

# 1 WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE WORLD?

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## IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *How Can You Know the Truth?*
  - *How Did the World Begin?*
  - *What Went Wrong With the World?*
  - *Is There Any Hope for the World?*
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## HOW CAN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?

### SCIENCE, HISTORY, AND OBSERVATION

You can learn many wonderful things about the world and its people through science, history, and observation. However, you cannot learn the answers to many of the great questions of life from these sources. They do not tell how life began, what its purpose is, and what the future holds.

### THE HOLY BIBLE

Only the One who made the world can tell you how He did it and why. He tells us the truth about these things in His book, the Holy Bible. It is a book of instructions for living in this world.

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***The only way to learn the truth about the creation of humankind and the world is from the Holy Bible.***

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### SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

These lessons are based on the Holy Bible. They quote from it some of the many verses that answer your questions. Before each quotation is the reference: the name of the book, chapter, and verse where the words are found in the Holy Bible.

There are many different translations of the Holy Bible from the languages in which it was first written. It has been translated into several hundred languages. The words in these lessons are quoted from some of the modern English translations.

# HOW DID THE WORLD BEGIN?

## DID IT JUST HAPPEN?

Do you ever ask yourself, “Where did the world come from? Did it just happen? Or did a great mind plan it and a great power make it?”

When you see a bicycle, a car, or an airplane, you know that it could not have just happened. Someone planned it and made it so that it would operate according to fixed rules.

## THE WORLD WAS MADE ACCORDING TO A PLAN

The world and everything in it functions according to fixed patterns that we call the laws of nature. The more science discovers about these laws, the more sure we are that Someone planned every detail of the universe, made it, and keeps it functioning according to His plan. That Someone is God, the all-powerful and all-wise Creator. He is the Lord, or Ruler, of the Universe.

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***Someone planned every detail of the universe. That someone is God.***

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## Memorize This

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

John 1:3. “Through him all things were made.”

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## GOD MADE A PERFECT WORLD

God created the sun, moon, stars, and earth. He fixed their orbits so they would not crash into one another. He ordered the exact distance of the earth from the sun—not too close, or everything would burn up; not too far away, or we would freeze. Ocean and land were in perfect proportions, and the atmosphere was just right. Then God made the living things. Last of all, He created man and put him in a beautiful, wonderful world.

## Memorize This

Genesis 1:31. “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”

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## WHY GOD MADE THE WORLD

God made the world for His own enjoyment. He created the human family to be His children that He would love and enjoy. He made the earth for their home. God would enjoy the beauty and the orderliness of His universe, but most of all He would take pleasure in the love of His children.

***God made the human family and the world for His own enjoyment.***

**Revelation 4:11.** "You created all things, and by your will they were created."

**Psalms 149:4.** "The Lord takes delight in his people."

God wanted His children to be like himself and to share in His work. So He gave Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, a nature like His own in many ways. God would teach them. With His help, humankind would rule over the earth.

**Genesis 1:26.** "God said, 'Let us make man in our image . . . and let them rule . . . over all the earth.'"

### TO HELP YOU LEARN

- What book tells us how and why the world was made? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who set the patterns for life that we call the laws of nature? \_\_\_\_\_
- For whose pleasure was the world created? \_\_\_\_\_
- Was the world good or bad? \_\_\_\_\_
- God gave Adam and Eve a nature that is like \_\_\_\_.
- God wanted the human family to enjoy His love and be His \_\_\_\_\_.
- With the help of \_\_\_\_\_ humankind was to rule over the \_\_\_\_\_.

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS BY LOOKING OVER THE SECTION YOU JUST STUDIED.  
CORRECT ANY THAT ARE WRONG.**

# WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THE WORLD?

## SOMETHING WENT WRONG

Look around and you will see suffering, sorrow, quarrels, violence, war, hunger, and death. The world is not perfect now. What went wrong? This once-perfect world has been spoiled by an enemy of God and by man himself.

## GOD'S ENEMY

God has an enemy called Satan or the devil. He was made by God, but he became proud and rebellious. Now Satan is against everything that God is for. For example, God is good, but Satan fights good with evil. God wants to help us, but Satan tries to destroy us. God wants to enjoy humans' love and fellowship, but the devil tries to separate us from God. Satan tries to make us follow him instead of God.

***God wants to help us; Satan tries to destroy us.***

## HUMANITY'S SIN

Satan told Adam and Eve lies about God. He persuaded them to sin, that is, to disobey God. God had warned Adam that sin would bring death, because sin separates a person from God. Life comes from God, so separation from Him ends in death. Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan instead of God. They broke God's rules and went their own way with tragic results for the world.

