

Bible Studies

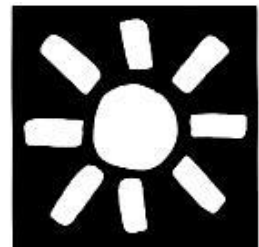
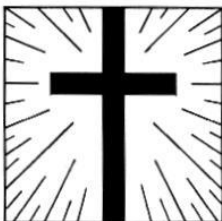
Year 12

Term 2

God is...	Pages	Number of weeks	Number of studies
Our Saviour	2 - 9	3	11
Pure and Holy	10 - 18	4	8
Creator (Part 1)	19 - 23	3	2

- Note that God is Our Saviour is to be studied close to the time of Easter. If Easter occurs at the end of Term 1, move the study to that timeslot.

Studies by John Edminston <https://www.globalchristians>



God is Our Saviour

Study 1: The triumphal entry

Bible passage: Luke 19:28-40

1. Read Luke 19:28-40, Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:25,26 – what is the Triumphal Entry about?
2. How does the Old Testament foreshadow the New Testament?
3. Jesus gives a mysterious instruction to the disciples and they obey, He also does something similar before the Last Supper. (Luke 22:10-12) What does this tell us about Jesus' knowledge of the future?
4. Why did the disciples have to help Jesus get on the donkey? What is so unusual about this setup? Do we see Jesus riding a horse or donkey on other occasions?
5. What were the reactions of the disciples, the people and the Pharisees? (Luke 19:36-40)

Study 2: The Betrayal of Jesus

Bible passage: 22:1-23

1. Read Luke 22:1-2 What was preventing the authorities from arresting Jesus?
2. Luke 22:3-6 How did Judas solve their problem? What drove Judas to do this?
3. How can greed cause people to become demon-possessed? (1 Timothy 6:5-10, John 12:4-6, 13:2)
4. Read Luke 22:7-13 How was God preparing the way for the Last Supper? How does God sometimes plan out all the details of our lives? Compare with Psalm 23:5
5. Read Luke 22:14-18 and Exodus 12:6 When was the Passover Lamb slain? How was the Passover meal a prophecy about the Kingdom of God?
6. Luke 22:19-20 – What is the significance of the bread? The wine? What is a “remembrance”? How did the Hebrews “remember” events?
7. Luke 22:21-23, John 17:12 – What was the fate of Judas? How can someone fulfill prophecy and yet be doomed? Is this fair of God?

Study 3: Just Before Gethsemane

Bible passage: Luke 22:24-38

1. Luke 22:24-27 Matthew 18:3-5; 23:8-12 – What were the disciples disputing about? How does Jesus address it?
2. Luke 22:28-30 What is the promise of Jesus to those who stand with him in His trials? Why did Jesus give this promise to the disciples at this hour?
3. Luke 22:31-34 & Matthew 26:30-35 How does Jesus know when we are going to fail Him? How does he respond to our failures? What was the eventual outcome for Peter?
4. Why did Satan have to ask permission of Jesus? What does this tell us about some of our trials in this life?
5. Luke 22:35-38 How was the “time with Jesus” going to be different from “the time without Jesus”? What should be our attitude to God’s provision when times are tougher?
6. Should Christians plan ahead?

Study 4: Jesus In the Garden of Gethsemane

Bible passage: Luke 22:39-53

1. Read Luke 22:39-42 – What was Jesus’ advice to His followers? How does prayer help us with escaping from temptation?
2. What conflict was going on in Jesus at this time? (see also Matthew 26:36-46) How is this a universal conflict?
3. Read Luke 22:43 – How do angels minister to us and strengthen us? How can they help us to endure spiritual struggles and conflicts? (Hebrews 1:14, Daniel 10:16-19, 1 Kings 19:4-8)

4. Read Luke 22:42-46 – How intense was the spiritual struggle of Jesus? How did this contrast with the spiritual struggle of the disciples?
5. Read Hebrews 5:7-10 – What was the glorious outcome of this spiritual struggle of Jesus?
6. Read Luke 22:47-48 – What was Jesus’ response to Judas? What did it indicate about the character of Judas?
7. Note the “fight or flight” response of the disciples in Luke 22:49-51 and Matthew 26:52-56. What does this teach us about Jesus’ attitude toward violence? Why is violence generally NOT a good option in times of stress and threat?
8. Read Luke 22:52-53 – How does Jesus challenge the legality and legitimacy of the actions of those who came out against Him?
9. What does Jesus mean by “But this is your hour, and the power of darkness”? How can the power of darkness come in like a flood for a short while? How does this remind us of the Tribulation? (Revelation 1:9, 14:12)

Study 5: Jesus Brought to Trial

Bible passage: Luke 22:54-71

Peter denies Christ out of fear, the soldiers mock Him, and the Sanhedrin condemns Him.

