










GOD AND CREATION

Reading: Genesis 1 and 2:1-7

The Creation

Genesis 1 tells us that God created the heavens and the earth. At first, the earth was empty, dark and covered with water. Then we read about the seven days of creation. The chart below shows what happened each day.

Day 1		Light shone – day was separated from night.
Day 2	The waters were divided and heaven appeared.	
Day 3		Dry land appeared. Plants and trees started to grow.
Day 4	God made the sun, moon and stars.	
Day 5		Fish and birds were created.
Day 6	Animals were created; and last of all, God made the first man and woman.	
Day 7		God rested.

Notice how everything follows in the right order. For example, the plants and trees were not made until the third day, when the dry land was ready for them. Animals were made on the sixth day, when there would be food for them to eat.

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”
(Genesis 1:31)

Every day we see God’s excellent work around us. People have invented some wonderful things, such as aeroplanes, medicines, mobile phones and computers, but the skills needed to make these are nothing compared with God’s power that created the universe. Just think how the spinning of the earth and its movement around the sun never changes, so that day follows night and season follows season.

Everything God makes is perfectly designed to suit its purpose. Even the smallest flower has amazing detail that is reproduced in its seeds. Birds have wings perfectly designed for flight, and some find their way thousands of kilometres around the world to their winter homes.

“O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” (Psalm 104:24)



The gods that are no gods

Throughout history people have seen the wonders of nature. But instead of worshipping God who made these things, many have worshipped the things He made! People have worshipped the sun, the moon and the stars. They have imagined that spirits were living in the water and the wind and worshipped them. People have even worshipped images of animals in wood and stone, because they imagined that spirits were living in them. Read what the apostle Paul says about this in Romans 1:20-23. Notice especially verse 23:

“... and (they) exchanged the glory of the immortal (undying) God for images resembling mortal (dying) man and birds and animals and reptiles.”

The worship of false gods or idols is wrong and is condemned by God. The Bible tells us that the Lord God in heaven is the **only** living and true God. When people prayed to these false gods there was no answer, because their idols did not live and could not think. False gods or idols like these do not exist – except in the imagination of people! Worship of false gods or idols is sinful and in the past has led to many evil practices, like burning children in fire. Even the Jews, though they had been given God’s righteous laws, were guilty of worshipping idols. God had warned them about this in Deuteronomy 4:15-19.

Read Ezekiel 14:1-8. In verse 3 God says that the idol-worshippers had *“taken their idols into their hearts”*. We can do this today, not by worshipping idols of wood or stone, but if there is anything in our lives which is more important than God, then it is an idol in our heart, something that we worship. So, for example, if we spend too much time seeking after money, playing football or watching television, and do not find time to read our Bibles and serve God, these things have become idols to us in our hearts.

If we want to please God, we will have nothing to do with idols, and we will not choose as our friends those who have idols in their lives. In 2 Corinthians 6:15,16 the apostle Paul says,

“... Or what portion (part) does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?”

It is wrong to worship anything other than the true God of the Bible and His Son. 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10 tells how the believers *“turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come”*.

Ezekiel 14:3-5 Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them? Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols, that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols.

The beginning of the world

Today, many people believe that our wonderful world came about by chance. This idea is called the theory of evolution. People think that some spark of life just happened and from this beginning, by gradual changes over millions of years, there came the ordered and beautiful world we see today. So they claim that marvellous things like our eyes, ears and our complex brain just came about by chance. They also think that man came from apes, but the Bible says that God created the first man out of the dust of the earth. The Bible is very clear:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

Although the Bible tells us that God created all things, it does not tell us how He did it. If it did, we would not understand. We have to accept God’s word in faith. We cannot believe the Bible teaching that God created the universe and everything in it, and at the same time believe that the world came about by chance.

“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.” (Psalm 33:6)





A world which people have spoilt

It is evil to worship idols and wrong to believe that the world came about by chance. It is also wrong to spoil the world that God has made.

In the beginning our world was extremely beautiful, but people have done much to spoil it. Too many trees have been cut down, making deserts where forests once grew. The air and rivers have been polluted with chemicals. Scientists believe that by greedily using up oil and coal we are producing so much carbon dioxide gas that the earth is warming up, causing great environmental problems. In these and many other ways our world is being spoilt.

But it is still God’s world and He will not allow us to continue to spoil it for ever. In Acts 17:31 the apostle Paul says, “*He (God) has fixed a day on which he will judge the world*”. The day is coming when God will send Jesus Christ back to the earth to become king of the whole world. His wise rule and righteous laws will eventually make the world perfect. It will be the fulfilment of the promise that God made when He said that all the earth will be filled with His glory (Numbers 14:21).

The Almighty God

The wonderful things of nature show us something of God’s power and wisdom, but they do not tell us about God Himself. No-one has ever seen God. To learn about God we must read the Bible and especially look at the life and example of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us all we need to know about God. It is the only reliable way we can learn about Him and His purpose with the world.

1 Timothy 6:15,16 ... he (God) who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion.

Psalm 90:2 says, “*From everlasting to everlasting you are God*”. This is something our minds cannot fully understand. We know that in life all things have a beginning and an end; we are familiar with birth and death. But the Lord God has always existed and will always exist. He is immortal (cannot die). 1 Timothy 6 tells us that immortality comes only from God.

The Bible tells us that there is only one God. He is all-powerful and knows everything. He is perfect and cannot sin. God is gracious and loving – but He is also righteous, and expects us to honour and obey Him. God is longsuffering and forgiving – but He will punish those who refuse to honour and obey Him. God described Himself in this way to Moses:

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 34:6,7).

GOD’S NATURE	GOD’S CHARACTER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has always existed. He cannot die. • He is the source of all life. • He is perfect and cannot sin or be tempted to sin. • He is in heaven but everywhere present by His Spirit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is righteous and holy. • He is merciful, gracious, loving and slow to anger. • He will forgive sinners who repent but will punish those who refuse to honour and obey Him.

We are part of God’s creation

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!” (Psalm 95:6)

To be able to worship and praise God is a great privilege. Human beings are God’s very special creation and He seeks a special relationship with men and women. Jesus talks about true believers who come to worship God “*in spirit and truth*”. He says, “*the Father*





is seeking such people to worship him” (John 4:23,24). God seeks people who will believe and obey Him, and rejoice in the world He has made.

God wants us to read the Bible to learn about Him and His purpose, and to worship and serve Him now. He is preparing the people who do this for the time when they will be able to serve Him for ever when the Lord Jesus returns to the earth. If we read His Word and honour and obey Him now, in that day we will be one of those who will say,

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him ... let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Isaiah 25:9).

Summary

1. The Lord God of the Bible is the only living and true God. He created the universe and everything in it.
2. We should worship God. We should have no false gods or idols in our lives.
3. God has always existed and cannot die. He is perfect and cannot sin. He is all-powerful and knows everything. God is gracious and loving – but He will punish those who refuse to honour and obey Him.
4. Jesus Christ will return to the earth to become king of the world. His wise rule and righteous laws will eventually make the world perfect. It will then be filled for ever with the glory of God.
5. If we read God’s Word and honour and obey Him now, we will be able to serve Him for ever when the Lord Jesus returns to the earth.

A verse to learn: Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Verses to read:

1 Timothy 1:17 – This verse praises God.

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 139:1-4 – These verses show that God knows everything, even our thoughts.

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue; behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

Genesis 2:7 – This tells us about the creation of the first man.

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Deuteronomy 4:15-19 – Moses warns the people of Israel that they should never worship false gods or idols.

Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

Also read Romans 1:18-23.

