and the demons.
- How important that is for us to know and remember!

God alone can tell us what happened in the beginning.

In our next lesson we will examine what the Bible says about the beginnings of the physical world:

- The heavens
- The earth.

It's extremely important for us to consider what He says about creation.

Remember, God was the only one there before the beginning.

---

**QUESTIONS:**

---

1. Who is the only one who lived before the beginning? *God.*
2. Where did all the spirits come from? *They were all created by God.*
3. Did God create the spirits with bodies of flesh and bones? *No.*
4. Did God create all of the spirits good, or did He create some good and some bad? *God created them all good.*
5. Why did God create the spirits? *To be His servants.*
6. How many spirits are there? *More than can be numbered.*
7. Where did they all live in the beginning when God first created them? *With God in Heaven.*
8. Who was the most intelligent and beautiful angel created by God? *Lucifer.*
9. What position did God give Lucifer? *Leadership over all of the other angels.*
10. What did Lucifer do? *He planned to be like God and to take God's position.*
11. Who else followed Lucifer in His rebellion against God? *Many of God's angels.*
12. Did God know what Lucifer and his followers were planning? *Yes.*
13. What did God do? *He removed Lucifer and the angels who joined him in rebellion from their position as God's servants.*
14. Is there anything that God doesn't see, hear, and know? *No! God sees, hears, and knows everything.*
15. What place did God prepare as a punishment for Lucifer and his angels? *The Lake of Fire.*
16. What is Lucifer's name now and what does it mean? *Satan, which means "enemy, adversary, opponent, or accuser."*
17. Whom is Satan against? *He is against God.*

**LESSON**  
**4**

**God Created the Heavens and the Earth — Part 1**

**LESSON PREPARATION**

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note: If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:1-8

**LESSON GOALS:**

- To show that God created the heavens and the earth and that He created from nothing.
- To show God's character and attributes as revealed through His creative acts.<sup>1</sup>

**THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:**

- To give consideration to the biblical account of creation.
- To have an increased awareness of God's sovereignty, His holiness, and His power.

**PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:**

We live in a society that has forgotten its Maker. Theories of evolution are taught as if they were fact; yet the biblical account, given by the one who designed and made everything, is usually totally disregarded.

Unless a person has studied the Bible and drawn his convictions from it, he will almost certainly have been affected by man's incorrect ideas about creation. Virtually everyone in our society has been told by the educational system, television programs, and the print media that evolution is an established fact and that only the naive or uneducated question it. For the most part, evolution is assumed to be fact, not theory.

This lesson will present the true, biblical facts of creation. It should not be a "debate" of creation versus evolution. However, due to the pervasive influence of evolutionary thinking, you will need to be prepared to deal with the issue to some extent. For some people, you will have to give enough information to bring them to the point where they will acknowledge the possibility that the scriptural account is valid. (See "HINTS FOR TEACHING" on the next page.) The resources section that follows lists some good sources of information.

Prepare for this lesson by meditating on God's Word. As you teach, share the wonder, awe, and praise that you have for our Creator. Let your students know that you believe God!

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:**

If you wish to study the evidences for creation to help you in answering students' questions, or if you wish to refer those with questions to some materials that may help them, the following books may be useful:

**OVERVIEW**

This is more than a lesson on the biblical facts of creation. God's nature and attributes are clearly displayed in His creative acts. Your primary goal in teaching on creation is to point out the attributes of God through His creative acts.

Note: This is the first of two lessons on God's creation of the heavens and the earth, followed by a lesson on God's creation of man.

<sup>1</sup>Carefully lay the foundations regarding the nature and character of God. For example, you will be teaching that God knew how to create. You will stress that God knows everything. With these foundations, you will later be able to teach that God knows everything about every person. God knows about our sin. God even knows our thoughts. God knows everything. (Note Hebrews 4:13.)

If you don't lay these foundations of truth deeply in the minds of your students now, you are not going to be able to use them later on. The Holy Spirit will not be able to use them to bring conviction of sin.

The doctrine of creation runs throughout the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Even where creation is not stated in words, it is still an underlying truth—God is sovereign; all things began in Him (Colossians 1:16,17).

Keep in mind, however, that most Scriptures which refer to creation also include concepts and truths that have not yet been introduced in your chronological teaching program; therefore, it would be inappropriate at this time for students to do a topical study using many proof texts. The verses used in the outline provide texts that do not jump ahead chronologically. □

Job 38-41  
Psalms 19:1-4; 24:1,2; 33:6-9; 95:3-5; 104  
Isaiah 40:28; 44:24; 45:7-12; 48:12,13  
Jeremiah 10:12,13; 32:17  
Colossians 1:16  
Hebrews 1:10-12; 11:3

*The Twilight of Evolution*, Morris, Henry M., Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1963.

*Biblical Cosmology and Modern Science*, Morris, Henry M., Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1970.

*The Collapse of Evolution*, Huse, Scott M., Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI., 1983.

*Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, Denton, Michael, Adler and Adler, Bethesda, MD., 1986.

Excellent resources for material presenting scientific evidence for creation:

**Australia:**

Creation Science Foundation, P.O. Box 6302, Acacia Ridge DC, Qld 4110, AUSTRALIA

**Canada:**

Creation Science Association of Ontario, P.O. Box 821, Station A, Scarborough, Ontario, M1K5C8, CANADA

**New Zealand:**

Creation Science Foundation, 215 Bleakhouse Road, Howick, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

**Singapore:**

Creation Science Agency, Newton P.O. Box 0130, Singapore 9122

**United Kingdom:**

Creation Science Foundation, P.O. Box 1427, Sevenhampton, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 7UF UNITED KINGDOM

Creation Science Movement, 50 Brecon Ave., Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 2AW, UNITED KINGDOM

Creation Resources Trust, Mead Farm, Downhead, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7RQ, UNITED KINGDOM

**USA:**

Answers in Genesis, PO Box 6330, Florence, KY 41022, USA

Institute for Creation Research P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021

Note: Institute for Creation Research also has a Museum of Creation Earth History, located at 10946 Woodside Avenue North in Santee, CA.

As noted in Lesson 1, you can offer to let the students research answers to their questions outside of class, using these selected materials. This will allow you to keep the class time directed to Bible study. It is important that the Bible study time does not become a forum for debate. The reference materials, wisely used, may help answer some of the students' questions without distracting from the purpose of the lesson.

You might even want to set up a time (other than class time) to show a video about the biblical record of creation.

---

### HINTS FOR TEACHING:

---

Be very careful, especially on these lessons about creation, that you keep the discussion under control. You are presenting what God says about creation. You may very possibly find that one or more students want to go into a discussion on evolution. This is where you will have to use discernment as to how much information to share verbally in class and how much information you should offer them to read on their own. As much as possible, keep them on the subject of what the Bible says. Remember, again, this lesson is not a debate. You are presenting what has probably not been taught previously to many of your students.

Take your time in teaching. Be sure your students are logically thinking through your points with you. Appeal to their minds and natural logic. Remember, however, 1 Corinthians 2:14: "...the natural man receiveth not the

things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Don't expect them to agree with what you are teaching. Just be sure you are clearly presenting what the Bible says. Expect the Word itself to do the work in their hearts. This may take time. Be gracious with your students, even though they may be wrong and even offensive in their comments. It might be an encouragement for us who teach to remember that some of the most effective and well-known spokesmen for the Word were once outspoken critics of it.

If your students contradict what you have already taught them from God's Word, ask them what God says about that subject. Help them realize that God is the final authority, not you. The issue should be a difference of opinion between them and God, not between them and you.

Don't let them draw you into subjects or details which you should not teach yet. If they ask you a question that will be answered later in the chronological lessons, answer, "That is a very good question. We will find the answer to that question later on as we study further in the Bible."

Don't always correct them if they are wrong.

### ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

#### DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

LESSON FORMAT: The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

### TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS (Center Column Only)

#### LESSON OUTLINE:

REVIEW questions from Lesson 3.

#### A. Introduction

Many theories exist about what happened in the beginning.<sup>2</sup>

- There are many theories about how the earth was formed.
- There are many theories about how life started.

As we mentioned in our last lesson, questions may come to your mind as we study.

- We won't be able to take time to discuss the various theories that men are teaching.

<sup>2</sup>Keep careful control of any discussion which comes up in response to these points. Some students may be content if you simply say that, although many theories exist, you will be presenting what Scripture clearly states. Others may need more detailed information to even consider the biblical account as valid. You will need to discern how much discussion is necessary while at the same time keeping your goal of presenting God's account of creation clearly in mind. If the students wish to study this further, offer to recommend tapes and books after the class. □

- We do have some reference materials to recommend to you after class.

What we are going to do in this lesson is examine what God has told us in the Bible about creation.

Keep in mind that the things taught in Genesis are upheld throughout the rest of Scripture.

- God never changed His mind about His record of creation (or about any other part of the Bible!).
- Genesis is an ancient book, but even the New Testament writings affirm the Genesis account of creation.

Genesis has often been criticized as being a book of myths.

- But recent archeology has confirmed many exact details, including names of people and cities back as far as the early chapters of Genesis.
- We will refer to some of those discoveries in later lessons.

We need to listen to what God says in the Bible.

- It is not a book of "myths."
- It is a true history.

This lesson will cover what God says happened at the beginning.

- We have already learned that God created the spirits.
- Now we will study God's creation of the physical universe.

#### B. "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth"(Genesis 1:1).



READ Genesis 1:1



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

The word "genesis" means "beginnings" or "origins."

- All things had a beginning.
- Nothing/no one (except God) existed before the beginning.
- What then did God use to make the heavens and the earth?

"Created" means "to make out of nothing."

- "To make something out of nothing" is an idiom in our society.
- Discuss:

*If we want to build a house, what do we need?*

*If we want to bake a cake, what do we need?*

*Can you think of anything you can make without first having materials to use?<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>3</sup>Give the students a moment to think this over and let it "soak in." □



Read Hebrews 11:3

- God literally made the heavens and the earth out of nothing!
- God alone can make something out of nothing.



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**

How was it possible for God to make the heavens and the earth out of nothing?

- The Bible tells us that nothing is too hard for God.

Psalm  
147:5  
Jere-  
miah  
51:15



Read Jeremiah 32:17

- God's power is beyond our comprehension.
- Is anyone stronger than God?
  - Angels?
  - Satan?
  - Demons?
- No! God alone is all-powerful.



**Theme: God is all-knowing.**

How did God know how to make the heavens and the earth?

- Compare:
  - We had to learn how to do all the things that we do.*
    - *We are not born with knowledge and understanding.*
    - *Most of us have gone to school to learn.*
    - *We continue to learn throughout life.*
  - By trial and error*
    - The school of hard knocks*
    - *Some things require highly specialized training which we have not had.*
    - *There are still many things we don't know.*
- Did God need someone to teach Him?*
  - *Was anyone else living in the beginning who could teach God?*
  - *God did not need someone to teach Him how to make the heavens and the earth.*

There is nothing that God doesn't know and completely understand.<sup>4</sup>



Read Romans 11:33,34.

### C. The earth, when first created (Genesis 1:2)



READ Genesis 1:2

The earth was formless and empty.

- We will see God form it.
- We will see God fill it.

The earth was covered by darkness.

- Illustrate:
  - Try to imagine what it would be like if there were no light anywhere. Have you ever been in a cave with no lights? The darkness is so absolute that you can "feel" it. Imagine this kind of darkness everywhere.*

The earth was covered with water.

- There was no dry land.
- Water covered the entire world.
- There was no life anywhere on earth.

<sup>4</sup>You may have students who ask **why** God created the heavens and the earth. Though you do not want to get sidetracked into a discussion like this, you might want to give the student the answer that God does give us insights in His Word regarding that question, and tell them that some of these things will be covered in later lessons.

Use discretion as to how much to share. But it may be a help to the student who is sincerely seeking to know God to see that He truly does have answers in His Word.

Some excellent passages are:

Isaiah 45:18 (God prepared the earth to be inhabited.)

Isaiah 43:7 (He created man to glorify God.)

Psalms 19:1-3 (He created the heavens for His glory.)

Romans 1:20a (All creation shows forth His existence and His character.)

