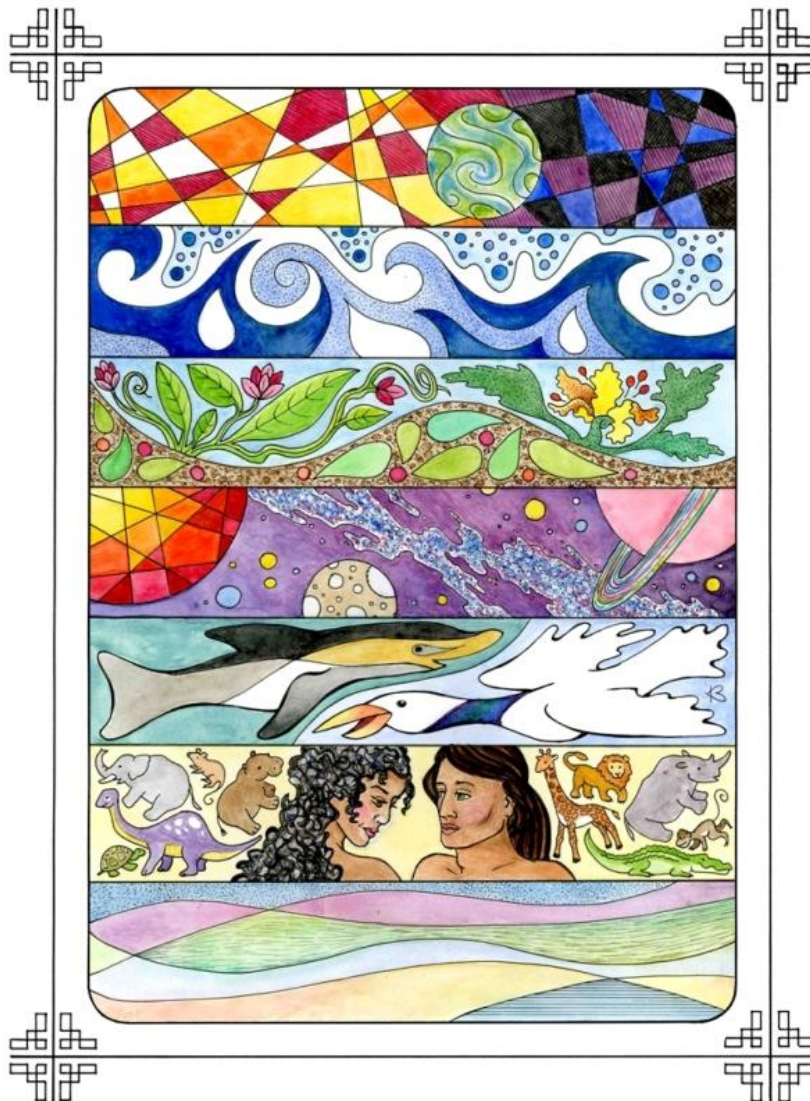


PROGRESSING TOGETHER



108

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH



Answer Key

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

Answer Key

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

Answer Key



Carefully read Genesis chapters 1 - 3

①

These chapters teach us the essential character of God.



How long has He existed?

- For all eternity (God has no beginning and no end (He is not affected by the law of time as is man.)

What do we learn concerning His Spirit?

- That he too was there at the beginning and had an active role in the creation.

What do we learn concerning His Word?

- That it was by His Word that all was created. His Word is therefore authoritative.

What evidence do you see of His power?

- All was created from nothing.

What evidence do you see of His justice and holiness?

- God is intolerant of sin and he judges it. He separated himself from Adam and Eve as a result of their sin.

What evidence do you see of His love and mercy?

*- He established an environment perfectly adapted to man and to each species.
- Woman was created for man.
- The promise was given (3.15).
- An animal skin was provided to cover Adam and Eve's shame (3.21).*

②

These chapters describe the creative acts of God.



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

- Nothing existed.

