

The Creation and Reign of the True God

Listed Scriptures

Gen 1:1-2:3

Lesson Aim

- 1) To study God's creation and the things He protects and rules over
- 2) To give all glory to God and remember His grace daily

Memory Verse

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." (Rom 1:20)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 11-15

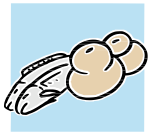
B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



The creation is recorded in detail in Genesis chapters 1-2. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters...Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good" (Gen 1:1-2, 31). The One True God is Lord over heaven and earth. In the beginning, He created the universe. Now, He reigns, protects and offers salvation to all. In the last days, He will execute judgment. No other person or thing in this world can lay claim to creating and protecting the universe. This lesson uses the Lord's creation as its theme. We will be discussing the relationship between the various aspects of the world and its Creator, so that we may remember the grace of God in all things.



If there was one thing you had to choose as the “best creation” ever thought of by God, what would that be? Would it be the light? Or would it be the plants? It’s kind of difficult to pinpoint one specific thing because all of God’s creations are vital and good to our well-being. Yet, we really don’t stop enough to remember what God has done for us and why He did what He did. Let’s take a closer look at the Creation and how God controls and protects the universe.



Part 1

God Creates

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (Jn 1:1, 3)

“For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.” (Heb 3:4).

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” (Col 1:16-17)

A . Reasons for Creation

Many people don’t believe that God is the creator. They just accept the Big Bang theory as the reason for the existence of all things or are content to live in the world as they know it without asking any questions. But the above verses clearly point to God as the creator of everything. And even though we know and believe it, have we thought about why God went through the trouble of doing what He did? Let’s explore the reasons behind God’s creation.

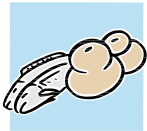
- a. **God created all things to display His wisdom, power and glory.** “He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom” (Jer 51:15). “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork” (Ps 19:1). The sixth hymn in our hymn book, “The Spacious Firmament on High,” written by Joseph Addison, describes in its first verse: “The spacious firmament on high, with all the blue ethereal sky, and spangled heavens, a shining frame, their great Original proclaim. Th’unwearied sun from day to day does his Creator’s power display, and publishes to every land the Word of an almighty hand.” Therefore, God’s people should give glory unto Him. Everyone called under God’s name has been created for His glory (Isa 43:7). As God’s creation, we should glorify our Maker in our daily lives. No matter what we do, no matter what we eat or drink, we live to glorify God (2 Cor 6:20, 10:31) and give all glory to God in heaven (Jude 24-25).
- b. **God created all things so that man would be able to enjoy wonderful days.** God has made everything beautiful in its time. The everlasting God who has created heaven, earth, the sea and its creatures shows evidence of Himself through showers of blessing and harvests of plenitude. His goal is to show His love by feeding our bodies and filling our hearts with joy. God created the land so man could live in it (Isa 45:18; Ps 115:16). The lights in the sky were for man to “divide the day from the night.” They were for him to distinguish signs and seasons, days and years (Gen 1:14-17). Fruits, vegetables and animals were for the sake of feeding mankind (Gen 1:29, 9:3, 2:16). The hairs of lambs were for people to clothe themselves (Prov 27:26). Even angels were sent to “minister for those who will inherit salvation” (Heb 1:14). Because God’s creation is good, we should receive everything with thanksgiving (2 Tim 4:4). We should also learn from Paul and be content under any circumstance. He was able to remain thankful no matter abased, abounded, full or empty (Phil 4:11-13). Furthermore, we should trust in the living God, “who gives us richly all things to enjoy” (2 Tim 6:17).