Revelation 4:11 (God did it as an act of His sovereign will [KJV "for thy pleasure"].) □

**D. God was ready to create everything.**



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**

God is all-powerful, and He was about to unleash His mighty power to create.

- The Bible says that the Spirit of God “*moved upon the face of the waters.*”

In Henry Morris’ book, *The Genesis Record*, he notes that the word “move” used here is also translated as shake, flutter, or hover.

The word suggests the tremendous creative power of God, the Prime Mover of all things.

- He alone sets things into motion.
- He alone is the source of all energy.

God the Holy Spirit was moving, hovering, fluttering over the waters, vibrating with dynamic energy to create all things.

- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all participated in the mighty act of creation.<sup>5</sup>
- God is one, yet God is three in one, the Almighty God, the Creator of everything.
- We cannot comprehend the Trinity; we cannot comprehend God’s awesome power.

**E. The first day: Light created (Genesis 1:3-5)**



READ Genesis 1:3.



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**



**Theme: God is all-knowing.**

Only God could create light by simply speaking!

- Discuss:

*Wouldn’t it be something if we could simply speak and have light appear? But it doesn’t work that way. No, we are totally dependent on light that was created by God from the beginning of time.*

*Whenever we see the light of the sun, the moon, or the stars; flip on a light switch; or light a match or a candle; let’s remember that it was God who in the beginning created light. He alone could do that because He alone is all-powerful and all-knowing. He created light out of absolutely nothing.*

*Scientists can evaluate some of the characteristics of light. All of us experience and use some of the effects of light. But God alone understands light, for He created it.*



**Theme: God is holy.**



READ Genesis 1:4.

The light God made was very good.

- You will notice that each time God created, He said, “It is good.”
- Compare:

*We are not able to make anything perfect.*

Father—  
James  
1:17,18  
Son—  
Colos-  
sians  
1:16  
Holy  
Spirit—  
Genesis  
1:2

<sup>5</sup>Again, do not try to explain the Trinity. See teacher note, “Introducing the Trinity,” in the introduction to Lesson 2. □

God is perfect, holy:  
Psalm 18:30; 93:5; 99:3,5,9  
Isaiah 6:3  
James 1:17  
Revelation 4:8

- *Even though things are usable, they still:  
Need repair  
Wear out  
Are replaced because someone designed something better.*
  - *What we make can always be improved upon.  
Even the best state-of-the-art stereo equipment is labeled to indicate the amount of sound distortion it will produce.  
Everything man produces is flawed.*
- But everything God made was perfect because:*
- *God is perfect.*
  - *God is flawless.*
  - *In other words, God is holy.*

Psalm 18:30 says, "As for God, his way is perfect...."<sup>6</sup>

Isaiah 6:3 says, "...Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD...."



READ Genesis 1:5.

God divided the light from the darkness.<sup>7</sup>

- He called the light "day."
- He called the darkness "night."
- This was the first day in the beginning of the world.

#### F. The second day: Firmament created (Genesis 1:6-8)



READ Genesis 1:6-8.

On the second day, God created the air and the sky.

- Above this "firmament" or "thin, stretched-out space" that we call the atmosphere, God placed some of the water from the world He had created.
- It is important to remember this point in God's account of creation because it will be an important factor in a later story.<sup>8</sup>



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**



**Theme: God is all-knowing.**



**Theme: God is holy.**

- Again God merely spoke, and the firmament was created.
- Discuss:

*Look at the vastness of the sky. We can only see a tiny portion of what encircles the earth. Yet God spoke and created all of the earth's atmosphere, and it was perfect.*

#### G. Conclusion:

Unlike man's theories, God's written account of creation has not changed.

- He was there before the beginning.
- He is the Sovereign Creator, and He alone knows how all things came to be.

<sup>6</sup>Both of these Scripture portions are read by the teacher (rather than the whole class) because they are part of passages containing material that could lead to discussion which would side-track from the lesson. □

<sup>7</sup>God created light at that time, not the sun. □

<sup>8</sup>Although we are not told specifically in Scripture what God actually did when He placed the water above the firmament, many dependable scientists believe that these waters are not the clouds but water which God turned into mist or vapor and placed as a canopy surrounding the earth, high above the atmosphere. (Reference: *The Genesis Record*, by Henry M. Morris, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, pages 58,59.)

It is important to establish that God placed water above the earth so that, when you teach the story of the flood, it will be simple to explain how God reversed the process and returned to the earth the water which He had placed above the firmament. □

- God has told us throughout His Word that He created everything.

As we study the Bible, we see that God is absolutely sovereign, greater than all and more powerful than all.

Nothing is too hard for Him.

- He is the source of all energy and the Creator of all matter.
- He made everything from nothing.

We have covered the first two days of creation.

We will explore the rest of creation week in our coming lessons.

- As you go about your duties in the days ahead, think about what we have studied thus far about God.
- He is infinitely greater than we can imagine, but He has given us the Bible, His Word, so we can know Him.

---

### QUESTIONS:

---

1. Who, in the beginning, created the heavens and the earth? *God.*
2. **What** did God use to make the heavens and the earth? *God didn't use anything. He made everything out of nothing.*
3. Why was God able to make the heavens and the earth? *God is almighty. There is nothing He cannot do.*
4. **How** did God know how to make the heavens and the earth? *God knows everything.*
5. Who taught God how to make everything? *No one taught God.*
6. Is there any person or any spirit who knows everything like God does? *No. Only God knows everything.*
7. What was the condition of the earth before God began to prepare it for people to live in? *It was without form and in total darkness; no land and no life.*
8. What did God **do** in order to create everything? *He spoke and commanded that things appear.*

**LESSON**  
**5**

**God Created the Heavens  
and the Earth — Part 2**

**LESSON PREPARATION**

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note: If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:9-25

**LESSON GOALS:**

- To show that God created the heavens and the earth and that He created from nothing.
- To show God's character and attributes as revealed through creation.

**THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:**

- To give consideration to the biblical account of creation.
- To have increased awareness of God's sovereignty, holiness, and power.

**PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:**

God's Word is eternal and unchanging. Yet, over the span of a few decades, our society has allowed evolutionary theories to be widely published, taught, and accepted as fact. What is not widely published is the fact that much of the data on which evolutionists once based their theories is now being proven false. Many of the so-called links in the evolution of man have been revealed to be nothing but cruel hoaxes. Other "data" once viewed as evidence for the theory of evolution is being overruled by new scientific discoveries which confirm instead the FACT of creation.

One of the outstanding spokesmen for biblical creationism, Dr. John Whitcomb, has often said that evolutionism is a religion which puts faith in time and chance. All the questions about life and its infinite complexity and order are answered by the evolutionists in terms of millions of years and chance.

Satan has blinded the minds of men, but God's Word is powerful to penetrate that blindness. What good news we can share: God, the sovereign Creator made all things by His power. His Word, the Bible, is the greatest of all texts and the basis for all science. We can teach with confidence—not in time and chance, but in the Living God and His unchanging Word.

**REFERENCE MATERIAL:**

Lesson 4 lists several kinds of reference materials that may help your students who have questions about creation. Encourage them to use materials like this. Even if you do not have anything available at the time you teach this lesson, you may want to make these resources available to your students whenever possible. Creation is not taught in most schools, so your students probably have not been exposed to books that teach it.

**OVERVIEW**

This is more than a lesson on the biblical facts of creation. God's nature and attributes are clearly displayed in His creative acts. Your primary goal in teaching on creation is to point out the attributes of God through His creative acts.

Note: This is the second lesson on God's creation of the heavens and the earth. If you are substituting for another teacher and have not yet studied Lesson 4, take the time to thoroughly study that lesson and the preparatory notes and Scriptures before teaching Lesson 5.

Job  
38-41  
Psalms  
19:1-4;  
24:1,2;  
33:6-9;  
95:3-5;  
104  
Isaiah  
40:28;  
44:24;  
45:7-12;  
48:12,13  
Jeremiah  
10:12,  
13;  
32:17  
Colossians  
1:16  
Hebrews  
1:10-12;  
11:3

Psalm  
119:89

### ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

#### DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

LESSON FORMAT: The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

### TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS (Center Column Only)

#### LESSON OUTLINE:

REVIEW questions from Lesson 4.

#### A. Introduction

In our last lesson, we began to study what the Bible says about God in His mighty acts of creation.

- We discussed the fact that the Bible presents God's true record of creation.

It is not a theory.

It is the truth.

It has not and will not change.

- We discussed the fact that the account of creation helps us see who God is:

The sovereign Creator

The all-powerful God

The all-knowing one

The God who exists by his own power

The holy and perfect God.

- And we discussed the events of the first two days of creation.

We read that God created light just by speaking.

He created the air and the sky and placed some water above the sky.

Now we will read how God made the land and the seas and filled them with living creatures.

**B. The third day: Dry land, ocean, and all flora created (Genesis 1:9-13)**



**Theme : God is all-powerful.**



READ Genesis 1:9,10.

God gathered the waters into seas and made the dry ground appear.

- Consider:

*Have you ever witnessed the devastation caused by a flood or a tidal wave? <sup>1</sup> What man can think of standing against such forces, much less commanding them? Imagine the power involved in shaping the seas—all in a day! Only Almighty God could command the waters encircling the earth to move and make the dry ground appear.*



Read Psalm 95:5.

- God alone, who made the waters of the earth, can control them.



READ Genesis 1:11-13.



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**



**Theme: God is all-knowing.**

God made all of the plants and trees.

- God alone has the knowledge and power to create plant life.

The more scientists study plant life, the more complexities they discover.

God, in His infinite wisdom, was able to create all plant life and to perfectly suit every kind to the rest of the earth's systems that He was creating.

- God made the plants to produce seeds which would produce more plants like the originals.

- Consider:

*A fir tree doesn't produce petunia seeds!*

- Discuss:

*Have you ever made something you liked, only to have it wear out? If you want another like it, you have to start over. But when God created plant life, He put within each plant the capability to bear seeds which could sprout into new plants like the first. God is the giver and sustainer of life.*

*The plants we have today came from those God created in the beginning.*



**Theme: God is love.**

- Why did God make flowers, trees, and plants?

Did God need them?

- God is independent of all things.

- God doesn't need anything.

God made the plants and trees for man, whom He was going to create next.

<sup>1</sup>A student may ask, "Why does God allow things like floods and tidal waves? You might reply that disasters like these were not part of man's original environment. As we study later lessons, we will discuss what brought these and other terrible changes to a perfect earth. □

- God made the plants to meet our physical needs:
  - To provide food for us to eat
  - To give off oxygen for the air we breathe
  - To provide wood for building
  - And to provide many other things which are essential to our lives.
- God made the plants to delight us with His love for us:
  - He didn't have to make such a variety of colors, sizes, shapes, flavors, and fragrances.
  - A few kinds would have met our needs.
- Consider:
  - God could have made everything black and white. But instead, He created colors—colors that could be seen by the eyes of the man he would soon create.*
  - Everything could have been tasteless. But God created flavor (and taste buds to taste it).*
  - He did the same thing with fragrances.*
- The variety He made was to be a daily reminder of His great love and care for man.
- He made the earth not just liveable, but truly beautiful.
- In plants we can see that God is a God of order—the Master Designer.
- Illustrate:
  - Look at a flower. Each flower of a certain kind has an identifying pattern that makes it recognizable as that kind of flower. The tiny seed from which it grew contained certain characteristics which always produce that kind of flower with that kind of orderly petal and stem arrangement, fragrance, etc.*
  - If you were to look at that flower under a magnifying glass, you would see other patterns characteristic of that kind of flower.*
  - If you took a tiny slice of the petal or stem and put it under a microscope, you would see still more orderly arrangements of minute cells characteristic of that kind of flower.*
  - All these things show that there is a Master Designer.*
- Illustrate:
  - What if you took a handful of marbles and dropped them on the floor? Would they fall into a beautiful pattern?*
  - What if they did happen to land in some pattern? Could you repeat the pattern over and over again?*
  - Now, what if you took the marbles one by one and placed them into a pattern of your choosing? You could do this over and over, because you designed the pattern and insured its repetition. Your design would not be a product of chance; rather, it would reflect the work of a designer—you.*
  - What God has created endlessly reflects His work as Master Designer of everything.*
  - When you see a design, bear in mind that there was also a designer. And when you see a design in plants or flowers or any other part of creation, remember that God is the one who is being reflected in that design. It didn't just happen that way. God designed it all.*
- Everything that God created on this day was good.

