

GENESEO CHURCH OF CHRIST

Basic Study Lesson #2

In The Beginning

The Bible says that at judgment there will be many people who believed that they knew Jesus, that were His disciples, that had been doing good things in His name, that He will tell to depart, saying to them ***"I never knew you"*** (Matthew 7:21-23).

The Bible teaches that you can ***"...know that you have eternal life"*** (1st John 5:13) by studying the Bible. You must know what the Bible says, not just know about the source of eternal life, Jesus.

This lesson is a study of the basic story of the Bible as recorded in Genesis chapters 1-3.

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

The Bible assumes that you believe in God and that you believe the Bible is His Word.

It does not try to prove the existence of God or that the Bible is His Word.

"Beginning" is a word that refers to the start of our created order; the world men live in.

God existed before the ***"beginning"*** of our created world. He existed in another realm with other spiritual beings.

God is the reason for our existence and our created realm, the world.

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 records an overall account of the creation of man and his world.

Genesis 2:4-24 will give a more detailed account of the creation of man.

Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25 & 31 say that God said His creation was ***"good"*** and ***"very good."*** God created this creation, including man, in the way He wanted it; ***good.***

Genesis 1:1-31 records the order of God's creation and indicates He did it in ***"days."*** He could have done it all at once, but for some reason He chose to create in days.

Genesis 1:26-31 records the initial creation of man. The **Bible** says that God created man ***"in His image"*** and gave him dominion over all the other living things in creation.

Man is the only ***"thing"*** said to be created in the image of God.

The **Bible** teaches that God is a Spirit and one part of man being created in the image of God is that he has a spirit (**John 4:24**).

There are many other things involved in man being **created in the image of God**, like **freedom of choice, being good, being able to love**, and others.

God created man in His image that so man might bear, show His image to others.

Jesus told His disciples (**John 14:7**) that if they had seen Him, they had seen God, His Father. By studying the life of Jesus we can learn what it means to **bear the image of God**.

God gave man dominion, placed him over everything in creation.

Genesis 1:28 God gave man the ability to reproduce and told him to reproduce and fill the earth.

God's plan was for everything in His creation was to reproduce **after its kind**, (2:21, 24, 25).

Genesis 1:29 God provided for man's physical needs after He created him.

Genesis 2:4-25 gives a more detailed account of the creation of man.

Genesis 2:7 God created man from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life and man became a living being.

God is the reason man exists.

God created **man, the male of the species**, before He created woman (2:7 & 18).

God placed man in a beautiful garden where everything was **pleasing to his sight and good for food** (2:8-9).

God gave man a meaningful work to do, ***work and keep the Garden*** (2:15).

God had a relationship with man in the Garden, He walked and talked with him (2:16 & 18, 3:8).

Genesis 2:9 God placed two trees in the Garden that were different from all the other trees, the **Tree of Life** and the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**.

God told man he could eat the fruit of all trees in the Garden except the fruit of the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil** (2:16-17).

Man was allowed to eat the fruit of the **Tree of Life** in the Garden.

Genesis 2:18 God said that "**man alone**" was not good.

Man was not alone, when God made this statement, he was with God. Therefore **“alone”** must mean **“without another human.”**

Since it was God who made man **alone**, a logical question would be why God made man alone if He knew it was not good.

What God did after making this statement about man being alone will answer the question of **“Why?”** and teach us something about God.

Genesis 2:19-20 after God said it was ***not good that the man should be alone*** He brought every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens to man to see what he would call them.

Remember, when God created man He gave him dominion over the rest of creation.

Genesis 2:20 – ***“But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.”***

Nothing else in God’s created order was a fit, suitable helper for man.

God wanted man (Adam) to see his need (a helper) before He provided for him.

Genesis 2:21-25 God provided for man’s need, and took a rib from Adam’s side and created woman.

What an awesome story the Bible has to tell! It begins with the good news about God creating man because He wanted to have a relationship with him. The story shows God’s love for man in the way He created him and what He did for him after he was created. The Bible says that God walked and talked with man in the Garden of Eden. How wonderful that must have been.

As you continue to read the Bible you will learn that God’s desire to have a relationship with man was so strong that He sacrificed His Only Son to pay the penalty for man sin so He could have that relationship with man.

In our next lesson we will look at a couple of more points from Genesis 1 thru 3 and then continue searching for what the Bible teaches about man having an eternal relationship with God.

If you have questions about anything said in this lesson contact Glenn at butchredmond@gmail.com.