B . How Creation Took Place

- a. According to God’s will (Rev 4:11)
- b. Through God’s Spirit (Gen 1:2; Ps 104:30)
- c. By God’s word (Heb 11:3; Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20; Ps 33:6, 9)
- d. Out of the invisible (Heb 11:3)
- e. By God alone (Isa 44:24, 45:7)

C . Order of Creation (Ex 20:11; Gen 2:1-3)

- Day 1: light, separation of night and day (Gen 1:3-5; Isa 45:7)
- Day 2: air (Gen 1:6-8; Isa 40:22)
- Day 3: dry land, vegetation (Gen 1: 9-13; Isa 104:14)
- Day 4: sun, moon, stars (Gen 1:14-19; Ps 136: 7-9)
- Day 5: fish of the sea and birds of the air (Gen 1:20-23; Ps 104:24-26)
- Day 6: living creatures of the earth (Gen 1:24-31, 5:1-2)
- Day 7: God ended His work and established the Sabbath day of rest (Gen 2:1-3; Ex 20:8-11, 34:21)



Part 2

God Protects and Rules

God has not only created the world, but protects and reigns over all He has created. The Bible says, "The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all" (Ps 103:19, 135:6). Let's take a look at what God protects and rules over.

A . The Seasons, the Sea, the Wind and Vegetation

- a. God upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb 1:3). The world today is kept in store by the same word and will not be destroyed until the day of judgment (2 Pet 3:7; Ps 119:91).
- b. God keeps the seasons in place (Gen 8:22; Ps 104:99).
- c. God has assigned the sea its limit (Jer 5:22; Prov 8:29).
- d. The wind is His messenger (Ps 104:4, 107:25, 29). For example, God used the wind to open a way for the Israelites in crossing the Red sea (Ex 14:21). He also used the winds to bring quail to the people (Num 10:31).
- e. God takes care of the grass and the flowers of the field (Mt 6:28-30; Job 38:26-27).

B . The Animal Kingdom

- a. God feeds the beasts and the young ravens (Ps 147:9, 104:14, 20-22).
- b. God sends springs to quench the thirst of the beasts (Ps 104:10-11).
- c. He makes homes for the wild goat, badger and eagle (Ps 104:18; Job 39:27-28).
- d. He feeds the birds of the air (Mt 6:26).
- e. Not one sparrow falls to the ground apart from God's will (Mt 10:29).

C . Nations

- a. God rules over the nations (Ps 22:28, 66:7).
- b. He makes nations great and destroys them (Job 12:23; Jer 10:10).
- c. He sets everyone's boundaries (Deut 32:8; Acts 27:26).
- d. He removes and raises up kings (Dan 2:21, 4:17, 5:19-21).
- e. He revealed political change through the dream of a statue (Dan 2:27-35).

D . A Person's Life

King David deeply understood that his time was in God's hands (Ps 31:15). Therefore, he constantly depended on God and pleaded for help and salvation. He wrote, "Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them" (Ps 139:16). From this we can see that God already knows us even when we were in our mother's womb. Proverbs 20:24 also says that "a man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?" Because a person's life is in the hands of God, we can live and do things if they are according to His will (Deut 32:39; Jas 4:13-15; Eccl 8:8).

If we examine the various aspects of our lives closely, we will see that many things are under the control and protection of God. For example, marriage is something of great importance to us and if we trust in Him, the Lord will arrange marriages and give prudent spouses (Mk 10:7-9; Prov 19:14). After one is married, children are given as an inheritance from God (Ps 127:3; Gen 25:21; 1 Sam 1:10-20). The Lord also gives worldly wealth and success. Therefore, we should not boast of our own abilities (Deut 8:18; 1 Chron 29:12). God makes the poor and the rich (1 Sam 2:7; Ps 75:6-7), and everything happens at the mercy of God (Rom 9:16).

Teaching Tips

Since this lesson focuses on God's creation, you may wish to take your class outside to have the Bible study (if weather permits). That way, your students can be more in tuned with what God has created around them and learn to appreciate and give thanks for all that they can enjoy.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



1 List two reasons why God created the world.

2 Without looking at the Bible, write down the order of creation. Is there any way the order could have been different and creation still be kept the same?

3 Provide an example from the Bible of a person whose footsteps were dictated by God. What happened in this person's life that tells us God protects and rules over us?

4 Usually, when we think about how we came to be in this world, we think of our parents, the people who gave birth to us. Often we forget that it was God who created humans and gave us the chance to live. If you had to prepare a short note of thanks to God, what would you include?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N



Bible Facts

Share the following anecdote with the students.