Scripture Reference

Genesis 1:31  
 Psalm 18:30; 93:5; 99:3,5,9  
 Isaiah 6:3  
 James 1:17  
 Revelation 4:8

Teacher's Notes

<sup>2</sup>If a student asks why things are so different now, tell them that in later lessons we will see the answer to that question. □

All the plants were beneficial, lovely—created perfect.<sup>2</sup>

- Thorns and weeds did not exist.
- No fruit was poisonous.
- Vegetables and fruit did not get diseases or spoil.

Everything was perfect in the beginning, because God is perfect, and everything He does is perfect.

**C. The fourth day: Sun, moon, and stars created (Genesis 1:14-19)**

Discuss the vastness of the universe.

- Suggested illustration:

*In the last few decades, man has learned more about the universe than he knew in all previous generations. Powerful telescopes, controlled radio beams, electronic devices, space travel—all of these are products of this century. Men have set foot on the moon; space probes orbit the earth and travel outward through our solar system, gathering amazing new data.*

*But what we are really learning is that we know very little about this solar system that includes planet Earth; and we know even less about our galaxy, the Milky Way; and we know still less about the endless reaches of the universe.*

*We have assembled many facts and figures about distance, yet none of us can begin to fathom the immensity of the universe. For instance: light, traveling at 186,000 miles per second, takes several years to reach us from the nearest stars outside our solar system. And we are told that there are literally billions of stars beyond what we can see.*

Now let's read what God says about this.



READ Genesis 1:14-19.



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**

God spoke, and the sun, moon, and stars came into being.

- Only God has the power to create such vastness!
- In Isaiah 44:24, God says, "...I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself."
- As in the plants He created, the whole universe reflects the work of the Master Designer.
- Illustrate:

*Centuries ago, men discovered that our planet Earth revolves around the sun. Then they realized that we are part of a solar system, that is, a group of planets which revolve around the sun. Then, as more powerful telescopes were developed, other galaxies were discovered.*

*But in the twentieth century, men were able to take a look inward at another system, so similar in design that it overwhelms the mind to consider it. Powerful microscopes revealed that the atom, once thought to be the smallest part of matter, appears to consist of tiny parts, revolving around a center called the nucleus. The pattern in what was thought to be the smallest part of matter closely resembles the pattern of our vast solar system.*

Psalm 33:6

Isaiah 40:26

*How could this be? There is only one answer: one Designer created everything, from the smallest to the largest. God and God alone created the universe and everything in it, and the stamp of His design is deeply imprinted in every part.*



**Theme: God is everywhere all the time.**

We can see only a tiny part of the endless reaches of the universe.

Yet God created even the most remote galaxies and stars—He created everything.

How could God have gotten to all those places that are countless light years apart?

- Jeremiah 23:23,24 says “*Am I a God at hand...and not a God afar off?...Do not I fill heaven and earth?...*”
- Distance is no problem for God.
- God is everywhere.
- We cannot imagine the immensity of the universe; much less can we comprehend the greatness of God!

Although God is everywhere present in the universe, He is distinct from it.<sup>3</sup>

- The idea that God is everything and everything is God is a concept totally foreign to Scripture.
- There is one true God, not many “gods.”
- The Bible refers to the universe and everything in it as God’s creation, not as part of His being.



**Theme: God is all-knowing.**



Read Jeremiah 10:12.

- God’s infinite wisdom and knowledge are displayed in the universe He created.
- Suggested illustration:

*As scientists have studied and experimented, they have discovered physical laws that apply consistently throughout the known universe. These laws govern the physical behavior of all matter. Knowing these laws, men have been able to do amazing things, such as travel in space. Yet these “discoveries” are actually laws established by God and put into effect in the beginning when He created the universe.*



**Theme: God never changes.**

- God never changes, nor do the laws of His creation.
- Consider:

*Imagine! One system of physical laws regulates the behavior of every part we know of the universe! And it is only as scientists and engineers operate in strict adherence and dependence upon these predictable laws that they are able to design a reliable spacecraft or family automobile or anything else.*

*You don’t have to be an engineer or scientist to see God’s laws at work. All of us depend on these laws every day, just to keep our feet on the ground.*

<sup>3</sup>As mentioned before, this is an important distinction. New Age and other pantheistic religions teach that God is everything and everything is God. □

*Has there ever been a day in your life when the sun didn't rise and set? Granted, it may have been hidden by clouds, but it did just what it always does, day after day. How about the moon? Did you know that calendars and tidal charts can be made years in advance because the movement and position of the moon and earth and sun are completely predictable?*

*This certainly isn't happening by chance; it was designed that way by God Himself.*



Read Psalm 104:19.

*He wanted us to have an orderly world with dependable days, nights, seasons, and tides.*

- Compare:

*We get very excited about seeing one vehicle thrust into a tiny path in space; and we certainly should, for it has taken an unbelievable amount of research and effort to achieve this feat.*

*But imagine God's knowledge! Imagine God's creativity and skill as a Master Designer! Imagine His power! God spoke, and the entire universe was created!*



Read Psalm 19:1-3.

- We need to watch this display and listen to the message God is sending us!



**Theme: God is holy.**

Everything God made on the fourth day was good.

- God is perfect, and everything He does is perfect.
- God was very pleased with His creation.

Psalm  
18:30;  
93:5;  
99:3,5,9  
Isaiah  
6:3  
James  
1:17  
Revelation  
4:8

#### D. The fifth day: All sea life and birds created



READ Genesis 1:20-23.



**Theme: God is love.**

Imagine the beauty that suddenly filled the water and the skies!

- Just as He had done in His creation of plant life, God made numerous kinds of water creatures and birds with countless, colorful designs and shapes.
- The more we search the ocean depths and the remote places of the earth, the more kinds of fish and birds we discover!
- Why did God create such variety and beauty?
  - He did it to show His love to us.
  - He did it to show us His creative power and understanding.



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**

God made these wonderful things by His great power and understanding.

- Compare:

*Could we make even one common sparrow?*

- *We might make a model or an "imitation."*
- *But we will never make a living sparrow.*

Psalm  
104:24

*But God can; He made sparrows and every other creature.*

Even the tiniest, most ordinary creatures are God's creation and are incredibly complex.

- Suggested illustration:

*"Molecular biology has shown that even the simplest of all living systems on earth today, bacterial cells, are exceedingly complex objects. Although the tiniest bacterial cells are incredibly small, weighing less than 10<sup>-12</sup> gms, each is in effect a veritable micro-miniaturized factory containing thousands of exquisitely designed pieces of intricate molecular machinery, made up altogether of one hundred thousand million atoms, far more complicated than any machine built by man and absolutely without parallel in the nonliving world."<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>4</sup> *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, by Michael Denton, p. 250. □

### E. Sixth day: The creation of the animal world



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**



**Theme: God is all-knowing.**



READ Genesis 1:24,25.

God created an unbelievable number and variety of animals.

- Some animals are very familiar to us as a part of our daily lives.
- Some can be seen at a zoo.
- Through television and books, we learn about many more.

God created each kind of animal with unique characteristics, and each kind of animal is capable of reproducing only other animals like itself.

- Dogs have puppies.
- Cats have kittens, etc.
- Even in the smallest animal we can see the stamp of the Master Designer.

Only God has the power to create animals.

Man has never created nor will he ever be able to create an animal.



**Theme: God is holy.**

All of the living things that God made on the fifth and sixth days were good.

Everything He made was good.

Because God is perfect, everything He made was perfect.

### F. Conclusion

We are daily surrounded by evidences of:

- God's existence
- God's infinite power and knowledge
- God's love
- God's orderliness
- God's holiness.

Psalm  
18:30;  
93:5;  
99:3,5,9  
Isaiah  
6:3  
James  
1:17  
Revelation  
4:8

- We are surrounded by reminders of a Master Designer who created with skill and purpose.

We can learn a great deal about God by observing the things He has made, but our true understanding of Him and how He created everything must be based on what God has told us in His Word.

- Hebrews 11:3 says, *"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."*
- God, the Creator, the one who was there before the beginning, has given us His record of creation in His Word.

This week:

- Look for evidences of the Designer, the Creator of all things.
- And think about what we have studied in His Word.
- In our next lesson we will continue to study God's account of creation.

---

### QUESTIONS:

---

1. Why was God able to command the ocean to go back and stay where He wanted it? *Because He is all-powerful and He created the ocean.*
2. Why did God create everything beautiful, and why did He create water and all different kinds of fruit and vegetables to eat? *He made them because He is loving and kind. He prepared everything on earth for us.*
3. What did God say about all of the things which He created? *God said that they were good.*
4. Why was God able to create all things perfect? *Because He is perfect.*
5. How was God able to create such a vast universe, with so many stars, so far apart? *God is all-powerful and He is everywhere, all the time.*
6. Why did God create the sun to rise and set each day and the moon and the stars to follow the same path every year? *God did it because He is a God of order. He placed the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to show us the days, the months, the seasons, and the years and to give order to our lives.*
7. Upon what principles do scientists and engineers depend for everything they study and design? *God's laws, set forth in the creation of the world.*

**LESSON**  
**6**

**God Created Man**

**LESSON PREPARATION**

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note: If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7

**LESSON GOALS:**

- To show God's sovereignty.
- To show the uniqueness of man in all of God's creation.
- To show God's original plan for man to be God's chosen manager over all of the earth.

**THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:**

- To see man's unique creation (distinct from all the animals) and man's unique relationship to God.
- To see God's ownership of man.

**PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:**

Like the first part of the creation story, this part also cannot be scientifically proven; it must be accepted by faith. God's Word is very clear in showing forth the uniqueness of man in God's creation. The Bible does not leave an option for man to be any less than the **only** being created in the image of God. This unique creation includes man's unique **relationship** to God. Man is not only God's creation, made in God's image; man is also God's cherished possession—**accountable** to his Creator.

Believing and understanding this relationship between God, the Creator, and man, the one created in God's image, is essential to the student's understanding of all other biblical truth. If this part of the foundation is lacking, nothing else will be stable. The person who is blind to the fact that he was created is also blind to the fact that he is accountable to his Creator. If a man thinks that he evolved, why should he worry about what God has to say?

The subtlety of the lie of evolution is that it deceives man about the existence and character of God and makes man think that he has no need of God. Strangely, this kind of thinking produces tremendous insecurities because man was never designed to be his own god. We were created to be in submission to one who is almighty, sovereign, all-knowing, all-powerful, eternal; one who can supply **all** our needs. Little wonder that without faith in our almighty Creator, men live lives of utter frustration, for man **cannot** find in himself the supply for all that he needs.<sup>1</sup> The only one who can truly meet our needs is God.

**OVERVIEW**

**This lesson presents God as the sovereign Creator and owner of man and presents man as God's unique creation, made in the image of God.**

Also considered:

"The image of God," with regard to mind, emotions, and will

Adam, the first and only man created from the ground—the ancestor of all people

God's choice of Adam as manager of the earth.

<sup>1</sup>The Bible exalts God as the Creator and owner of man. Humanistic thinking seeks to exalt man as the one in control. Like the lie of evolution, the lie of humanism has permeated our society and deceived many. Even though your students might not call themselves "humanists," they may have been deeply affected by humanistic teachings. The truths of this lesson may seem both fresh and yet irritating to those who have never heard them. Make your presentation very positive and objective and try to avoid arguments. Be patient to allow the truth of God's Word to gradually penetrate their thoughts and their hearts. Today they may be hearing and resisting; later on, the same student may fully embrace the truth of God's Word. □

Job  
12:10  
Psalm  
95:6;  
100:1-3;  
139  
Psalm  
144:3  
Isaiah  
45:5-12  
Acts  
17:24-  
28

Isaiah  
45:5,21,  
22

Isaiah  
46:9  
Acts  
17:28

**VISUALS:**

- Chronological Picture No. 3, "Creation"
- Chronological Chart

**ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:**

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

**DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!**

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

**LESSON FORMAT:** The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

## TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS (Center Column Only)

**LESSON OUTLINE:**

REVIEW questions from Lesson 5.