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

- The environment was created first and then the living beings were created to live in the environment created for them. Man was the crowning glory of all the creatures.

What does this reveal concerning God?

- That God is a God of order.


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)

- Every seed-bearing plant, every fruit tree, a garden, a partner.

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)

- He blessed the seventh day and put it aside as a special day. He spoke with Adam and gave him an order. He provided all that man needed to live well. He searched for Adam and Eve in the garden, as he had the habit of doing in the evening. (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)

-Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the waters and the earth. For man he said the same thing, to fill the earth and subdue it. Man was to reign over all the creatures.

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

-To procreate (have children), to take care of the creation and work and look after the garden, to obey God by not eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, to name the animals and to reign over them.

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

- He saw that everything was very good.

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

-Yes

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

- Seed-bearing plants and fruit trees

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

- That life is precious and that He respects it above all things.

2

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

We believe that sin has corrupted human nature and all creation

Answer Key



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?

- *Everything was good and enjoyable.*

②

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

- *Because of Adam and Eve's sin, everything has been ruined.*

(God punished and cursed. From now on evil exists in man; he is dominated by sin (3.15). The relationship between humans is spoilt, suffering and sickness are normal parts of life. Weeds push out the good plants, making working the ground tedious rather than enjoyable.)

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)

- *He promised that they would not die. He said that God knew that their eyes would be opened and that they would be like God.*

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

- *The serpent said that they would not die, but after the fall Adam and Eve died both spiritually and physically.*

- *As the serpent had said, their eyes were opened, meaning that they came to understand evil; this made them ashamed. (At the same time if they became like the gods (see 3.22), it is simply because they had come to know evil—God knows what is evil but never commits evil. However, by listening to the serpent, man lost his domination over creation and became enslaved to the serpent and to the power of evil.)*

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


- *They sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness.*

What emotions did this new knowledge produce in them?

-Shame (they sewed leaves together to cover their nakedness), guilt, fear (they hid from God).

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

-The serpent was crafty.
He sowed doubt of God's word and made God out to be a liar who wanted to deprive man of certain good things.
He lied.
He aroused covetousness of the eyes
He aroused in man the desire to become more than a creature of God by taking God's place.

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


- Intimacy and confidence between God and Adam and Eve were replaced by distance, and by fear and shame on man's part.

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

-The ground was cursed because of Adam : instead of working at ease and expecting a good yield, he now labours painstakingly among thorns and thistles.



Study Genesis 1.27; 2.7; 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)?

-God breathed life into man's nostrils to make him a living being. He did not do this to the animals. Man is different because he is created in the image of God and he has received god's breath which gave him life.

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

-Life has become difficult and ends in death.

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

-and he died.



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.

- From the moment of their disobedience, their relationship with God was broken, what we call “spiritual death”. Man’s life is now a matter of hatred or distrust of God, dominated by sin, lust and rebellion against the will of God.

3

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

We believe in salvation

Answer Key



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)

*-He promised him that an offspring from the woman would crush the serpent's head.
He covered man with an animal skin, which is a symbol of redemption.*

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

-They sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness.

Was their attempt successful?

-No

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

-He covered Adam and Eve with an animal skin.

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

-An animal was sacrificed (killed).

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

-Jesus

What must he accomplish?

-He must take away the sin of the world.

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

-Jesus died in our stead, just as an innocent lamb was offered in sacrifice to cover the sin of the people under the first covenant (the Old Testament).

(In the Old Testament a lamb was used as a sacrifice in the temple so that the sins of the worshiper could be forgiven by God. The animal, who had no physical defect, was sacrificed in the place of the sinner to make atonement for his guilt and to remove his sin. The death penalty that man deserved fell on the lamb. This was a sign to foreshadow (show beforehand) that the true Lamb that God had promised would take away the believer's guilt once and for all. For it is written that it is impossible for the blood of animals to take away sins. Héb 9.11-14 ; 10.4)

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

- An innocent victim gave his life to redeem the guilty.