1. Read Luke 22:54-55 Who was Peter trying to inconspicuously hide amongst? How dangerous do you think this strategy was? Have you ever felt that you were a Christian in totally the wrong place at absolutely the wrong time?
2. Read Luke 22:56 How did Peter get caught out?
3. Read Luke 22:57-60 How did Peter react to the fear of being discovered? How does fear affect our ability to be a consistent Christian? Have you ever been in an environment where you felt you needed to pretend to NOT be a Christian?
4. Finally Peter is discovered by Jesus (Luke 22:61-62) What is his reaction? Have you ever been so deeply ashamed of yourself that you “went out and wept bitterly”?
5. Read Luke 22:63-65 and Matthew 15:16-20 How did the jailers and soldiers treat Jesus? Why do cruel people often mock religion and those who practice it?

6. Read Luke 22:66-69 Was it a fair trial? Were their minds already made up? What was Jesus' assessment of their understanding of truth?
7. Luke 22:69 is a very important New Testament teaching that is based in the Messianic Psalm 110. What is it saying about Jesus?
8. Read Luke 22:70-71 and Matthew 26:63-64 How does Jesus' reply offend the Sanhedrin?
9. How important is it to believe that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:5-20)

Study 6: Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

Bible passage: Luke 23:1-12

1. Read Luke 23:1-2 What are the accusations brought by the Sanhedrin members to Pilate? Why are they significant? What is their motive (Matthew 27:18-19)?
2. Read Luke 23:1-2 and John 18:33-37 What question does Pilate ask Jesus and how does Jesus reply? Where is Jesus King? How does this apply to modern politics?
3. What is the historical significance of Jesus' reply and how does it tie in to his genealogy?
4. What is Pilate's initial finding? (v.4) See also Matthew 27:19
5. Read Luke 23:5-7 How does Pilate try to get rid of the vexing question of Jesus? What is his "political out"? How do you think Pilate was feeling?
6. How did Herod initially react to having Jesus sent to him for trial? (v.8) c.f. Luke 9:7-9
7. How did Jesus react to the questions that Herod asked and why do you think that Jesus acted that way? (v.9) What was the atmosphere like? Who else was present?
8. What was Herod's final judgement on Jesus? (verse 11)

Study 7: Jesus On the way to the Cross

Bible passage: Luke 23:13-31

1. Read Luke 23:13-17 What was the verdict of both Pilate and Herod (non-Jews) about Jesus? Why do you think that Luke brings up this point?
2. Read Luke 23:18-25 How does the crowd get Pilate to go against his conscience? How many times did Pilate try to rescue Jesus? How can social pressure cause us to sin?
3. Who do they demand be released instead? Do you think that Barabbas realized that he had been set free by the death of Jesus? How is this an illustration of God's grace and man's wickedness at the same time?
4. Who was Simon of Cyrene? (Luke 23:36, Matthew 27:32, Mark 15:21, Acts 13:1, Romans 16:13)
5. Luke 23:27 What was the reaction of many people in Jerusalem to this gross injustice?
6. Luke 23:28-31 What was Jesus' reaction? What did He prophesy?
7. Luke 23:31 – What does Jesus mean by this statement? How does the spiritual climate affect the actions of people?

Study 8: Jesus and the two thieves

Bible passage: Luke 23:32-43

1. Read Luke 23:32-33 What is going on? How does this fulfill prophecy? (Isaiah 53:12, Ps 109:4)?
2. Read Luke 23:34 – The first words of Jesus from the Cross? Who is Jesus forgiving? How can Jesus ask God the Father to forgive unrepentant people? (see also Acts 7:60)
3. Despite the compassion of Jesus, the soldiers did what?? See also Ps 22:18, Matthew 27:35,36; John 19:23,24

4. Compare Psalm 22:6-8, 109:25 with the events of Luke 23:35-37. How can demons speak through people and fulfill prophecy? How can human free will be directed to this precise level of detail?
5. Read Luke 23:39 - What is the attitude of the first thief? Who was he thinking about (see the last two words)?
6. Read Luke 23:40-41 - What is the attitude of the second thief? What does it indicate?
7. Read Luke 23:42 – What does the second thief request of Jesus and how much faith would this take? What does this tell us about the requirements for basic salvation?
8. Read Luke 23:43 and 2 Corinthians 12:4 and Revelation 2:7 1 Peter 3:18-20 What did Jesus promise the second thief? What is Paradise? What places did Jesus go to after His death?