**A. Introduction**

We have come to the climax of the creation story.

- God spoke into being the heavens and the earth.

He created light.

He created the waters above the earth, the expanse in between, the dry land, and the oceans.

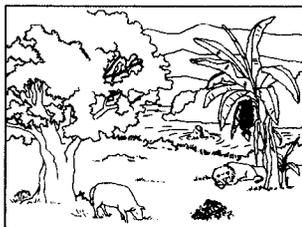
He created the plants, the trees, and the flowers.

He created the sun, the moon, and the stars.

He filled the sea with creatures and the air with birds.

He created all the animals.

Suggested Visual:



CHRONOLOGICAL PICTURE  
NO. 3, "CREATION"

- God had not done all this for Himself; God doesn't need anything!
- Why, then, had God created all these things?

## B. The earth finally prepared for man



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

God had done all of this marvelous work of creation because He is sovereign and chose to do it for His glory.



**Theme: God is loving.**

And He did it because He is loving and kind and caring.

God had lovingly, carefully, perfectly created everything in preparation for His final creation: man.



Read Isaiah 45:18.

- All that man would ever need was waiting and ready.

Compare:

*Think of how it is when a family is expecting their first child. They usually find much pleasure in fixing up a room for that new little baby. The mother wants to have everything ready ahead of time so she can bring the baby home to a place where all his needs can be met in a special, loving place prepared just for him.*

*In the same way, God had prepared a place for man.*

## C. God's plan to create man in the image of God



READ Genesis 1:26.

To whom do you think God was speaking when He said, "...Let us make man in our image..."?<sup>2</sup>

- It was God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit who were talking together.
- They were discussing their plan to make man in the image of God.



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

- Compare:

*When you are going to make something which is very important, for example a new home, you first think about it and plan how you want it to be.*

*That's what God did. God planned how He would make the first man.*

God is sovereign; He alone decided how all things would be made.

- God decided how man would be made, just like He previously decided how the spirits, the sun, moon, stars, the earth, and all things on the earth were to be made.
- God alone decided; He didn't ask anyone's advice.
- God is greater than all and more important than all.
- Man was the most important thing God created on the earth, so God decided to make him in the "image of God."

Revelation 4:11

Job 38-41

<sup>2</sup>See notes in Lesson 2 regarding the Trinity, especially the note with point D. of Lesson 2. □

<sup>3</sup>The Bible does not give us a direct answer to this question. The lesson outline covers the answer from a viewpoint of what can be deduced from Scripture.

This discussion is not intended to be the only possible interpretation of "the image of God." □

<sup>4</sup>Man was created a rational, moral, and spiritual being, for he was created in the image of God. In other words, man was created so that he could respond to God. He was endowed with intellect so he could know God. He was given emotions so he could love God. He was created with a will so he could obey God.

Make it clear that, when it says man was created in God's image, it was not in the physical image of God. □

God made man in His image so that:

- Man would be able to know God and communicate with Him.
- Others would see God's likeness reflected in man and praise and glorify God.

Matthew 5:16

**D. What does it mean that man was made in the image of God?<sup>3</sup>**

What does it mean when God tells us here in His Word that the first man was made in God's image?<sup>4</sup>

- We know it is not talking about our bodies.

God is Spirit.

God doesn't have a body of flesh and bones like we do.

- Rather, God was referring to the part which cannot be seen.

The Bible calls this part of us which cannot be seen our soul and our spirit.

Man's body was created to be the "house" of this unseen part, the soul and the spirit.

John 4:24

God planned that the unseen part of man would have a **mind, emotions, and a will, created in the image of God.**



**Theme: God communicates with man.**

- **Man's mind**—his intellect:

Because God has a mind, He planned to make people with a mind which had the ability to know God, think like God, and reason like God.

- God wanted to talk to man, and He wanted man to talk to Him.
- He wanted to be able to communicate with man, not only by spoken word, but also by written word, as He does through His Word, the Bible.
- God wanted to enable and equip man to do His work here on earth.
- Note:

*We realize that God has given animals minds, too. But an animal does not have the same kind of mind that man has. Animals can be very good company as pets; they can also be a great help to us in certain kinds of work, such as the work done by horses, mules, oxen, and even dogs. But an animal does not have the ability to converse with us; it does not have the ability to share our thoughts and make the kind of decisions we make. An animal cannot reason in the way we reason; it cannot communicate with us by speech and by writing.*

God decided that He would give man a mind so man could think and reason like God does, but that doesn't mean that any man could ever think and reason exactly as God thinks and reasons.

- Compare:

*Think about children. Do they know all the things that you do? No, they don't. But because they have a mind like you, you are able to teach them.*

Psalm 86:11; 119:73  
Proverbs 2:1-6  
Jeremiah 33:3  
John 17:3  
Philippians 3:10  
1 John 3:1,2

Romans 11:33,34

*Even the wisest man in this world is like a little child compared to God. But because God chose to make man with a mind, he would be able to listen to God's Word, understand it, and then do what God said. That is what God planned for man. God decided to give man a mind so He could talk with man, enjoy man's company, and teach man to do God's work.*

- **Man's emotions**—his feelings:

Consider:

*People often think that emotions have a bad connotation. They may just think of being "emotional." But emotions are very necessary and helpful.*

The Bible shows us that God has emotions: He is compassionate and tender and is angry at injustice.

We can readily see in God that emotions are good.

God loves, hates, feels sadness, and also feels joy and happiness.

Because God has feelings (emotions), He decided that He would also create man with feelings.

Compare:

*You who have children all love your children, don't you? But do you also want your children to love you? Of course, you do! Every parent wants his children to love him.*

*God is like that, too. God planned to love man, but God also wanted man to be able to love Him. This is the reason God planned to create man with emotions.*

- **Man's will**—his ability to choose:

Besides having a mind and feelings, God also has a will; He is able to decide that He will do something or that He will not do it.<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, God decided to make man so that he would be able to make decisions for himself.

Compare:

*When you get up in the morning, you decide what you are going to wear. You decide what you will have to drink and eat for breakfast; you decide where you are going to drive your car.*

*When you get dressed, do your clothes have any say in what you wear? Does your food have any opportunity to say when it will be eaten? Does your car have any choice where you will drive it? No. You are the one who makes the choices about all of these and countless other things.*

*God could have made the first man so he would have had no choice (just like your clothes and your food and your car). God could have made man so he would have to do everything that God made him to do, without any choice.*

*That is how God made the sun, the moon, and the stars. God made them so they have to do the same thing every day, every month, and every year. But God didn't plan to make man like that. God has a will. God decides what He will do, and God wanted man to be able to make choices just as God makes choices.*

God planned to make man so he could **choose** to love and obey God—a choice man could make intelligently because by

A few of count-  
less exam-  
ples:  
Love:  
Jere-  
miah  
31:3  
John  
3:16  
I John  
4:7-10  
Hate:  
Prov-  
erbs  
6:16-19  
Malachi  
2:16  
Sadness:  
Matthew  
23:37  
Luke  
19:41  
Joy,  
Delight:  
Jere-  
miah  
9:24  
Zepha-  
niah  
3:17

<sup>5</sup>The story of creation and the entire Bible resound with God's Sovereign will.

**Don't** get sidetracked in a discussion of God's sovereign will and man's free choice. If you need a way to avert a discussion, you may always remind your students that you want to keep the studies on course so that you will be able to cover each lesson in the time allowed and be able to move ahead. Tell them that each succeeding lesson will help build understanding.

You may also remind them that many things in the Bible are beyond our comprehension. We want to take the time to study those things that God has clearly revealed to us. If then, on their own they wish to do more study, they can do that.

Thank them for their questions and interest. □

<sup>6</sup>The creation of man was unique. Just as it is important to give God His rightful position, so we should stress the original, unique position which God gave man over creation.

We see our true value and self-worth in the light of God's estimation of us. As a person sees the value God has placed in him, he can better understand the necessity of having a right relationship with God. It is important then for us to emphasize man's unique creation and place of authority on the earth. God placed man as lord or master over the earth to take care of it. □

<sup>7</sup>In your attempts to give imaginative descriptions of biblical events, avoid literal terminology or explanations which may give an incorrect picture of God. One man was heard teaching that God put out His hand and picked up the dust to make man. The teacher even asked his listeners if they thought God may have gotten dirt under His fingernails. This type of literalism which presents God as a superhuman must be avoided. Teach just what His Word says, and give it neither a literal nor spiritual meaning beyond what is written. God did not take the dust in His hands to form man. God does not have material hands as we do. God is Spirit. □

his mind he would know that God is his loving, kind, and all-wise Creator.

Compare:

*If children know and are convinced that their parents are wise and kind, then it is much easier for them to obey their parents.*

*God's plan was to make man so he could talk with God and come to know what a wise and loving God He is. Then man should choose to obey such a wonderful God who made him.*

- Summary:

Man was given a mind to hear and understand God's communication with him, to think through what God had told him, to learn the true character of God, and to communicate with God in return.

Man was given emotions to respond to God out of love and devotion.

Man was given a will so he could choose to carry out God's plans, not as a "robot," but as one who has listened to God, loved God, and has chosen to obey God.

- God planned for man to be made in God's image so he could do God's work on earth.

- God was giving man a unique role in His creation.

Man was to be God's representative on the earth.<sup>6</sup>

Man was to look after God's things here on the earth and to be the leader over the animals, the birds, and the fish.

God gave man a mind and emotions and a will so that man could do God's work in just the way God wanted it to be done, which would bring joy to both God and man.

John 14:21

Psalms 97:11, 12

### E. The creation of Adam



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

CHRONOLOGICAL CHART: DISPLAY THE NAMES "ADAM AND EVE."



READ Genesis 1:27, 2:7.

God created the first man and woman.<sup>7</sup>

- God created the man first, and then, after the man was living, God made a wife for the man on the same day.

Since the Bible tells us in the following chapter about God's creation of woman, we will wait for a later lesson to read about that.

Today, we will just study what the Bible says about how God made the first man.

- God named the man "Adam," which means "man."

- But after God had made every part of man's body, the man still didn't have life.

Every part of his body was there, but he was like a dead man.

His body was not breathing because the part which was to be in God's image was not yet living in his body.

Deuteronomy 30:20  
Job 12:10  
Acts 17:25

It was only after God breathed into man's body that he became a living person who could know, love, and obey God.

- God alone could put life into Adam.

Neither the sun, moon, earth, birds, animals, fish, God's angels, any man, Satan, nor his spirit followers can give life.

All things received their life from God and are unable to give life to anything or anyone else.

God is distinct from all created things and greater than all the things He created.<sup>8</sup>

- Compare:

*We all depend upon electrical power. A light bulb that is not screwed into the socket doesn't give any light. Until the switch is turned on, our homes don't receive any power. Not only our homes, but commerce and industry are very dependent upon that flow of electrical power. When it is interrupted, many things we are accustomed to using simply won't work. Without power to run them, very complex, useful machines are absolutely useless.*

*Just as the power company is our source of electricity, so also God is our source of life. All things received their life from God and are utterly dependent upon Him.*

- When God breathed into the first man's nostrils, the man was immediately alive.

He was breathing, and he was a strong, healthy man.

There wasn't any sickness or death in the world.

### F. Adam was the first and only man God created from the ground.



READ Genesis 2:7.

Adam was the first and only man God created from the ground.<sup>9</sup>

God only made one man from the ground and one woman from him, and God told them to have children so all the world would eventually be filled with people.

Adam is the ancestor of all people.

- He is the ancestor of all people, regardless of race, culture, or country.

Adam is your ancestor.

Adam is also my ancestor.

He is the ancestor of all people.

We all came from this first man.

- He is the beginning and the father of the entire human race.

### G. Man placed as manager over the earth



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**



**Theme: God communicates with man.**



READ Genesis 1:28-30.

God put man in charge of the earth and everything in it.

<sup>8</sup>Again, make this distinction clear. (New Age and other pantheistic religions teach that God is everything and everything is God.) □

<sup>9</sup>This is very important. Satan does not want people to know that we all came from one source. We will apply this truth personally again and again as we teach these first 10 chapters of Genesis. It is absolutely necessary that your students come to understand that they, too, had their beginnings "in Adam." They will never be able to understand their salvation "in Christ" unless they understand that they died "in Adam" (Romans 5:12-21; I Corinthians 15:22). □

Acts 17:26

God desired to help man learn to take care of all the responsibilities God had given him.

