

# Bible workbook

Year 11

Term 2

Attribute of God: God is...	Page	Number of weeks	Number of pages
Saviour	2	3	7
Pure & Holy	9	4	10
Creator (Part 1)	18	3	7

Total: 24

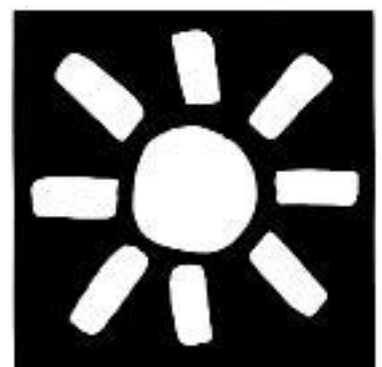
## Acknowledgments:

Material in this workbook has been sourced from:

- LIFEPAC Home Schooling Curriculum, Alpha & Omega Publications

<https://www.aop.com/curriculum/shop-lifepac?filter=GL12> (free download samples)

- The 7 Cs of History by Ken Ham, Answers in Genesis
- *Counter Culture – Following Christ in an anti-Christian Age* by David Platt
- The Genesis Solution – Ken Ham
- The Answers Book – Ken Ham, Andrew Snelling, Carl Wieland
- Stones and Bones – Carl Wieland
- Fifteen Reasons to take Christianity as History – Don Batten and Jonathan Sarfati



# God is our Saviour



## The Seven Cs of history

Ken Ham – Answers in Genesis

### Creation

God perfectly created the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them in six normal-length days around 6,000 years ago.

#### Evidence for creation:

- Science - the amazing design that we see in nature— whether in the veins of a leaf or the complexity of your hand—is all the handiwork of God. DNA and information—the information in every living thing was created by God’s supreme intelligence.
- Mathematics—the laws of mathematics reflect the order of the Creator.
- Biological diversity—the distinct kinds of animals that we see were created during the Creation Week, not as products of evolution.
- Art—the creativity of man is demonstrated through various art forms.
- History—all time scales can be compared to the biblical time scale extending back about 6,000 years.
- Ecology—God has called mankind to act as stewards over His creation.

### Corruption

After God completed His perfect creation, Adam disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. As a result, sin and death entered the world, and the world has been in decay since that time. This point is evident throughout the world that we live in. The struggle for survival in animals, the death of loved ones, and the violence all around us are all examples of the corrupting influence of sin.

We see corruption in:

- Genetics—the mutations that lead to diseases, cancer, and variation within populations are the result of corruption.
- Biological relationships—predators and parasites result from corruption.
- History—wars and struggles between mankind, exemplified in the account of Cain and Abel, are a result of sin.

### Catastrophe

God was grieved by the wickedness of mankind and judged this wickedness with a global Flood. The Flood covered the entire surface of the earth and killed all airbreathing creatures that were not aboard the Ark. The eight people and the animals aboard the Ark replenished the earth after God delivered them from the catastrophe.

The catastrophe described in the Bible would naturally leave behind much evidence. The studies of geology and of the biological diversity of animals on the planet are two of the most obvious

applications of this event. Much of scientific understanding is based on how a scientist views the events of the Genesis Flood.

### **Results of the Flood:**

- Biological diversity—all of the birds, mammals, and other air-breathing animals have populated the earth from the original kinds which left the Ark.
- Geology—the layers of sedimentary rock seen in roadcuts, canyons, and other geologic features are testaments to the global Flood.
- Geography—features like mountains, valleys, and plains were formed as the floodwaters receded.
- Physics—rainbows are a perennial sign of God’s faithfulness and His pledge to never flood the entire earth again.
- Fossils—Most fossils are a result of the Flood rapidly burying plants and animals.
- Plate tectonics—the rapid movement of the earth’s plates likely accompanied the Flood.
- Global warming/Ice Age—both of these items are likely a result of the activity of the Flood. The warming we are experiencing today has been present since the peak of the Ice Age (with variations over time).

### **Confusion**

God commanded Noah and his descendants to spread across the earth. The refusal to obey this command and the building of the tower at Babel caused God to judge this sin. The common language of the people was confused and they spread across the globe as groups with a common language. All people are truly of “one blood” as descendants of Noah and, originally, Adam.

The confusion of the languages led people to scatter across the globe. As people settled in new areas, the traits they carried with them became concentrated in those populations. Traits like dark skin were beneficial in the tropics while other traits benefited populations in northern climates, and distinct people groups, not races, developed.

### **Results of confusion:**

- Genetics—the study of human DNA has shown that there is little difference in the genetic makeup of the so-called “races.”
- Languages—there are about seventy language groups from which all modern languages have developed.
- Archaeology—the presence of common building structures, like pyramids, around the world confirms the biblical account.
- Literature—recorded and oral records tell of similar events relating to the Flood and the dispersion at Babel.

### **Christ**

God did not leave mankind without a way to be redeemed from its sinful state. The Law was given to Moses to show how far away man is from God’s standard of perfection. Rather than the sacrifices, which only covered sins, people needed a Savior to take away their sin. This was accomplished when

Jesus Christ came to earth to live a perfect life and, by that obedience, was able to be the sacrifice to satisfy God's wrath for all who believe.

The deity of Christ and the amazing plan that was set forth before the foundation of the earth is the core of Christian doctrine. The earthly life of Jesus was the fulfillment of many prophecies and confirms the truthfulness of the Bible. His miracles and presence in human form demonstrate that God is both intimately concerned with His creation and able to control it in an absolute way.

