

The Oldest Story in The World

Key Verse:
“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1

Extra: Find evidence to support the Bible’s account of creation by looking on the internet at www.answersingenesis.org

Level 4 lesson 1

Read Genesis 1 and John 1:1-18

Welcome to a new year of Bible studies! We begin by looking at the very beginning of our world and there’s no better place to start than the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which means “beginning.”

As you read the first few chapters of Genesis you will notice that it tells a very different story than what some scientists teach. Some will tell you that the world began millions of years ago with a “big bang.” A student once quizzed his professor, “So let me get this straight, first there was nothing but then it exploded??!!” This reasoning is of course illogical. Some then say, life ‘somehow’ started and slowly, over millions and millions of years, everything we see around us, the wonderful creatures of nature and even Mankind himself, all grew by chance from a simple cell to what we see today. This theory is called ‘evolution.’ Basically, it is an attempt to explain how the world got here without God. Or put another way, “how NOTHING made SOMETHING from NOTHING!”

The Bible’s account of the beginning is radically different and far more believable. It tells us that “SOMEONE made SOMETHING from NOTHING,” And that SOMEONE is GOD, who is an eternal being of infinite power, knowledge, and wisdom. Just as with the scientific law of ‘cause and effect,’ the Bible tells us clearly that the ultimate ‘cause’ of this world was God, as Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning, God created...” He is the ultimate designer behind all the incredible wonders we see. He set in motion the unchangeable laws and processes which govern and sustain our universe. He is the Creator of everything!

God began by creating the great round globe which we call “Earth.” It was covered with mist and darkness until God said, “Let there be light.” The mists rolled away and the inky darkness was gone. Then He spoke again, creating the atmosphere, that great wide arch of blue above our heads. Next, He separated the dry land from the oceans and made the grass, herbs, flowers and trees grow on it.

After that, God set ‘lights’ in the heavens; the sun to give light in the day and the moon and stars for the night. This new world was amazing, but strangely silent. That all changed when God created the birds that flew from tree to tree and all the animals to wander through the fields and forests of the earth. He also filled the seas and rivers with fish of every kind. It was a world of wonder and beauty and God rejoiced when He looked at it. In fact each day, after completing His creation work “God saw that it was good!”

Lastly, God created mankind and the first man’s name was Adam. Genesis records that God made him “in His own image (or likeness).” This is important because nothing else was made in God’s image. This is what separates humans from animals and gives mankind ‘sacredness’ above the animals. Adam was not the same as any of the other creatures God had already made; he was a moral being, with a God-given sense of right and wrong. Also, he was given the ability to love and desire to worship God. Adam had an incredible mind and was capable of taking care of himself and all that God had made. He was able to think and reason, to invent and design things. He was the pinnacle of God’s Creation.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What does the word ‘Genesis’ mean?	.....
2. How does the biblical account of creation differ from evolution?	.....
3. Which do you find easier to believe; creation by God or evolution by chance?	.....
4. What was God’s description of all He had made?	.....
5. Describe some ways in which Man is created ‘In God’s image.’	.....

My Name is Age

God's Special Days

Key Verse:
"God saw all that He had made and it was very good."

Genesis 1:31

Extra: Make a list of things that show we have a new life.

Level 4 lesson 2

Read Genesis 2:1-20 and John 20

God's Word plainly says that this world was created by God in six real days: it didn't develop by itself through random chance over millions of years. But some people, in trying to accept the claim of evolutionists that the world is millions of years old, say that these 'days' could be very long, in other words, not normal days of a week. Now, a very good rule to follow when reading scripture is "If the obvious sense makes good sense, seek no other sense!" So when we read this passage it is clear that normal days are meant, each with a morning and evening.

Supporters of evolution insist that the world is millions of years old, because of the microscopic chance that it came into existence by itself. This appears to make it seem possible, but in reality it's impossible. No matter how years are proposed, "Nothing x nothing = nothing!" There really is no need for us to try and make the Biblical record 'fit' with the views of those whose whole purpose is to deny the truth of the Bible. True science continues to prove the Biblical record is correct!

Here in Genesis 2 we are told that God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life. God had made the most wonderful garden for Adam to live in. It was a beautiful garden, more beautiful than anything which exists today. There were no weeds or thorns, its flowers and trees were magnificent, and its fruit and food were plentiful. Adam was given the responsibility of looking after it, and what a great job it must have been! We are also told that God walked in the Garden "in the cool of the evening". It was the place where He and Adam could share fellowship and friendship together, which was the real reason God had created him.