- Compare:

*Consider a wealthy man who owns many properties and businesses. He loves his son and is very pleased with him. The day comes when he decides to give to his son the management of all of the father's assets. The father knows that his son will need guidance in this huge responsibility, and he is delighted and willing to help his son to learn all that is necessary. He is glad to entrust the work to his son; he is also glad to sit down and talk with him about each decision and to tell him all that he would like to see done in the work he has given his son to oversee.*

*God, too, was very pleased with the first man He made. God spoke to Adam, the first man, and God told him what he was to do as God's representative on earth.*

God had the right to decide to whom He would give the earth.

- He didn't give the earth to His angels.
- He didn't give it to Satan and his demons.

Why was God the only one who had the authority to give man control over the earth and everything in it?

God created everything.



Read Psalm 24:1.

Therefore, God could give it to whom He pleased.



Read I Chronicles 29:11: ***"Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all."***<sup>10</sup>

- Compare:

*The wealthy man chose to make his son manager. It was the father's right to make that choice, and he did not give that responsibility to anyone else but to his son. No one else would have the right to oversee that man's assets except the son.*

*God is the Creator of all things, so this world and everything in it belongs to God. He had the right to decide to whom He would give the earth, and He gave it to man. God is supreme and sovereign.*

What a special place God gave to man!

By giving man that responsibility, God gave man a great honor and privilege.



Read Psalm 8:3-9.

## H. Everything God made was good.



**Theme: God is holy.**



READ Genesis 1:31.

Because God is perfect and good, everything He created was absolutely right and beautiful.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup>This Scripture contains themes that run ahead of the chronological order. The parts that are bold-faced here are what you want to emphasize. Do not get into discussion about other themes. □

<sup>11</sup>When you mention God's perfect creation, someone may ask why things are so different now. Don't answer at this point, but tell them that you will be studying the answer to that question in future lessons. □

- In the beginning, nothing in the animal world would hurt or harm man.
- Neither man nor animal had to kill in order to eat.
- Thorns, thistles, and weeds didn't grow as they do now.

### I. Conclusion

God is sovereign.

He is the great and only **Creator** of all things; therefore, He is the **owner** of all things.

He made the first man from the dust of the earth.

He created man in His own image, giving man:

- A mind so he could know God
- Emotions so he could love God
- A will so he could choose to obey God

Adam, the first man, is the ancestor of all men everywhere.

As Creator and owner of man, God gave man the responsibility of being manager over the earth.

In our next lesson we will study more about God and His sovereign, loving dealings with Adam.

---

### QUESTIONS:

---

1. For whom did God prepare the earth? *For man.*
2. What great difference was there between the creation of man and that of the animals? *God created man in His image.*
3. What does it mean that God made man in His image? *God is Spirit, so it was not man's body that was created in God's image. God made Adam and Eve so they could know, love, and obey God.*
4. How many men and women did God make in the beginning? *God created only one man and one woman.*
5. Who is your very first forefather and my first forefather? *Adam.*
6. After the creation of Adam, the first man, over what did God give him control? *The earth and everything in it.*
7. Why don't Satan and his demons have the right to control the earth and the things on the earth? *Because God never gave them the right to control anything on the earth. God gave the earth to man.*
8. What was everything in the world like in the beginning? *Very good. Everything was perfect.*

**LESSON**  
**7**

## God Placed Adam in Eden

### LESSON PREPARATION

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note:** If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:1-9,16,17

### LESSON GOALS:

- To present God as the sovereign, loving, wise Creator and owner of man.
- To establish that the penalty for sin is death.

### THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:

- To see their need to get to know God.
- To see their need to be in submission to God.
- To value God's care for them.
- To see that the penalty for sin is death.

### PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:

This is a lesson about God's sovereignty and holiness and man's relationship to his God. Our society teaches us to be independent and to do "our own thing"; God's Word teaches us to be in confident submission to our holy, righteous Creator. Our society teaches us to stand up for our rights; the Bible teaches us the privilege of receiving what is given to us by our sovereign, loving, all-knowing God. Our society teaches us to go as far as we dare and to get away with whatever we can; God's Word teaches us that God is holy and that the punishment for sin is death. Our society tells us to find out who we are so that we can have more self-esteem; God's Word says we should first know Him and then understand who we are in Him!

### SPECIAL NOTE:

This lesson presents some concepts which are seldom taught in our culture: God's ownership of man and man's need to fear God. To prepare your own heart for teaching and for handling any discussion on these issues, be sure to study ahead the Scriptures in the side columns adjacent to the lesson outline.

### VISUALS:

- Bring to class a tree branch with green leaves. You will use this same branch in several future lessons to illustrate the effect of sin in separating man from God, man's source of life.
- The visual, "The Penalty of Sin is Death," can be done as you teach or made ahead as a small poster to keep on the wall in your classroom.

### OVERVIEW

This lesson continues to present God's sovereignty as Creator and owner of man. It also establishes the fact that the penalty for sin is death.

Also presented:

- God's rest on the 7th day:  
not a physical rest, but a ceasing from work that was completed
- God's placing Adam in the garden:  
an act of God's sovereignty as the creator/owner of man
- God's care for Adam
- The tree of life:  
God wanted Adam to choose to eat of it and live forever
- The tree of knowledge of good and evil:  
God instructed Adam clearly that he would die if he disobeyed God and ate of this tree
- Death penalty for sin:  
separation from God, separation from the body, separation forever in the Lake of Fire.

**ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:**

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

**DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!**

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

**LESSON FORMAT:** The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

---

**TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS**  
(Center Column Only)

---

**LESSON OUTLINE:**

REVIEW questions from Lesson 6.

**A. Introduction**

Have you ever started something and not finished it?

All of us can probably remember something which we started to do and, for some reason, weren't able to finish.

- Can you think of something you started recently and didn't finish?

Why didn't you finish what you started? <sup>1</sup>

- You changed your mind.
- You lost interest.
- It turned out to be too hard for you to do.
- It was a bigger job than you had thought.
- You were interrupted.
- You ran out of time.
- You ran out of money.
- Etc.

God is not like us.

- He never gives up on what He plans to do.

When He begins a work, He always finishes it.

He does not change His mind and then decide He will do something different.

<sup>1</sup>Give your students a brief opportunity to name some of their reasons for not finishing what they started. □

**B. God finished making all He had planned.**



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**



**Theme: God is faithful; He never changes.**



READ Genesis 2:1.

God finished all that He planned to do.

- Compare:

*We change our minds and we change our plans.*

*But it is never that way with God.*

God never changes His mind about something that He plans to do.

Nothing and no one can hinder God from doing all He plans to do.

- No human can hinder God.

- Satan cannot stop God.

- God is greater than all.

He always does whatever He plans to do.

Therefore, when God promises to do something, we can be confident that He will do it.



Read Psalm 33:11.

**C. God rested from His work of creation on the seventh day.**



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**



READ Genesis 2:2,3.

How many days did it take for God to make everything? Only six days!<sup>2</sup>

- Compare:

*How many days does it take to build a house? It takes a long time, doesn't it, even for a building contractor. He has to assemble the needed materials and have all the workers ready for the various building tasks, and then all the labor must be done and inspected before the house is completed.*

*But look at all the things God created in just six days. There is none other as great as God. He is almighty. He can do anything He wants.*

God finished in six days all He planned to do, so on the seventh day, He rested from His work of creating.<sup>3</sup>

- Did God rest from His work because He became tired after all the work He had done?

- Compare:

*After a hard day's work, we want to come home and rest. Sometimes we get involved in some pretty exhausting tasks. Just think of all that God had done that week!*

*Do you think that God rested because He was tired? He had made millions of stars, the sun, and the moon. Look at all the things He created on the earth. Do you think He lay down and said, "I'm tired. I am going to have a good rest today"?*

<sup>2</sup>A student may ask if these are six 24-hour days.

Beware. This is a sensitive issue—one that has been debated many times. (Don't raise this point unnecessarily.)

Probably the clearest answer we have from Scripture is the words, "*the evening and the morning were the first [second, third, fourth, etc.] day*" (Genesis 1:5,8,13,19, 23,31). This would indicate 24-hour days.

Many people view these days as ages of time in which everything evolved.

But nowhere in the Bible does God say anything like this. II Peter 3:8 says that "*one day is with the Lord as a thousand years,*" but the context is very different from the Genesis 1 context which mentions morning and evening and a clear succession of numbered days. □

<sup>3</sup>Someone may raise the question of sabbath days or going to church on Sunday. Avoid this discussion at this point.

You might want to say that in this lesson we are just going to focus on what God is saying about His rest from creating all things. □

Isaiah  
46:10,  
11;  
55:8-11

*No, God doesn't get weary or sleepy like we do. He doesn't have a physical body that needs rest or sleep. God is Spirit. He is always the same. He is still the same today as He was when He first made the earth. God will never change.*



Read Isaiah 40:28.

- Compare:

*When you have finished an important project, haven't you sometimes just stood back and taken a look at all that was accomplished? Even if you had the energy to do more, you wouldn't, because everything that needed to be done on that project was completed. Nothing more could be added to it.*

*That's how it was with God and all He had created. God was very pleased with everything that He had made.*

God created everything in six days, and so He rested on the seventh day.

God rested from creating because He saw that all His work which He had planned to do was finished.

#### D. Mist, not rain, watered the earth.



READ Genesis 2:4-6.

Before we consider what these verses are teaching, notice that God now uses another name for Himself.

- In the first chapter, He called Himself "God" which means that He is the great and mighty God who created the heavens and the earth and all things that are in them.
- But the name He now uses in these verses is "the LORD," which means that God is the eternal one who is totally independent of all things and who will never change.
- From this point onward, the Bible sometimes uses the name "God," but at other times, it uses the name "the LORD God" or just "the LORD."

These verses teach us something very interesting about the beginning.

- When God first created everything, He did not water the earth by giving rain.
- Instead, He watered it by mist which came up from the earth.<sup>4</sup>

#### E. God planted a garden.



**Theme: God is love.**



READ Genesis 2:7,8.

Because God loved Adam very much, God planted a beautiful garden especially for Adam.<sup>5</sup>

God included in that garden all the vegetables and fruit trees that Adam needed to keep him happy, strong, and healthy.

- Compare:

*For whom do you make something lovely? A lady will prepare a special meal for her family—because she loves them. A man will work hours on a carpentry project for his wife—because he loves*

<sup>4</sup>This explanation is necessary preparation for the story of the flood and the first rain seen by men. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet..." (Hebrews 11:7). □

<sup>5</sup>Note to substitute teacher: The creation of man was covered in Lesson 6. □

her. Even a little child will spend a great deal of time making a pretty gift for dad or mom—because that child loves his parents. God planted a beautiful garden for Adam—because God loved him! All of the gardens and zoos in the world could not begin to compare with God's garden.

## F. God put Adam in the garden.



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**



READ Genesis 2:8.

When God had the garden ready, He took Adam and put him there.

- God didn't ask Adam if he wanted to live there.
- God just took Adam and put him in the garden called Eden.<sup>6</sup>
- Explain:

*God didn't say to the man, "Adam, I have planted a garden. It is a really beautiful place. Would you like to live there?" God didn't offer it to Adam as a place in which to live. God took the man whom He had formed, and He put him in the garden.*

- Why could God do this?
- Because God created man, He had the right to put him where He wanted him and to tell him what to do.
- Illustrate:

*In some areas of the world, the relationship between the maker and the owner of things is easily understood, because people have to make for themselves everything they use.*

*For example, if a man said, "Who owns that paddle?" the answer would be the name of whoever made it. He made it; therefore, he owns it, and it's his to do with as he wants.*

- Compare:

*The distinction in our culture might not be as obvious, but the relationship between the maker and the owner still applies.*

*For instance, if you planted a vegetable garden, would your neighbor be right in coming over without asking you and harvesting all your vegetables and taking them home for himself? Of course not! You planted and own the garden; it is yours to do with as you want.*

*Does anyone have the right to come into your house and take the things you own? No. Those things belong to you.*

*Or, from a different perspective, could a man say to some other man, "I have built a house, so you must live there and take care of the house and the yard." A man could say that to his own wife and to his own children because they are his family. But he does not have the right to say that to others.*

*Well, what about Adam? Did God have the right to take Adam and put him in the garden?*

*Who owned Adam? God did, because God made him.*

- God is the owner of all things.

