



Lesson 1

'In the Beginning'

Introduction

The Bible is a unique book, written over thousands of years by many different people. However, all of them were inspired to write by the Lord God; the Bible is His message to us and tells us of His promise of salvation.

It begins with the book of Genesis; this name means the origin or beginning of something. Genesis tells us of the beginning of God's purpose.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

Throughout the Bible we often find God mentioned as the great Creator. For example:

"Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. "You are the LORD, you alone. *You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.*" Nehemiah 9:5-6

"For thus says the LORD, *who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other."* Isaiah 45:18

From these passages we learn that:

1. The God of the Bible, the LORD, made the heavens and earth and everything in them.
2. He had a purpose when He did this; He wanted the earth to be filled with people and He made it suitable for this purpose.
3. His great power daily supports the lives of all living creatures.
4. Because He has the power to do these things it shows us that He is the only God; there is none other like Him.
5. Therefore **He and only He** must be praised and worshipped as the true God.

When we look around us at the beauty of nature, or when we look up into the night sky and see the millions of stars there, we see evidence of the mighty power of God. He is the only one who could have made these things and the evidence of His creation is there before us.

Therefore as we read the Bible we can have total confidence that God is able to do all that He has promised. The God who made everything we see can surely do everything He tells us He will do!

God created the Heavens and the Earth

God tells us of His creation twice, in both chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis.

In chapter 1 we are told that it was 'God' who made things. The Hebrew word used here is 'Elohim' and we know from the way it is used elsewhere in the Bible that it describes God working through His angels (for an example of this see Psalm 103:20).

In chapter 2 we read about the 'LORD God'. We know from the Bible that this word 'LORD' is the special name of God. It is sometimes written in the Bible as Jehovah or Yahweh. Very often this is used when telling us of God's dealings with people and particularly about the covenant or agreement He made with His special people, the Jews. So we can see both chapters like this.

Chapter 1	A summary of all creation; God worked through His angels to make it.
Chapter 2	Special emphasis is given to the creation of man and woman; the LORD God begins His relationship with people, Adam and Eve.





In chapter 1 we see that God made the heavens and earth in six periods of time which are called days. We do not know for certain whether they were literal days of 24 hours or longer periods. For our studies this does not matter.

It is helpful to write out what He did like this.

Day 1	God caused light to shine and it scattered the darkness.
Day 2	God created the atmosphere. He called this 'heaven'. It divided the waters above (the cloud layer) from the waters beneath (the seas).
Day 3	The dry land emerged. It produced grasses, plants and trees, each possessing the power of reproduction.
Day 4	The sun, moon and stars were set in the heavens to give light on the earth. The way these lights shine give us our seasons - the days, months and years.
Day 5	The seas were filled with fish and the atmosphere with birds.
Day 6	Cattle, reptiles and beasts were created out of the ground. Adam, the first man, was then formed in the image and likeness of the angels. Adam named the animals and birds and was given dominion (rulership) over every living thing.
Day 7	God completed His creative acts in 6 days and on the 7th day He 'rested' from all His work. The Hebrew word translated 'rested' means 'Sabbath'.

Notice how these acts of creation are introduced by the words '*and God said*' and then when He has made them we read '*and God saw that it was good*'.

**His word is mighty and powerful and accomplishes anything He wishes.
Everything He made was very good and it pleased Him**

The Sixth Day

The sixth day, or period, of creation was the climax of all God's work. Many things happened in it and we can write them down in a list like this.

1. God made the animals.
2. God formed man out of dust and gave him life.
3. He planted the Garden of Eden.
4. He put the man in the Garden.
5. The man was given the work of tending the Garden.
6. The man was given a law to keep.
7. God decided that it was not good for the man to be alone, he needed someone to help him in the work he had been given.
8. God brought the animals and birds He had created before the man. Adam named them and looked to see if any of them were suitable to be his helper.
9. None of the animals was suitable to help Adam so Eve was formed from Adam's side.
10. God brought Eve to Adam to be his helper; they were married by God.
11. God blessed them.
12. The 6th day ended.
13. The next day, the seventh, was the first Sabbath.

SUMMARY

In this lesson we have seen the following key points.

- Almighty God alone had the power to make the heavens and earth, therefore we should honour and praise Him for this and believe that He has the power to give us everything He promises in the Bible.
- Everything He made was very good in the beginning.
- He has a special name, He is the LORD God and this name is often used in His dealings with people.