Christ is the answer for our world:

- Psychology—popular secular psychology teaches of the inherent goodness of man, but Christ has lived the only perfect life. Mankind needs a Savior to redeem it from its unrighteousness.
- Biology—Christ's virgin birth demonstrates God's sovereignty over nature.
- Physics—turning the water into wine and the feeding of the five thousand demonstrate Christ's deity and His sovereignty over nature.
- History—time is marked (in the western world) based on the birth of Christ despite current efforts to change the meaning.
- Art—much art is based on the life of Christ and many of the masters are known for these depictions, whether on canvas or in music.

## **Cross**

Because God is perfectly just and holy, He must punish sin. The sinless life of Jesus Christ was offered as a substitutionary sacrifice for all of those who will repent and put their faith in the Savior. After His death on the Cross, He defeated death by rising on the third day and is now seated at the right hand of God.

The events surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection have a most significant place in the life of Christians. Though there is no way to scientifically prove the resurrection, there is likewise no way to prove the stories of evolutionary history. These are matters of faith founded in the truth of God's Word and His character. The eyewitness testimony of over 500 people and the written Word of God provide the basis for our belief.

### **Evidence for the cross:**

- Biology—the biological details of the crucifixion can be studied alongside the anatomy of the human body.
- History—the use of crucifixion as a method of punishment was short-lived in historical terms and not known at the time it was prophesied.
- Art—the crucifixion and resurrection have inspired many wonderful works of art.

## **Consummation**

God, in His great mercy, has promised that He will restore the earth to its original state—a world without death, suffering, war, and disease. The corruption introduced by Adam's sin will be removed. Those who have repented and put their trust in the completed work of Christ on the Cross will experience life in this new heaven and earth. We will be able to enjoy and worship God forever in a perfect place.

### **Hope for the future:**

- History—in discussions of war or human conflict the coming age offers hope.
- Biology—the violent struggle for life seen in the predator- prey relationships will no longer taint the earth.
- Medicine—while we struggle to find cures for diseases and alleviate the suffering of those enduring the effects of the Curse, we ultimately place our hope in the healing that will come in the eternal state.

## **Who is the true God?**

Many people say, “I believe in God.” But who is God? Can there be various expressions of God?

It is important for a person to identify their God. For most, God is a universal force, perhaps with greater-than-human powers. (This makes God an ‘it’ rather than a ‘Him’.) Many believe that this universal force can help them in pursuits, and perhaps contribute to self-healing through the power of the mind.

There is only one true God. He is a person who wants to have a relationship with us. God is a God who speaks to those willing to listen. How does He speak? Through divine revelation, through our thoughts, but always confirmed through God’s written message to mankind, the Bible. There is only one true God – the God of the Bible.

So for those who believe in God the force, rather than God the person, they must identify their God as a different God to that of the Bible.

How small and powerless is mankind compared to the awesome powerful true God! Can a mere man or woman take control of their own life, their own circumstances through the power of the universe working within them? This is man/woman pretending to be above God; pretending to be in charge, with a bit of help from a force.

The true God requires complete submission to Him. Instead of saying, “I am in charge of my own life, with a bit of help from God the force,” the true God demands that we say, “You are in charge of my life God, and I will go wherever you lead me. I will humble myself and admit that without you I am nothing.”

How do we reach this position?

“Humble yourself under the almighty hand of God, and He will exalt you in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6)

“Cast all your cares onto the Lord, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6...Believe it!)

“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

“For as many as received Him, (Jesus), to them He gave the power to become the Sons of God.” (John 1:12)

“I, (Jesus), am the vine, you are the branches. He that abides in me, I will abide in Him. For without me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

There has recently been an explosion in interest in spiritual healing. There is an awareness that those who believe in a God have a greater chance of being healed. The statistics prove this. But once again we must ask, which God?

Believe it or not, spiritual forces are real. At the foundation of the universe, God created.

“In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

Prior to this there was a battle in the heavenly realm. An angel, Lucifer, originally created by God as a beautiful supernatural being, a servant of the Almighty God, became jealous of God’s power. He and a band of fallen angels were thrown out of heaven. They banded together and formed their own powerful force.

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! (Isaiah 14:12)

Together, Lucifer and his demons have been raging war against mankind, trying to blind them to the truth of the true God. Only the sacrifice of God’s Son, Jesus, cancelled the power of Lucifer and his angels over mankind. But because God gave mankind free will, He does not force His Son, His message, His truth, onto the people He created. It is up to each individual to search for truth with all their heart.

“Seek the Lord, and He may be found”. (Isaiah 55:6)

To find the true God requires humility and an open heart. It requires a willingness to read and accept the message God has provided for us in the Bible.

So what if a person says, “I believe in God”? How do we know whether or not they believe in the true God?

Does this person believe that God alone, by His supernatural power, created the heavens and the earth?

Does this person believe that God is a Person who wants to be intimately involved in the lives of individuals?

Does this person accept God’s forgiveness for personal sin, and have a desire to place the God of the Bible in control of his/her own life?

Unless a person answers 'yes' to all of the above questions, this person is following a different god.

A person following a different god, may see healings and may see miracles, but ultimately a pay-back will be required. This may come in the form of emotional problems, nightmares or family problems further down the track.

"I am the Lord your God...

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol...

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name." (Exodus 20:3 and Deuteronomy 5:7)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." (Mark 12:30)

Choose this day whom you will serve: The God of Israel and the god of Baal. (Joshua 24:15)

## Reflections on Easter

Bible passages: Luke 24: 1-8; Mark 8: 31; Romans 6: 6-11

### **When you think about Easter, what do you think about?**

Chocolate? Family gatherings?

As Christians we understand what really happened, and why we celebrate Easter.

When Jesus was murdered and nailed to a cross, they buried him in a tomb, basically a cave, and rolled a huge heavy stone in front of the tomb.

Then three days later something unbelievable happened. The tomb was empty.