He has the right to do what He wishes with us and with all the other things that He has made.

He has the right to tell us what to do.

God created Adam, so Adam belonged to God.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Some students may ask where the Garden of Eden was located. Bible scholars take different views about this. Some believe it was located in the area of present-day Iraq, as the rivers there bear the same ancient names given in Genesis 2.

Others believe that those who survived the flood of Genesis 6 and 7 gave these pre-flood names to new rivers in a landscape totally transformed by the destructive deluge. They believe that the location of the Garden of Eden is impossible to ascertain. (See *The Genesis Record*, by Henry Morris, p. 90.) □

<sup>7</sup>The truth of God's ownership of us is very important to establish. It is a foundational truth which is often missing, even among believers.

One lady who had been a Christian for many years heard this lesson being taught to others. Within a short time, she found out that she needed to go into the hospital for a biopsy. The surgeon's plan was to go ahead and operate if he found cancer. Surgeries had always caused her great fear, but when she meditated on the truth that she and her body belonged to God, she was able to find peace and even joy in trusting Him to do whatever He wanted to with His possession. The night before the biopsy surgery, she was actually excited just to look forward to whatever God had planned for her. The biopsy proved to be benign, but the lady's real joy came from the awesome peace that God had given her beforehand. □

God is the greatest authority; there is none who is higher than God.



**Theme: God is love.**



**Theme: God is holy and righteous.**



**Theme: God never changes.**

God told Adam to take care of the garden, but Adam didn't need to work hard because everything was perfect.

- The weeds didn't grow.
- Snails, grubs, and insects did not eat the fruit or vegetables.
- Consider:

*It is impossible for us to picture how things really were in the Garden of Eden. Can you imagine a garden with no weeds or pests? Can you imagine getting all your orders directly from God, knowing that He had entrusted to you the care of all of His wonderful creation? Can you imagine the tremendous love that He had already displayed to Adam?*

*God had made the earth beautiful; He had set it amidst a backdrop of the sun, moon, and stars; He had filled it with an amazing variety of plant and animal life—not just enough to “live on,” but an abundance of everything, all done as an outpouring of God's love. A few plants and a few animals surely would have been enough, but God poured out colors, textures, sounds, tastes, fragrances, varieties, beyond what can be imagined. Adam's situation was perfect and lovely in every way.*

*How different, you may say, from the world we live in! Different, indeed; and the Bible tells us exactly what has caused the awful changes. Future lessons will deal with these things.*

*But for now, we will do well to learn this lesson about God, who has not changed one bit: “As for God, his way is perfect...” (Psalm 18:30). God does everything perfectly and in love; He can be trusted to do that which is good and right. “The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works” (Psalm 145:17).*

### G. The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil



**Theme: Man needs God.**



READ Genesis 2:9.

God planted two very important trees in the middle of the garden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God was Adam's source of life.

- God wanted Adam to have what was good.
- Adam was dependent upon God for everything.
- God wanted to guide Adam in every choice and decision.



READ Genesis 2:16,17.



**Theme: God communicates with man.**

Psalms 119:105, 128

Deuteronomy 30:19, 20

Romans 6:23a

God clearly instructed Adam:

- When God put Adam in the garden, God did not leave it up to Adam to decide which things were right and which things were wrong to do.
- God spoke to Adam and told him what he **must not do** or he would surely die.

God clearly instructs us:

- God is still the same today.
- He has not left us to decide for ourselves what is right and what is wrong.
- God has given the Bible so we can know what pleases and displeases Him.

God instructed Adam:

- God planted an endless variety of trees—trees which supplied food for man and gave beauty to the garden.
- Only **one** tree was denied to Adam.
- He must not eat of the fruit from this tree which was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.<sup>8</sup>

God knew what was best for Adam.

- From the time God created Adam, God had decided what was good for him.
- God had decided what Adam needed, and God put Adam in the Garden of Eden.
- Adam didn't know anything that was evil or bad because God had given him everything that was good.

Adam had a choice about whether or not to obey God.

- Adam could choose to obey God and eat only what God had said was good, knowing that God's choice was the best for him.
- He could eat of the tree of life and live forever.
- But if Adam disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it would be because Adam had decided that he wanted to be independent of God.
- From the time he ate, he would not only know what was good but he would also know what was evil.
- Instead of God telling him what was good and what was evil, he would have decided to choose for himself.

The result of disobedience:

- If he disobeyed God and wanted to be independent of God, then the result would be death, separation from God.

#### H. Death is the punishment for disobedience to God.



**Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**



READ Genesis 2:17.

God warned Adam: "If you eat the fruit of this tree, you will die immediately."

- Until this time, Adam had only experienced good things because it was God who had provided everything for Adam.

<sup>8</sup>Some students may question why God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden. Was God trying to "tempt" the man he had made? For the teacher, James 1:13-15 is a good text to consider. It is not yet totally appropriate in the chronological order, so had best not be introduced to the student. But the point can be stated that God is not the one to blame when we disobey. □

- But now, God warned him very clearly that, if he wanted to be independent of God and disobey Him by eating the forbidden fruit, then he would also come to know what is evil.
- Adam would die.
- Compare:

*We may be very vague when we issue a warning, but God's warning was direct. Adam could not miss what God had said: "...in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17).*

What did God mean when He told Adam that he would die?

**1. Separation from God**—death of a relationship.

- Adam would be separated from God.
- Compare:

*Do you remember what happened to Satan and the angels when they sinned?*

*They were cut off from God's love and friendship.*

*- Because Satan and the angels who followed him rebelled against God, they were no longer the friends of God.*

*- They were separated from God.*

*- They were put out of their positions in Heaven, and God prepared a place of terrible punishment where He is going to put them forever.*

- Compare:

*If two friends have a big dispute or an argument which they refuse to forget, do they continue spending time together—just to chat, or to go shopping, or go fishing, or whatever they have previously enjoyed together? No! Disagreement causes separation. People don't want to be with those with whom they disagree.*

- God warned Adam that, if he disobeyed His command, he would no longer be God's friend.

Adam would become God's enemy as Satan had.

Adam would be separated from God's love and friendship.

Adam would die.

Adam would be separated from God, the source of life and all that is good.

That part of Adam which was created in God's image so Adam could know, love, and obey God would be separated from Him if Adam ate the forbidden fruit.

**2. Separation from the body**—death of the physical body.

- God didn't mean that Adam would die physically the same day he ate the fruit.
- God meant that on that day, Adam would be cut off from God who was the source of his life.
- Because of this, he would also have to die physically.

**DISPLAY BRANCH BROKEN OFF FROM A TREE**

- Explain

*What happens when a branch is cut off from a tree? The branch doesn't die immediately, does it? The leaves are still green for a few days, and it looks just like it did before it was cut. But because it has been separated from the tree, it cannot*

Isaiah  
14:13-15

Ezekiel  
28:14-17

II Peter  
2:4

Revelation  
20:10

Matthew  
27:50  
John  
19:30  
Acts  
7:59

*receive what it needs to keep it alive. It has been cut off from its source of life. Very soon, it will wither and dry up.*

*That's what God meant would happen to Adam. If Adam ate of this fruit, he would be immediately cut off from God, the source, giver, and sustainer of his life. The result would be that he would also have to die physically.*

*When a person dies, he is separated from his body. A person's spirit and soul, that is, the part of him which cannot be seen, leave his body and so he dies.*

*When God first created Adam's body, Adam didn't have any life. His body was like a dead person's body. Then God breathed life into Adam's nostrils. When God breathed into Adam's body, God gave him his soul and spirit. Our bodies are the houses of our souls and spirits. Every person has his own soul and spirit in his body.*

- Compare:

*When you go to visit your neighbors, you go to their house. But if they have moved away to another town, they have left their house and are no longer living in it. They are separated from their house. If someone asks where they are living, you would say, "They have moved away to another town. They are not living here in their house anymore."*

*That is what happens when a person dies. He leaves his body which is the house of his spirit and his soul.*

- More clarification:

*God told Adam that, if he disobeyed Him and ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would be separated from God who gave him his life.*

*Adam would no longer enjoy God's love and friendship.*

*Eventually, Adam's body would also have to die. (His soul and spirit would leave his body and he would die.)*

### **3. Separation forever in the Lake of Fire—death of future joys which God had planned for Adam.**

- Finally, if Adam disobeyed God, then not only would his body die, but he would also go eventually to the Lake of Fire.
- This is the same place of terrible punishment which God prepared for Satan and his spirit followers.
- If Adam chose to disobey, he would be choosing Satan's "reward" instead of enjoying the wonderful things God had in store for him.
- There is no way of escape; no one can escape from God.
- Adam's punishment would be forever and ever.

TO SUMMARIZE, SHOW VISUAL:

#### **THE PENALTY FOR SIN IS DEATH**

1. Separation from God.
2. Separation from the body.
3. Separation from God forever in the Lake of Fire.

## I. God's position of authority over Adam



**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

God is sovereign; He had the right to tell Adam what to do.

- God made Adam and gave him his life.
- Adam belonged to God.
- Compare:

*Whatever a person makes belongs to him. If you bake a cake or build a bookshelf, it is yours, and you have the right to do with it as you wish.*

*God had the right to tell Adam what to do because Adam belonged to God.*

Psalm  
24:1  
Jere-  
miah  
10:23



**Theme: God is love.**

God told Adam what to do because God is loving.

- God wanted to enjoy Adam's love and friendship.
- God only wanted what was best for Adam.

Psalm  
32:8-10



**Theme: God knows everything.**

God had the right to tell Adam what to do because God knows everything.

- God knew what was best for Adam.
- God was wiser than Adam; God is wiser than all.
- God knew that, if Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would be separated from God, his Creator.

Psalm  
19:7-11

Compare:

*God still knows what is best. He knows the truth. He has given us the Bible so that we, too, can know the truth. We should listen carefully to God's Word, for He is our all-wise Creator.*

## J. Conclusion:



Read Psalm 119:73.



Read Proverbs 1:7.

This kind of fear is not the same kind of fear with which we fear evil; rather it is the sense of awe and overwhelming respect that comes from realizing who God is.<sup>9</sup>

- God is sovereign over all.
- God is our Creator.
- God is our owner.
- God is the all-knowing and all-powerful one.
- God is the holy and righteous one who demands death as the payment for sin.

Psalm  
90:1,2  
Prov-  
erbs  
2:1-5  
Isaiah  
43:7

Think of the things we have already learned about God!

- He alone existed in eternity past before anything was created.
- He created all things from nothing.

Hebrews  
1:10-12;  
11:3

<sup>9</sup>These truths which are so foundational to spiritual knowledge are exactly 180 degrees away from what our society is teaching. Do not be surprised if your students have some problems with God's ownership of us and our need to fear God. Your students may disagree with the Bible, but the Word will still be doing its work, piercing deeply into their hearts. Just be sure to present these truths clearly. Do not "argue" them—just establish them as what God says! □

- He has all power and all knowledge, is everywhere all the time, and is unchanging.
- He created man and designed man to be under God's sovereign authority.

We would be very foolish not to have a fear of and a high regard for one with such awesome power!

Yet this same God wants to communicate with us and has given us His Word.

In our next lesson we will study God's creation of the first woman, Eve.

Only as we consider who God is can we begin to have true knowledge about life, for God is the one who created life.

And He loves us enough to communicate these answers to us as we seek to know Him through His Word, the Bible!

