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# Bible Lessons



"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,  
we are CHANGED . . . ." II Cor. 3:18

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

Vol. 8, No. 4  
Oct., Nov., Dec.,  
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# Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

Volume 8

Oct., Nov., Dec., 1976

No. 4

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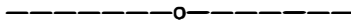
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## Theme For Fourth Quarter, 1976

Today scientists, atheists, historical geologists, and many so-called christians, want to disregard the Biblical facts about the creation of the world, mankind, all of its creatures, and life of all kinds. We are not going to attempt to prove that there is a God, or that He did create all things because it is a fact. Our purpose is to create a great reverence and awe in the things that God has created. If we do not believe the first chapter in the Bible, we will not believe the rest of the Bible. Jesus said, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" John 5:46, 47. All scientists agree there are blank spaces or gaps in their ideas of how the world was made. In reading one statement you find the words, "some progress has been made; at least a clue; explanation commonly accepted; probably; and it suggests." In other words they do not know, but are just guessing. It would take a lot more faith to believe that it took billions of years for things to evolve than to believe God spoke and it became so. In the beginning God created a full-grown world and a full-grown man. They did not evolve.

As we study these lessons let our hearts swell with praise to the Creator of all things, the great Designer, Life Giver, and Almighty God of all creation. Let us remember this verse as we study, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deut. 29:29. God did not reveal everything to us, but some things belong to Him and are His secrets.

—Sis. Marie Miles



October 3, 1976

GOD

Gen. 1:1a In the beginning God . . .

God is:

Eternal—

Psa. 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Isa. 57:15a The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity.

**Self-Existent—**

Psa. 36:9a For with thee is the fountain of life.

John 4:24a God is a Spirit.

Isa. 45:21b There is no God else beside me.

**Unchangeable—**

Mal. 3:6a I am the Lord, I change not.

James 1:17b The Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**Everywhere present—**

Acts 17:27b, 28a Though he be not far from every one of us; For in him we live, and move, and have our being.

Jer. 23:24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.

**All-knowing—**

Heb. 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

**Unlimited Power—**

Matt. 19:26b But with God all things are possible.

**Justice—**

Psa. 89:14 Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

**All wise—**

Rom. 11:33, 36 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

**Memory Verse:** The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Psa. 53:1a.

**Central Thought:** God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, is eternal, self-existent, unchangeable, everywhere present, all-knowing, all-powerful, all-just, and all-wise. He is the great I AM, and inhabiteth eternity.

**Word Definitions:** **God:** The Hebrew word "Elohiym" is translated "God." It is interesting to note that this word is in the plural. There are three distinct, separate persons in the Godhead. **Everlasting to everlasting:** The Hebrew word for

everlasting here means that which is concealed or beyond the mind, that is, a vanishing point. This greatly shows the supremacy of God as coming from the unknown, the unseen. He is the Invisible One, who only knoweth immortality in the personage of His Son, Jesus Christ. He came from everlasting. He emerged out of the unseen realm and manifested Himself on the shores of time. He returned to eternity. He came from God and went to God. **“The High and lofty one who inhabiteth eternity”**: Eternity here refers to perpetual, ever-enduring existence. **“In whom there is no variableness nor shadow of turning”**: No change nor the slightest deviation.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

From the various writings of the Old and New Testaments come quotations that describe and express the Everlasting God. God cannot be explained in full by the human tongue or pen. It is for each and every person to seek earnestly by way of holy scripture and according to truth, the divine revelation of this Eternal One to his soul. The best way of explaining where God came from is to say that He came from everlasting. To inquire about what this everlasting amounts to is needless venture. What we do need to seek is the knowledge of what He brings to us from everlasting. His revelation of love, power, and grace is the important thing. God is. He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. The attributes of God that are listed in our lesson are the attributes that are most important to us now. Let us give to each of these characteristics of God special thought and study. —L. Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where did God come from?
2. Is God changeable?
3. Where can we find God?
4. How close is He to us?
5. Does the Lord need us?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The common word denoting the object of man's worship is "god." There has never been a race of people who has not believed in some sort of deity or god. Much varied has been their fancy and description of these superhuman beings who were attributed as ruling over the affairs of men. But it is true that gods and goddesses have existed in the minds of men and women throughout all ages. It has been a general rule, however, that gods were believed in and revered to demand

obedience and honour, and that they had the power to bless or curse the lives of men.

It was the Nation of Israel that gave rise to the conviction and assurance of the reality and truth of One True God. God chose to manifest Himself to the world through this particular people, the Jews. He started with Abraham and little by little unfolded His wisdom and power. Although Israel, as a whole, turned out to be poor investment as far as accomplishing His perfect will was concerned. God manifested Himself through them in a mighty way. From the prophets and writers, the laws and statutes of this Holy Being unfolded. Israel, as a Nation, whose God was the Lord, began to take shape as it proceeded to take over the land of Canaan. Oh, as we consider the righteous designs and holy plan that God had for that people, we are filled with wonder to think what a great and mighty nation it could have been, and no doubt still could be. Yes, it would have been had they but obeyed the voice of the Lord, their God. But they refused and rebelled. Instead of blessing them and making them an example of love and goodness of God, they were cursed and made an example of His wrath.

With the rise of Christianity God was made nearer and nearer to man. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. All the attributes of God were manifest in human flesh in the personage of His Son, Jesus Christ. The term, God, was shared with the term, Father, in denoting the Supreme Being. In Christ, it was not His wrath and vengeance that were exalted, but his mercy, grace, longsuffering, and goodness. In Christianity, the God that had been seen in the eyes of the nations as the God of Israel, was to be the God of all mankind, for all who would accept His Son as Lord and Saviour. Oh, what wonderful ways and workings God had in His approach to us in the fullness of time. —L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We are living in a world which is trying to dismiss the fact that there is a God. We do not need to prove there is a God because everything around us has already proven that. But atheists, scientists, and historical geologists assume that He does not exist, and this is what young people face in high schools and colleges today; also all people in the world. Many are becoming deceived and are losing their faith in God and basing it upon man's ideas, which are very flimsy. Notice the wording closely in their idea of the beginning of the world and

solar system. You will notice they have words such as "some progress has been made in attempting to explain when the sun and the nine planets came into being, probably, at least a clue, explanation commonly accepted," and "it suggests." Such words are not definite facts but the Bible tells us, "in the beginning God created the heavens and earth." God was in the beginning. God was there; God has all power, and is the law behind all beginnings and life. God's law is unchangeable, immutable, irrevocable. God is unseen. He created an orderly universe that is governed by His irrefutable laws.

No scientist has ever proven that the living can come into existence from the non-living. The very existence of life demands a Life-Giver. Who is that Life-Giver? None other than God. God made a fully developed earth and a full grown man and put life in both. Creation requires a Creator! Creation needs a sustainer. That sustainer is God.

Only those who believe in God can answer the question, "which came first, the chicken or the egg?" God had perfect plan in all that He created. His designs were perfect. Every grain of sand is different and also every leaf on the trees.

The result of a person coming to God with godly repentance is more than proof that God is real. He is real in my soul today! Let us loudly declare that "I know that my Redeemer liveth!" (Job 19:25) —M. Miles

### **SHE DID WHAT SHE COULD**

Children and young people are sometimes tempted to feel there is little they can do for Christ and the salvation of souls. Here is an account of what one child did, after someone else had passed a little tract to her. Read how God used them all.

I would like to share with you the story of a little girl in Japan who had been for two years in a tubercular sanitarium. Her body had wasted away so much that she could hardly move in bed. One day when a group of Gospel workers were visiting the hospitals, they left a Christian tract with her. She was not able to hold it, but had the nurse prop it up on a stand above her head, and turn the pages, one by one, so she could read them.

As she read and re-read that simple Gospel message, it gripped her heart. She prayed, asking the nurse to help her by standing by to hear her voice in prayer. God reached

through, and she prayed for forgiveness of sin; she received a wonderful experience of salvation.

As many do when they are first saved, this girl wanted to share the joy the Lord had given to her. One day she read in the newspaper of a wicked man who had been condemned to death for murder.

She decided she must write him, and tell him about Jesus. It took her three days, but she finally was able to use her little strength and movement to get a letter finished, and with it she sent the tract which had meant so much to her.

When he received it he was indignant, but later as he re-read the letter he realized how much this little one-page letter had really meant to the little girl who had mailed it to him. His heart was touched in thinking that someone would care enough for him to write him a letter at such cost.

He began to read the tract. Over and over he read, until the truth grasped his heart and he believed it. God came into that Tokyo prison and saved a brutal murderer, through the witness of an almost helpless little girl in the tubercular sanitarium across the city.

Later the murderer was taken to another prison, more than a thousand miles away, where he was placed in the "death row" as his final place before his execution.

One day he was singing a Gospel hymn which he had learned from Christian workers who held services in the prison. As his lonely cell echoed with the praises of God, he heard a voice call through the "peep hole" to the next cell. It was a man named Uchida, who had also found Christ as his Saviour. What a joy when the two were able to share their faith together!

Mr. Iwata (for that was the prisoner's name) and Mr. Uchida began to pray and work for the salvation of the other men in death row. The warden gave them permission to share their testimony with other prisoners when they were all together at meal time.

In the two years that Mr. Iwata was in death row, 41 condemned prisoners were won to Christ. The warden permitted the baptism of the Christians in the prison bath tub, and he stated that the whole atmosphere of death row had changed from frenzy and fright to Christian joy and peace. As the guards made their rounds along the cells they could hear Gospel hymns coming from the cells.

The time finally came for Mr. Iwata to die for his sin. He was permitted his last request—that he might be taken to the



tubercular sanitarium to see the little girl who had written him the one-page letter and sent him the Gospel tract.

Standing beside her bed, the converted murderer told her the story of what the letter and tract had done for him and his friends, through the saving power of Jesus Christ. Tears poured from the girl's eyes as she heard the story of what God had done.

Before leaving her, Mr. Iwata was moved to lay his hand upon her head and pray a prayer of faith for her healing. He then returned to the prison, and was soon executed for his crime, but he went to God whom he knew and trusted and loved.

The power of the living Word of God, which had transformed him and the 41 men of death row, now came into the dying body of the little girl in the sanitarium. Within two weeks she was completely healed of her illness by the power of God, and she walked from the sanitarium and returned to a normal life.

What a wonderful work of God this was! It all started because one helpless little girl who could not do much, did the little she could do, and because a condemned murderer, imprisoned in death row, did not give up, but did what he could to tell others of his Lord.

Truly the Word became flesh and lived again in the lives of those people.

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Deut. 30:19. —P. L. R.

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## LESSON 2

October 10, 1976

### JESUS IS, WAS, AND IS TO COME

Gen. 1:1a In the beginning God (Jesus) . . .

Phil. 2:6 (Jesus) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel (Jesus); whose

goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (margin: from the days of eternity).

Rev. 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

St. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, (Jesus, ver. 14) and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

St. John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Heb. 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands.

Col. 1:16 For by him (Jesus) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, . . . all things were created by him, and for him.

Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

St. John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Col. 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: . . . that in all things he might have the preeminence.

John 2:24b He (Jesus) knew all men.

25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

Phil. 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10a That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, . . .

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Rev. 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Memory Verse: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Matt. 28:18.

**Central Thought:** Christ, the second part of the God-head, was from the beginning, working with God in the creation, and has become, in His manifestation in the flesh, the Saviour of mankind and the Head of all things to the Church through all ages and the world without end.