Study 9: The Death and Burial of Jesus

Bible passage: Luke 23:44-56

1. 1, Read Luke 23:46 and Psalm 31:5, Acts 7:59 - What is happening here? How does the spirit separate from the body? (Ecclesiastes 12:7)
2. What is so revolutionary about Acts 7:59 – “Lord Jesus receive my spirit!” what does it tell us about Jesus? (about a dozen different things)
3. Read Luke 23:47 and Matthew 27:54, Mark 15:39 - What was the reaction of the Centurion? Do you think he had ever seen anyone die the calm way that Jesus died? What does it mean to be righteous?
4. Read Luke 23:48-49 - How did the people feel? What was the immediate impact of Jesus’ death? Do you think they had a deep sense that something was terribly wrong with the Universe?
5. How do you react when there is a great and tragic injustice?
6. Read Luke 23:50-51 How is Joseph of Arimathea described? What does it mean to “wait for the Kingdom of God”?
7. Read Luke 23:52-53 and Matthew 27:59-60 What did Joseph do for Jesus? He may have been Mary’s father’s (Cleopas) brother, and Jesus’s uncle and thus entitled to the body. How did this fulfill prophecy? See Isaiah 53:9.

8. Read Luke 23:54-56 What was the role of the women who followed Jesus? Why were they at the grave?
9. Read Luke 23:56 How was the Sabbath observed by the women? What does this say about their faith?

Study 10: The Resurrection

Bible passage: Luke 24:1-12

1. Read Luke 24:1-12 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-1 How does Paul sort out the order of the resurrection appearances?
2. Why did the women see Jesus first and why is Mary Magdalene so important?
3. “Why do you seek the Living among the dead?” (verse 5) What did the angels mean by this?
4. “He is not here, He is risen!” (verse 6) how was this both shocking news and good news?
5. “The first day of the week” that is Sunday, the day after the Sabbath. The N.T. does not use names for days or months because they were named after pagan Gods e.g. Thursday (Thor’s day) and Galatians 4:10 indicates this is quite important. Why do you think that it has lost its spiritual importance?
6. How did the disciples react? Why did Peter run to the tomb?
7. What is the significance of the Resurrection for the Christian faith? (1 Corinthians 15:1-19)
8. When will we be resurrected? John 5:25-29, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8
9. What will our resurrection body be like? 1 Corinthians 15:35-55

Study 11: The Emmaus Road and The Ascension of Jesus

Bible passages: Luke 24:13 -32; Luke 24:33-53 (See also Acts 1:1-11, John 20:19-31)

1. Read Luke 24:13-19 - how does Jesus use questions to open up the two disciples to spiritual truth? Why were they “prevented from recognizing Him?” Why does God generally work in subtle ways rather than very evident ways?
2. What did the disciples on the Emmaus Road do after Jesus disappeared from their sight? (Luke 24:33-35)
3. Read Luke 24:36-43 and John 20:19,20 – How do these passages confirm the physical reality of the resurrection body of Jesus? Why did He still have the wounds of the Cross? How was Jesus still functional with those wounds in His hands, feet and side?
4. Read Luke 24:44 What was Jesus’ view of the Scriptures? How does that affect how Christians should view the Bible?
5. What needs to happen before we can fully understand the Bible? (Luke 24:45, 1 Corinthians 2:12-16, Romans 12:1,2)
6. Read Luke 24: 45-47 – What is Jesus’ quick summary of the Gospel?
7. How were the apostles to be witnesses? What were they to wait for in Jerusalem? How does this apply to us? (Acts 1:4-8, Luke 24:47-49)
8. Read John 20:21-23 – What additional details does the apostle John add to the story of how we are to be God’s witnesses?
9. Matthew also adds another set of instructions in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20), and Luke and Paul mention many resurrection appearances (Acts 1:3, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). What picture or impression do you get from this?
10. What is the Ascension (Acts 1:9-11, Luke 24:50-51) and why was it necessary? (Acts 2:32-36, Ephesians 4:7-13 especially v. 10)?
11. Where is Jesus now and what is He doing? (Acts 7:55-56, Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20-23, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 8:1-2 and 1 Peter 3:22)

God is Pure and Holy

The Fruit of the Spirit

Introduction

The “fruit of the Spirit” is a phrase that originates in Galatians 5:22-23:

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

But the idea of spiritual fruit flows throughout the New Testament. Read the following verses then make a comment after each verse to say what the verse tells us about spiritual fruit. You can do this in groups of two or three.

