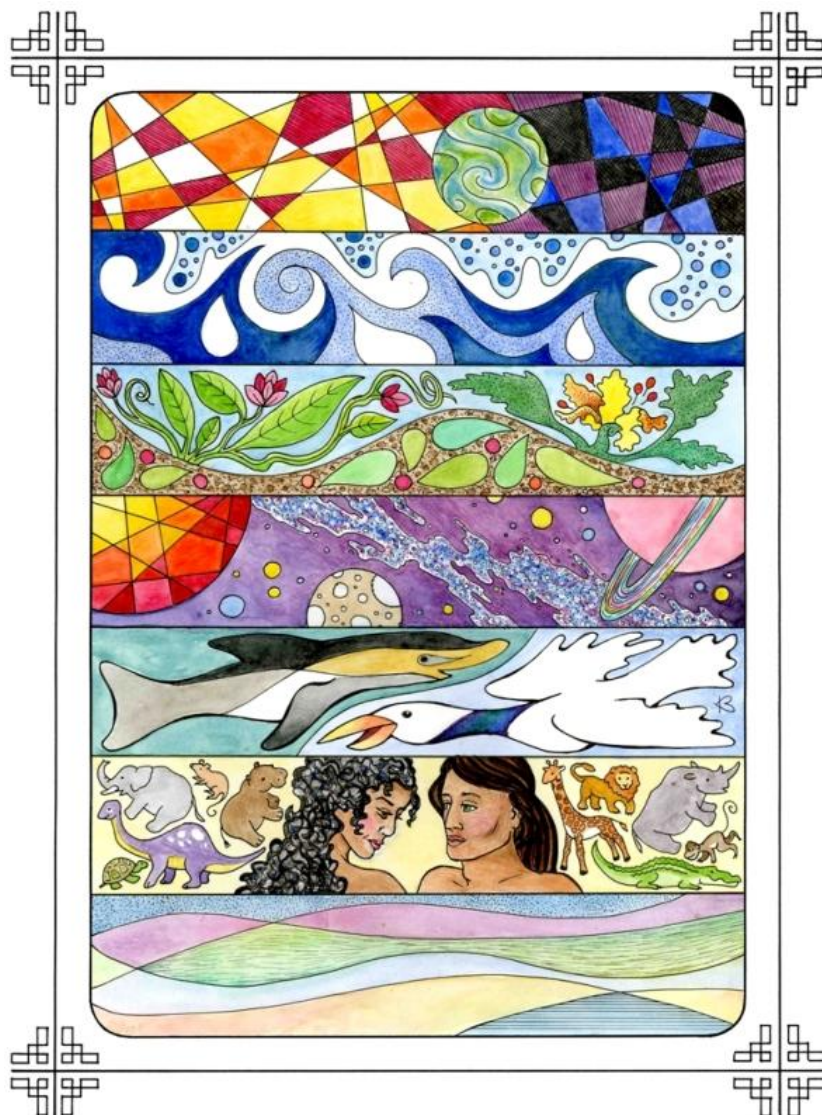


PROGRESSING TOGETHER



108

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH



God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.

Genesis 1:31-2:1,2

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THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

INTRODUCTION

It is important that all those who have received Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord have a clear understanding of what Christians believe.

This series of studies is based on the first three chapters of the Bible. These chapters form the seedbed for truths which are central throughout the rest of the Bible.

References from other parts of the Bible for comparison and further study are given as appropriate. An exhaustive study of all essential Christian doctrines would require much more space than these studies will allow. Consider this series, therefore, as a beginning for understanding the Christian faith.

The biblical passages to learn by heart are: Ephesians 2.4-5 ; Jean 1.29

①	We believe in one God
②	We believe that sin has corrupted the nature of man and all creation
③	We believe in salvation
④	We believe that Jesus Christ is our Saviour
⑤	We believe in the second coming of Christ and the fulfilment of our salvation

1

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH
We believe in one God

Name: _____


Date: _____



Carefully read Genesis chapters 1 - 3

① 

These chapters teach us the essential character of God.

 How long has He existed?

What do we learn concerning His Spirit?

What do we learn concerning His Word?

What evidence do you see of His power?

What evidence do you see of His justice and holiness?

What evidence do you see of His love and mercy?


② 

These chapters describe the creative acts of God.


 Before God created the world, what was it that existed?

What do you notice concerning the sequential order in which different things were created?

What does this reveal concerning God?

- ③  These chapters teach us how God relates to His creatures, especially to mankind.
What provisions did He make for their well-being? (1.29, 30; 2.8,9,15-25)

What is it in these passages which shows that God desires a close relationship with human beings? (2.1-3; 2.16-20; 3.8)

-
- ④  These chapters teach us about God's will and purpose for the world, especially for mankind.
What blessing did He pronounce upon them? (1.22, 28)

What responsibilities did He give to mankind? 1.28; 2.15,17,20)

What was His assessment of the world when creation was completed? (1. 31)

Do you think that He wanted it to continue to be that way?

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- ⑤  What type of food did God make available for animals and man? (1.29, 30; 2.9)

What may this indicate about His attitude towards bloodshed and killing?