**Word Definitions:** **Alpha:** first letter of the Greek alphabet, denotes the beginning. **Omega:** the final letter of the Greek alphabet, denotes the ending. From eternity to eternity, Christ is the beginning and the end of all things. "In all things He might have the preeminence." Christ is to be foremost and first in our lives.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Just as the Father was from eternity, so Christ, the Son, was from eternity also. In our lesson we have gleaned from the scriptures a goodly number of divine expressions that testify of this. That Christ was with God in the beginning is a vital truth for the Christian to believe and comprehend. It would be good if each one would give time for thought, meditation and consideration to each one of these scriptures. Let them be absorbed into your mind and sink down into your hearts. When Jesus made His appearance into this world as a partaker of flesh and blood, this was not His beginning. His going forth had been from old, even from everlasting. That He would come from God and take upon Himself human flesh is a wonder of wonders of His great love. Between Alpha and Omega is the fulness of the Greek language. All utterance and expression is found therein. So it is with Christ. We, here in time, are but wedged between the massive bulk of two eternities. They are really one long, endless duration, but the accomplishment of God's purpose in TIME comes in the midst.

—L. Busbee

## QUESTIONS:

1. Who was in the beginning with God?
2. What connection did Christ have with the Creation?
3. What would you call the nature of Christ's departure from glory to come to this world?
4. What was His mission?
5. Could any one else have been worthy?

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Oh, what wonderful words! He alone was able and qualified to accomplish so great a mission. He came from eternity. He condescended to be as human seed to be united in conception with the seed of the woman, thus taking upon Himself human flesh. The testimony that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin is a vital link in the chain of truth concerning the New Testament

plan of salvation. If Joseph were the father of Jesus Christ, all claims to His divinity and power would be vain and false. But this is something that the believer can be very sure of, despite the host of skeptics who doubt this. God was manifest in the flesh. Jesus was human and also divine. His origin reached clear back into the eternal world of glory. Even before the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy, we find Him present with the Father. Yes, even before the foundation of the world He was predestined and ordained to be our Saviour. It is great joy to know that we are created for this holy purpose, to serve and love Him in this life and to be with Him for all eternity.

He did appear in human flesh, and although Satan sought to defeat the holy plan of God, Christ was triumphant and at the appointed time went up for the sins of the world to Calvary, and died in love for all of us. But this was just His means of disarming death and sin, and giving us the victory. He arose from the grave and shed forth the riches of eternal life as a mighty river throughout this world. He ascended to the right hand of God to intercede for all who would come unto God by Him. And, some day soon, He will come again and claim His children from this world of sin and darkness. We shall be forever with Him. Are you ready for that great day?

—L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What a miracle it is to think of Jesus Christ being with God in eternity, yet He was willing to take upon Him the flesh of mankind and live among us, so we could know the way to heaven and know God. It is a glorious thing to know that He will live in our hearts, the One who has "all power . . . in heaven and in earth."

Today, Christ is knocking at the door of every heart. He comes with a message. His voice speaks right to the heart. One day a preacher visited a poor woman. He knocked, and again knocked, but got no answer from within. A few days afterwards he met the woman in the street, and said he was sorry that she was out when he called. She confessed that she had been in her house, but she was afraid that a creditor had come to demand payment of a debt. Christ's knockings, thus misunderstood, may frighten the heart. Some think that the religion of Christ is a sad and gloomy thing, and that it makes sad and gloomy people. Jesus' message is for us to "forsake all and follow me!" At first it may seem a hard

requirement; but if we will surrender all, completely, there will be a peace, joy, and an assurance that the world cannot give. God will abundantly supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory. Praise God! —M. Miles

### THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST!

10-18

**MORE THAN NINETEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO** there was a man born contrary to the laws of life. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.

He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, and had neither training nor formal education.

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him.

He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined.

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.

He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

Some years ago, once each week the wheels of commerce ceased their turning and multitudes wended their way to worshiping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone, but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not hold Him.

He stands upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and

feared by devils, as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

We are either going to be forever with Him, or forever without Him. It was the incomparable Christ who said:

**"BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR, AND KNOCK: IF ANY MAN HEAR MY VOICE, AND OPEN THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM, AND WILL SUP WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME." (Rev. 3:20).**

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### **LESSON 3**

**October 17, 1976**

### **HOLY SPIRIT POWER**

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God (Jesus, Holy Spirit) created the heaven and the earth.

2b And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they (120) were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

11b We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Acts 15:8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them (Gentiles) witness, giving them the Holy Ghost; even as he did unto us;

9b Purifying their hearts by faith.

**Memory Verse:** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me. Acts 1:8a.

**Central Thought:** The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, moved upon the shapeless mass of waters and darkness in the creation and executed the divine command. Upon the souls of men today, the Holy Spirit can, and will, still move and inspire the wonderful works of God.

**Word Definitions:** The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. The Hebrew word for "moved" means to brood, that is, to ponder or contemplate or study, and think deeply and seriously. The mother hen who sits long and patiently on her eggs does so with much thought of her little ones to come. They are her "brood." Although darkness covered the face of the deep and the earth was without form and void, the Spirit of God was brooding upon the face of the waters. Is this not a precious thought?

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The Bible doctrine of the Holy Trinity (Three in One) has borne much speculation and dispute. There is very strong teaching in the religious church world today against the doctrine of three Persons in the Godhead. Souls who are of this opinion conceive the idea that Jesus is all three persons. They are very radical and outspoken in their views. Very little can be done to change their minds on this subject. Just what they do, and how they can get around plain scriptural texts that show the presence of Three Persons in the Godhead, is very strange indeed. A person pretty well believes what he wants to believe. But it would be well for us to realize that God is God, and has His own Way of revealing Himself to the soul of man. Just as we, as human beings, wield an influence of our own in various ways, even so the Lord God Almighty has sent His Son into the world to represent Himself to man, and has sent forth His Spirit to represent the Son, after the

Son had ascended back to Himself. The Holy Spirit is the administrator of the New Covenant brought to us from God by Jesus Christ, and sealed with His own precious blood. Woe to the man who trifles with the Holy Spirit! What serious consequences follow the grieving of the same. Let us take heed to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, and acknowledge Him in His rightful place in the Church and our lives.

—L. Busbee

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the Holy Spirit doing upon the face of the waters? 2. What did the Holy Spirit reveal to Simeon? 3. How did He know the baby Jesus when he saw Him? 4. What was the state of the 120 on Pentecost? 5. What does the Holy Spirit do when He comes into our hearts?

#### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

The meaning of the word "Spirit" is closely associated with wind and breath. The Spirit of God moved upon the waters. God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. Jesus said, concerning being born of the Spirit, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell from whence it cometh or whither it goeth." After Jesus had been resurrected, He breathed on the disciples, and said: "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." The coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was as the sound of a rushing, mighty wind. The wind is something one cannot see, but one can see the effects of it.

The Holy Spirit is real, and its advent and entrance into the heart and life and its work there is real. The Holy Spirit sanctifies, cleanses, keeps, guides, inspires, teaches, preserves, unites, blesses, empowers, enables, quickens, enlightens, overshadows, protects, moves, and fills the hearts that He enters with great joy and happiness and victory. It is the richest, most beneficial, and blessed experience one can ever attain to in this world. The Holy Spirit sent from the Father by way of the virtue of the blood of Christ finds its rest in the regenerated, lowly, believer. Oh, How blessed the life that is lived under Its guidance and blessing! Great heed should be taken and diligent earnest watchfulness should be employed, for the Holy Spirit can be grieved, and grieved to the point that He will take His flight. There is no forgiveness for sinning against the Holy Spirit. It is a bleak and hopeless fate for the soul who does despite to the Spirit of grace.



The Holy Spirit is sent to inspire and lead the Church in this world for guidance, service and victory. To deny the Holy Spirit its rightful place of preeminence will open the door for gross deception and darkness. Formality, man-rule, committees, boards, and human-run systems are sad evidence of the absence of the Holy Spirit. Let us take heed, and be led by of the Holy Spirit. —L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is a wonderful thought about the Holy Spirit that "moved upon the waters." Surely it is true of the work of the Spirit of God. He moves upon our hearts and moves upon the hearts of others. The Hebrew word of "moved" means to "brood." But the word in the English language "moved" means to "arouse the emotions: prompt; stir; to change; to cause to act, do, say, etc." Doesn't this describe the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives? The Holy Spirit anoints us to act, to say, and to do. He will stir our emotions and the very depths of our being. He causes us to move, or He leads us in the right direction. It is precious to know that we are in the center of God's will, and that the Holy Spirit is moving upon our hearts, and speaking through us the glorious things that come from God.

In our lesson we want to note the way the Holy Spirit moved upon the heart of Simeon. Many babies were brought into the temple but when the Christ child came in, the Holy Spirit moved upon the heart of Simeon, and caused him to know that this was the One that was to bring salvation to the world. He lifted up his voice, and through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, spoke words of prophecy.

On the day of Pentecost there was a mighty moving of the Holy Spirit, and it caused people out of every nation to hear the gospel message. Today we need to pray that God will cause a greater moving of the Holy Spirit upon our hearts, so that the gospel may be proclaimed to more in this world. —M. Miles

### THE SECOND EXPERIENCE

The Scriptures plainly teach that this second work of grace is for us now.

H. M. Riggle once wrote, "In full salvation we are given a new heart and a new nature. After we are given this divine nature, it is natural and easy for us to serve God. Serving God is then as natural as breathing." This kind of experience comes from a surrendered life. We must have a new nature.

We do not have abundant life until we make a complete surrender to God and get his Holy Spirit—his love—in our hearts. This is something more than we get when we are converted. It is a gift that God gives us when we submit all to Him and accept His gift of the Spirit.

Then it is that we are fully saved and have the divine nature of which Peter speaks (II Peter 1:4), and to which John refers (John 14:17). Of the Holy Spirit Jesus said, "He dwelleth with you," but of the greater experience that He promised the apostles He said, "He shall be in you." A real life of rejoicing comes to the Christian when the Comforter has come.

What brings this joy and satisfaction? First, obedience to God's Word brings it. Then, our life is satisfactory because we have victory every day to keep from saying harsh, unkind words. The result is joy and happiness that money or anything else of this world cannot bring to us.

That is the joy that Paul had when he was in prison singing praises to God at midnight with his feet in the stocks. That ugly spirit he had had was not in his heart any more. He rejoiced that he had been delivered from that spirit.

With the Spirit of God we will not fail as Peter did when a real test comes. Jesus died that we might have this divine nature. What a wonderful privilege we all have to be set free from the old nature and have the divine nature! It is for us ALL NOW! "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one." Hebrews 2:11. —Selected

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## LESSON 4

October 24, 1976

### IN THE BEGINNING

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Job 26:7 He stretched out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Psa. 102:25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed.

Heb. 11:3 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.

Acts 14:15 And (Paul speaks to idol worshippers) saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.

Job 38:1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof.

Isa. 40:21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is he (God) that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.

Rev. 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

**Memory Verse:** I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself. Isa. 44:24b.

**Central Thought:** We must remember that the creation of all things is a miracle of God and does not fit into the uniform pattern of things since that time, therefore science has no explanation for it.