Do you speak to God in prayer each day? Do you kneel down at night to thank God for His provision, protection, care, and loving kindness towards you during the day, and ask Him to look after you through the night? Do you pray for others? We can pray about many things: things we have to do, wisdom to make decisions, and facing future plans for love, strength, courage, kindness, in fact everything! Talking often with God in prayer is important; don't neglect it!

When God had finished creating, we read that He "rested on the seventh day from all the work which He had made," and also, "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy." He declared it a special day to be kept different from all the other days. Later, when God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses for the people of Israel to keep, He commanded that the seventh day be kept holy (Exodus 20:8). Ever since then, Jewish people have observed Saturday as a Sabbath Day of rest.

Not one true Christian today is bound by the Jewish Old Testament law to keep Saturday as a holy day. This holy Sabbath was on the seventh day because God rested from His finished six-day work of creation. But Christians keep the first day of the week as a special day because it's the day that Jesus Christ rose from the dead (John 20:1-18), after He had finished the work of redemption.

All true believers should remember to keep Sunday as a special day to meet together (Acts 20:7). And as Jesus commanded in the New Testament Covenant, to remember Him in communion with the bread and the wine, which symbolise that He sacrificed his body and shed his blood for us all (Luke 22:14-20). Not to be missed, it is an opportunity to worship with other Christians and to encourage each other. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together... but let us encourage one another."

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What does true science prove?	.....
2. God put Adam in the lovely garden so they could share: 1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc.	_____ 6 5 12 12 15 23 19 8 9 16 and 6 18 9 5 14 4 9 8 9 16 _____
3. Write out some of the things we should thank God for; or that we should pray about.	.....
4. Why was the seventh day set aside as the Sabbath Day in the Old Testament?	.....
5. Why do Christians keep Sunday as a special day?	.....

Mankind and Disobedience

Key Verse:

“Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin; and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 5:12

Extra: Why must God punish sin so severely?

Level 4 lesson 3

Read Genesis 2:21 to 3:17 and Romans 1:18-32

How would you like to be the only person in the world? It might be nice for a while, but soon it would get a bit lonely, wouldn't it? Well, on the sixth day of creation Adam was the only person on earth and although he was surrounded by male and female animals of every kind, there was no matching female for him. God could see how lonely he would be and said, "It is not good, for the man to be alone, I will make a helper for him."

This is an example of the distinction between Man and the animals. An animal could never be a sufficient companion for Adam; he needed another human. So God put Adam into a deep sleep and then by taking one of Adam's ribs He created a woman to be Adam's companion and helper. Adam called her Eve, because she was "the mother of all living". They lived and worked in perfect harmony and happiness, together with God, in their beautiful garden home.

Now we come to the saddest part in the whole story! If only they had always been true and obedient to God, the story would have been a delight to read. Despite all the wonderful things God had made and the friendship they enjoyed with Him, something happened to spoil it all. Satan, the enemy of God, who hates all things that are good and right, came to Eve in the form of a serpent and tempted her to disregard God's word and do as she pleased.

You see, God had placed a tree in the garden that was different from all the others. It was the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." God said that they MUST NOT eat the fruit of this tree (the Bible does not say it was an apple tree, as you often read; we simply don't know what kind of fruit tree it was). But God did say that

they could eat as much as they liked from all the other trees, and this included eating from the "Tree of Life!" They believed that God was good, and that He had commanded them not to eat from the forbidden fruit tree because He wanted only what was best for them.

Then Satan arrived and said that God had forbidden them to eat the fruit of the tree because He wanted to keep them ignorant and stop them enjoying life. Have you ever noticed how Satan often tempts you to think that way too; that God is somehow trying to spoil our life or hold you back from doing what you want?

Instead of ignoring Satan's lies, Eve looked again at the tree. She became curious; maybe just one little fruit wouldn't hurt, would it? After all, it looked good, and maybe it really would make her wise, as wise as God! Sadly, she picked some fruit, and after eating it, she gave some to Adam and he ate it, also.

In that moment everything changed! Their friendship with God was ruined. They felt guilty in their hearts and knew they had disobeyed His command and sinned against Him. They were so ashamed and wanted to hide from Him. They had listened to Satan's cunning lies and been tricked. Now, this terrible thing called "Sin" had entered the world and its terrible results now would affect the whole creation!