Luke 24: 1-8 it says this...

1 But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 3 So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day." 8 Then they remembered that he had said this.

Let's look earlier during Jesus' ministry when he said had to go through this to his disciples.

Mark 8: 31 (NLT)

31 Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.

This is proof that Jesus is who he says he is.

### **Jesus has power over death**

Because Jesus died and rose again, because Jesus is who he says he is, Jesus has power of sin's greatest weapon...death.

Jesus is the one who says, "I can give you life, so that you never really die...even after your life on earth is finished, you will live with me forever....because that is how much I love you! The gift of life is a free gift to all those who call upon me for forgiveness of sin, and choose to follow me."

The empty tomb shows us that Jesus has power over death. He took death's sting....and overcame it!

Romans 6: 9 (NLT)

9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

Jesus is no longer in the tomb, and he never will be! Jesus is God and is alive forever! His body wasn't stolen, it wasn't in the wrong tomb, it wasn't some magic trick....

### **The empty tomb means:**

- Jesus is who he says he is
- Jesus has power over death
- Jesus is permanently alive and death will never overcome him again. When we decide to follow him instead of following our own selfish desires, we too can begin to really live!

<https://ministrytoyouth.com/youth-group-lessons-on-easter/>



# God is Pure and Holy



## PART 1: THE HOLINESS OF GOD

Holiness is God’s primary attribute. Understanding this is vital to our understanding of all his other attributes. Because God is Holy, the place of his dwelling, or habitation, is holy by virtue of his presence.

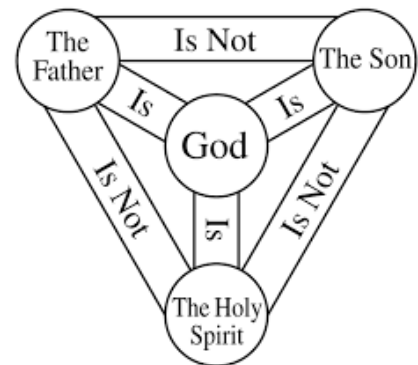
Wherever God dwells is affected by his presence and power. Heaven is a holy place. The Tabernacle and Temple where he dwelt were also holy places.

His people must also be holy. God makes his people holy and set apart, or separated, for him. This separation is evident in his designs for the nation of Israel, the priesthood, and the Church.

**Read Psalm 33:21, 51, 89, 99:3–9; Hosea 11; John 1:1–14; and 1 Corinthians 2**

### HIS PERSON

The root verb from which the adjective holy is derived actually means to divide, separate, or sanctify. From this definition, we conclude that the holiness of God denotes his absolute separation from and exaltation above, his creation.



We learn about the holiness of God exclusively from the Scriptures. Exodus 15:11 expressed his exaltation above any other “gods,” as a result of his holiness. From Isaiah 40:25, we realize that the Holy One cannot be equated with anyone or anything in his universe, for he is unique and unparalleled in comparison with created things. Isaiah 5:16 refers to two aspects of his holiness which exalt and set him apart: justice (judgment), and righteousness. In Habakkuk 1:12 and 15, we see an emphasis on the essential purity of the Holy One, meaning there is nothing corrupt, evil, or profane in him. God is set apart from all impurity. His purity will not permit him to behold evil or look upon iniquity. The Scriptures reveal a holy God who is not only separate and distinct from his creation, but also exalted over it.

The Biblical names of persons and places are usually very significant and expressive of their character. God’s name is a holy expression of his Person and character. In Ezekiel 36:20–23, God explains that his judgments have been poured out upon his people because he has taken pity upon his holy name, which they profaned among the heathen. The Lord is jealous for the holiness of his name and will not allow it to be profaned any more, stating that he will make his holy name known in the midst of his people.

The virgin Mary, in her song of exaltation in Luke 1:49 exalts the name of the Lord as holy, as does the psalmist in Psalm 99:3.

In the Psalm delivered by David into the hand of Asaph and his brethren when the Ark of God was placed in a tent on Mount Zion, he twice refers to the holy name of God (1 Chronicles 16:10–35).

God's holiness is an integral part of his Person and name. It is that by which he swears an oath, as 1 Chronicles 16:16–17 plainly shows. When the Lord desired to establish his covenant with David (Psalm 89:34–36) regarding his seed and throne enduring forever, he swore by his holiness that the covenant would not be broken nor the words of his mouth altered.

In Amos 4:2, the prophet recorded that God swore by his holiness that he would cause Israel to go into captivity due to her idolatry. His holiness is the very basis of his integrity and righteousness.

## Father

Especially in the Old Testament, the way the Lord wanted to be known was by his holiness. Throughout the book of Leviticus, the words "I AM holy" (Leviticus 11:44–45; 19:2; 20:26; 21:3) are constantly repeated. Although no great emphasis is placed on the trinitarian Fatherhood of God in the Old Testament, those passages that do point to his Fatherhood usually make reference to his holiness.

Isaiah recognized that the Lord who looks down from heaven, the habitation of his holiness, is the Father and Redeemer of Israel (Isaiah 63:15–16) as well as the Potter who formed them. (Isaiah 64:8).

Hosea 11:1–12 records that the Holy One in the midst of Israel is as a Father who loved his children, calling them out of Egypt, teaching them, helping them to walk, and setting meat before them. Psalm 89:1–4 and Isaiah 55:3–5 both depict the everlasting covenant made by the Holy One of Israel with David and his seed after him, to whom he would be a Father (Psalm 89:26–27). Although a definite reference is made to David himself, the primary emphasis is on the coming Messiah, the Son of the Father.