**Word Definition:** "Without form and void." The Hebrew word translated "without form" is **tohu**, which means "formlessness, confusion, or emptiness." The Hebrew word translated: "Void" is **bohu**, which means, "emptiness" and applies primarily to inhabitants. (World needed to be formed into a definite shape and needed inhabitants in order to serve God's creative purposes.) "Created" is a translation of the Hebrew word **bara**, which means something out of nothing, and its subject is always God. Heb. 11:3.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Since we are living in a day of unbelief in the Word of God and since our schools are filled with teachers of unbelief, it is important that we study God's Word so we can become established in a solid faith. We need to be able also to help others to have faith in God's creative abilities. Miracles cannot be explained by scientific measurements or ideas. Man is still desperately searching to find answers to many of God's great miracles. They went to the moon and are now exploring Mars. Man searches but never finds the answer. We know the answer because we have faith in a miracle-working God. Regardless of man's unbelief, God is still God, and there are many of His mysteries which man will never be able to fathom. There is no scientific explanation of Jesus feeding the multitude with only five loaves and two fishes (Matt. 14:15-21), nor the other miracles that He performed. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God."

We have used a number of different scriptures, taken from the Bible that are the revelations that God gave the various writers. They wrote through the inspiration given them by the Holy Spirit. Today we know that the world is growing old and is ripening up for destruction, but only lately have scientists agreed to this fact.

There are many false teachings in the world. The scripture, Jeremiah 4:23-28, is used to prove that there was a great catastrophe that occurred between the first two verses of Genesis. But in studying this scripture, you will find that it is a prophecy concerning what would happen to the city of Jerusalem. You will note that Jeremiah's reference to mountains shows that this is referring to something different from the original creative acts because there were no mountains at that time. So, to apply Jeremiah's words to the original creation, would be taking his words out of context. —M. Miles

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

"In the beginning" takes us beyond the seen to the unseen. These words take us beyond the realm of our natural senses to the realm of the spiritual; from temporal to eternal. "In the beginning" refers to the absolute beginning of created things. There is nothing beyond this but God. We cannot explain God but there are many things that we do know about Him. One thing is that He has a purpose and a plan to work out in every one's life, if each will let Him.

Heaven is mentioned first. We need to let our minds dwell more on heaven. Surely God in heaven is our main object of worship and reverence. God is the One whom we need to look to understand and know about His creation. Faith in His miracle-working power will explain all things to us. God made a fully matured world in the beginning, and did not need billions of years to do it. It only took six days. Exodus 20: 11. He has given us a glimpse of His plan and we can see it unfolded in the first verses in Genesis. Everywhere we discern the undoubted wisdom, power, and goodness of the great Creator of all things. Everywhere we meet His benevolent design which should suggest to us the thought of the Almighty Creator. "The heavens declare the glory of God. All Thy works praise Thee."

Today, people's lives and minds are "without form and void." Their souls are empty and their minds are in confusion. They are taken up with transient affairs of time when they should be occupied with divine pursuits. They are busy with a round of pleasures when they ought to be enraptured with the visions of eternity. They have followed the lusts of the flesh and it has brought to them much trouble and confusion. They need the God of creation to create a new life within their souls and cause their lives to be in harmony with their Maker. God can speak to the soul that is bowed before Him with a broken and contrite spirit and make a new creature out of it. Old things will pass away and all things will become new. Surely it is one of the greatest miracles that God performs; to change a sinner into a saint of God.

All honor and praise is due unto the One who has "created all things" and can change the man, who is bound by Satan, into a free man and fill him with grace and glory! —M. Miles

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the foundation of the earth? How was it laid?
2. What were the things that are seen made of?
3. Will the present earth and heaven endure forever?
4. For what purpose did the Lord create all things?
5. What was there before the earth came into being?

#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

It is very necessary when reading and studying the Word of God, for one to diligently apply the mind and thoughts upon what he is studying. As we read the first chapter of Genesis and consider the other scriptures of our lesson, let us think

deeply and allow the words written to draw a vivid picture in our minds. "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." What kind of picture is this? Can you imagine what this looked like if it could be viewed? "Without form." There was no shape or substance. An utter waste of nothingness. There was absolutely nothing there to do anything with. "And void." Void here means "utter emptiness, a vacuum." A vacuum is the absence of air and material. A vacuum will draw air and substance very readily. Such was the condition existing when God began to speak the world into existence. "Darkness was upon the face of the deep." The deep here refers to an abyss, a pit of unpenetrable depth. Darkness everywhere; even if there had been any substance, it was engulfed in this deep darkness. But there was nothing, and that nothingness was also veiled in darkness. The depth of this condition assures us that there was nothing present to build anything upon. It was a hopeless scene. But, behold! There is something there! What is it? Can you see? Something solemn and tranquil and powerful is beginning to stir upon the bearing of that dreadful darkness. The clouds of darkness begin to shift and move. There is a Presence. There is Someone there. Then suddenly a Voice booms from the silence. "LET THERE BE LIGHT!" Scarcely has the Voice spoken when brilliant rays of beautiful, clear, holy Light illuminates all around. What does it reveal in the light of its glow? Waters, waters, waters. Waters above, waters below, waters on all sides. This is the beginning of the dawn of a new world. Think of the joy and anticipation of the One who is doing all of this! What thoughts and purposes fill his heart! What does He have in view? What will be the end of this solemn and sacred scene? —L. Busbee

### THE THEOLOGY OF CREATION

Man naturally asks for some account of the world in which he lives. Was the world always in existence? If not, how did it begin? Did the sun make itself? These are not presumptuous questions. We have a right to ask them—the right which arises from our intelligence. The steam engine did not make itself; did the sun? In the text we find an answer to all our questions. I The answer is simple. There is no attempt at learned analysis of elaborate exposition. A child may understand the answer. It is direct, positive, complete. Could it have been more simple? Try any other form of words, and see if a purer simplicity be possible. Observe the value of simplicity when regarded as bearing upon the grandest events.

The question is not, who made a **house**, but who made a **world**; and not, who made one world, but who made all worlds; and to this question the answer is, God made them. There is great risk in returning a simple answer to a profound inquiry, because when simplicity is not the last result of knowledge, it is mere imbecility. **II**. The answer is sublime. God! God created! 1. Sublime because far-reaching in point of time: in the **beginning**. Science would have attempted a fact, religion has given a **truth** . . . . 2. Sublime because connecting the **material with the spiritual**. There is, then, something more than dust in the universe. Every atom bears a superscription. It is something, surely, to have the name of God associated with all things great and small that are around us. Nature thus becomes a materialized thought. The wind is the breath of God. The thunder is a note from the music of his speech. 3. Sublime, because revealing, as nothing else could have done, the power and wisdom of the Most High. **III**. The answer is sufficient. It might have been both simple and sublime, and yet not have reached the point of adequacy. Draw a straight line, and you may describe it as simple, yet who would think of calling it sublime? We must have simplicity which reaches the point of sublimity, and sublimity which sufficiently covers every demand of the case. The sufficiency of the answer is manifest: Time is a drop of eternity; nature is the handiwork of God; matter is the creation of mind; God is over all, blessed for evermore. This is enough. In proportion, as we exclude God from the operation, we increase difficulty. Atheism never simplifies. Negation works in darkness. The answer of the test to the problem of creation is simple, sublime, and sufficient, in relation. (1) to the inductions of Geology. (2) To the theory of evolution. Practical inferences: —1, If God created all things, then all things are under His government. 2. Then the earth may be studied religiously, 3. Then it is reasonable that He should take an interest in creation.

—Homiletic Com.

**(Note to teachers: Have you placed your order for lessons for the 1st quarter of 1977? It is necessary that we have your order no later than Dec. 1, 1976. The first Sunday of the next quarter is Jan. 2, 1977.)**

## LESSON 5

October 31, 1976

### LIGHT DIVIDED FROM THE DARKNESS

Gen. 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Psalms 36:9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Eph. 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

**Memory Verse:** The darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. I John 2:8b.

**Central Thought:** God has divided light from darkness, and wills that man walk in the fulness of the light of the gospel and to flee from the darkness and sin of the world.

**Word Definitions:** **Light:** Illumination. **Darkness:** absence of light, obscurity. **Proving what is acceptable unto**



**the Lord:** Discovering, learning, finding out because of the Light of God that reveals. **Darkness comprehended it not:** did not take, receive, welcome, or perceive.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Is it not remarkable and wonderful that the first thing created of all things was Light? We would call your attention to the fact that this Light brought forth on that first day of creation was not the light of the sun or the moon. These two great lights were not created until the fourth day. This special light that God spoke into existence, making it separate and distinct from the darkness, was a light much more important and much greater than the light of the sun. This holds a very special meaning. When we consider how much is said in the Bible about spiritual light and spiritual darkness, we cannot help but be persuaded that this first act of creation of the separation of light from darkness, was something more than a literal light. We know that spiritual darkness is a much more dense and terrible darkness than literal darkness. Jesus said, "If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" We know that He was speaking about spiritual darkness. Before God would create the world He planned and purposed that the men and women He would create should be illuminated with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. For this cause we have connected this up with other writings in the scriptures that have to do with the issue of light and darkness yet being divided in the heart of man. Satan seeks to confuse light and darkness, and cause the soul to become unaware of the distinction between the two. He is the Prince of Darkness. God help us to walk in the light of Christ, and not walk in darkness. —L. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the first thing that God created? 2. Was this the light of the sun? 3. Can you think of an illustration of how darkness and light can be confused? 4. Why do we need spiritual light, and what does it do for us? 5. Who is it that will come to the light?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Light is something that most people take for granted, and seldom give a thought to as concerning its value and purpose. But spiritual light is so much, much more important and valuable, for without it the heart of man is in darkness of mind and

heart that keeps him in a way that is sinful and wrong. But God separated the light from the darkness. They are still separated in God's sight, and He would have every soul to realize this. The kind of light that we are interested in is the light that comes into the heart of man causing him to know, to see, and to understand the will and pleasure of God. Darkness is ignorance. Many people are ignorant, and are willing to remain ignorant. They are not groping for light, for they do not realize that they are in darkness. When reproof comes their way, and their evil deeds are caught up with, they are unhappy and miserable. They will not come to the light lest their evil deeds should be reproved. Termites and roaches work under cover of darkness. They do not like the light and will scurry for a hiding place when exposed. So it is with a soul who lives in sin and transgression. Unless they have been touched by the desire for deliverance and are willing to humble their hearts and confess their darkness, they do not welcome the light of God.

There are many other scriptures that speak of light and darkness. Light is a subject so beautiful and inspiring to explore scripture-wise. But the greatest joy comes when we who receive light from heaven in our souls begin to walk in that light. How bright our pathway becomes! The word of God is a light unto our path and a lamp unto our feet. We need light. The world around us is in gross darkness, but to us who fear the Lord, the Sun of Righteousness has arisen with healing in His wings. Praise the Lord for the true Light that now shineth.

—L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Many have asked, 'How could light be produced on the first day, and the sun, the fountain of it, was not created till the fourth day?' I shall observe that the original word signifies not only light but 'fire,' Isa. 31:9; Ezek. 5:2. I therefore conclude that, as God has diffused the matter of caloric or latent heat through every part of nature, without which there could be neither vegetation nor animal life, it is caloric or latent heat which is principally intended by the original word." (Clarke Com.) So we see that light was already created on the fourth day, but was gathered together in the sun and moon, which are the light-bearers. On the day He created light "He set in motion the rotation of the earth round on its own axis once in 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4 seconds, which is the cause of the distinction between day and night, by bringing the different parts of the

surface of the earth successively into and from under the solar rays; and it was probably at this moment that God gave this rotation to the earth, to produce this merciful provision of day and night."

