

The unabridged writings of Fred Morris, Manna Publications

History of the Bible

BEGINNINGS

To the reader: Keep your Bible beside you. Always read your Bible first, then read these notes. Check the references and read them also. Invite a friend to study with you. You will be blessed.

THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING

We are alive because God gave us life and breath and everything else (Acts 17:25). The Bible says God was always there. He was there before the beginning of the world. Before he made the heavens and earth, God was there. He always will be there. He does not need anyone to give him anything.

God is life and his life never ends. So God has no beginning and no end. We call God's life eternal life. Eternal life goes on and on, for ever and ever.

We all had a beginning when God gave us life. A person's life begins in a mother's womb. Then we are born. We are alive because God gives us life. Life here will end, but God will always be.

God is above and around us. He is everywhere all the time. He is not in nature but he is always near. And he loves us even more than our parents do. 'Take all your troubles to him because he cares for you,' the Bible says.

The Bible is God's Word. The Bible tells us the truth about God. In the Bible God tells us how he made our world and people. God did not tell us everything, but everything we need to know.

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It is in the Old Testament. It tells us the truth about God's creation - how and what he made. The Old Testament also tells us what happened before Jesus came to live on the earth. It is the history of God at work in the world.

GOD IN HIS CREATION

We can see God's wonderful work in nature and in the night sky. The large number of plants, animals and stars tell us that God has great power. God created all these things and we cannot change them. We cannot stop the sun rising or the tide coming in.

God is greater than his creation. He works in and through his creation. He is King over heaven and earth. The Bible says 'He is Lord of all.' He is the Most High God. God is Lord and King because he made the world. Everything in it belongs to him. Since God made me, he is my Lord, too.

We know from God's Word that God is a person. God thinks. He plans. He creates. He spoke and the earth was there! He loves the world and the people he made. He wants us to love him.

WE CAN KNOW GOD

In the Bible, God tells us about himself. We can know him just like we can know another person. God had a wonderful way to show us what he is like. First he showed us in things he created how great he is. Then he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

Jesus is God. He was in heaven with the Father. He told the Jewish leaders, 'I already was before Abraham was born' (John 8:58).

They knew what he meant. Jesus was always with God the Father in heaven, even before he created the heavens and earth.

Now Jesus Christ 'upholds' all things. That means he is in control. Nothing happens without him. And he does everything in a way that pleases him.

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

So what kind of a person is God? God is a spirit but God is a person, too. God loves and cares. He does no wrong thing and he is not happy with the wrong things people do. These bad things are called sin. And we do them because our lives are wrong.

Before time began, God had the creation of the world in his thoughts. He also knew us by our names, even before we were born. He even knows each hair on your head. God is very great. He knows everything. He knows what will happen tomorrow and who will be born next year. Our minds can't think how great and wonderful God is.

Long ago a prophet of God wrote, 'O Lord, you are my God. You do such wonderful things. You planned them long ago, and now you have made them, just as you said' (Isaiah 25:1).

GOD'S WORDS

Genesis is at the beginning of the Bible. In Genesis we read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1). The earth was empty and dark. Then God's Spirit moved over it.

No people! No morning! No evening! No sunrise! No sunset! No day and weeks and months! Then God set the land in one place and the waters of the seas in another. He created time. God made the weeks and days, with mornings and evenings. God created the trees and animals, then he created Adam, the first man on the earth.

Read Genesis Chapter 1

The word 'create' is a very special word. It belongs to God alone and to his work. Only the Living God could create the heavens and the earth out of nothing. Men only make things out of what God has already created.

The Hebrew word for 'create' is used three times in the first part of Genesis. In verse **1**, God created 'heavens and earth,' that means 'everything.' In verse **21**, God created animals. In verse **27**, God created man.

At first the earth had no shape. It was empty and God's Spirit moved over it (Gen 1:2). God made a lot of space. Our space ships have seen a little of that space, but there seems to be no end to it.

Man's space ships travel for years at high speeds and still there is further to go.

THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION

God said everything he made was good. God loves good things. We see this in the world around us. He told Adam how he created the earth and all the things in it. This is written in Genesis chapter 1 and you can read it for yourself.

We must thank God for the Bible which tells what happened 'In the beginning'. If we did not have the Bible, we would not know where this wonderful earth came from. Or why we live here.