## THE EFFECTS OF SIN

Sin brought disease and death into the world.

Romans 5:12. "Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

***Disease and death were brought into this world by sin.***

Sin has broken the fellowship between God and humans. As long as people are rebellious, disobedient, and sinful, they cannot have fellowship with God. Instead of being servants of God, they are servants of sin.

Romans 6:16. "When you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness."

By choosing to disobey God, we join Satan’s rebellion and accept his rule. The earth has become a battlefield between God and Satan. You must choose on which side to be.

**YOUR CHOICE—GOD’S WAY OR SATAN’S WAY**

Joshua 24:15. “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, . . . as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<p><b>GOD OFFERS US</b></p> <p><b>IN NATURE</b></p> <p>A Perfect Creation Abundant Provision Balance      Order</p> <p><b>IN OUR BODY</b></p> <p>Life and Health Wholesome Appetites</p> <p><b>IN OUR THINKING, FEELING, AND ACTING</b></p> <p>Wholesome Love Good Thoughts Freedom of Choice Fellowship with God Obedience Helpfulness Happiness      Justice Confidence      Peace Humility      Trust Purpose      Wisdom Truth      Creativity Faith      Joy</p>	<p><b>SATAN OFFERS US</b></p> <p><b>IN NATURE</b></p> <p>A Corrupt Nature Disorder      Poverty Chaos      Hunger</p> <p><b>IN OUR BODY</b></p> <p>Disease and Death Vices Lust Gluttony</p> <p><b>IN OUR THINKING, FEELING, AND ACTING</b></p> <p>Enslavement to Sin Separation from God Rebelliousness Selfishness      Crime Aimlessness      Wars Bad Thoughts      Hatred Destruction Sadness Unbelief      Pride Suspicion      Error Injustice      Fears Fighting      Folly</p>
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## TO HELP YOU LEARN

Put an X by everything you want in the chart and a zero (0) by those you do not want.

- According to what you have marked, would you rather be on the side of God or Satan? \_\_\_\_\_

## IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR THE WORLD?

### GOD STILL CARES FOR THE WORLD

God still loves us in spite of our sin. He has made a way to save us from sin, Satan, and eternal death. God still rules the universe and will one day bring the earth into obedience again.

### THE SON OF GOD TOOK OUR PUNISHMENT

Every person on earth has sinned and has been sentenced to die. We had no way to save ourselves. God loved us so much that He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to take our punishment.

Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus came to earth and was supernaturally born of a virgin in the land of Palestine. He taught people the truth about God and His love. He did nothing wrong in life. He treated everyone with respect and kindness. Yet He was treated as a criminal, nailed to a cross, and put to death. He died for our sins.

God showed the world that Jesus was His Son by bringing Him back to life after three days. Forty days later, Jesus went back to heaven.

Friends of Jesus who saw Him after His resurrection and watched Him go up to heaven have told us about it in the Gospels.

### ACCEPTING JESUS MAKES US GOD'S CHILDREN

Since Jesus has taken our punishment, those who accept Him as their Savior are freed from the power of Satan. When we turn away from our sins, God makes us His children and gives us His life. God urges us to believe in His Son and be saved from sin, but He will not force us to do it.

***Our punishment for sin has been taken from us by the Lord Jesus Christ.***

**Romans 5.17.** "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

## Memorize This

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**John 3:16.** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**Romans 6:23.** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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### **YOU CAN LIVE IN A PERFECT WORLD**

One day Jesus is coming back to the world to free it from sin and make everything new. If you accept Him as your Savior now, you will live with Him in complete happiness then. Even now, your life will be better because Jesus will come to live in you so you can do what pleases God. You can begin to enjoy today the blessings that belong to the children of God.

### **TO HELP YOU LEARN**

*Write your name in the blanks.*

For God loved

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so much that He gave His only Son, so that

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who believes in Him may not die  
but have eternal life.

*If you want to accept Jesus as your Savior now,  
pray this prayer.*

## *Prayer*

*Thank You, God, for loving me and sending Your Son to die for my sins. I accept Jesus now as my Savior. All the rest of my life, I want to be on your side and not on Satan's. Please make me the kind of person that You want me to be.*

### **CONGRATULATIONS.**

- You have completed Lesson 1.
- Turn to the Lesson Review Questions at the end of this book.
- Answer the questions for Lesson 1.
- Then continue with your study of Lesson 2.

*May God richly bless you!*