There is a special light that is with God. We note that when Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John that "his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as light." Matt. 17:2. The Psalmist said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain." Psa. 104:1,2. This is food for thought. —M. Miles

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## Lesson 6

November 7, 1976

### THE MIRACLE OF WATER

Gen. 1:7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

Job 37:16 Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?

Isa. 40:12 . . . (God) hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance.

Psa. 33:1 Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

Gen. 2:6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

Gen. 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

Eccl. 1:6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water (salvation) that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

**Memory Verse:** Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, . . . without price. Isa. 55:1.

**Central Thought:** The natural water sustains physical life and the spiritual water satisfies the longing of a soul and sustains spiritual life.

**Word Definition:** The Hebrew word firmament is *rakiah*, which is translated expansion, something expanded; or something firm and solid. "This intimates, that by the word firmament, (*rakiah*), the Hebrews understood the heavens, which like a solid and immense arch (though it be soft and liquid) served as a bank and barrier between the upper and lower waters: and that the stars are set in this arch, like so many precious stones in gold and silver. (Gen. 1:17) When firmament is taken for the starry heaven, then by upper waters is meant, that sea or collection of waters placed by God above all the visible heavens, and there reserved for ends known to Himself. If by firmament, we understand the air, called the expansion, because it is extended far and wide; and the firmament, because it is fixed in its proper place, from whence it cannot be moved, unless by force; then by the superior waters are to be understood the waters in the clouds: and these may be said to be above the firmament or air, because they are above a considerable part of it." —Crudence Concordance

## LESSON BACKGROUND

If we believe and accept the fact that God is a God of miracles, then we will not have any trouble accepting the creation by God in the beginning and the rest of the Bible. There is a blessing in believing.

On the first day of creation the earth was enveloped in water. On the second day of creation God divided the waters which produced a sort of canopy above the earth. He put the firmament or an invisible expanse between the waters in the literal heavens and the earth. By this act, it would seem that the physical laws which cause clouds and keep them suspended were put into operation. Our lesson brings out how there is a "balancing of the clouds." One writer said that only in recent years have scientists recognized this fact but it has been in the Bible all the time. The clouds are upheld by the buoyancy of the air.

At first only a mist went up and watered the earth but since the flood we have had rain. Some seem to think that the first created water canopy caused people to live longer because it filtered out harmful rays of the sun, yet permitted radiant energy, which was necessary for health and growth, to penetrate to the earth. This canopy made a kind of "green house" effect on the earth. But since the flood in Noah's day, we have rain, and have a constant battle with violent winds and storms.

It is said that three-fourths of the world is covered with water. No doubt in the creation of oceans and mountains there was a gigantic upheaval. It was organized and not a big catastrophic disruption. This took place in one day and not during millions of years. We must remember that we are not trying to harmonize God with science, or science with God. God is the author of true science even though many will not believe it. (Read Ex. 20:11; Isa. 40:12.) God measures and balances out everything perfectly. It's a miracle how the earth rotates on its axis with such regularity. Man surely had nothing to do with any of this, nor does he understand it.

Three-fourths of the earth is covered with water. And as you know that water is composed of three elemental particles, or atoms, two of hydrogen (H) and one of oxygen (O). There are trillions and trillions of molecules in an ounce of water. Water sticks together and only parts when there is force. A needle can be laid gently on water and it will float because the

surface is not broken. Surely it was a great miracle that God performed when he created water. —M. Miles

### QUESTIONS:

1. Tell what God did on the second and third day? 2. Discuss the "balancings of the clouds." 3. How much of the earth's surface is water and who holds it in His Hand? 4. Discuss how earth was watered before and after Noah's flood. 5. What is the water cycle of the earth and sky? 6. Discuss the water that Jesus gives to satisfy our souls and how far reaching is it?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

As we study our lesson we want to worship and adore our great God who can do anything. He made something out of nothing and created all things. To Him be honor, glory, and praise. Surely our God is the same today and is still performing miracles. We need to let our faith take in what God has promised for us.

Why couldn't God bring forth a world with the appearance of age just like he brought forth a full-grown man and woman that he had breathed the "Breath of Life" into, and they became living souls? God can do anything. We notice that the Bible is written in such a way that people can believe it or they can find fault and try to discredit it. I am glad that we believe and accept what God has created as being a fact. God's creation included a balance of all chemical elements so that the earth is able to support life. Surely it is reasonable that God created the entire universe a complete, operational, functioning mechanism.

Water is necessary to maintain life. Let us think of the spiritual water which is so important. Jesus talked to the woman at the well and told her of the spiritual water. She desired to have some of that water so she would not have to come to the well and draw water. Finally, she realized the water that Jesus would give would change her life and cause joy to come into her heart. Oh, how wonderful it is to drink of that fountain of life! It is truly a "well of water springing up" in our souls. It will never go dry as long as we look to Jesus and love and serve Him. It will quench every longing and satisfy our hearts completely. As natural water has influenced many lives, just so the spiritual water has influenced many lives. We can come and drink to our fill. It is sold without money or price. Money cannot buy this peace

and satisfying portion that fills the soul of that one who has surrendered his life to the Lord. We can only receive it when we come to the Lord with godly sorrow and become completely yielded to the Lord. —M. Miles

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

In Psalms 24:1,2 we read: "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods." This verse truly goes along with our lesson concerning the miracle of water. Peter mentions how that "by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water." II Peter 3:5. He then added how that the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. We find that Noah and his family were carried safely through water by the ark which he had built through faith in God's command. We find Jonah swallowed by a great fish and taken to the depths of the waters, and then saved by the mercy of God. Water is a great necessity for life and health. Water is a source of power, beauty, and pleasure. But everyone knows that water, too much water, is sure and swift destruction. There is a line to be drawn. How many peaceful outings end in tragedy every year because of drownings? Surely this should convey to our minds the truth that we are overshadowed in this life by the danger and threat of death. We should turn to the Lord and put our trust fully in Him. Thus we can be safely carried through the destruction of that last great day and stand before Him. —L. Busbee

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### **Lesson 7**

**November 14, 1976**

### **GOD SPOKE AND IT WAS DONE**

Gen. 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

Luke 6:44 (Jesus said) For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Gen. 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

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

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Psa. 74:16 The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.

Psa. 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Heb. 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

**Memory Verse:** For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. Psalms 33:9.

**Central Thought:** We do not want to follow false theories of man but hold our faith steady in God. Some secrets belong to God.

**Word Definition:** "Tree yielding fruit": This means all trees that have the power of propagating themselves by seeds. **Lights:** The rays of the sun fall upon the earth directly under its orb, and because of the earth's smallness, in comparison to the sun, its rays fall upon the moon and are reflected back on the lower hemisphere as the earth completes a revolution on its own axis every 24 hours. Surely a miracle of God! "For years": This refers to a complete revolution of the earth round the sun, which is accomplished in 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 48 seconds.



## LESSON BACKGROUND

Creation was accomplished by entirely different processes than we can now study scientifically, so it is clear that the only way we can know anything definitely about creation is by the means of God's revelation to us. It is put in as few words as possible (which are devoted to the subject), the fact that the creation of all things, was done in six literal days. In the Bible we have the words, "in that day" and that would mean in some coming age, but when there is a number before the day, that means a 24 hour day. If we deny the account of creation than we must admit that the Holy Spirit was unable to say what He meant to say. II Pet. 1:20,21. We also must bear in mind that many things happened in the earth during the great Deluge in Noah's day. That was a curse on the whole earth and many things cannot be explained. The Bible says, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deut. 29:29.

For thousands of years many wise men tried to count the stars and thought they had them numbered but in recent years they have agreed with the Bible that the stars cannot be counted. The Bible says, "The host of heaven cannot be numbered." Jer. 33:22.

Light was created the first day but not centered in the sun, moon, and stars until the fourth day, when God appointed the planetary bodies to be the bearers of light. —M. Miles

### QUESTIONS:

1. When God spoke and it came to pass, it makes us know that there are some secret things that belong to Him. What scripture in the Bible tells us this?
2. Which was created first, the tree or the seed, the grass or the seed?
3. What did Jesus tell us about God's plan of trees bringing forth after their kind, if man doesn't tamper with them?
4. How does Jesus compare it with the treasures in man's heart?
5. God created light the first day, but what did he do with the light on the fourth day?
6. When we consider with the Psalmist and the Apostle Paul the heavens and God's creation, what are we made to say?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We want to stand in awe and reverence before such a mighty God. We must never let the clever ideas of worldly-

minded people sway us from the fact that God is the creator of all things. We must remember that God created a full-grown world and a full-grown man in the beginning and set in motion all that we see today. God spoke and commanded; and today everything that He created is moving according to His plan, except mankind. He made man with a will and he has a choice, whether he wants to obey the desires of his Maker. The sun, moon, stars, plants, trees, and all vegetation are doing what God commanded them to do. How wonderful it is to behold the greatness of God! It causes us to bow before Him in humility and say, "My God, how great thou art!" God made all things for mankind to enjoy and governs all things according to His counsel. Oh, if mankind would only surrender to God and let Him govern them according to His counsel! Every object that we see teaches us reverence, submission and gratitude unto God. Mankind needs to pray unto the Father of lights that He may open up their understanding so they may know the holy Scriptures which are able to make them wise unto salvation. If God is not your Friend today I beg you to love Him, and when the heavens and earth cease to be, your soul will be with our God of love and wisdom in eternity. Surely we can trust such a great God to take care of our souls after death! He is all-wise and has prepared for the faithful and true, great glories, too immense for us to fathom while in this body. I'm expecting by His grace, to see inside of heaven and enjoy all the glories that are unmatched by anything in this world. Praises unto His matchless Name!

Let us be like a tree planted by the water of life, which flows out from under the throne of God. If we live close to that river of life, we can draw strength to bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, faith etc. Jer. 17:7,8; Rev. 22:1,2; Psa. 1:3. We can then bring forth out of the treasures of our hearts, the kind of fruit that God will be pleased with. What kind of treasure do we have in our hearts? Do we treasure the fads and fashions of this world, the things that money can buy, the fame and honour that the world gives to its own, the pleasures that it affords? Or are there treasures in our hearts of righteousness, goodness, mercy, kindness, forgiveness, peace, longsuffering, faith and all the good things that God gives to us? Surely we are to be lights in this world, so let us watch what kind of treasures that we have in our hearts. —M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork." Because of air and atmospheric pollution, and the multiplicity of artificial lights from electricity, the majority of people of our modern times give but very little thought to the beauty and the message that the heavens above portray. Have you ever gone out on a starlit night and laid your head back and drunk in the overwhelming beauty of the majesty of the firmament? If you have not, you are missing something that would do you much spiritual good. As a poem says, "Instead of the star-spangled heavens, we look at the dust at our feet; we drain out the cup that is bitter, forgetting the one that is sweet. We mourn o'er the thorn in the flower, forgetting its odour and bloom; We pass by a garden of blossoms to weep o'er the dust of the tomb." How true this is! All nature in its original state as God created it bespeaks of the glory of the Creator. God created all of these things to help remind man of Himself. We live in a society that thinks very, very little of the beauties of nature. Many people see only the walls of their home, office, and car, and the city streets. If they go to the country they go to a commercialized lake and ride in a man-made boat. Our society is missing the best. —L. Busbee

### NO BLANK SPACES IN THE BIBLE

11-14

The instant they were in the school room and the door was shut, Cliff's hand went up. "Mr. Anderson," he said, "just why do you say that the Bible is wrong in the story of creation?"