Matthew 3:8-10 *Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance. (9) And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones! (10) Even now the axe is ready to strike the root of the trees! Therefore every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.*

Matthew 7:15-20 *"Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. (16) You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? (17) In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. (18) A good tree can't produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. (19) Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (20) So you'll recognize them by their fruit.*

Matthew 13:23 *But the one sown on the good ground--this is one who hears and understands the word, who does bear fruit and yields: some 100, some 60, some 30 times what was sown.*

John 15:1-8 *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. (2) Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. (3) You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. (4) Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. (5) "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. (6) If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. (8) My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples.*

John 15:16 *You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.*

Ephesians 5:8-11 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light-- (9) for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth-- (10) discerning what is pleasing to the Lord. (11) Don't participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead, expose them.*

Philippians 1:9-11 *And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, (10) so that you can determine what really matters and can be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, (11) filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

James 3:17-18 *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without favouritism and hypocrisy. (18) And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

The Fruit of the Spirit: Love

When Jesus or the apostles talk about love they generally use a special Greek word called agape, which in older versions is translated “charity”, which means “brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence”. Agape love involves doing good to another and having their highest welfare in mind. It is love without a lot of self-interest involved.

READ 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

1. How important is “love” to our value as a human being?
2. How does “love” treat other people?
3. How does “love” think about others? What attitudes does it NOT have?
4. How does “love” regard the needs and feelings of others?
5. How does “love” react to irritating minor daily incidents?
6. How does “love” react to lies, scams, schemes and deceiving and tricking others?
7. How does “love” handle the tough times?
8. What important way is “love” different from things such as admiration, lust, passion and liking someone?

READ 1 John 3:16-18

How is the love of God to be reflected in the love Christians have for each other? What is wrong with ignoring the obvious needs of others?

READ 1 John 4:7-12

1. Who is the Source of love? (v.7,8)
2. How was love revealed to us? (v.9,10)
3. What should we do as a result? (V.7, 11)
4. How does love change or improve us? (V.7,12)

The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

Paul tells Christians to 'rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.' The Holy Spirit in us wants to make us joyful people. Joy is a choice to see the world a certain way. Joy involves a choice to see the good, the wonderful, the surprising and the positive in every situation – simply because God is in every situation and is ultimately working it for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). For each of the following verses comment on: a) The cause of joy – the circumstances, event or occasion, what happened. b) The lesson we can learn about being joyful

Matthew 5:11-12 *Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. (12) Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Matthew 13:44 *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.*

Romans 5:3-5 *And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, (4) endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. (5) This hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

Peace is inner stability and tranquillity combined with a deep spiritual sense of well-being. Anxiety and turmoil are its opposites. Peace comes through having a strong faith and a deep assured knowledge of God's goodness and also through prayer and thanksgiving. Meditating on the goodness and faithfulness of God brings us into a state of peace. Peace comes from fixing our mind's attention on the right things.

In the following verses find:

- a) The things we are to STOP thinking about, (or NOT think about).
- b) Where we are to FOCUS our minds., meditate, or contemplate.
- c) The LESSON, principle or obvious outcome

Philippians 4:6-9 *Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (8) Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable--if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise-dwell on these things. (9) Do what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Romans 8:5-6 *For those whose lives are according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those whose lives are according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. (6) For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace.*

James 3:13-18 *Who is wise and understanding among you? He should show his works by good conduct with wisdom's gentleness. (14) But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't brag and lie in defiance of the truth. (15) Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. (16) For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every kind of evil. (17) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without favouritism and hypocrisy. (18) And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Colossians 3:12-15 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender feelings of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, (13) forbearing one another and forgiving yourselves, if anyone has a complaint against any. As Christ forgave you, so also you do. (14) And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you also are called in one body, and be thankful.*

READ Philippians 4:6-9

1. How can Christians find inner peace?
2. What attitudes should we have?
3. Where should we direct thoughts?

The Fruit of the Spirit: Patience and Kindness

Colossians 3:12-13 *Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, (13) accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also you must forgive.*

Patience – is about how we tolerate the irritating faults of others and give them space to repent and to learn and to grow. God is patient with our faults so that we will learn to do better next time. (Romans 2:4) The Greek word used in Galatians 5:22 is “makrothumia” which means – takes a long while before getting angry.