Men have written many things about how they think this earth was made, but they are only ideas. No one can prove their ideas right. God did not tell everything about how he created the heavens and the earth, but he told us everything we need to know. The

creation took place because God wanted it. He spoke the words to do it and he said it was good. We read about this in the Bible. We believe the Bible is true.

GOD SPEAKS

God speaks. God spoke at creation. His words are special and they are true. His words about creation are in the Bible. The Bible tells us things that happened long ago. It is God's word to us. We can understand what it says when we read it.

God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light. There could not be life on the earth without light and heat and God wanted to create life. He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light 'day.' The darkness he called 'night.' When the light appeared God said it was 'good'. Everything God does is good.

Then God pushed the waters back into the seas. At first it did not rain. No water fell from the sky. The earth was covered by a mist that kept the ground wet.

GOD CREATED ALL LIFE

God was pleased with the heavens and earth he had created. They were just as he had thought of them and planned them. He 'saw that his creation was good'. So he said, 'Let the land grow grass, herbs and trees with fruit with seed in it'. He placed life in every tiny seed. Only God can create life. Even seeds left in a dry place for hundreds of years will grow when they are planted. That is because every seed has life in it. God gives life to every animal and plant.

Life is precious because God gave it. All life comes from him. He created one kind of life in the trees and the plants. Another kind of life in the fish, and still another kind of life in the animals.

God created 'everything after its own kind.' Seeds always grow baby plants that are just like the parent plants. This is because God said it must be so. Every kind would make its own kind. This is a part of God's order in creation.

Animals and people must have air to breathe, so God created plants to help make the air we need. We must care for the plants and the trees.

SUN AND MOON SET THE TIME

God created the sun to give the hours of light. He would allow darkness, but only for some of the time. The sun gives light and heat to the earth. Plants use this to grow. The sun keeps the earth warm so that we do not get cold and die. God also made the seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter. He made the stars and set them in their places. They always stay in the paths God gave them.

BIRDS AND ANIMALS

Then God said, 'Let the seas be filled with fish and let the birds fly in the sky above.' This happened very soon. God spoke and there were great big fish in the sea and small fish for them to eat. God was not happy to make just one or two kinds. He made hundreds of different kinds of fish and birds and creeping things.

The land was covered with just as many grasses and plants. Then God created the animals and the insects to eat the plants. There were pigs, male and female; there were chickens, male and female; there were horses, male and female. There were monkeys and camels; there were very many insects and creatures that crawled on the ground.

At last all of God's creation was in place. The earth, seas, trees, fruits, plants, insects, birds, fish and animals. Then God made the first people.

Read Genesis chapter 2

On the fifth day, God finished making all these wonderful things, but 'there was no

man to work the ground.' The earth needed someone to care for it, so God created man to do this work. The man would be caretaker of God's creation. Caretakers watch over other people's property.

The Bible tells us how God made man. God made Adam, the first man, like himself. 'The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into him the breath of life and the man became a living person' (Gen 2:7). Adam had an ever-living spirit like God's.

Adam had a mind and he could think things through. He could know God and be his friend. God could have fellowship with Adam.

The animals cannot talk to God or know God as man can. God wanted a person to love, someone like himself, so he made a man, Adam, 'in his own image.'

The Bible says, 'People were made like God' (James 3:9). Adam was a grown-up person who could talk to God and listen to what he said. He did not make noises like the pigs. He spoke the words of a language, and he understood what God was saying to him. He knew what was right and could choose to do right.

But animals do not have a spirit life, like man. Man is not like anything else that God created. He is not like animal or fish; or bird or tree. Man can think like God. He can know what is right and choose to do it. We say man is a moral being.

A PLACE FOR ADAM

God is loving and very wise. When God made Adam, he took him to a special garden (Gen 2:8). God made this garden in Eden. God put every good thing in the garden for Adam to enjoy. Everything Adam needed grew there.

God told Adam to live in the garden and take care of it. He told Adam how to care for the plants and animals. His plan was for man to rule over the creation.

Because God said 'rule over creation,' man likes to be a leader. And he needs work. A man is not happy if he has no work! God told Adam what to do and the things he should not do. He told him how to rule justly and with care. Everything God tells us to do is good for us. God is love and God is just and right.

Adam was caretaker in the God's garden, and God talked to him about everything. Adam must have been very busy, for he was alone. Only God and the animals came to visit him.