"Don't tell me, Clifford," the instructor began, "that you have been in this class for a semester and a half and haven't learned that. I have a notion to give you a failing grade for the course." Then he laughed. "The Bible's account that creatures were created is absurd. All evidence points to the fact that life stems from a one-celled animal. The more complex an animal is, the more it has developed from the amoeba."

Clifford's eyes met Jim's. There was a question there. For a moment Jim didn't know whether his friend was actually seeking information or was testing him to see whether or not he would really speak for his Lord in class as he had spoken to Clifford out of class. Jim sucked in his breath sharply. This might be the end of his credits in biology. It might mean that he would have to come back to school for another semester

before going away, but he could not let Clifford go unanswered. He held up his hand.

"What's the matter, James?" Mr. Anderson asked. "Don't you agree with me?"

"No, sir," Jim said, getting to his feet, "I do not."

"Would you mind telling me why you do not?" It was obvious that Mr. Anderson was enjoying this affair.

"I'd like to ask you a couple of questions, Mr. Anderson," he went on. "Do you feel that evolution has the whole answer to creation?"

"You've sat in my classes," the teacher replied. "You know the answer to that one. Of course I do. I believe that evolution is the answer to creation."

"Then evolution can explain every creature and every plant. Is that right?"

"Absolutely! You make me feel as though I've failed as a teacher by asking me such elementary questions."

"I—I thought that was the way I had understood you," Jim said. He took another deep breath. "I was reading about a plant the other day that got me to wondering. The yucca, out in the southwestern United States. Would you say that the yucca is the product of evolution?"

"Evidently you don't hear very well," Mr. Anderson said as the class laughed.

"The yucca has white flowers, but there is no natural means of cross-pollinating the flower to produce seeds to keep the yucca plant reproducing," James said.

"You are wrong in that, James," Mr. Anderson said. The yucca plant is cross-pollinated by the yucca moth. It lays its eggs in the seed pods of the yucca, and the larvae of the moth feed on the growing seeds."

"What I meant, Mr. Anderson," Jim went on, "is that the yucca plant isn't cross-pollinated like other plants."

"I see," wilted Mr. Anderson, "Go on."

"If the only way the yucca can be cross-pollinated is by the yucca moth, if the only place the yucca moth lays its eggs is in the seed pods of the yucca, and if the only food that the larvae of the moth can feed on is the growing yucca seeds, how does evolution explain it? The yucca could not have been evolved first; because even if a yucca plant had evolved without the moth, it would not have reproduced; so the first plant would have died out. If the moth had come first, it would not have had any place to lay its eggs, so it would have died.

There was a ripple of laughter in the class. Jim went on. "Which came first, Mr. Anderson?" Jim asked. "And how did it live until the other got around to evolving?"

"Well," he said, "I must admit that there are certain blank spaces in evolution."

"There are no blank spaces in the Bible," Jim went on. "The Word of God says, 'And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.' That accounts for the yucca plant and the moth and all the rest of creation." He stopped and looked at the flushed face of his teacher. "I can't swallow some of man's theories that leave such blank spaces that can't even be guessed away. I'm going to follow the Word of God."

After Jim sat down the teacher said, "Let's get on with our lesson." —Selected

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## LESSON 8

November 21, 1976

### GOD'S CREATION AND THE LAMB

Gen. 1:20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

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

Eccl. 3:20 All (man and beast) go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

**Ex. 12:5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

**23** For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

**John 1:29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**Rev. 5:8** And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

**9** And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

**10a** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests.

**II Cor. 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

**Luke 13:32** And he (Jesus) said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, (of crafty nature) Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

**Memory Verse:** But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. **Isa. 40:31.**

**Central Thought:** God has absolute, unchangeable laws which govern the reproduction of all animal and plant life. Those laws function within certain limited bounds and they can not be broken. God chose an animal to help us understand the plan of salvation.

**Word Definition:** "Comparative embryology tries to point out that the beginning embryos of fish, polliwogs, and humans look very much alike. This is true. But it proves nothing for the case of evolution, but does offer a stronger proof of the existence of God. Scientists are defied to attempt to make the embryo of a fish turn out to be a polliwog, a man, or anything other than a fish from the exact same kind of fish which laid the egg in the first place."

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The birds, creatures of the sea, insects, animals of the earth bring forth today according to its kind. The command of God for them to "bring forth after his kind" is still in force. Man cannot change the law of God. The bird that lays the egg brings forth birds after its kind. The animals bear young just like their kind. And they are doing that today. An opossum may have as many as 16 young but only 13 can survive. They stay in her pocket for about a month. When they come out and she goes on nightly prowls, they clamber onto her back. They entwine their tails around her tail, and she holds it over her back like a handrail. God's great plan is going on today.

The female cockroach can produce as many as 180 offspring in 303 days. The newborn cockroach can survive a week without food, even though the mother drops the sac close to food and covers it with debris. They are just obeying God's command to bring forth "after their kind." Cows bring forth after their kind and dogs bring forth after their kind. There might be big, small or medium sized dogs but all are dogs. No crossing of species. This is a miracle and only God could keep it continuing as it is.

We added to this lesson the lamb that God chose to be a type of Christ, also we mentioned the fox that Jesus used as describing Herod's nature. —M. Miles

### QUESTIONS:

1 Scientists teach that humans evolved from the embryo of a fish or polliwog. What does the Bible teach us about all animals? 2. Man is able to breed and cultivate many new varieties within a great kind. Are they still the same kind or a new species of life? 3. Man wants to start with matter, laws and "simple" life, but who created matter? 4. Do animals have a soul or do they go back to dust? 5. Why did God tell the Israelites, when they were to leave Egypt that night, to kill a lamb, without blemish and put the blood on their doorposts? 6. What was the lamb a type of? 7. What will the accepting of the blood, as a covering for our sins, do for us?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

When we look around us and see life in the animals, plants, birds, insects, and in mankind we know that there must be a Life-Giver. Who is that Life-Giver? It can be no one but

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God. Oh, how our hearts adore and praise such a great God! We stand in awe and deep reverence before Him and proclaim, "How great Thou art!" The Almighty God is Life, Self-Existent and is the only One who has life and did impart life to the first man, all animals, all plants, all birds, all insects, and put that something within them which enables them to reproduce according to certain set laws. It is all amazing and man needs to humble himself and glorify such a great Creator. Instead of wanting to acknowledge that God created all things, man wants to try to figure it out himself by saying it all evolved. Such rubbish! It is dishonoring to our God of all intelligence. Man wants to start with their theory that evolution begins with matter, laws, and "simple" life. Well, matter must have one time come into existence. Who created matter? It had to have a creator and, of course we know and will admit even if the so-called wise men of the earth will not, that God created matter. An added fact is that matter has been proven to be deteriorating. This proves that the Bible is true, when it says that the earth is growing old like a garment. It is said that "gradually, over a period of seemingly limitless years, the radioactive material disintegrates into lead. There is no new uranium coming into existence today."

The children of Israel were to leave Egypt. God was delivering them from the bondage that they had been under. They were to kill a lamb that was without blemish, and put the blood on the doorpost. When the death-angel, or destroyer passed their house the firstborn would be spared.

The devil, who is the destroyer, is passing by our door. If we do not have the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ covering our heart's door we will be in for trouble. How wonderful it is that Jesus loved us enough to die on the cross and spill His blood for our salvation! No wonder John stood in reverence and awe when Jesus passed and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Then we read in Revelation about the four beasts and 24 elders falling down before the Lamb, Jesus Christ, with adoration. He will redeem us from our sins and make us a new creature. Old things will pass away and all things will become new. Praise our God! All blessings and eternal life comes from Him.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Animals are used much in the Bible in connection with spiritual thoughts. The ox is used as a type of the ministers of



the gospel. The ass, or donkey, is used likewise, as a beast of burden to represent the Christian in faithful and lowly service. The ant is used as a reproof against slothfulness. The lion is a symbol of strength and dominion. The lamb is a symbol of meekness and sacrifice. The serpent is usually a symbol of Satan. Eagles are used to illustrate strength of flight and triumph. The horse is mentioned and can be likened unto the experience of holiness. Sheep represent the children of the Lord, and goats are likened unto the children of the devil. The ostrich in the book of Job is noted for her stupidity and lack of wisdom. The elephant (behemoth) and the whale (leviathan) are noted for their strength. The roe, the hind, and the deer are used as symbols of affection and beauty. These and others mentioned in the Word of God show that the animals are created to portray different attributes of God's character and that which He designs to be in us. —L. Busbee

### REPLENISH AND MULTIPLY 11-21

In February and March (1976) my sister and her husband flew to Nairobi, Kenya, Africa and they toured the Amboseli Game Reserve. It was full of wild animals of all kinds which are native to Africa. The lion is the king of the reservation because of his unusual strength. The lion can carry prey that is much larger than himself. The lioness will bring forth two to six, 12-inch, one-pound cubs. Normally, no more than three, but generally, only two will survive. That is God's way of keeping the lions producing the healthiest specimens. The Mother cares for them about three months and then an old-maid baby-sitter lion takes over the care of them while the mother rejoins her pride, which consists of six to 20 lions. Today the king of the forest is fighting for survival as man is killing him off.

The giant of the deep is the blue whale. He measures 100 feet long and weighs about 136.4 tons. (He was weighed in sections.) Whales have no vocal organs. During spouting, the rush of the air, through the pipelike nostrils, produces a whistling that is heard a mile away. They are doing what God has commanded. They reproduce one calf at a time.

The camel is another of God's creation. The lump is a store of fatty flesh which is used when food is scarce and causes him to survive in great desert heat. The camel loves her offspring a few months and then she gives it a nip and the small creature kicks her in the ribs in return and they go their separate ways.

For centuries, before cane sugar came into use, the bee was called the sugar factory of the world. A queen usually remains active until some time in her fourth year, and at the height of a season she can lay more than 2000 eggs a day — Most of which will develop into female workers. They are just keeping the command of God to “be fruitful and multiply.”

There are 32 species of the North American hawk. Hawks kill only when hungry. Their favorite foods are rodents, destructive birds and insects. God’s plan is to keep a balance in the world. Food for the animals, birds and insects are different. Each has its favorite, therefore keeping a balance so the earth will not be overrun by a certain kind. Man has interfered and killed certain animals to the point they became extinct, and that throws nature out of balance. Some species get out of bounds. A bird will ride along on an elephant’s back and eat the insects off of him. God’s plan was perfect in every sense of the word.

The tiny humming bird which weighs about one tenth of an ounce, may come to nest in your yard and has made a non-stop flight of about 500 miles. They can fly backwards. Their nest are often no larger than a quarter, which is camouflaged, and are almost invisible. They will hold two white eggs, the size of peas. They like the nectar of honeysuckle, morning glories and trumpet vines. There are more than 300 kinds and their tiny feathers are beautiful; another of God’s creation for us to enjoy.

On and on we could tell about the animals, birds, insects, fish etc. that God has created for us. They all make us know that we have a wonderful and great God, who is beyond our comprehension, yet through Jesus Christ coming here to live and die on the cross for our sins, arising and ascending to heaven, we have a way to come into God’s presence, the Creator of all things. There, we can know Him and love Him. Oh, that all would bow in humble adoration before Him! —M. Miles

## LESSON 9

November 28, 1976

### GOD'S CROWNING CREATION

Gen. 1:26a And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:

Gen. 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Gen. 2:21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28a And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

Acts 17:28 For in him (God) we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your poets have said, For we are his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Eph. 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Prov. 20:27a The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts.