Once upon a time, an atheist was arguing with a Christian. The atheist asked the believer many questions.

"Did you ever see God?" he asked.

"No," said the Christian.

"Did you ever smell God?"

"No," said the Christian.

"Well then," said the atheist, "How can you be so sure that there is a God?" Without answering the atheist, the Christian asked a few of his own questions.

"Have you ever seen your brains?" the Christian asked.

"No," replied the atheist.

"Well, have you ever smelled your brains?"

Again the atheist answered no.

The Christian asked one last time, "Do you believe that you have any brains?"

Although we may laugh at this story, if we really had any brains we know that there is no other conclusion other than the fact that there is God. We may not be able to smell or see Him. Even John has said, "No one has seen God at any time" (Jn 1:18). But He has revealed Himself to us through His creation. There are so many things in this world that are shouting out to us that God has given us what we need and He continues to look after us. Actually, if we were to take a closer look, we would be able to see some pretty interesting facts concerning the world around us. Below is a collection of some tidbits. See how much you already know and how much surprises you.

The Animal Kingdom

1. The largest bird is the African ostrich. It can rise up to nine feet tall and can weigh 345 pounds. One of its eggs can weigh almost 4 pounds.
2. The fastest animal is the peregrine falcon. It can fly at 217 miles per hour. On land, the cheetah has the quickest speed at almost 70 miles per hour (the typical speed of a car on the freeway).
3. The animal with the longest gestation period is the African elephant, at 660 days (that's almost two years!). One of the shortest is the opossum, at 13 days. But the trade-off to such a short gestation period is that their life span is only for about one year.
4. The koala needs to sleep on average 22 hours per day.

The Human Body

1. There are about 60,000 miles of blood vessels connected to the heart, enough to wrap around the world almost two and a half times.
2. Besides the skin, the liver is the largest organ, weighing about 1,560 grams (the brain comes a close second at about 1,200-1,400 grams).
3. In ten years, a human heart beats about 368 million times, pumping over 6 million gallons of blood. That's enough to fill 522 tank trucks!
4. A resting adult breathes about twelve times each minutes, taking in about 2,620 gallons of air each day. In an average life span, that's about 70 million gallons of air.

Lands and Seas

1. Mt Waialeale in Kauai, Hawaii sees rain up to 350 days per year.
2. The largest desert is the Sahara, located in North Africa. It is 3,500,000 square miles in area, over 24 times the size of Japan.
3. The largest island country in the world is Indonesia, at 735,358 square miles.
4. The deepest point in the deepest ocean is in the Pacific ocean (Marianas Trench), measuring at a little over 35,000 ft or 10,000 m. That would be 29 times the height of the Empire State Building.

God has indeed created some interesting and wonderful things. Although some people go through life without thinking too much about it, there is no way we breathe the way we do or koalas sleep that many hours unless God has planned it that way. If any one aspect was to come to an imbalance, the world would be in chaos. Whether we recognize it or not, we need to remember that God treats every one of His creations in a special way. But it is only when we acknowledge Him that He will direct our paths (Prov 3:5-7) and find that strength and love that no one else can offer.

REFLECTION & PRAYER



The true God has created all things. He controls, protects and reigns over the universe. The wise will trust the Lord with their hearts because they know that God will continue to provide all that they need. We need to remember to give thanks and give all glory to God.

Lesson 4

Great is the Lord

Listed Scriptures

Psalms 139

Lesson Aim

- 1) To understand God's omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence
- 2) To recognize that God is above all else and He is the only One worthy of our praise

Memory Verse

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." (Prov 15:3)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 16-20

BIBLE BACKGROUND



The True God is the Lord of all creation. He controls life and death, and He gives poverty and wealth (1 Sam 2:6-7). In short, He determines the life of a person. King David understood the greatness of God. In his psalms, he reflected, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?" (Ps 8:3-4). From this we see that if a person is wise, he will be able to understand the magnificence of God. In this lesson, we will look at the greatness of God from three perspectives: His omniscience, His omnipotence, and His omnipresence.