Then God told Adam to give the animals names. The animals came to Adam and he gave all of them names.

A FRIEND FOR ADAM

After all the animals passed by, God looked at Adam. He sat there all alone. 'It is not good,' God said. 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a friend for him, a helper to meet his needs' (Gen 2:18).

God knew Adam needed one of his own kind, a person who would suit him, so he created Eve. She was like Adam. While Adam slept, God took a rib from his side and made a female person.

'In his image...Male and female God created them' (Gen 1:27). Eve, also, was made 'in God's image' or like God.

When Adam awoke, God brought Eve to him. He saw at once that she was like him. 'She is lovely. She is part of my own body,' he said. What Adam meant was, 'She is not like the animals. She is just like me. She will be a special friend to me.'

Then Adam named her, too. He called the woman 'Eve' and she shared in everything he did. Eve was Adam's wife.

On the sixth day God stopped creating. God did not create anything more after he created Eve. God called the next day 'a holy day' or 'Sabbath.' This was to be a day of

rest and worship for Adam and Eve. Each Sabbath they thanked God for what he had done. They stopped working in the garden and worshipped their Creator.

God put his own spirit in Adam and Eve. He gave them life that would go on forever. All life comes from God, so man must obey him and worship him only (Exodus 20:3).

Read Genesis chapter 3

God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Gen 1:31). He created Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, and took them to a beautiful garden in Eden. He put all kinds of fruit and nut trees in the garden. Adam and Eve had everything they needed.

The garden was a safe place. God told Adam to work the garden and take care of it. And to take care of Eve. God was King and Adam and Eve did what God told them to do.

Adam and Eve were husband and wife. At that time God gave us a marriage law and it has never been changed. God's marriage law said, 'A man will leave his father and mother, and will be joined to his wife. And they will become one flesh' (Gen 2:24).

God made natural laws. He set the stars to follow a path. They do not wander all over the sky. They move in perfect order. The universe is full of God's order. The order in creation follows natural laws.

When I was a boy I climbed trees. When I fell out of a tree, I always fell down, never up. This is one of God's natural laws. We call it gravity. All God's laws are for our good. And God's marriage law is most important (Gen 2:24).

God told Adam and Eve to have children and take charge of the earth. They had work to do in the garden. They could not do this alone; they needed children to help them. And they had to teach their children about God. God also wanted order in our families.

God told them what to do. He did not leave them to find their own way. He was always there to guide and help them.

Every day, God walked and talked with Adam and Eve. He wanted them to get to know him and love him as a very dear friend.

GOD GAVE ADAM A COMMAND

God said to Adam: 'You are free to eat fruit from any tree in the garden, but do not eat from the tree of good and bad learning. For the day you eat from it you will die' (Gen 2:16 NLV).

God was King and this was his command. Adam could understand God's command. He knew God's words were true.

God loved Adam and wanted only the best for him. He knew what was good for the man. He wanted to protect Adam and Eve from danger and teach them to obey him.

If Adam obeyed God it would be easy to work the garden. God created Adam free to choose. Adam could choose to obey God or choose not to obey. To not obey God is very wrong; it is sin. And God said 'all sin will be punished' (Romans 6:23).

SATAN WAS PUT OUT OF HEAVEN

Satan was once a beautiful angel, but he was proud and wanted to be greater than God. God put Satan out of heaven because he sinned. God hates sin and cannot have sin near Him.

Other angel spirits followed Satan. All the angels spirits who did not obey God were put out of heaven. There are many of these evil spirits, with Satan as their leader. In the Bible they are called demons. Satan uses demon spirits to try to gain power over men and women. He is our great enemy.

Satan wanted to spoil God's creation. He came into the garden looking for Adam and Eve. He used the snake in the garden to speak to Eve. The snake may have been very beautiful. It was more able to trick others than any animal God had made (Gen 3:1).

Eve heard Satan's voice speaking to her. He said things about God that were not true. Satan wanted Eve to choose the wrong way, then he could get power over the man and his wife. Satan wanted to be 'king' over God's creation.

'God cannot lie' (Heb 6:18). Everything God says is true. All lies come from Satan. The Bible says, 'The bad spirit, the devil... is a liar, and all lies come from him' (John 8:44).