II Cor. 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

**Memory Verse:** I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Psa. 139:14.

**Central Thought:** Man was the crowning creation of God. He was created in His "image" and "likeness" by

endowing him with intelligence, freedom of will and made him a spiritual being.

**Word Definition: Soul** means "an entity without material reality, regarded as the spiritual part of the person and as having the functions of thinking and willing; the moral or emotional nature of man or the spiritual or emotional warmth, force, etc.; the spirit of a dead person, thought of as separate from the body." —Web. Dic. **Soul** means "that spiritual, reasonable, and immortal substance in man, which is the origin of our thoughts, of our desires, of our reasonings; which distinguishes us from the brute creation, and which bears some resemblance to its divine Maker. Matt. 10:28, 'Fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body.' This substance must be spiritual because it thinks; it must be immortal because it is spiritual. The Scripture indeed ascribes to beasts a soul, a spirit, life, and respiration, which may be a second acceptance of the word, as in Genesis 1:24 — 'living creatures' in Hebrew means 'living soul' . . . 'This spirit or soul 'is the breath, which is the principle of animal life, which is common to man and beast.' . . . 'The life, in Hebrew, the soul of the flesh, is the blood' Leviticus 17:11; Eccl. 3:21. (See Cruden's Concordance) **Spirit:** "The life principle, especially in man, or the soul." Web. Dic. **Human Heart** means "the center of emotions, personal attributes etc.; specif., inmost thoughts and feelings." **Change of heart,** " a change of mind, affections, etc." Web. Dic. **Heart:** "The Hebrews look upon the heart as the source of wit, understanding, love, courage, grief, and pleasure. . . . honest and good heart . . . broken heart, a clean heart, an evil heart, a hardened heart, a liberal heart, a heart that does an act of kindness, freely, voluntarily, with generosity."

—Cruden's Concordance

### LESSON BACKGROUND

We trust that you are keeping up with our main thought from the beginning of our lessons. In our first three lessons we brought out that in the beginning God was there, Jesus Christ was there and the Holy Spirit — the Trinity. The three in One have created all things. What a glorious and perfect creation, our God of all power, has provided for man to dwell in and among! We stand in awe and adoration before our God.

We notice that God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." "Us" and "Our" are used which make us know that the Trinity was doing it. So the Trinity is the background of our lesson today.

We want to take note that in Gen. 1:27 that God created "male and female," but in Genesis, the second chapter we note that he told us how he made them. We inserted the verses so it would read in that way, as man and woman were created on the sixth day. We must note that woman was taken out of man's side and not out of his foot. Woman is to be his help meet and not his slave.

In a later lesson we will discuss in full about the first marriage and what Jesus teaches concerning it. Today let us dwell mostly on how God created man in holiness and with intelligence and his responsibility toward God. —M. Miles

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did it mean when "God said, Let us make man"?
2. How was man made in the "image" and "likeness" of God?
3. Discuss the theories of men of the world who teach that man evolved from a "simple" form of life.
4. How does man differ from the animals?
5. How did man lose his holiness and how can he receive it again?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

The word Genesis means "beginning." The first chapter tells about the absolute law that life comes only from life. Who then is the Life-Giver? The Almighty God, the One who is Life, the One who was before all things, the One who imparted life to the first man, to the animals, all plants, and also gives them the power to reproduce according to certain set laws. Scientists, evolutionists, atheists, biologists never have been able to offer any kind of evidence that the living can come into existence from the non-living. Evolutionists only guess and offer unreal theories about how life began. They try to make it sound real by adding billions of years to their theory. How sad it is that so many fall for their theories. Even if it were true all things begin with matter, laws, and "simple" life. We know, and they agree, that matter had to come into existence one time, also life, etc. Surely then, it required a Creator. Even "simple" life, as they call it, had to have a beginning. We know, because the Bible tells us, that God was the creator of matter and life. In the beginning God created a full-grown world and a full-grown man and woman. Let us always remember this and not let the theories of man, or their trying to fit a gauge of comparing this with that, cause us to have any doubt of the truth, that God is the Creator of all things and did not need thousands of years to do it. God did not tell

us the details of everything so we must not delve into things that God has not revealed to us.

Man was created in the "image of God" and after his likeness. This does not mean physical likeness because "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24) and Jesus said that a "spirit hath not flesh and bones." (Luke 24:39) So we then know that man was created in the image and likeness of God by being given special characteristics of the Divine God not found in other creatures. Man is a moral being. His actions are not determined by instinct, as in the animal kingdom, but he has been given a defined clearness of what is right and what is wrong. He also has a freedom of choice and has been given a mind with great intelligence. We marvel at the inventions that God has allowed man to make. This intelligence was given to them by God. Man is also a spiritual being. Our lesson tells us that Adam was "created in righteousness and true holiness," which was a state of purity. We will later study about how Adam forfeited his original holiness by sinning. We also want to note that God made man a two-fold being. He has a body and a soul or spirit. Someday the soul will leave the body to live in eternity. Through Christ all can be ready to meet God who will repent with godly sorrow for their sins.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

After all the beauty and freshness of nature created by God was brought forth, we now see standing in the midst, the noblest of all creatures. Sublime, in noble dignity, with beauty, courage, strength endowed, erect, with gaze turned heavenward, he stands a Man, the King of nature's realm. What were his thoughts when he first came into being? As he looked about at the beauties of earth smiling at him, and the heavens above shining with full splendor, with the air filled with fluttering creatures, and the beautiful garden spread out before Him, what delight and holy awe filled his heart and mind. His lofty, broad and noble brow and countenance proclaiming that inner wisdom and sacred image of His Maker; from eyes serene and steadfast shines his immortal soul. Think of how it all seemed to him as he looked about and began to walk and contemplate on his conscious state. Were there any thoughts or feelings of desire as he beheld all other creatures in pairs and while he was alone? God's presence was there, and we can be sure that God communed and talked with him. Think about these

things. Behold him as he wakes from the deep sleep, and beholds a creature more lovely than himself looking down upon him with wonder and delight! Oh, these are sacred and holy thoughts. Take some time and ponder upon them. You will find them wholesome and edifying. —L. Busbee

### THE LISTENER AT THE DOOR

11-28

Many years ago, up where the spruce and pine make beautiful the hills of Vermont, lived a little boy whom we will call Willie.

Willie had no kind father, for his young heart had been grieved by seeing the form of his loved friend of his infancy shrouded in death. But he had a loving band of brothers and sisters, and a mother who nobly strove to stand in the place of both parents towards her fatherless little ones.

But Willie's mother did not feel that she had given her heart to God; and coming from church one day, bowed beneath a sense of guilt before God's pure eye, she sought her own room for prayer.

Willie followed as far as the door, and throwing himself on the floor, he placed his ear at the crack, that he might hear his mother pray. And that prayer, it has ever since lingered in his heart. Such earnest pleading for mercy for herself and her children, through the Lamb which was slain on Calvary, that God would indeed give her a good hope, which should grow daily brighter and brighter, and at last end in perfect rest—that having knowledge and strength given her from heaven, she might train her little ones in the way their heavenly Father would be pleased to see them walking in. There in the bedroom the mother wept and prayed, and there too, on the floor, with his ear at the crack, little Willie was an attentive listener.

Years have come and gone, and trusting in the merits of Christ Jesus, the mother has welcomed the summons, "Child, your Father calls, come home." But long before her departure, her pious heart was gladdened by seeing her children treading the road towards the upper country, the home of the redeemed.

Part of them are in a foreign land proclaiming to benighted souls the surpassing love and compassion of Him who "spake as never man spake;" while little Willie, grown to manhood, a faithful, earnest, Christian, from Sunday to Sunday tells from the sacred desk the wondrous story of the Saviour's life of toil and death of agony for us miserable sinners. Rejoicing as he

does to labor for the extension of his Redeemer's cause, as a pleasant remembrance he cherishes the recollection of the day when he heard, through the crack of the door, his mother's petition for mercy. Many souls has he been the means of leading to the ark of refuge, both by the truth and boldness of his preaching, and the beautiful faith mirrored forth in his daily life. —"Sketches From Life," 1871

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**Lesson 10**

**December 5, 1976**

**GOD'S GARDEN**

Gen. 2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Jer. 31:12 (Prophecy) Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

Isa. 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

Isa. 58:11 And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.



Ezek. 34:26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

John 4:14 (Prophecy fulfilled) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Song of Sol. 4:16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.

**Memory Verse:** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. John 15:8.

**Central Thought:** God put man out of the garden because of sin, but through Christ He put the garden in man.

**Word Definition:** Eden means "pleasure." In the "Septuagint" it is called "paradise." "Eden most probably was situated in Armenia, near the origin of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates." **Tree of life** "so called, because it was a natural means of preserving man's life, and freeing him from all infirmities, diseases, and decays, during his abode on earth; and also a sacramental pledge of his continuance in that life, upon condition of his perfect obedience. But this tree of life was to him a tree of death, because of his infidelity." **Tree of knowledge of good and evil** "so called, because by eating of it man came to know experimentally the vast difference between good and evil; and the greatness of that good he formerly enjoyed, by the loss of it; and the greatness of that evil he had brought upon himself, by the feeling of it. And this was another sacramental pledge, which sealed death spiritually, temporally, and eternally, in the case of disobedience. . . . Jesus Christ is called the tree of life, Rev. 2:7; 22:2. He will be to all members a tree of eternal life, satisfying and refreshing them with fellowship and communion with himself."

—Cruden's Concordance

### LESSON BACKGROUND

It is just speculation, as to the situation of the Garden of Eden, as it probably was swept away in the Deluge at Noah's time.

I trust that you will get the main thought of the lesson, which is that God put man in the garden but he sinned and was put out, so God put the garden in man or in his heart. Jer. 31:12 makes us know that the "soul shall be as a watered garden" when Christ would come, and also be a "planting of the Lord," and men be as "trees of righteousness." Isa. 61:3. Ezekiel had a vision of that garden in the soul with "showers of blessings" falling upon it. Praise God! Then we see these prophecies being fulfilled through Christ. As Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman at the well, who had come to draw water, he told her of that heavenly water, from which she could drink and never thirst. It would be in her "a well of water springing up into everlasting life." The garden would always be flourishing and never would be hit by a drought. The souls of those, who had Christ's spirit dwelling within would be beautiful gardens, filled with all the graces of the Lord; and as the north wind of trials blow upon it, out would flow the fragrance that God would love and others would be benefited. —M. Miles

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What kind of a garden did God provide for Adam?
2. Did Adam work in this garden and what trees were important?
3. Since Adam sinned and was cast out of the garden, where did God then plant his garden?
4. Discuss the "plantings of the Lord" and the "trees of righteousness."
5. Christ brought what kind of water?
6. What kind of fruit grew in the new garden that was planted in the soul of man?
7. What does the "north wind" of trials do to the garden in our soul?

#### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

God gave Adam the best and most glorious creation of his plant life to dwell among. The flowers had burst forth, in all of their glory, and the most luscious fruit and garden vegetables were abundant. The trees, in all of their stateliness, waved in the gentle breeze. The birds sang praises unto their Maker, as the animals grazed upon the hills of beautiful greenery. Nothing was lacking. God had "made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food," in that beautiful garden of Eden. There was a river that flowed through the garden and it had four heads. Gold, precious stones and all that was beautiful were there. Now God told Adam to "dress it and keep it." Some think that only sin

caused man to have to labor but sin just brought pain with labor. God's plan was for man to labor, as labor is beneficial for him. God does not condone laziness of any kind. Work is good for a person. An idle brain is the devil's workshop.

Notice what God said to Adam. "God commanded the man." This was firmly and directly proclaimed to Adam. There was no doubt about this command. God is just as particular in His commands today as He was then. He does not leave us in doubt as to what He requires of mankind. Through sin Adam was cast out the the garden. Man failed to keep the garden according to God's commands. But what a merciful God we serve! God formulated another plan. He would put the garden in the soul of man. He looked on mankind and brought forth the plan of salvation. How glorious is the entrance of the Spirit of Christ into the heart. The "soul shall be as a watered garden." We shall be a "planting of the Lord." Christ shall be in us a "well of water springing up unto everlasting life." How wonderful it is to have that "springing up" in the soul! It causes our souls to rejoice and the love of God floods our very being. How precious is the communion of the Spirit with our spirits! As we keep filled with the graces of the Lord, which are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; the "showers of blessings" will fall upon our souls and lives. All of these graces within need some of the "north wind" of trials and sometimes the blasts are severe enough to cause fragrance to flow out. We sometimes are surprised at the graces within when in depths of suffering. When our hearts are seemingly squeezed and twisted with the pain of shocks and disappointments, we look up to God and He sends a healing balm. Through this, the sweet spices of the graces of God flow out and are a sweet odor that God loves. With the comfort wherewith we are comforted we can comfort others.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The garden of Eden was man's first home. It was beautiful and delightful in every sense of the word. What peace, contentment, and happiness man and his help meet must have enjoyed, watching the beautiful flowers and trees bloom and shed their gracious fruit! But wholesome and satisfying was their favored lot! But the most wonderful thing that brightened it all was the presence of the Lord God that often walked and talked with them. As we think of those beautiful scenes of long ago, and meditate upon their reality to Adam

and Eve, we wonder: "Why did they yield to the enemy of their souls to lose such a treasure of estate?" But we know that just as Satan beguiled the minds of our fore-parents, even so is he working today to make God's blessings seem less desirable than the vain worldly things around us. And how he has succeeded in deceiving many precious souls to the intent to fill their hearts with sorrow and despair and separate them from God. Be assured that Satan is still at his job of seeking to corrupt our minds from the simplicity that is in Christ. Christ came to restore the garden of the Lord in our hearts, but Satan is ever seeking how he can destroy it. —L. Busbee

### THERE'S NO GOD UP HERE

A lady, with her little boy and his nurse, was recently spending some months at a fashionable watering place. She was a professed Christian, and when at home was accustomed to attend services regularly, and to live, outwardly at least, consistently with her profession.

But at the Springs she had been less strict, mingled more in gay society, and partaken with apparent eagerness in fashionable amusements. Her little son, though but four years old, did not fail to observe the change, and it soon had its effect upon his pliant character. When told one evening to kneel at his mother's knee and repeat his usual prayers before retiring to rest, he closed his eyes for one moment, and then opening them jumped up, exclaiming, "Oh, no, mamma, I mustn't pray 'till we get home. There's no God up here, you know."

What a reproof to that erring mother came thus from the lisping tongue of her infant child, and what a lesson of practical infidelity had she been unconsciously instilling into his susceptible mind. How many professing Christians thus practically deny their Saviour before their children, and instead of leading their little ones to Jesus, teach them to doubt His very existence; instead of feeding them with the bread of divine truth, poison or starve them by the influence of their own example. Where should there be consistency if not before our own households, in the presence of those for whom God has made us in a great measure responsible? The little ones around our knee will be in the main what we make them by our daily example. The household servants who minister to our daily comfort look up to us as their guides and models in the practical duties of religion, and both will judge not only our own sincerity, but the character of the religion we profess, not

so much by our words as by the tenor of our daily lives. If the latter be inconsistent and worldly, to our households we deny Christ, whatever professions we make to the contrary, and at our hands may be required the blood of immortal souls.

—"Sketches From Life," 1871



## LESSON 11

December 12, 1976

### THE FIRST MARRIAGE

Gen. 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

22 And the rib, (Adam's) which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Matt. 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, com-

mitteth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

I Cor. 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

**Memory Verse:** What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Mark 10:9

**Central Thought:** Man was created with the need of having fellowship with his Creator and also having fellowship with his own kind. God completed His work of creating man by creating woman, who was adapted to man mentally, physically, and spiritually.

**Word Definition:** **Marriage** means "living together as husband and wife or closely or intimately joined." (Web. Dic.) "Marriage signifies a civil contract, by which a man and a woman are joined together, which was instituted by God for the prevention of uncleanness, the propagation of mankind, and that the parties so contracting might be mutual helps and comforts to one another." Cruden's Concordance

### LESSON BACKGROUND

The word "made" used in the phrase, "God . . . made he a woman" (verse 22) in the "Hebrew is different than the word that is commonly used in the creation account. This word has to do with a building process and applies to the fashioning of a structure of importance."

On the sixth day God created all the animals and His crowning creation — man. He was created a full-grown man who could communicate intelligibly. No sin had corrupted his mental powers. All the animals on the sixth day were brought to him to be named. After naming all of them he failed to find any of his kind. "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof." Verse 21. God took that rib from Adam's side. Woman is to be man's help meet. "The head of the man is Christ; and the head of the woman is man; and the head of Christ is God." I Cor. 11:3. But we must remember "For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things are of God." I Cor. 11:12. Man comes from woman inasmuch as the descendants of Adam are born of woman. —M. Miles

## QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God say that man should not be alone? 2. What does "bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh" teach us about the feelings of a husband toward his wife? Discuss other scriptures on this teaching. 3. What qualification should one have who is contemplating marriage? 4. Did Jesus permit divorce? 5. How should one face a mistake in marriage?

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

As the bride walks down the aisle and is "brought" to the man that she is to marry, you can see the love in her face and also on the face of the bridegroom. I am sure that Adam's face was full of love as God "brought her (Eve) unto the man (Adam)." This was the plan of God and He "brought" her to Adam. She was to be his delight and pleasure. She was to fulfill all of his desires for companionship. Adam's face must have lit up and as he looked at Eve he said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." He loved her and she was to be part of him and he would treat her in that way. He would never hurt her as that would be the same as hurting himself. He would never expect more of her than she could do, but they would walk together in harmony and love. Jesus looked back upon that marriage as he talked to the Pharisees and called their attention to that first marriage as being an example for marriage today. He told them that a young couple were to leave father and mother and were to cleave together. Cleave means "glued, adhere and cling, or to be faithful to." Surely there is no place for divorce in marriage. "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." "Cleave," "joined" and "shall be one flesh" all point to the unity of persons, and not just a uniting of two bodies. This would include a unity of interests, affections and love for one's Maker and God. This would bring forth a marriage according to God's plan that would last "until death do us part." The husband is to be the "head of the wife." When he loves her as his own body, the wife will be pleased to submit herself to him in all ways pleasing to the Lord.

We do reap what we sow, and if a mistake is made in marriage, God has grace for each other to bear and forbear. Some have testified, that through prayer, God gave love to them, since they had made a mistake. Divorce is not the solution to the problem. Vows taken before God, and made

to each other, are binding in God's sight. Those who have taken the route of divorce have never been able to get away from their own conscience and God's Word. A poll was taken on divorces, in late years, and the fact was established that 50%, even after five years, regretted the action. Possibly others did not speak from their hearts.

Young people should guard their affections and not let them go out to the opposite sex until they are old enough to think from a mature angle. Marriage is so serious that it is not for those in their teens. It is more serious than a business venture involving thousands of dollars. Statistics prove that 50% of teen-age marriages end in divorce within a five-year period. (Notice that the Bible speaks of only numbering those over twenty years of age. I Chronicles 23:27). Many times, how one marries determines his eternal destiny. The one that you are thinking about should be established in the truth and prove that he or she has a solid, settled experience of salvation. The Bible says to "marry only in the Lord." Each should be settled emotionally, spiritually, and be able to face severe stresses and strains of establishing a home. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is to be noticed that God did not create man and woman at the same time. It seems evident that man may have noticed that the animals he named were in pairs. Perhaps he may have wondered about this, and may even have felt a longing for a companion. God had a purpose for not giving him a companion right at the first. This created more love and delight in the heart of Adam for Eve. Then the beautiful manner in which God chose to create the woman gives even more lustre to God's purpose. He caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam, and took out one of his ribs, closing up the flesh where it had been. He fashioned the woman from that rib taken from Adam's side. He could have taken some more dust of the ground to make a woman. But she would not have meant nearly so much. As Adam looked upon the help meet (not help mate, there is a difference, you know) and realized that this beautiful creature came from his side, what close and endearing emotions filled his heart toward her. Here was the first marriage, and here the sacred holy bond of matrimony was set in motion. Would to God that every marriage were as God ordained and purposed as this one! —L. Busbee



## THE WIFE'S SIX-MILE WALK

12-12

In N\_\_\_ H\_\_\_ lived Mr. and Mrs B\_\_\_ . The husband was a rough, profane, wicked man, a despiser of the gospel of Christ, caring only for the things of this life. His wife was interested in the subject of religion, and at length, as she hoped, was led to embrace it.

After a time, she desired to attend services and make a public profession of her faith in Christ, and made known her wish to her impenitent husband, from whom she received some opposition, and a stern refusal to provide her a conveyance to the place where she wished to go for examination, which was about three miles distance, over long and rugged hills. When asked if he would furnish her with the horse and carriage, he roughly answered, "No; if you must go, you may go on foot; I shall not help you." She bore all this with meekness, resolving at the same time that she would be steadfast in duty, and leave the event with God; also to make the effort to walk, even though it cost her pain, and her strength seemed so unequal to the task.

After attending to the wants of her little family, at an early hour in the afternoon she was on her way to the appointed place. At night she retraced her steps, and reached her home after a fatiguing walk of six miles over those weary hills, and prepared the evening meal, and retired to rest, but not without first imploring grace to help in her trials, and patience to endure; also that the heart of her husband might be softened, and that he might speedily experience the power of renewing grace.

He maintained the same coldness and dissatisfaction up to the hour for retiring, but the meek spirit of his wife, and her consistent, patient course troubled him. He could not sleep, and in the still hours of the the same night rose from his couch, and in bitterness of spirit walked his room, crying, "What must I do to be saved?"

The conflict was severe, but not long. He felt himself to be the chief of sinners, and was enabled soon to surrender all to Christ, and received His love into his heart. His wife's strict and patient performance of duty, and her prayers, were the means which God blessed to his conversion. His oaths were laid aside, while prayer and praise dwelt upon his lips.

He soon attended the same services with his wife, and has long been esteemed a man of prayer.