Gentleness/ Kindness – is how we meet the needs of other people, especially those in our power and the weak, the injured, the poor and the vulnerable. The Good Samaritan was a kind person. (Luke 10:30-37) The Greek word used in Galatians 5:22 is “chrestotes” and is translated as gentleness, kindness, or usefulness. It means to be a useful person to those in need giving help that suits the person and the situation

Discuss with a partner:

How do you feel when people are:

- a) Impatient with you?
- b) Patient with you?
- c) Unkind to you?
- d) Kind to you?

In the following verses work out if possible:

- a) Who is being patient or kind or gentle with whom? (e.g. , God being patient with sinners)
- b) Why are they being patient or kind or gentle.
- c) What lesson, principle or conclusion we can learn from this?

Matthew 18:23-27 *For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. (24) When he began to settle accounts, one who owed 10,000 talents was brought before him. (25) Since he had no way to pay it back, his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt. (26) "At this, the slave fell face down before him and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!' (27) Then the master of that slave had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan.*

Romans 2:4 *Or do you despise the riches of His kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*

2 Timothy 2:24-25 *The Lord's slave must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient, (25) instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance to know the truth.*

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.*

Romans 12:12-13 *Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. (13) Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.*

1 Thessalonians 5:14 *And we exhort you, brothers: warn those who are lazy, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*

Galatians 6:1-2 *Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you won't be tempted also. (2) Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

Colossians 3:12-13 *Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, (13) accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also you must forgive.*

James 3:17-18 *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without favouritism and hypocrisy. (18) And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

The Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

Definitions:

- The state of being good; the physical qualities which constitute value, excellence or perfection
- The moral qualities which constitute Christian excellence and moral virtue

For the following verses find:

- a) The source of goodness – e.g. God, the indwelling Holy Spirit, or a person, action or work.
- b) The outcomes of the expression of goodness, or the ability that goodness imparts.
- c) Other virtues associated with goodness in the passage that assist its operation.

Romans 15:14 *Now, my brothers, I myself am convinced about you that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another.*

Ephesians 5:8-10 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light-- (9) for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth-- (10) discerning what is pleasing to the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 And in view of this, we always pray for you that our God will consider you worthy of His calling, and will, by His power, fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith, (12) so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by you, and you by Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 3:4-5 *But when the goodness and love for man appeared from God our Savior, (5) He saved us--not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

2 Peter 1:3-5 *For His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. (4) By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires. (5) For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge.*

The Fruit of the Spirit: Faith

(Note that some Bible translations identify this fruit as 'faithfulness')

Definition: reliance, trust, belief in God's promises, the ability to trustingly walk hand in hand with God.

In Galatians 5:22,23 this is sometimes translated faithfulness, but that is not quite correct, the word there is "pistis" which is the simple ordinary word for faith. Christian faith is like the faith of Abraham, who believed that the goodness and faithfulness of God would be active in his life despite "impossible" circumstances. The Holy Spirit causes Christians to grow in faith.

For the following verses find:

- a) What did they believe or what were they required to believe?
- b) What was the reward that they received when they believed?
- c) What is the faith principle or lesson that we can learn?

Hebrews 11:1,6 *Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.. Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.*

Matthew 8:5-10 *When He entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, (6) "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, in terrible agony!" (7) "I will come and heal him," He told him. (8) "Lord," the centurion replied, "I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. But only say the word, and my servant will be cured. (9) For I too am a man under authority, having soldiers under my command. I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes; and to another, 'Come!' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." (10) Hearing this, Jesus was amazed and said to those following Him, "I assure you: I have not found anyone in Israel with so great a faith! .. Then Jesus told the centurion, "Go. As you have believed, let it be done for you." And his servant was cured that very moment.*

Matthew 9:27-29 *As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, shouting, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" (28) When He entered the house, the blind men approached Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they answered Him. (29) Then He touched their eyes, saying, "Let it be done for you according to your faith!"*

James 5:15-18 *The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (16) Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The intense prayer of the righteous is very powerful. (17) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours; yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. (18) Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit.*

The Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness and Self-control

Gentleness (or meekness) and self-control both have to do with how we use the power we have within us.

A meek and gentle person is strong but uses that strength wisely and carefully to help others and not to put them down or oppress them. They put aside their own importance in order to serve others. The Greek word is “*prautes*” and also means gentleness or humility.