The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Luke 1:32–33 where Jesus, who will inherit the everlasting throne of his father David, is called the Son of the Most High.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ revealed more fully that God is our Father, calling him Holy Father (John 17:11). By virtue of his relationship with his Father and his sustaining those who believe in him, the Son of God took the concept of a separate, righteous God, and clarified him as God the Holy Father.

**Match these items.**

- 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ David
- 1.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah
- 1.3 \_\_\_\_\_ Amos
- 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ Mary
- 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ Habakkuk
- 1.6 \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel
- 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_ Asaph

- a. musician to whom David delivered his psalm when the Ark was returned
- b. spoke of the Lord's holy name in a song of praise
- c. psalmist, God swore a covenant concerning his seed and his throne
- d. refers to God as Father and Redeemer of Israel
- e. recorded God's promise concerning Israel's captivity
- f. prophet who spoke of the purity of the Holy One
- g. spoke of the Lord's pity and jealousy for his name

## Son

Jesus Christ was the holy and divine Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. In denying his deity, we claim that he was nothing more than a man.

Jesus is acknowledged as both holy and the Son of God before his birth. In Luke 1:35, the archangel Gabriel assured Mary that, through the power of the Holy Spirit overshadowing her, the child who would be born of her would be called "Holy, the Son of God."

The conception and birth of Jesus was a miraculous and critically important event. Without the virgin birth of Christ, mankind has no hope of salvation, for he would fail to fulfill the Messianic prophecies.

Luke 2:23 (quoting Exodus 13:2) states that every firstborn male in a family was called holy to the Lord. However, Jesus's holiness was unique. He was holy due to his conception by the Holy Spirit's power. God becoming man in Jesus Christ is known as the Incarnation. Jesus was sinless and holy in his birth, the Son of God, and God the Son.

In his life, Jesus was clearly recognized as the Holy One and Son of God by his disciples. In John 6:69, Peter calls Jesus "the Holy One of God." The early disciples recognized Jesus as the Holy One and the Just (Acts 3:14). They realized that his righteousness and justice are a result of his holiness.

In Acts 4:27–30, his disciples, praying to God as Sovereign Lord, twice refer to Jesus as “thy holy servant.” Christ clearly communicated to his disciples that God was his Father (e.g., Matthew 10:32–33; 11:27; 16:17; Luke 22:29; 24:49; John 5:17–18; 8:38).

The Father gave witness during Jesus’s baptism (Matthew 3:17) and transfiguration (Matthew 17:5) that Jesus was his Beloved Son. During the ministry of Jesus, even Satan’s unclean spirits recognized and acknowledged Jesus as the Holy One of God (Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34).

Christ’s death and Resurrection testify that he was the Holy One of God. Peter (Acts 2:27) and Paul (Acts 13:35) both referred to Psalm 16:10 in proclaiming that Jesus Christ was the Holy One, who experienced no corruption while in the grave. The Redeemer was raised from the dead by the Father (Romans 6:4) and the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 3:18), that he might make us free from the law of sin and death into the law of the Spirit of life in Christ (Romans 8:2).

Christ’s Ascension into heaven also illustrates his unique holiness. Hebrews 7:22–28 presents a powerful picture of the heavenly High Priest, who is holy, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. We see the Son of God, separate from sin and sinners, able to save those who come to God by him as he ever lives to make intercession for them. Christ’s holiness is absolutely essential to his ability to be the Redeemer of mankind.

He is exalted by the song of Moses and the Lamb as the Lord God Almighty who is just and true, the King of saints, and the One who alone is holy (Revelation 15:4). His justice and righteousness are facets of his holiness. We too must join those who sing this marvelous song and worship and praise the Holy One: Jesus, the Son of God!

**Complete these activities.**

1.8 List five events and/or phases of life in which Christ is declared to be holy.

1.9 State the words which were used by the following people to describe the holiness of Jesus.

a. archangel Gabriel \_\_\_\_\_

b. early disciples \_\_\_\_\_

c. unclean spirits \_\_\_\_\_

1.10 Name two aspects involving Christ’s birth and death that are absolutely essential to his ability to be the Redeemer of mankind.

Choose the correct answer.

1.11 God’s primary attribute is his \_\_\_\_\_ .

a. greatness b. power c. holiness

d. wisdom e. sovereignty

1.12 In the book of \_\_\_\_\_, the words “I AM holy” are repeated constantly.

- a. Genesis b. Isaiah c. Ezekiel
- d. Psalms e. Leviticus

1.13 Isaiah sees the Lord as the Father and Redeemer of Israel as well as the \_\_\_\_\_ who formed them.

- a. Creator b. Potter c. Architect d. Artist e. Designer

1.14 The prophet who recorded that the Holy One of Israel is as a Father who called his son out of Egypt was \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Ezekiel b. Amos c. Leviticus d. Hosea e. Isaiah

1.15 Psalm 89 and Isaiah 55 refer to David and to the \_\_\_\_\_, who would inherit his throne forever.

- a. Messiah b. Redeemer c. Creator d. Lord e. Child

1.16 In Luke’s Gospel, the angel calls Jesus the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Holy One of Israel b. Son of the Father c. Righteous One d. Son of the Most High e. Blessed of the Virgin

1.17 Christ introduces us to the concept of God, the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Gracious Lord b. Blessed Father c. Loving Creator d. Precious e. Holy Father

## Holy Spirit

The Third Person of the Trinity has the word holy as part of his name. This title is not merely a distinction from an evil spirit of Satan, but is an indication of his purity. Anything that is the essence of God must, by necessity, be holy. The Holy Spirit is given so that people might be set apart for his holy purpose.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was imparted in specific measure only to certain servants of the Lord. In the New Testament, he is poured out upon all believers without distinction or measure (Acts 2:17–18).