What an encouragement to Christian decision and prayer! "Commit thy way unto the Lord, and he shall bring it to pass." —"Sketches From Life," 1871

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## LESSON 12

December 19, 1976

### THE GREAT MYSTERY

Genesis 2:23 And Adam said, (as he looked at his Bride) This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

John 19:33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

35 And he (John) that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

I John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

**Memory Verse:** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. John 17:23.

**Central Thought:** The church, the bride of Christ was washed in the blood that flowed out of the side of Christ. It is as great a mystery as God taking a rib out of the side of Adam and making for him a bride.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

There are so many precious truths in Genesis. We love to study about the gospel that is found in types in Genesis. We have compared the taking of the rib from the side of Adam, and making for him a bride, or wife, to Jesus purchasing for Himself a bride through the blood and water that flowed out from His side, when they pierced it after His death on the cross. Then the Apostle Paul compares the church with the husband and wife relationship, and he calls it all a mystery. But thank God, it is revealed to us, the children of God. It is hid from the world but revealed unto "babes" in Christ.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did Adam need a bride or wife? 2. Why did Christ need a bride? 4. From where did God take the rib to make Eve, and where did the blood flow from to purchase a bride for Christ? 4. How did the Apostle Paul compare the husbands loving their wives, to Christ loving his bride? 5. As man and woman are to leave their father and mother and cleave unto their companions, how are we to leave the world and cleave unto Christ?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Our lesson should cause us to realize just how close we are to Christ. "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one." What a glorious thought! Christ in us and we in Christ. Christ in me and I in Him. Could there be a closer relationship? What a blessed comfort that is to the soul of all who are "born again" and are made one in Christ! Such a sweetness flows down upon the soul as one meditates upon this precious thought. Can you take it in? Doesn't it make your heart to rejoice and cause such a heavenly solemnity to fill your very being?

It was a mystery when God took a rib and made a woman for Adam. We can just imagine the love that filled Adam's soul as he looked at the woman. Adam needed someone with whom he could commune. Someone who could talk his language. Someone to share his happiness and joy in living in such a lovely garden. No wonder he was filled with love for Eve. "Bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh." Together they roamed the garden and their communion was sweet.

God wanted someone to commune with. God was filled with sorrow and grief when Adam and Eve sinned, and He could not commune with them any more. They had chosen to reject Him and serve another master. They hid themselves from Him. God wanted a creation that would share with Him His great love and belong to Him. God sent Jesus to this world, and through his death on the cross, He bridged the gap between sinful mankind and God. Through his death, and with blood and water flowing out of his pierced side on the cross, Christ purchased for Himself a bride, the church. It was a glorious church, one without sin, and without blemish. Now there were some with whom He could commune; someone He could love, cherish, and nourish; someone who would be members of His body..

The Apostle Paul uses the closeness of husbands and wives as a comparison of Christ and the church. Surely it is a close relationship, when a husband will love his wife and be willing to lay down his life for her. Just so, there is a great closeness between Christ and the church. And as man and woman marry and leave father and mother, just so, when we belong to Christ we are to leave the world with all of its sins. We are to cleave to Christ and reject the pleasures of the world. Our pleasure is to be found in Christ alone. We become part of Christ, He in us and us in Him. What a glorious mystery, yet true and real to all who love Christ supremely. —M. Miles

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Think of the closeness that exists between the redeemed and Christ if it is to be as the love and nearness of Biblical marriage! There is love there. Without love the whole thing would fall apart. Much strain and pressure comes upon a couple living in this world. Many problems and adversities arise. Perplexities and reverses overwhelm. But the love and closeness that they have with one another will see the marriage through until death parts them. Think about how important it is to keep love alive and warm. Love will prevail

when all else will fail. Meditate upon this. Then let us think of Christ and His love for us, and think of our love for Him. Much strain and pressure comes upon our experience with Him. Persecutions, misunderstandings, frustrations, discouragements, and even failings; all these we face as we go along through this life. But can these things separate us from the love of Christ? Christ still loves us, and has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. He is married to us. By the blood of the everlasting covenant He has sworn to be our Saviour for all time and eternity. He loves us. Over and above all the strains and pressures and accusations of the enemy let us believe His word of promise. He loves us and will be with us to the end. —L. Busbee

12-19

### WHAT WE ARE FACING—THE ELEMENTS SHALL MELT

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the **elements shall melt** with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” II Peter 3:10-14.

We are nearing the end of the world. Do we realize what the end of the world is going to be like? We have a general description here before us. The heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the **elements shall melt** with fervent heat. The words used (**dissolved** and **melt**) are from the same Greek word “luisis” which gives us our English word “loosen.” It is defined as “to loosen or break up.” The elements of the earth and these heavenly elements of oxygen, and the sun, moon, and stars are going to be loosened. Notice in your encyclopedia how many elements there are in the world. The power that holds them together will be taken away, and the atoms of all material substance will fall apart with fierce heat. This world is being held back from the fire of God’s wrath today. But when the Lord sees that man has gone far enough to merit complete destruction, His word will send the fires of destruction. Oh, what an awful and

terrible day that will be! This is what we are facing. Oh, how we ought to live carefully and humbly before the Lord!

Terrible heat and destruction attend the splitting and loosening of the elements. World War II was hurried to a climax with the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japanese cities. The first bomb dropped on Hiroshima produced a destroyed city and about 90,000 casualties. From this bomb, which measured about 10 feet in length by 2 feet and four inches in diameter and weighed about 9,000 pounds, great heat and power was exerted. A wedge of uranium was sent crashing into another core of uranium. This was done with such a force that the two parts of uranium were welded together, which set in motion and split multiplied billions of atoms. The loosening of the elements in that bomb generated heat that produced a fireball of millions of degrees. Concrete and steel ran freely together. Street cars were melted into pools on the spot. It was a terrible thing. That was just one bomb. Try to imagine the heat that will be generated as all the elements in the earth and sky are loosened. It will be an awful day! This is what we are facing.

Oh, how people talk about the world tomorrow and what is going to happen on this earth after Jesus comes again. But the sad truth of it is, they are mistaken for there will be **no earth, such as this**, after Jesus comes. This world is doomed for utter destruction! Transgression is so heavy on it that it is going to fall and not rise again. All the works that are therein shall be burned up. All the houses, building, streets, automobiles, appliances, inventions, and every other item of earth or of material substance will be destroyed! This is what we are facing.

Let us ask ourselves the question: Am I ready for this day of wrath? Is my heart cut loose from the material things of life that can be dissolved and not affect me in the least? Is my treasure eternal in things above?

We, according to His promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth**. Yes, there will be a new world for us to live in forever. It will be unscarred by sin, unmolested and untempted by the devil, and unblighted by sorrow. It will be a dwelling place only for righteousness. What a blessed hope this brings to our hearts! Now we must look away from the things of this life and look forward to what will be in the new heavens and new earth. Seeing that **we are looking** for such things, how diligent we must be to be found of Him in **peace**, without spot and blameless. This is what we are facing!

—Leslie Busbee

## LESSON 13

December 26, 1976

### CHRIST BRINGS SOUL-REST

Gen. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made.

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

Matt. 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Luke 2:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Isa. 57:20 (God said) But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

21 There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

Matt. 11:28 (Jesus said) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Heb. 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Gal. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**Memory Verse:** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

**Central Thought:** As God rested from his creation, just so those who are "born again" rest from their own works and from sin.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Even though this is the time of the year when we remember the birth of Christ, we want to bring together the fact that God rested from creation and that Christ was born and lived in this world, died on the cross so we could have soul-rest. We find many gospel truths brought out in Genesis. They are types, yet they are precious to our souls.

At this time of the year we praise God for that "unspeakable gift" and as we give gifts to those who are close to us, we think of the greatest Gift that heaven could give to mankind and that is Christ. We need to be sure that all we do is Christ-honored. If the family meets together on this day of memory it should be kept in such a way that Christ will be lifted up.

—M. Miles

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We can sing "glory to God in the highest" because we have peace in our souls, and what glorious peace it is! Oh, how glad we are that Jesus was born on that wonderful day and brought peace that passeth all understanding into our hearts! Let us rejoice and raise our voices together in adoration and praise to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is wonderful and great, and is worthy of all praise and honor!

One day as I stood on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean and saw the waves dash against the rocks, roll back, and then with a loud noise dash again, it brought this scripture to my mind: "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest." One time, I too, had sin on my soul and I could not rest. I was like that troubled sea. But as I humbled myself before the greatest Gift the world has ever been given, poured out my soul to Him, confessing and seeking His forgiveness, he spoke peace to my soul. I was filled with a peace that the world cannot give. My soul was not troubled anymore. I could face life and face death. God was with me and Christ was my constant companion. I ceased from my own works and was filled with the graces of the Lord.

Some want to teach that we are to keep Saturday holy, which was the Jewish Sabbath. We want to remember that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. He wrote them after He talked to God on Mt. Sinai and God gave Him the law. We have no record of anyone keeping the Sabbath until Moses' time, which was 2500 years after creation. God did not bless and sanctify the day of rest in the Garden of Eden. Notice He said, "in it he had rested." God's rest did not make it holy but



2,500 years later, in the wilderness, He blessed and sanctified it and made it a holy day, just to the Jewish nation. The first mention of the Sabbath being kept by anyone is in Exodus 16. In Ezekiel 20:16 it says, "I gave them (the Jews) my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them." In Exodus 16:29 it says it is to "the children of Israel." Read Ex. 31:13.

In Gal. 4:21-31 it brings out how the freewoman and the bondwoman were compared to the old and new covenant. The law was cast out, and through Christ, a new covenant was made. The new covenant is written in our hearts and is a "better covenant." So the literal Sabbath keeping was done away with, and Christ brought a Sabbath soul-rest to our souls. After Jesus arose from the grave they began meeting together on the first day of the week, which was Sunday.

We have that perfect Sabbath, the soul-rest that Christ brought, which we experience in our every-day lives.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What day did God rest from His creating and is He still resting? 2. Moses wrote the first five books. When did and to whom did God give the Sabbath day to keep? 3. When was the Sabbath day keeping abolished? 4. Who came to give peace to the wicked that are like the troubled sea, and who heard the good news on the hills that night? 5. When we enter into that perfect rest in the soul, what do we cease from?

#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

God rested from the work of creation on the seventh day. It was not that He was weary. It was for man's sake that He ordained the sabbath rest. Moses commanded it in the law from God given on Sinai: "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy." On the sabbath day, one was not permitted to do any kind of labor. It was a holy day, a special day. It was a good and proper thing to do. It was carried out in memory of the creation. Think seriously on this. Would you have enjoyed the sabbath? Ah, there are deep and serious thoughts right here. God ordained this. Do not look on this and lightly say, "Oh, that was for back then, it has nothing to do with now." It has more to do than what you might be inclined to think. It was a type and a testimony of something greater to come. This greater something has come in Christ. It is not that we do not keep the sabbath any more. It is, rather, that now we really do keep the sabbath. Do you know what this sabbath is? If your vision goes no farther than just one day in

the week to desist from labor, the veil is upon your heart. There is yet a sabbath for us to keep. What is it? What does it mean to keep it? Think on these things and seek understanding from God.

L. Busbee

### A DAY WE ENJOY

12-28

I would like to share with you the way our family gives honor to Christ in memory of His birth. Our two sons, their wives, and eight grandchildren come to our home. Each of the grandchildren have a song to sing, a poem to recite, a story to tell, or a portion of the Bible to read about Christ's birth. I always talk to them about Christ or tell them something helpful. After each one has had their say, we all sing a song about Christ and have prayer. We then open our gifts. We do not have a Christmas tree. We all eat dinner together and we feel that Christ has been honored and our love has been shared with one another. For the last three years I have taken it all on tape. and therefore we can enjoy it later. The grandchildren enjoy hearing it too. I feel that those who are starting a family should establish family traditions that will create close family ties and all will have precious memories.

—Sis. Marie Miles