A person with self-control has mastery over their own actions and energy. They can control their own behaviour and have command over the decisions that they make. They have the ability to refrain from evil thought, words and actions. A person displaying these fruits often has goals. For example, an athlete will exercise self-control over his appetite in order to win a race.

Meekness / Gentleness

For the following verses find:

- a) Who is being meek?
- b) What are the consequences , effects or results of being meek?
- c) What lesson or principle can we learn from this?

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek! For they shall inherit the earth.*

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to Me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls. (30) For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.*

Ephesians 4:1-3 *I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the calling with which you are called, (2) with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, (3) endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Self-control

Definition:

- Controlling your own behaviour
- The ability to have command over the choices you make
- Showing restraint

Self-control is often with reference to bodily appetites such as food, drink and sex and to physical passions such as rage. It is a key ingredient in the battle between the Spirit and the flesh (Galatians 5:16-18, Romans 8:4-6)

In the following verses find (if possible):

- a) The consequences of lacking self-control
- b) The benefit of exercising self-control

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 *Do you not know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. (25) Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. (26) Therefore I do not run like one who runs aimlessly, or box like one who beats the air. (27) Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

2 Peter 1:5-8 *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, (6) knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, (7) godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. (8) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in life in Christ.*

Galatians 5:22-24 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires*

God is Creator

In a world full of lies and illusions, claims and counter-claims, politics and conspiracies how can a Christian be certain of knowing even a fragment of the truth? How can we know reality from non-reality? For instance, how can we know which religion is the right religion and which holy book's claims are true? Part of the answer is found in looking at the evidence supplied by God's Creation.

Romans 1:19-20 *Because that which is known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things made, both His eternal power and divinity, so that they are without excuse.*

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.*

The Bible tells us that even those who have never heard about Jesus, or only heard about Him in a bad light, should be able to work out who the true God is – the One who created the heavens and the earth. Although many other religions acknowledge a Creator of the universe, only the God of the Bible has the Divine character of the true God. He is the only one who is loving, yet pure, holy, righteous, and at the same time a personal God who can communicate with us.

Why a Young Age for the Earth?

Because Christians rely on the Bible as a true source of history, we are able to use the Bible to roughly calculate the age of the earth. Truly Biblical Christians believe in a 'young earth'.

Insisting that the earth and the universe are young, only 6,000 years old or so, does not make the biblical view popular in today's enlightened "scientific" culture. It would be so easy just to go along with the view believed and followed by the overwhelming majority of scientists—and taught in nearly all universities and museums around the world—that the universe is 13–14 billion years old and the earth 4.5 billion years old.

After all, many Christians and even some scientists who are Christians, believe in such a vast antiquity for the earth and universe. Consequently, they even insist the days in Genesis 1 were not literal days, but were countless millions of years long. Also, they claim the Genesis account of creation by God is just poetic and/or figurative, so it is not meant to be read as history.

The reason that we teach a 'young earth and universe' in our curriculum is because other biblical authors took Genesis as literal history and an eyewitness account provided and guaranteed accurate by the Creator Himself (2 Timothy 3:16a; 2 Peter 1:21). Jesus also took Genesis as literal history (Mark 10:6–9; Matthew 19:4–5; Luke 17:27). So, the outcome of letting Scripture interpret Scripture is a young earth and universe. The Hebrew language and context used in Genesis 1 can only mean literal (24 hour) days. Furthermore, as history, the genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 provide an accurate chronology, so that from the creation

of the first man, Adam, to the present day is only about 6,000 years. Since the earth was only created five literal days before Adam, then on the authority of God's Word, the earth is only about 6,000 years old.

Does the Earth Look Old?

Nevertheless, most people, including some Christians, would still claim dogmatically that the earth looks old. But why does the earth supposedly look old? And how old does the earth really look? If we rightly ask such questions, then we are likely to get closer to the right answers.

Using the Right Glasses: Worldviews affect how one sees rock layer formation

Looking at the world through "glasses" that are based on human reasoning alone (man's word) makes people wrongly think the earth looks really old. On the other hand, when we as Christians see the world through the biblical "glasses" provided by God's inerrant Word—so that we see the world as God sees it—we can assert unashamedly that the earth does not really look that old at all, being only about 6,000 years old (which, of course, is young). Indeed, the earth we see today is the way it looks because it is the destroyed remains of the original earth God created, still marred by the subsequent Curse.

Furthermore, not only should we understand that the Bible provides the true history of the earth, but that history tells us the earth only looks the way it does today because of what happened in the past. In other words, the past is the key to the present!

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.