-
- 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)

- No

-
- 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?

-They played no part. They simply received what God gave them.



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).

-Adam et Eve were powerless, sentenced to death and horrified by their guilt before God, until He covered their nakedness and their sin by sacrificing an animal and clothing them with a skin. It is God who provides and man who receives.

-It is the same with us, we were powerless, dead in our sin and under the wrath of God, but in His love He raised us to life and seated us in the heavenly realms in Christ. By this union with Jesus-Christ, God justified us by Christ's work alone. So again it is God who provides and man who receives.

****Salvation is by grace, through faith. No human work can merit salvation. Salvation is the work of God alone.**

4

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

Answer Key



Read carefully Genesis 3.15,21 and Philippians 2.5-11

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

-On the one hand the enemies are men (offspring of Satan) who oppose God by playing the Serpent's game. On the other hand the enemies are those (offspring of the woman, of whom the perfect offspring is Jesus Christ), who oppose the deceiving Serpent.

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

-He will conquer the Serpent by taking away his power (crush his head).

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

-Jesus Christ

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

-He was in very nature God but made himself nothing, taking the nature of a servant made in human likeness.

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)

-He came to give his life on a cross. He came to destroy the devil who holds the power of death and to free those who are held in slavery.

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

-He has been exalted to the highest place. He has received the name that is above every name. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

Having died, is He still dead?

-No

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

-Seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly realms.

-
- 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?

-Satan is defeated.

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

-He was in glory, equal to God the Father.

-He became a man and submitted himself to the Father's will on earth.

-He gave his life in sacrifice, dying on the cross to take away the sin of the world.

-He was resurrected from the dead and ascended to the Father.

-He reigns at the right hand of God, in glory and every knee shall bow before him.

5

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

We believe in the second coming of Christ and the fulfilment of our salvation

Answer Key



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 <i>There will be a feast to celebrate the wedding of the Lamb to His bride. (19.7-10)</i> |
| 2 <i>Jesus and His armies will come from heaven to do battle on earth with the beast and his cohort. Jesus will be victorious (19.11-21)</i> |
| 3 <i>Satan will be bound (for a 1000 years) then thrown into the Abyss (pit) of fire forever and ever. (20.1-10)</i> |
| 4 <i>The dead will be judged and those condemned will be thrown into the Abyss to be with Satan. (20.11-15)</i> |
| 5 <i>There will be a new heaven and a new earth. God's chosen ones will serve Him and reign with Him forever. (21.1-4 ;22.1-5)</i> |

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

-Christ, victorious and righteous.

What names and titles are ascribed to Him?

-Faithful, True, Word of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

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

-An angel will seize him. He will be bound and thrown into the Abyss. He will no longer deceive the nations. He will be thrown with his cohort (followers) into the lake of burning sulphur where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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

-The dead whose names are not written in the book of life, will be judged according to their works (their sins).

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

<i>-A dwelling place with God and a perfect relationship with Him</i>	<i>-The lake of fire which is the second (eternal) death</i>
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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 - *will reign. He will be the light for His people.*

The People - *will live in total security, symbolised by the doors and the wall. They will see the face of God.*

The Temple - *there will be no temple. For God and His Lamb are the temple and the people will dwell with them.*

The Tree of Life - *the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (There will be no illness).*

Death - *will be no more. The curse is removed.*

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

*-God lived in the midst of His creation.
Everything and everyone was in perfect security.
The light of God shone (Gen 1.3).
The tree of life was present.
Man had a perfect relationship with God.
There was no sin, no illness, no death.*

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

*-All whose name is not written in the book of life.
-All who are cowardly, unbelieving, vile, murderers, sexually immoral, who practice magic, are idolatrous, liars, impure, shameful and deceitful.*

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

-All whose name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

⑥ ✍ In light of the first lesson

- what hope do you have concerning the future ?
 - What reality described for the future of the kingdom of God moves you the most?
- Open answers.*