In Psalm 51, David was concerned that the Lord take not his Holy Spirit from him because of his iniquities. In Isaiah 63:11 we read that God put his Holy Spirit within Moses.

These two Old Testament believers experienced a special measure of the Spirit so they could do specific things for God’s glory.

In Jesus Christ, we see the Holy Spirit operating in fullest measure. At Jesus’s baptism, the Holy Spirit descended and remained on him like a dove, a symbol of peace, gentleness, and

purity. The Holy Spirit was the sign for John the Baptist showing that Jesus would be the One to baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was conceived by, baptized in, and became the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. Seeing that God was with him (Acts 10:38), his disciples noted that his special anointing enabled him to do good and to heal all who were oppressed by the devil. Paul wrote that Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4). Because God the Son became man during the Incarnation (Philippians 2:6–8), God gave him the Holy Spirit without measure. All fullness of deity dwelt bodily in Jesus (Colossians 2:9), including the Holy Spirit.

Using a text from Isaiah 61:1, Jesus proclaimed that the Spirit of the Lord rested upon him. Through the Spirit, Jesus was enabled to baptize with the Holy Spirit, do good, heal those oppressed by the devil, and minister justice and righteousness (holiness) to the poor and meek of the earth.

The Holy Spirit, whose abundant power was so pronounced in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, is given to those who are united by faith to Christ. The Holy Spirit is released to work powerfully in us for God's glory.

From Ephesians 1:13, we learn that the promised Holy Spirit is given to seal Christians as a guarantee of our heavenly inheritance. God sanctifies his children. By the Holy Spirit, our whole spirit, soul, and body is preserved blameless until the coming of Christ. He works in the lives of believers to sanctify them for the perfect plan and purpose of God.

Christ spoke of the Holy Spirit being the Comforter, who would teach his disciples all things. Paul testified in I Corinthians 2:4 that the Holy Spirit taught him what to speak. Paul's preaching is a demonstration of the Spirit and power. Paul spoke of his ability to impart to believers mysteries hidden from others; the deep things of God. In I John 2:20, we read that we have the anointing of the Holy One who teaches us all things. The Holy Spirit's ministry is vital in revealing the truths of God's Word to us so that we will be able to teach others.

Because the Spirit is holy, anything unholy has an adverse effect on our relationship with him. We are made aware, by Isaiah 63:10, that rebellion grieves the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30–31 specifically indicates that bitterness, wrath, and anger does this.

We also learn from 1 Thessalonians 5:16–19 that we need to rejoice, pray, and be thankful in every situation so that we do not quench the Holy Spirit.

## PART 2: THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

Reference: *Counter Culture – Following Christ in an anti-Christian Age* by David Platt

### MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM

Our understanding of marriage is built upon our understanding of sexuality. According to our culture, sexual differences are merely social constructions. Sure, men and women have physical distinctions, but even these can be altered or disregarded, if we prefer. Even if we maintain an understanding of human beings as distinctly male and female, we view them as equal—and by equal, we mean identical. Consequently, it makes complete sense for a man to marry a man or a woman to marry a woman, just as it makes sense for a man to marry a woman. There is no difference since we are identical—so our culture says.

But what does God say?

The first two chapters of Genesis record complementary accounts of human creation. Genesis 1 tells us, “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (verse 27). The dignity of men and women is on display from the start. Nothing else in all creation, not even the most majestic angel, is portrayed “in the image of God.” Men and women alone are like God, but not in the sense that we share all of his qualities. He is infinite; we are finite. He is divine; we are human.

He is spirit; we are flesh. Yet in a way that nothing else in all creation can, men and women share certain moral, intellectual, and relational capacities with God. We have the power to reason, the desire to love, the ability to speak, and the facility to make moral decisions. Most important of all, men and women have the opportunity to relate to God in a way that dogs and cats, mountains and seas, and even angels and demons can’t. As soon as God creates man and woman, he immediately blesses them, beginning a relationship with the only beings in all the created order who resemble him.

This is where any Bible-informed conversation about men and women must begin: with men and women both created with equal dignity before God and each other. Men and women both share in the inexpressible worth of creatures formed in the image of God himself. In this way, God speaks loudly from the start of Scripture against any sort of male or female superiority or dominance. Near the end of Scripture, God refers to men and women as fellow “heirs . . . of the grace of life” (1 Peter 3:7). According to God’s design, men are never to be perceived as better than women, and women are never to be perceived as better than men. God abhors any treatment of men or women as inferior objects to be used or abused. For all of eternity, no gender will be greater than the other. No one should feel superior or inferior by nature of being a man or a woman. Both are beautifully—and equally—created in the image of God.

But not identically. Equal dignity does not eliminate distinction. Genesis 1 makes clear that God creates humans uniquely male and female, and he does it for a reason. Right after he blesses them, he commands them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28). This command is only possible when there is male and female. Multiplication would

have been impossible if God had created humans male and male, or female and female. God's unique design enables them to carry out his command.

Moreover, this divine design involves far more than the capacity to reproduce (as important as that is). There is something greater than mere biological accident or evolutionary adaptation going on here. God creates man and woman to cherish their shared equality while complementing their various differences.

Genesis 2 provides a more close-up picture of how God initially creates man. God forms him from the dust, breathes life into his nostrils, and places him in the Garden of Eden. God parades animals before him, tasking him with assigning names to each of them. The point of this procession is to make clear to man that he is alone—that there is no one else like him. As man looks at each animal, and he realizes that none of them match his nature. He sinks back in solitude, and for the first time in the Bible, we read, "It is not good" (Genesis 2:18).