Satan still tempts us today in the same way. He entices us with things which seem to be good and pleasant, but are not, and they only bring terrible harm to our hearts and souls. We need to always believe God and trust His Word, the Bible, in every situation. The Almighty God knows what is best for us. He IS good and true! If you live your life in His presence, and in obedience to His Word, you will enjoy the best life you can imagine, not just on earth, but for eternity in the paradise of Heaven!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What was the one thing God said that was 'not good' for the man?	.....
2. Why did God make Eve? (Fill in the vowels)	T__ b__ __d__m's c__mp__n__ __n __nd h__lp__r
3. Why was she called Eve?	.....
4a. How did sin enter the world? 4b. What effect did it have on Adam and Eve?	.....
5. How does Satan tempt us today?	.....

Found Out!

Key Verse:

“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

Extra: What is God’s gift (see key verse) and how do we get it?

Level 4 lesson 4

Read Genesis 3:7-24 and Romans 3:9-31

Do you sometimes have a guilty conscience? Have you ever been afraid that you would be “found out” for doing something that was disobedient or wrong? I’m sure you have, because that’s what Adam and Eve felt like when they disobeyed God. They had sinned and they knew it!

When God came to walk in the Garden in the cool of the evening, they did not rush to meet Him as would have been normal. Instead, they hid themselves in the depths of the trees and bushes because they were so ashamed and scared. They knew they were not fit to stand in God’s holy presence any more. Since Adam was ultimately responsible as the leader of his helpmate Eve, God called out to him, “Where are you?” Finally, realising he could never hide from God, Adam called back from his hiding place. He admitted that he was naked, afraid, and had hidden from God’s face. He also admitted that he had eaten from the forbidden tree, but tried to blame Eve for this. Eve also admitted her sin but then tried to blame the serpent for her disobedience.

You will be well aware that sinful behaviour and disobedience always has consequences! Worst of all, their sin grieved God greatly. He turned to the serpent who had deceived Eve and passed a terrible judgement on him. He would become a poisonous, ground-sliding serpent from that time on. There were consequences for Adam and Eve, too. God then turned to Eve and said that she would have sorrow and pain in childbirth, and her life would never be the same again. To Adam, God said that he must leave the Garden and pass outside its gate to begin a life of hard work and struggle. During the happy days in the Garden the ground was very fruitful, the plants grew easily and in abundance, but

now God said it would grow thorns, thistles, and weeds. Adam would have to work hard, just to eat and survive. But eventually they would both die, their bodies would be buried, and they would become dirt again.

To cover their nakedness, God made animal-skin clothes for them, and to do this He probably sacrificed the life of one or more animals. Adam and Eve then left the Garden, but they could never enter that Garden again, because God sent an angel and a flaming sword to guard the entrance. What a terrible thing sin is! How sad, that the earth which God had created in such beauty, and that the friendship which He had enjoyed with His created beings Adam and Eve, had been ruined forever.

Thankfully, this was not the end of the story of humanity! In Genesis 3:15 God said to Satan that he and the woman would always be enemies. Someday, one of her children would ‘crush his head’ (in other words ‘destroy him’) and Satan would ‘bruise his heel’ (or ‘harm Him’). This is the first verse in Scripture that indicates God would one day send His own son, Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour, and rescue us from sin’s terrible penalty. Satan ‘harmed’ Jesus briefly when Jesus died for you and me, to pay the penalty God’s holiness demanded. But God accepted Jesus’ sacrifice for us and raised Him from the dead victorious! Death and separation from God were the awful consequences of sin, but Jesus the promised ‘seed of the woman,’ ‘defeated’ Satan and death forever!

Don’t be like Adam and Eve and try to hide from God anymore. You can’t hide your sin from Him because He knows all about everything. In fact, Numbers 32:23 says, “...be sure that your sin will find you out.” If you will trust Jesus to be your Saviour today, thank Him for dying in your place on Calvary’s cross, and ask God to forgive all your sin, you will be saved and forgiven, and then you will know victory over sin and Satan today. God will then take away your guilt because Jesus has already paid the penalty for your sins! Praise God we can know and experience God’s forgiveness today!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Why did Adam and Eve hide?

.....

2. What were the consequences of their sin?

.....

3. What is the first Bible verse that indicates God would send Jesus to be our Saviour?

.....

4. In your own words, explain the verse you answered question 3 with.

.....

5. How can we know victory over sin and Satan?

.....

Please complete and return by post to

PSSM, 1-2A (G2) 93 Dominion Rd, Mt Eden, Auckland 1024 or scan & email to info@biblediscovery.org.nz