---

### QUESTIONS:

---

1. Does God ever begin a thing and then not finish it? *No.*
2. Why doesn't God begin things and then leave them unfinished? *Because God never changes. Nothing can hinder Him from doing what He plans to do.*
3. Why did God rest on the seventh day? *Because all His work of creating things was finished.*
4. Did God send rain to water the plants when the earth was first created? *No, God watered the plants by mist which rose up from the earth.*
5. For whom did God plant the garden of Eden? *For Adam.*
6. Why was it right for God to put Adam in the garden even though God didn't ask him if he wanted to live there? *God created Adam, so he rightfully belonged to God.*
7. To whom do all things, spirits, and people belong? *To God, their Creator.*
8. Of how many trees in the garden was Adam allowed to eat the fruit? *All of them except one.*
9. Who put the tree of life in the garden for Adam? *God.*
10. What was the name of the tree, the fruit of which God did not want Adam to eat? *The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
11. What did God say would happen to Adam if he ate of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? *Adam would die.*
12. What did God mean when He said that man would die?
  - a. *Man would be immediately separated from God, the source of his life.*
  - b. *His body would die when his soul and spirit were separated from his body.*
  - c. *Man's body, soul, and spirit would be separated from God forever in the place which God prepared for Satan and his demons.*

**LESSON**  
**8**

**God Made Eve**

**OVERVIEW**

**This lesson shows God's sovereign creation of woman as a gift to man.**

Some points:

- God knew Adam's need for a wife.
- Adam named all the animals but found no suitable companion among them.
- God created the woman from Adam's rib.
- God created the woman perfect because God is perfect.
- God ordained marriage.

**LESSON PREPARATION**

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note: If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:18-25

**LESSON GOALS:**

- To show that God in His sovereignty and love and holiness and wisdom and power provided a wife for Adam.

**THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:**

- To see God's wisdom and love in providing exactly what we need.
- To see that God values both man and woman very highly and wants us to value one another.
- To see that marriage was ordained by God.

**PERSPECTIVE:**

In our culture, the sanctity of marriage has been almost obscured by the popular desire to control one's own life and to submit to no one. Sanctity is an appropriate word to describe marriage; "sanctity" means "holiness of life and character...inviolability, sacredness..." (Webster's Dictionary).

A thoughtful look at Scripture is the best way to renew our correct perspective on marriage. This lesson "lays the first block" in understanding God's plan for marriage. If we see that marriage is a union ordained (officially decreed) by God, we cannot consider it outdated (God has not changed His decree regarding marriage), nor can we consider it something just to be tried out to see if it works.

God designed man and woman in His image and gave them sacred responsibilities toward Him and toward each other. If we see ourselves in the light of God's original design for mankind, we will also see ourselves accountable to Him and loved by Him. The self-esteem so earnestly sought by many in our society can only be found in seeing ourselves as related to our Creator.

**VISUALS:**

- Chronological Picture No. 4, "Adam and Eve in the Garden"

**NOTE:**

This lesson is short. If you have time remaining at the end of this lesson, you may want to begin Lesson 9, which is a review of all that has been taught thus far.

**ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:**

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

**DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!**

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

LESSON FORMAT: The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

---

**TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS**  
(Center Column Only)

---

**LESSON OUTLINE:**

REVIEW questions from Lesson 7.

**A. INTRODUCTION:**

We continually hear conversations about marriage.<sup>1</sup>

- Some say that marriage is something to be tried out to see if it will work—sort of an option, depending on how you feel about it.
- Many people are even suggesting that the idea of marriage is outdated.

But what does the Bible say about marriage?

- Did you know that God instituted marriage in the beginning?
- Right here in Genesis 2 we find part of the wedding service spoken in many ceremonies even today.

Let's take a look at the roles God gave the first man and woman.

**B. God decided that Adam needed a wife to help him and to be his companion.**

**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**



**READ** Genesis 2:18.

God decided that Adam should not live alone.

- God was his Creator and knew what was best for him.
- God didn't ask Adam what he wanted or thought best.
- God made the decision to make a wife for Adam.



**Theme: God is love.**

<sup>1</sup>In this lesson you will not be discussing marriage relationships. You will simply be presenting the fact that God originally ordained marriage, and He has not changed.

(See also note 4 with outline point F.) □

Matthew 6:8b  
Philip-  
pians 4:19

God loved Adam and wanted him to be complete.

- God knew that Adam wouldn't continue to be happy if he remained alone.
- Because God loved Adam and wanted the best for him, He decided to make a wife for him.

God knows ahead of time just what our needs will be, and He also knows the best way to meet those needs.

- You will see that He didn't create Adam's wife at the same moment or in the same way He created Adam.
- He created her at just the right time and in just the right way to meet Adam's needs.

**C. God brought all of the animals before Adam to be named by him.**



READ Genesis 2:19,20.

God had placed Adam as master over all the animals, so God also gave Adam the responsibility of giving them all their names.<sup>2</sup>

God brought to Adam every creature He had made, and Adam named them all.

**D. There was no suitable companion for Adam among the animals.**



**Theme: Man needs God.**



READ Genesis 2:20.<sup>3</sup>

God created man very different from the animals.

- Man was made in God's image so he could know, love, and obey God.
- The animals could not know, love, and obey God like man could.
- Animals are not interested in the things in which people are interested.
- They cannot do many of the things that people do.

Adam needed someone to whom he could talk and who could do the same things that he could do.

- No animal could be a suitable companion for man.
- He needed someone more like himself.

Man couldn't do anything to provide himself with a companion and wife.

- Neither the angels nor Satan, or his demons, could make a wife for Adam.
- God alone could make a wife for Adam.

God knew that Adam would need a wife; God loved man and did not want him to be alone.

**E. God created Eve from Adam's rib.**



**Theme: God is all-powerful.**



READ Genesis 2:21,22.

<sup>2</sup>Dr. John Whitcomb, a spokesman for biblical creation, has said that Adam's ability to name all the animals gives insight into his perfect intelligence. At this point, Adam had not sinned, so his mind was still in the perfect state in which God had created it. □

<sup>3</sup>Note: the KJV words "help meet" mean "suitable helper." □

Acts 17:24,25

Only God could do this.

- He knows everything.
- He can do anything He wants to do.

God made the first woman as a gift for man.

- Compare:

*If someone who loves you were to give you a very special gift, would you take good care of it? Of course you would! It would be valuable to you because of the care and concern and love expressed by the one who gave it to you.*

*God gave a wife to Adam, and God expected Adam to take good care of her and to love her.*

- Consider:

*Even though all of the animals must have seemed very interesting (and Adam had seen them all as he named them), imagine Adam's delight in seeing this lovely woman whom God had made for him! She, like Adam, was created by God, but God had not made her from the dust of the ground as he had made Adam. God had actually made her from part of Adam's own body, Adam's rib. How precious and close she must have been to Adam! And God had given her a mind and emotions and a will, so she also was able to communicate with God and with Adam.*

## F. Marriage was ordained by God.



**Theme: God is holy and righteous.**



**READ Genesis 2:23,24.**

God made woman for man so they could be married, live together, and have children.<sup>4</sup>

- "...Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth..." (Genesis 1:28).
- This was God's command to Adam.

Consider:

*Because God created everything perfect, we can only imagine just how lovely this woman really was! And God had made her to be that perfect "suitable helper" (Genesis 2:20, KJV "help meet") that Adam needed.*

*How satisfied Adam must have been with this dear wife who was given him by God, suited perfectly for his needs, made from part of his own body, endowed with the ability to communicate with him and with God, and commanded, with Adam, to fill the earth and to rule over it. To Adam, uniting with his wife in marriage must have seemed very good indeed.*

Marriage was God's perfect plan for Adam and Eve.

- Eve was Adam's gift from God, perfectly suited to Adam's needs.
- Everything that God does and says is good because He is perfect.

He cannot think, say, or do anything evil.



**Read James 1:17.**

Marriage is good because God gave marriage to man.

<sup>4</sup>At this point, do not begin teaching on husband and wife relationships, adultery, or sexual immorality. Do not teach reformation or sanctification before you have discussed the need of and God's provision for salvation. You are laying foundations on which you will build later.

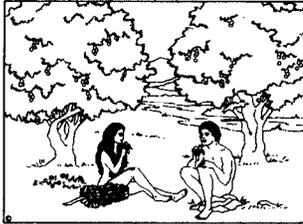
Our teaching must begin with the root of sin before we point to the fruit of sin. In Genesis 3, we will teach about the root of sin. Man, through disobedience, was separated from God and so became a sinner by nature. In Genesis 4, we begin to see the fruit of man's sin nature clearly evidenced in the life of Cain. If you emphasize the fruit of sin (e.g., adultery, stealing, lying, etc.) before your students realize that what they do only shows what they are, they may turn to self-reformation in an effort to clean up their lives before God. Do not run ahead of the chronological story in either its historical or doctrinal development. □

**G. Adam and Eve were unaware that they were naked, and they were totally unembarrassed.**



READ Genesis 2:25.

*Suggested Visual*



CHRONOLOGICAL PICTURE  
NO. 4, "ADAM AND EVE IN THE  
GARDEN"

**H. Conclusion**

Life was perfect for Adam and Eve.

- God had given them everything they needed.
- And He had surrounded them with beauty and abundance far beyond their physical needs.
- They were able to communicate with God and with each other.
- He had made them rulers over His creation.
- He was present with them to guide them in every decision.
- Their work wasn't hard.
- They had no sickness.

What happened?

- We will study later about the drastic events that changed all this peace and beauty.

But God's Word hasn't changed.

- Thousands of years have passed since Adam and Eve became man and wife, but God has never altered what He first wrote about marriage.
- God has not changed His mind about marriage.

Next we are going to review what we have learned so far.

- Review gives you a good opportunity:
  - To "firm up" what you have learned
  - To clear up misunderstandings
  - To learn things you might have missed the first time through.
- Be sure to come.

Hebrews  
13:4

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Who decided that Adam needed a wife as a companion? *God did.*
2. Why did God decide to make a wife for Adam? *Because God loved Adam and did not think it was good for Adam to be alone.*
3. Was it right for God to decide to do this without asking Adam? *Yes, God created Adam. God is over everything, every spirit, and every person.*
4. How did God make the first woman? *God put Adam to sleep. He took out one of Adam's ribs. God then made the first woman from Adam's rib.*

*Lesson 8: God Made Eve*

Teacher's Notes

Scripture  
Reference

5. How was it possible for God to make Eve from one of Adam's ribs?  
*Nothing is impossible to God. He can do anything He wants to do.*
6. Who told Adam and Eve to marry and to have children? *God, their Creator.*

**LESSON**  
**9**

**Review of Lessons 1-8**

**LESSON PREPARATION**

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note:** If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1, 2

**GENERAL TOPIC:**

- Review of what has been taught so far about the Bible, God, Satan, and man.

**REVIEWING WHAT HAS BEEN TAUGHT—  
Some Special Considerations:**

As we have taught through Genesis 1 and 2, we have introduced God, Satan, and man, the three main characters in the whole historical drama recorded in the Scriptures. We are now ready to teach Genesis 3, one of the most important chapters in the whole Bible. The origins of man's sinfulness, death, and all earth's miseries, along with the first promise of a Saviour are revealed in Genesis 3. However, the historical and the doctrinal foundational truths of Genesis 3 cannot be grasped apart from a basic understanding of the character of God, Satan, and man. In order to ensure that your students really do comprehend, Lesson 9 is a review of the main points already taught about these three persons. Also included are some questions concerning the authority of God's Word, the Bible.

Review by asking questions.

1. If you ask a question and they cannot answer or give a wrong answer, ask some other relevant question or give them some clues. If they cannot answer after a little help, go ahead and tell them. Do not rebuke them if they do not know the answer, and be careful not to embarrass anyone by belaboring the question.
2. If you have several students, direct some questions to the whole group and others to individuals.
3. If one or two people are answering most of the questions, you may want to go around the group, one by one, giving each person the opportunity to answer. Be careful not to embarrass anyone by pressing for answers.
4. If your class is very small, you may want to give each student a question sheet and talk through the questions less formally. You still need their feedback, and this will keep you from having to do all the asking if they can look at the sheet with you.
5. Some of these questions involve controversial issues. You may have some students who want to debate these issues. Let them know that you appreciate their interest, but let them know, too, that the purpose of the class is not debate. Many of these issues have been debated in the past and undoubtedly will be in the future. But the purpose of the class is to show what the Bible says and to learn the Word of God accurately.

**OVERVIEW**

This lesson is a review of what has been taught thus far regarding the Bible, God, Satan, and man.

This review is important preparation for Genesis 3, the story of the fall of man, which is covered in following lessons.

Whatever you do, be sure to limit discussion of these controversial subjects. Winning an argument will not help convince a heart. Just allow the Holy Spirit to use the truth and be firm but loving and patient with those who disagree.