Questions and answers on Genesis chapter 1

1. What is Genesis 1 about?

It recounts the creation of the heavens, the earth, and all living things, emphasizing God's sovereignty and the goodness of creation.

2. How did God create the world?

God spoke everything into existence, bringing order, life, and beauty to the universe.

3. Why are humans special in creation?

Because they are made in the image of God, reflecting His character and given authority over the earth.

4. What does Genesis 1 teach about God?

It shows God's power, wisdom and sovereignty over all creation.

5. What lesson does Genesis 1 teach believers today?

God's creativity, order, and care call for worship, stewardship, and recognition of His authority over all life.

Activities

1. Read the Creation account from Genesis chapters 1 & 2. In diary form, summarize the days of Creation.
2. Read Genesis chapter 3 and in your own words explain how God's perfect creation became imperfect.
3. Write out in full the Bible verses listed in the last paragraph on page 19.
4. Why do young earth creationist NOT believe in millions of years?
5. 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.
6. Discuss your view about the age of the earth.
7. What is the origin of the idea of 'no absolutes'?
8. Why is a correct understanding of Genesis foundational to an understanding of Salvation?
9. Draw a cartoon showing the war between evolutionists and Christianity. Show who's aiming for the foundations and who's aiming for the issues.

References:

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 Betten and Jonathan Sarfati

Created to be inhabited

Dr Mark Harwood

creation.com

In 1969, when observing the Earth from the moon, Apollo astronaut James Irwin said, “When you lean far back and look up, you can see the earth like a beautiful, fragile Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space”.

The delicate blue shell of the atmosphere, the deep blue of the sea, the brown continents, the white polar caps and smudges of cloud, all in stark contrast with the pitch blackness of space with its myriads of stars, make the earth the most beautiful place in the universe.

There is a hidden beauty about our planet that makes it apparent that earth is extraordinarily well suited to be the home for mankind, just as it has been designed to be. Let's explore just a few of the amazing features of our planet that make it so well suited for life.

Earth's orbit

Planet Earth moves in a nearly perfectly circular orbit in what is called the circumstellar habitable zone, or 'Goldilocks' zone, around the sun. This zone is where liquid water can exist so it is not too hot, to prevent all the water from boiling away, and not too cold, to prevent all the water from freezing solid.

For liquid water to exist on a planet, that planet must have a solid surface and an atmosphere providing sufficient pressure at the surface to prevent all the water evaporating. In fact, on earth, water can and does exist in all three states (liquid, solid (ice) and water vapour) and can move relatively easily between them. If the earth's orbit were highly elliptical, there would be large variations in temperature, making the environment unsuitable for life.

Earth's spin

The earth spins on its axis once per solar day, providing variation of night and day and providing colourful displays in the clouds at sunrise and sunset. The rotation of the earth helps to regulate the temperature around the globe so no one part becomes too hot or too cold. If the earth were tidally locked to the sun, as the moon is to the earth, one side would be permanently facing the sun, and would be searingly hot, with the other in permanent frozen darkness.

Earth's axis

The axis of the earth is tilted about 23.5 degrees with respect to the plane in which the earth orbits the sun, so we experience a variation of seasons each year. In the northern hemisphere summer, the North Pole is tilted towards the sun so the sun is higher in the sky and the days are longer than the nights. At the same time the southern hemisphere is experiencing its winter. The reverse is true six months later. When the sun passes through

Earth's equatorial plane, the days and nights are of equal length. This is called equinox and occurs in late March and late September.

The variation of seasons is vital for many forms of life to thrive. The annual cycle of cold to warm seasons regenerates plants and animals and serves to measure the passing of time with variety in the weather conditions around us. The warmth of summer gives way to the glorious colours of autumn, then to the repose of winter followed by the explosion of new life in the spring.

Our Moon

Orbiting around the earth every 29.5 days, the moon serves a vital role in making the earth suitable for habitation. At around one-eightieth of the mass of the earth, our moon is far larger compared with its planet than any other of the more than 60 moons in the solar system. One of the most evident influences of the moon, apart from being a source of light at night (reflected sunlight), is to be the principal cause of tides in the oceans of the world.

Each day sees two high tides and two low tides, which repeat on an approximately 25-hour cycle. These tides are essential for circulating and oxygenating the coastal waters in bays and river estuaries around the world to promote marine ecosystems and avoid stagnation. If the moon was much smaller, like other moons in the solar system, the tides would be ineffective in supporting coastal life. If it were much larger, the coasts would be subject to massive destructive tides twice a day.