Keep in mind that this is before sin has entered the world. Throughout Genesis 1, there is a constant interchange between earthly creation and heavenly declaration. God creates light, and he declares it good. God creates the land and the water, and he declares them good. God creates the sky and the planets, the animals and the plants, and he declares them all good. But one thing is not good. Man is alone.

So God says, "I will make him a helper fit for him." When man falls asleep, God performs the first surgery, taking a rib from man. Obviously, God doesn't need to do this. Just as he has created man from dust, he can create woman the same way. But he doesn't. Instead, God takes a rib from man's side, and he forms a woman. When the man opens his eyes, he is stunned, to say the least. The first recorded human words are poetry, as the man sings,

This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Genesis 2:23

Don't miss the magnificence of this scene. God brings man to realize that he needs someone equal to him, made with the same nature that he possesses but different from him, in order to help him do things he could never do on his own. This is precisely what God gives to man in woman, and the stage is thus set for the institution of marriage. In the very next verse, we read,

"Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

Behold the beauty of God's design for man, woman, and marriage. Two dignified people, both molded in the image of their Maker. Two diverse people, uniquely designed to complement each other.

#### CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

"as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands" (Ephesians 5:24).



As soon as we hear the word submission, we immediately think in terms of inferiority and superiority, subordination and domination. But that's nowhere close to what the Bible means with these terms. God made clear from the start that men and women are equal in dignity, value, and worth, but different in their roles and characteristics. Submission is not about denigrating the value of another's life. Instead, this biblical word means to yield to another in love. Such submission throughout Scripture is a wonderful, if not inevitable, component of human relationships.

## Activities

1. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. Explain in your own words the true meaning of submission in these verses.
2. Men and women are equal but different. Explain the meaning of this.
3. What are the roles in marriage that God has intended for men?
4. What are the roles in marriage that God has intended for women?
5. How can the male quality of physical strength be misused?
6. How can the female quality of physical beauty be misused?
7. Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10 ...

*And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes. For women who claim to be devoted to God should make themselves attractive by the good things they do.*

Note that these verses are saying that women should not *only* make themselves beautiful in their appearance, but more importantly, in their behaviour. (The passage is not actually condemning the wearing of jewelry and hair braiding, unless it is done out of vanity.)

How should a woman present herself in appearance?

8. Read 1 Timothy 2:11-13 ...

*Women should learn quietly and submissively. I do not let women teach men or have authority over them. Let them listen quietly. For God made Adam first, and afterward he made Eve.*

This is a very controversial passage in the church today.

In your opinion, what should the role of women be in ministry?

9. Read Mark 10: 1-10 and Matthew 5:31 - 32. What does Jesus say about marriage? Compare Mark 10: 11 with Matthew 5:32. What are the grounds for divorce?

# God is Creator



## Creation – a foundational truth

Is it really important for a Christian to believe in creation, or is it just a side issue?  
Isn't the main thing just to tell people about Jesus?  
Isn't it more important to fight the moral issues of the world, like abortion, homosexuality, sexual immorality and racism?

Although these are very important questions for a Christian to consider, a belief in creation is foundational to the Christian faith, including evangelism and Christian moral standards. Let's explore this.

### **Isn't the creation-evolution debate religion versus science?**

No. It is one belief against another.

Most people think that scientists are unbiased and infallible. But this is wrong. An atheist scientist has a biased belief. Does a Christian scientist also have a biased belief? Yes. Christians are biased towards God. Atheists are biased towards no-God. It's not a question of being biased – it's a question of which bias is the right one. We are comparing the science of one religion with the science of another. It's therefore not wrong for Christians to be biased towards God!

### **Who has the evidence?**

Concerning the beginnings of the universe, no one was there to witness these events, only God. The Bible, (Genesis), is an accurate historical record. All of our thinking therefore should be based on the Bible.

### **Do I believe in creation or evolution?**

Many Christians think they believe in creation, but they actually believe in evolution. Find out how you rate.

1. Do you believe that the earth is more than 6,000 years old?
2. Do you believe that a day in the first chapter of Genesis could be a general term for thousands or millions of years?
3. Do you believe that dinosaurs came before Adam and Eve?
4. Do you believe the calculations of modern-day age-dating methods that tell us the world is billions of years old?
5. Do you believe that many species of living things died out before Adam and Eve were created?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the five questions then you hold to some form of evolutionary belief.

## **Why can't the earth be millions of years old?**

### *1. Let's find out what is meant by a day.*

The Bible clearly states that there was evening and morning, and then the new day. It took just six 24-hour days to create the whole universe. The word day in Genesis 1 is the Hebrew word *yom*. Without exception, in the Hebrew Old Testament, the word *yom* is never used to refer to an indefinite long period of time. Although the sun was not created until the fourth day, the phrase 'evening and morning' shows that there were alternating periods of light. God was the light, shining upon a rotation earth.

### *2. The Genesis account is written as history, not a parable.*

We know this because of how the Old and New Testaments interpret Genesis as history. Exodus 20:11 summarizes the Creation Week. It eliminates any possibility of an extended time scale by any interpretative scheme. The Creation is the basis of our seven-day week with a day of rest.

"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh." (Exodus 20:10)

"And God spoke all these words..." (Exodus 20:1).

There are over 100 quotations which suggest that Genesis was history. Jesus' genealogy (Luke 3) goes back to Adam. If we count up all the years listed in the genealogies of the Bible, we would come up with a figure of about 6,000 years, making the earth about 6,000 years old.

### *3. If there were millions of years between the creation of living species, some would have died before Adam and Eve were created.*

Let's say that a 'day' stood for a million years. God created plants on 'day' three, then after a couple of million years he created birds and fish on 'day' 5, and then after another million years he created land animals and man on the sixth 'day'. By this time, there would have been plants, birds and fish that had died. And yet God says clearly that there was no death in His perfect creation. The animals were vegetarian. They didn't kill to eat. All that He made was very good. Death and pain for animals and man did not come into the world until after Adam and Eve sinned.