2

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH


We believe that sin has corrupted human nature and all creation


Name: _____


Date: _____



Read carefully Genesis chapters 1-3

①  What do we learn about the original state of the world and of mankind from Genesis 1.31 to 2.3; 2.8, 9,15-18?

②  Explain briefly (according to chapter three) why the world that we know today is no longer the way it was originally.


③  What did the serpent promise would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate some fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? (3: 4-5)

How was this promise fulfilled (verses 3:7, 19, 22-23) and how was it not?

How did they react to their nudity when they “saw”?

What emotion did this new knowledge produce in them?


What does 3: 1-7 teach us as to the tactics of temptation?

- ④  How did the disobedience of Adam and Eve affect their relationship with God?

Compare 3.17-18 with 2.9 and describe the change which took place also in the physical earth because of man's sin.



Study Genesis 1.27; 2.7,17; 3.17-20 and 5.1-3

- ⑤  These verses teach us about Adam's spiritual state, before he had sinned and after he had sinned.
How does man differ from the animals (1.27; 2.7)?

What major change concerning physical life also entered the world with sin? (2.17; 3.17-19) Read also Genesis chapter 5.

What small phrase, repeated many times in chapter 5, underlines this fact?

God said that the day that man disobeyed, he would die. And yet Adam and Eve lived on physically for a long time.

What had, in fact, "died" when man sinned? Read also Ephesians 2.1-3

3


THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH
We believe in salvation


Name: _____

Date: _____




Read carefully Genesis, chapter 3

①  What shows that God does not want to abandon man in his state of spiritual death?
(3.15, 21)

②  What did Adam and Eve do to hide the results of their sin and make themselves acceptable to God?

Was their attempt successful?

③  In verse 3.21, what did **God** do to cover the sign of man's sin (nakedness)?


What had to take place to provide them with the coats of skin?


Compare this verse with John 1.29. Who is the Person announced as the "*Lamb of God*"?

What must he accomplish?

What does the expression “the lamb who takes away the sins of the world” mean?

What connection do you see between Gen. 3.21 and John 1.29?


-
- ④  Did receiving the coats of skin which God provided remove the material and physical consequences that God had pronounced upon mankind and the earth because of sin? (Genesis 3.22-24)

-
- ⑤  We have noticed in 3.7,10 that man's attempt to cover his own sin by what he could do proved worthless. We have also noticed in 3.21 that only what God provided was sufficient to cover the nakedness of their sin.

What part did Adam and Eve play in receiving this covering?



Read carefully Ephesians 2.4-10

-  Explain how the symbolism of receiving the coats of skin is realized in the manner in which God's salvation is provided and how we can receive it. (On God's part and man's).

4


THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH
We believe that Jesus Christ is our Saviour

Name: _____

Date: _____




Read carefully Genesis 3.15,21 and Philippians 2.5-11

①  Analyse Genesis 3.15. Who are enemies in this verse?

What will the seed of the woman do to the serpent?

Who is the only One in all of history who was born of a woman, but not of a man?

②  What did you learn from Phil. 2.6-7 concerning Jesus Christ?

③  What do you learn from Phil. 2.8 concerning the main reason for which He came to this earth as a man? (Compare with Hebrews 2.14-18)

- ④ ✍️ What do you learn from Phil. 2.9-11 concerning the present position of Jesus Christ?

Having died, is He still dead?

Where is He? (Compare with Hebrews 1.1-4)

-
- ⑤ ✍️ In Genesis 3, it is obvious that Satan tried to usurp the place of God in the life of mankind.

In Gen. 3.15 in light of Phil. 2.9-11, what do we learn concerning the final outcome of this conflict?

-
- ⑥ ✍️ Remember the essential elements concerning the person and work of Jesus that we have dealt with in this lesson.

5**THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH****We believe in the second coming of Christ and the fulfilment of our salvation**

Name: _____

Date: _____

**Read carefully Genesis 1.26-28; 3.15, 21 and Revelation 19-22**

We have seen in lesson No. 2 how the earth and mankind were brought under God's judgement because of sin. The entire Bible shows us what God has done to bring His creation back to its original state. In this lesson we will concentrate on the last few chapters of the Bible (Revelation) in which we find the completion of that purpose.

- ① From Revelation 19-22, list at least four events that will take place at the time of the last judgement.

1
2
3
4
5

- ② Who is being referred to in 19.11-16?

What names and titles are ascribed to Him?

- ③ What will be the lot of Satan and his forces at that time? (20.1-10)

④ ✍ Upon what criterion will each person's eternal destiny be decided? (20.11-15)

Comparing this passage with 21.1-8, describe the two possible destinies for each person.

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⑤ ✍ Describe the eternal kingdom of God which will be established at that time according to the model indicated. (chapters 21 and 22)

God
The People
The Temple
The Tree of Life
Death

What similarities do you find between this kingdom and the newly created world as we find it in Genesis 1 and 2?

Who will be excluded from this kingdom? (20.11-15; 21.8, 27; 22.15)

Who will be included? (20.12,15; 21.27)

⑥ ✍ In light of the first lesson

- a) what hope do you have concerning the future ?
- b) What reality described for the future of the kingdom of God moves you the most?