Solar Eclipses

Perhaps the most breathtaking natural phenomenon on earth is a total solar eclipse. Some years ago, I experienced a total solar eclipse and, although the sun was unfortunately obscured by cloud, the eerie darkness and chill wind that immediately arose were spine-tingling. Although it is 400 times larger than the moon, the sun is 400 times further away, and so both look to be almost exactly the same size in the sky. This means that on rare occasions, when the alignments are precisely correct, the moon will block out the light from the intensely bright photosphere of the sun for just two minutes or so, which enables us to observe the sun's thin faint chromosphere and the spectacular corona with its huge prominences. The region of totality is no more than about 200 km (120 miles) across, and it races across the surface of the earth from west to east.

Astronomers have learnt much about the nature of the sun, and therefore the stars, because of total solar eclipses. If the moon were much bigger, the chromosphere would only be fleetingly visible at the onset and end of an eclipse. If it were just a little smaller, totality would not occur and eclipses would hardly even be noticed. But the probability that such an amazing match of apparent size would just happen by chance is miniscule.

Earth's atmosphere

Consisting of 78% nitrogen and 21% oxygen, earth's atmosphere forms a thin sheath around the globe, held there by gravity, protecting and nourishing life on the planet. The

atmosphere is contained within about 100 km (60 miles) of the earth's surface, which is only about 1.5% of its radius, about the same proportions as the skin of an apple.

Scattering the sun's light, the oxygen and nitrogen molecules produce a blue canopy which permits us to normally see only the sun and moon by day, but at night the atmosphere becomes transparent to reveal the planets and the stars. Oxygen is vital for life for all air-breathing creatures, but too much oxygen would make the air dangerously combustible, and too little would not provide sufficient for life to thrive. Additionally, there is a variable amount of water vapour, around 1% at sea level, and less than 0.04% carbon dioxide, along with traces of other gases. Carbon dioxide is essential for plant life which, through the amazing process of photosynthesis, takes in carbon dioxide and gives out oxygen. The atmosphere helps regulate the temperature of the earth and transports water vapour to facilitate the hydrological cycle of evaporation and precipitation (rainfall and snow, etc.) to distribute water around the earth. The interaction between the energy radiated from the sun and the atmosphere influences the weather patterns around the world, which in turn influence living things.

Water

The most abundant substance on the planet is water, the chemical formula for which is H₂O. The unique geometry of the H₂O molecule gives water a number of properties vital for life.

Water, unlike most liquids, expands on freezing, so ice floats on water. This prevents lakes and rivers from freezing from the bottom up, so preserving many forms of aquatic life during winter. The amount of energy required to freeze, melt, boil or condense one gram of H₂O is higher than for almost all other substances, which means that water is very effective at moderating the earth's climate and acting as a coolant for larger animals. Also, the high surface tension of liquid water makes it effective in capillary action in soils, plants and biological systems. Around 72% of the earth's surface is covered in water.

If the mountains were lowered and the ocean basins raised so the earth was a perfect sphere, the oceans would cover the Earth to a depth of around 3 km (2 miles).

How amazing is that?

The more we learn about our planet the more amazed we are at how extraordinarily well suited it is for life. The evidence is not consistent with natural processes occurring randomly over vast periods of time. Those who believe there is a Creator God, as revealed in the book of Genesis, are not surprised to find evidence of amazingly intricate design reflecting the power, intelligence and care of the God who made us. So when we see such things, we realise there is a Designer who made planet Earth to be our home. Isaiah 45:18 says, "For this is what the LORD says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited"

References and notes

1. Irwin, J. and Emerson, W.A., To Rule the Night, A.J. Holman Company, Nashville, 1973 (first edition), p. 11.
2. Sarfati, J. The wonders of water, Creation 20(1):44–47, 1997; creation.com/water.
3. Catchpoole, D., In pursuit of plant power, 25 September 2012; creation.com/plantpower.
4. Cousteau, J., The Ocean World of Jacques Cousteau—Oasis In Space, Angus & Robertson (U.K.) Ltd. London, England, p.17, 1973.

About the author

Mark Harwood B.Sc., B.E. (Hons), Ph.D.

Dr Harwood worked in the aerospace industry for 30 years and played a key role in the development of Australia's national satellite system. He now speaks regularly for CMI-Australia.

Activities

1. Compare living on Mars with living on Earth. Write an article explaining the difficulties of living on Mars compared to living on Earth.
2. How does the moon help us live on Earth?
3. How does the atmosphere help us to live on Earth?
4. Explain how water supports life.