### *4. God promises to restore the earth to its perfect creation.*

God tells us in Revelation that the lion will lie with the lamb, in perfect peace. There will be no killing. Jesus came to restore the world. If death and bloodshed occurred in the Garden of Eden, then there would be no restoration.

## **Why does it matter whether the world is 6,000 years old or millions of years old?**

If the evolutionary theory were true, the whole point of the Gospel (good news) message would be lost, because Adam's predecessors would then have been clawing or clubbing each other to death in a world of bloodshed. It would also mean that the idea of the Fall of Adam and the curse, instead of being in a real time frame, would be a myth. The truth of the good news about Jesus Christ, and the fact that we can be restored in fellowship to our Creator, is dependent upon the truth of the bad news of how Adam and Eve rebelled and broke the original harmony between God and man.

### **Why do atheists love the ‘millions of years’ theory?**

Everyone who insists there is no God relies on evolution to explain nature without a designer. Because no one has ever seen a species changing from one form to another, evolutionists say that we need millions of years for it to happen.

“If nobody made us, there’s nobody to set the rules except us.”

Belief in evolution is the scientists’ basis for rejecting God. God is the law giver.

### **What you believe about where you have come from affects your world view.**

Without Him we can make our own laws...such as:

abortion, homosexuality, pornography, racism... are all OK.

The Bible makes these issues clear:

*Marriage* - Adam and Eve, created male and female, shows union between man and woman

*Abortion* – We have not evolved from animals. Every individual is valued by God.

*Racism* – Humans did not evolve from lower to higher intelligence. There are no lower and higher races, (a foundational belief causing the killing of Australian Aborigines and Jews in past history).

### **How is it that evolution is infiltrating Christian belief?**

Atheists know that in order to bring down a structure, the foundation must be destabilised. Genesis is the foundation. The rest of the Bible is the structure. There is a war on between Christianity and atheism. Many Christians try to fight back by aiming at the issues. “Let’s fight abortion, racism, pornography etc.” They don’t think about where these problems have come from. They don’t think about battling the evolutionary debate. The atheists are clever. They just fire at the foundations of Christianity, in order to try to bring it down.

### **Why not just tell them about Jesus?**

Unless we understand the impact of the fall of mankind, we cannot understand the wonderful message of Jesus dying for our sins. If we choose to believe in millions of years, we choose to believe in death and suffering in God’s original creation... fossils upon fossils over millions of years, stacking up before the event of mankind. We are saying that Genesis is not a true account...just a parable.

### **Activities**

1. According to the scientific method, scientific principles must be proved. Discuss this problem for Evolutionary theorists, taking into account that there has been no observation involved in the construction of the theory.
2. Discuss your view about the age of the earth.
3. What is the origin of the idea of ‘no absolutes’?
4. Why is a correct understanding of Genesis foundational to an understanding of Salvation?
5. Draw a cartoon showing the war between evolutionists and Christianity. Show who’s aiming for the foundations and who’s aiming for the issues.

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# Beliefs about Creation

## Ken Ham – Answers in Genesis

1. Historical biblical account
2. Progressive creation
3. Gap theory
4. Theistic evolution
5. Naturalistic evolution

### Historical biblical account

Each day of creation in Genesis is a normal day of about 24 hours in length, in which God created everything that exists. The earth is only thousands of years old, as determined by the genealogies in the Bible.

### Progressive creation

The idea that God created various creatures to replace other creatures that died out over millions of years. Each of the days in Genesis represents a long period of time (day-age view) and the earth is billions of years old.

### Gap theory

The idea that there was a long, long time between what happened in Genesis 1:1 and what happened in Genesis 1:2. During this time, the “fossil record” was supposed to have formed, and millions of years of earth history supposedly passed.

### Theistic evolution

The idea that God used the process of evolution over millions of years (involving struggle and death) to bring about what we see today.

### Naturalistic evolution

The view that there is no God and evolution of all life forms happened by purely naturalistic processes over billions of years.

### Taking Genesis as history

Any theory that tries to combine the evolutionary time frame with creation presupposes that death entered the world before Adam sinned, which contradicts what God has said in His Word. The view that the earth (and its “fossil record”) is hundreds of millions of years old damages the gospel message. God’s completed creation was “very good” at the end of the sixth day (Genesis 1:31). Death entered this perfect paradise after Adam disobeyed God’s command. It was the punishment for Adam’s sin (Genesis 2:16–17, 3:19; Romans 5:12–19). Thorns appeared when God cursed the ground because of Adam’s sin (Genesis 3:18).

The first animal death occurred when God killed at least one animal, shedding its blood, to make clothes for Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). If the earth’s “fossil record”

(filled with death, disease, and thorns) formed over millions of years before Adam appeared (and before he sinned), then death no longer would be the penalty for sin. Death, the “last enemy” (1 Corinthians 15:26), diseases (such as cancer), and thorns would instead be part of the original creation that God labeled “very good.” No, it is clear that the “fossil record” formed some time after Adam sinned—not many millions of years before.

Most fossils were formed as a result of the worldwide Genesis Flood. When viewed from a biblical perspective, the scientific evidence clearly supports a recent creation by God, and not naturalistic evolution and millions of years.

## **Myths versus Truth**

**Evolutionary Myth:** The earth is 4.6 billion years old.

**The Truth:** Many processes observed today point to a young earth of only a few thousand years. The rate at which the earth’s magnetic field is decaying suggests the earth must be less than 10,000 years old. The rate of population growth and the recent emergence of civilization suggests only a few thousand years of human population. And, at the current rate of accumulation, the amount of mud on the sea floor should be many kilometers thick if the earth were billions of years old. However, the average depth of all the mud in the whole ocean is less than 400 meters, giving a maximum age for the earth of not more than 12 million years. All this and more indicates an earth much younger than 4.6 billion years.