Remember to use the graphics described and illustrated in Lesson 1: the "clothesline" showing key events; the visual showing that we are studying the top of the main events, not the layers of detail; and the visual showing that we are studying the firm foundation, not the "upper structure."

Review is extremely important; don't skip it just to save time. Reviewing will help to solidify information in the students' minds and will help you as a teacher to know how well you are communicating and what areas need extra attention as you continue to teach. No matter how well you may have said it, the proof of the teaching will lie in what your students have learned! And an excellent way to know what's been learned is to ask questions.

### ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:

These lessons are designed to **teach unbelievers**. You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. If your class contains believers, teach with the goal of giving them an understanding of the basis for their faith and **with the goal of enabling them to teach the same material to unbelievers**.

#### DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study—not an exhaustive survey of the Bible and not an unlimited group discussion. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

LESSON FORMAT: The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

## TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS (Center Column Only)

### LESSON OUTLINE:

#### A. The Bible

Before we learn any more about the story of Adam and Eve, we are going to review what we have already learned about the Bible, God, Satan, and the first man and woman God created. We will begin by asking you some questions about God's Word, the Bible.

1. Who is the author of the Bible? *God.*
2. Whom did God use to write down the Bible? *He used over 40 men, all of whom were Jewish except one.*
3. To whom is the Bible written? *To everyone in the whole world.*
4. Has the Bible changed over the years since it was first written? *No. The Bible has not and will not change.*
5. God's Word was written down over a period of how many years? *1,600 years.*

## OPTIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTION:

6. Why has God given us the Bible? *He wants to communicate with us—He wants us to know Him, and He wants us to know how to live.*

**B. God**

1. In your own words, define what we mean when we say God is sovereign. *Sovereign means the highest power; supreme; ruler.*
  2. Does God have a material body? *No, He is Spirit, and does not have flesh and bones as we do.*
  3. Was there ever a time when God wasn't living? *No.*
  4. Does God change or could God die? *No, God is always the same. He can never die, for He is eternal.*
  5. We need food, water, air, the earth to walk on, and the sun to warm us, but what does God need? *God doesn't need anything.*
  6. How then does God live? *He lives by His own power.*
  7. Where is God? *God is everywhere at the same time.*
  8. How many Gods are there? *There is only one God.*
  9. Who are the three persons who are this one God? *God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*
  10. What did God use to make the heavens and the earth? *God didn't use anything. He made everything out of nothing.*
  11. How did God create everything? *By speaking and commanding them to appear.*
  12. How could God make the heavens and the earth? *God is almighty. There is nothing He cannot do. He knows everything and has the power to do anything.*
  13. What did God say about everything that He made? *He said that everything was very good.*
  14. Why could God make everything perfect? *Because He is perfect.*
  15. Why did God prepare such variety and beauty and make so many good things on the earth for man? *Because God is loving and kind.*
  16. God created the sun, the moon, and the stars to always follow the same course. What does this teach us about God? *God is a God of law and order.*
  17. When scientists and engineers speak of physical laws, whose laws are these? *God established all the physical laws of the universe. Man is only using what God made.*
  18. Why is God the rightful owner of everything? *He created all things, and He gave everything life.*
  19. Why does God have the right to demand obedience from us? *Because He is our Creator and owner.*
- THE FOLLOWING ARE OPTIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.<sup>1</sup>
20. Considering what you have already learned about God, what do you think of statements like these:
    - a. "The Man Upstairs"
    - b. "Everyone has to find a 'higher power.'"
    - c. "Religion is a personal thing; everyone is entitled to his own opinion about God."
  21. How do Genesis 1 and 2 counter the common belief that everything came into being by chance? *The Bible says God created*

<sup>1</sup>If you use this type of discussion question, be careful to keep the discussion under control. Students should be given opportunity to briefly express their opinion and not be put down for what they think. But do not let someone dominate the discussion, especially with wrong answers.

You are trying to make your students evaluate their own ideas from the past in light of what they are learning.

Be patient with them.

If someone says of another student's answer, "That's wrong!" you might reply, "Well, we are just asking for opinions now. What do **you** think?" □

*everything, and that He did it in a very systematic way. Chance was not involved in creation.*

22. How do Genesis 1 and 2 counter the common belief that man evolved? *The creation of man is specifically detailed as being unique from all the rest of creation: man was created in God's image and God breathed into man the breath of life; Eve was created from Adam's rib. No "evolutionary process" is mentioned or hinted at.*
23. Give some evidences from things you can see around you and from what you know about the Bible that show that life was created rather than evolved. *Animals, plants, man all have complex systems that could not have happened by chance. The Bible is a historical document, not a book of theories. The Bible says God created everything. The Bible has not changed through the centuries; man's theories are constantly changing.*
24. God has shown us a great deal about Himself by what He has made—every day we see His creation and should know that one greater than us has done these things. You have also learned many things about God's character in what we have studied so far in His Word. What things in particular stand out to you about God's character?

### C. Satan

1. Where did all the spirits come from? *They were all created by God.*
2. Did God create the spirits with bodies of flesh and bones? *No.*
3. Did God create all of the spirits good, or did He create some good and some bad? *God created them all good.*
4. Why did God create the spirits? *To be His servants.*
5. Where did they all live in the beginning when God first created them? *With God in Heaven.*
6. Are each of the spirits everywhere at the same time like God is? *No. There are spirits all over the world, but they cannot be in all places at the same time like God.*
7. Who was the most intelligent and beautiful angel created by God? *Lucifer.*
8. What position did God give Lucifer? *Leadership over all of the other angels.*
9. Whom was Lucifer to serve and obey? *God, his Creator.*
10. What did Lucifer plan to do? *He planned to be like God and to take God's position.*
11. Who else followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God? *Many of God's angels.*
12. What did God do? *God removed Lucifer and the angels who joined him in rebellion from their position as God's servants.*
13. What is Lucifer's name now and what does it mean? *Satan, which means adversary, enemy, opponent, accuser.*
14. What place of punishment did God prepare for Satan and his demons? *The Lake of Fire as their future place of punishment.*
15. Whom is Satan against? *He is against God and everything which God loves.*

**D. Man**

1. What great difference was there between the creation of man and the creation of animals? *God made man in His image.*
  2. What does it mean that God made man in His image? *God made man like Himself with a mind so man could know God, emotions so man could love God, and a will so man could choose to obey God.*
  3. Was man good or bad when God created him? *Man was good.*
  4. After the first man Adam was created, over what did God give him control? *The earth and everything in it.*
  5. Where did God place Adam after He created him? *In a beautiful garden called Eden which God Himself prepared for Adam.*
  7. What two very important trees did God also place in the garden of Eden? *The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
  8. God told Adam that he must not eat of the fruit of which tree? *The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
  9. What did God say would happen to man if he disobeyed and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? *God said that man would die.*
  10. What did God mean when He said that man would die?
    - a. *Man would be separated immediately from God, the source of his life. He would no longer be in friendship with God.*
    - b. *His body would die when his soul and spirit were separated from his body.*
    - c. *Man's body, soul, and spirit would be separated from God forever in the place which God prepared for Satan and his demons.*
  11. Whom did God create for Adam after He placed Adam in the garden of Eden? *God created Eve to be Adam's wife.*
  12. Why did God create Eve? *Because there was no animal that was a suitable companion for Adam and because God loved him, He did not want Adam to be alone. God wanted man to have children.*
  13. Describe Eve's God-given role at the time God created her. *She was to be Adam's helper, a companion for him so he would not be lonesome. She was also commanded, with Adam, to rule over all of the other creatures God had made and to be fruitful and fill the earth and subdue it.*
  14. Was Adam the only one who could communicate with God? *No, Eve was also created in God's image and given a mind and emotions and will so she could communicate with God and with Adam.*
- OPTIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTION:
15. In light of what we've learned about God and man, what do you think about these statements:
    - a. *"Do your own thing!"*
    - b. *"I don't answer to anybody!"*
    - c. *"I can do whatever I want with my life, because it belongs to me."*

P A C K I N G L I S T - C U S T O M E R C O P Y

NEW TRIBES MISSION - BOOKSTORE  
 1000 EAST FIRST STREET  
 SANFORD FL 32771-1487  
 PHONE: 1-800-321-5375  
 FAX: 1-407-330-0376  
 EMAIL: BOOKS@NTM.ORG

SALES ORDER #: X048501  
 CUSTOMER #: 200010

DATE ORDERED: 05/22/2000

ORDERED BY: PHONE  
 SALES REP: CMORG  
 HOW HEARD: PRE



SOLD MELVYN BROWN

SHIP MELVYN BROWN

ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QTY ORDERED	QTY SHIPPED	PRICE EACH	ITEM TOTAL
FFCCAD	FF:C-C ADULT LSSN-COMplete SET	1	1	\$24.95	\$24.95
150899	FF:C-C ADULT LSSNS- (BOOK ONLY)	1	1		
109896	CHRON MAPS & CHARTS--ENGLISH	1	1		
149898	FF:C-C STUDENT NOTEBOOK--ADULT	1	1	\$4.95	\$4.95
129794	SMALL LAMINATED PICTURES	1	1	\$39.95	\$39.95
				SUBTOTAL	\$69.85
				SHIPPING	\$7.95
				TOTAL	\$77.80
				AMOUNT RCVD	\$77.80
				AMOUNT DUE	\$0.00

----- OFFICE INFO -----

PAYMENT METHOD: MASTERCARD

# EE-TAOW! THE MOUK STORY



PART 1





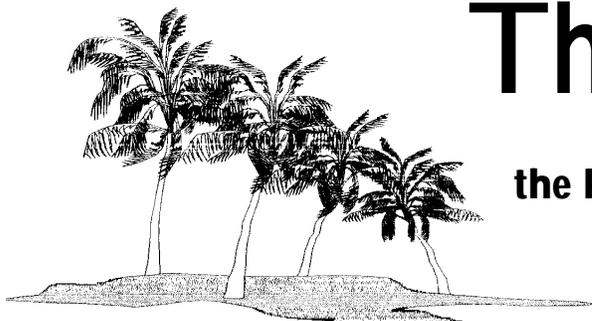
**"EE-TADW!"**

*the next chapter*



Awarded for  
Excellence in Media

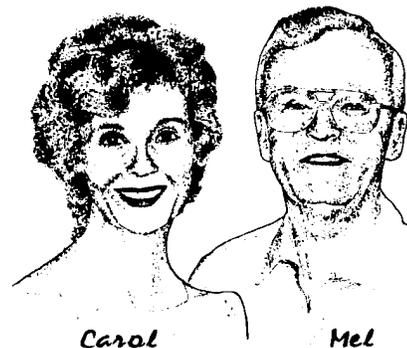




# The Browns

Missionaries to  
**the Philippines and beyond**

February 03, 2001



Carol

Mel

Dear Missionary Friend,



Last year I was in Scotland filling in for a missionary who went to the State for a furlough.

While there I noticed that one of the members of his church had a lot of Biblical knowledge. I found out that the pastor had just finished teaching his church all the lessons in the *Firm Foundations* book put out by New Tribes Missions.

I ordered the two videos "*EE-TAOW the Monk Story*" Part 1 and "*EE-TAOW the next chapter*" Part 2, produced by New Tribes.

These two video are a "must have" for every mission minded person.

I decided to purchase the *Firm Foundation* Books plus the Laminated Pictures, Student Notebook and charts.

Since the day I received this I began to study one chapter a day for my own knowledge.

I put the Packing List-Invoice on the last page of this file so you will have all the information you need to place an order. Also the pictures of the two videos are at the end of this file.

I received permission from Donald L. Pederson from the NTM Research and Planning Dept. to copy part of the Introduction and a few of the lessons. He said I could put this on our BAMA Bible Institute CD so that you and others might know about this material.

I plan to present this to all our national pastors in the Philippines in April 2001.

The Introduction of this material makes good sense and I plan to put it into action in my own ministry.

May God bless you as you read this file.

Melvyn L. Brown

---

**Baptist International Missions, Inc.**

P.O. Box 9215, Chattanooga, TN 37412

Phone: (423) 344-5050 FAX: (432) 344-4774



**Our E-mail Address:**  
mbrown@postone.com