**Evolutionary Myth:** The universe formed from the big bang.

**The Truth:** There are many problems with this theory. It does not explain where the initial material came from. It cannot explain what caused that material to fly apart in the first place. And nothing in physics indicates what would make the particles begin to stick together instead of flying off into space forever. The big bang theory contradicts many scientific laws. Because of these problems, some scientists have abandoned the big bang and are attempting to develop new theories to explain the origin of the universe.

**Evolutionary Myth:** Fossils prove evolution.

**The Truth:** While Darwin predicted that the fossil record would show numerous transitional fossils, even more than 145 years later, all we have are a handful of disputable examples. For example, there are no fossils showing something that is part way between a dinosaur and a bird. Fossils show that a snail has always been a snail; a squid has always been a squid. God created each animal to reproduce after its kind (Genesis 1:20–25).

**Evolutionary Myth:** There is not enough water for a worldwide flood.

**The Truth:** Prior to the Flood, just as today, much of the water was stored beneath the surface of the earth. In addition, Genesis 1 states that the water below was separated from the water above, indicating that the atmosphere may have contained a great deal more water than it does today. Also, it is likely that before the Flood the mountains were not as high as they are today, but that the mountains rose and the valleys sank after the Flood began, as Psalm 104:6–9 suggests. At the beginning of the

Flood, the fountains of the deep burst forth and it rained for 40 days and nights. This could have provided more than enough water to flood the entire earth. Indeed, if the entire earth's surface were leveled by smoothing out the topography of not only the land surface but also the rock surface on the ocean floor, the waters of the present-day oceans would cover the earth's surface to a depth of 1.7 miles (2.7 kilometers). Fossils have been found on the highest mountain peaks around the world showing that the waters of the Flood did indeed cover the entire earth.

**Evolutionary Myth:** Slow climate changes over time have resulted in multiple ice ages.

**The Truth:** There is widespread evidence of glaciers in many parts of the world indicating one ice age. Evolutionists find the cause of the Ice Age a mystery. Obviously, the climate would need to be colder. But global cooling by itself is not enough, because then there would be less evaporation, so less snow. How is it possible to have both a cold climate and lots of evaporation? The Ice Age was most likely an aftermath of Noah's Flood. When "all the fountains of the great deep" broke up, much hot water and lava would have poured directly into the oceans. This would have warmed the oceans, increasing evaporation. At the same time, much volcanic ash in the air after the Flood would have blocked out much sunlight, cooling the land. So the Flood would have produced the necessary combination of increased evaporation from the warmed oceans and cool continental climate from the volcanic ash in the air. This would have resulted in increased snowfall over the continents. With the snow falling faster than it melted, ice sheets would have built up. The Ice Age probably lasted less than 700 years.

**Evolutionary Myth:** Thousands of random changes over millions of years resulted in the earth we see today.

**The Truth:** The second law of thermodynamics describes how any system tends toward a state of zero entropy or disorder. We observe how everything around us becomes less organized and loses energy. The changes required for the formation of the universe, the planet earth and life, all from disorder, run counter to the physical laws we see at work today. There is no known mechanism to harness the raw energy of the universe and generate the specified complexity we see all around us.

Despite the claims of many scientists, if you examine the evidence objectively, it is obvious that evolution and millions of years have not been proven. If scientific thought seems to contradict the Bible, realize that scientists often make mistakes, but God does not lie. At one time scientists believed that the earth was the center of the universe, that living things could spring from non-living things, and that blood-letting was good for the body. All of these were believed to be scientific facts but have since been disproved, but the Word of God remains true. If we use modern "science" to interpret the Bible, what will happen to our faith in God's Word when scientists change their theories yet again?

# Evolution – Creation Comparison Chart

CREATION	EVOLUTION
<p><b>1. Man hasn't changed</b> Therefore, we can learn from the past as we see man's attitudes, his institutions and his actions. Principles, strategies and actions learned from the past apply to us today.</p>	<p><b>1. Man has changed</b> Therefore, studying the past is of little value. Nothing can really be learned that can shed light on the future. Reality is now.</p>
<p><b>2. Man has degenerated</b> Degeneration applies to man's intellect, culture and morals.</p>	<p><b>2. Man has advanced</b> Advancement applies to man's intellect, culture and morals.</p>
<p><b>3. There is a Creator</b> (Omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, personal and loving) Therefore we can know the Creator. Personal experience is meant to be meaningful. We can be secure, confident, positive and active as we live in the present and plan for the future.</p>	<p><b>3. There is no Creator.</b> We can't be sure of reality. The fittest, cleverest and most powerful survives. Fear of the future and hopelessness of the present except in our own efforts, (Reference: Bertrand Russell)</p>
<p><b>4. God is a law giver and gives us a fixed standard</b> Therefore we have a pattern for successful living, both personal, corporate and national. We are given warning about unsuccessful action.</p>	<p><b>4. Ethics are not fixed</b> Man must decide what will be successful. Man must ensure success. In practice, free will leads to license. Therefore, force will be used to prevent chaos.</p>
<p><b>5. Sin</b> There is need for redemption through Jesus. Therefore, there is recognition of two streams of positive action and their continual conflict: a) Man's efforts leading to chaos and revolution b) Faith and obedience to God and His principles leading to success in every area of life.</p>	<p><b>5. No sin</b> Perfectibility of man through his own efforts. Therefore, centralism, dictatorships, chaos and revolution are inevitable.</p>