'Did God really say, you should not eat from any tree in the garden?' Satan asked Eve. Satan changed God's words to make God seem unfair. Did God really care for Eve and her husband?

Eve told Satan, 'God said, do not touch or eat fruit from the tree in the center of the garden, or you will die' (Gen 3:3).

Did Eve believe what God had said? Did she believe what Satan told her? She had to choose between God's command and Satan's lie. She had to make a choice. We, too, must choose what is right!

THE FIRST SIN

Satan saw that Eve was not sure. Her faith in God was not strong, so Satan quickly took control. He said to Eve, 'No, for sure you will not die! For God knows when you eat from the tree, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad' (Gen 3:5). Satan told Eve a lie. He is the 'father of lies.' Eve wanted to have her own way, so she put out her hand and took some of the fruit and ate it. It was the fruit God told them not to eat. Then she gave the fruit to Adam, who was with her, and he ate some. Maybe he just wanted to please his wife.

That day, in the beautiful garden in Eden, a very bad thing happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command. God had created them free to choose, but Satan came and tempted them. When they were tempted, Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. They listened to Satan and obeyed him instead of God.

They did wrong and their sin turned their hearts away from God. Sin cut them off from the Creator who gave them life. God left them because he is holy and cannot have sin near him.

What happened? Did they drop dead? No, their bodies did not die then, but death came to their spirits. They were lost from God. The wrong things we do, and say, and think, cut us off from God. Sin comes between friends and even husbands and wives.

'The wrong things you do have cut you off from God. Because of this He has turned His face away from you and He will not listen any more.' This is what Isaiah the prophet said many years later (Isaiah 59:2).

ADAM AND EVE KNEW THEY HAD DONE WRONG

Nothing seemed right any more for Adam and Eve. They were afraid of their Creator-God, and they felt shame because they were naked. What had happened? They had listened to Satan and obeyed him. Now Satan was their master and sin held them tight. Satan had them in his hand.

They knew they had done wrong. They knew they had sinned against God, and they felt very bad inside. They knew they were naked and they felt shame (Gen 3:7).

They were slaves to sin. It was hard to choose right. And Adam and Eve did not want to obey God anymore.

God gave us a way to know when we do wrong. We do not feel good about ourselves. Something inside, called our conscience, says to us, 'You have done wrong.' God gave every man a conscience that helps him know right from wrong.

THEY TRIED TO HIDE THEIR SHAME

Eve found some big leaves and sewed them together to make aprons (skirts). She and Adam tried to hide their shame behind the aprons. They put on the aprons and crept away into the woods. They knew God would be coming to talk with them. He always came to the garden in the evening when it was cool.

Would he come? Would he stop loving them? No! He did not stop loving them, but He was very sorry. When we disobey God's laws it hurts God, it hurts us and it hurts others.

In the evening God came to the garden to talk with His friends. Adam and Eve were hiding because they knew they had done wrong. How foolish for them to think they could hide from God.

The Bible says 'No one can hide from God. His eyes see everything we do. We must give an answer to God for what we have done' (Hebrews 4:13).

There is only one way for the man who has lost God to come back to him. He must be sorry for his sin and wrong doing. He must tell God he is sorry for the wrong things he has done.

God wanted Adam and Eve to 'own' their sin and be sorry for disobeying his command. He wanted Adam to confess his sin, so God came calling to Adam, "Where are you" (Gen 3:9)?

Adam was afraid. He did not want God to find him. Fear in our hearts is a very bad thing. Fear comes from Satan and not from God. 'God has not given us a spirit of fear. He has given us a spirit of power and love and self-control' (2 Timothy 2:7).

God's law said, 'the person that sins must die.' Adam had done wrong. It was his own wrong doing. How could God be just and fair and still let Adam and Eve live? God had a plan. He would make a blood sacrifice for them. So God took an animal and killed it. Then he made coats for Adam and Eve from the animal's skin (Gen 3:21).

This was God's way of covering their sin and shame. Their own clothes, made of leaves, were the work of their own hands. God said we cannot cover our sin by anything we do. We cannot atone or make payment to God for our sins.

THE EFFECT OF DOING WRONG

You may ask, 'How could God create a world with so much sickness and suffering in it?' The answer is that God created a perfect world. God said everything He created was 'very good.'

But people have obeyed Satan, and he has become their master. They are sinners and sin makes sickness and war.

Our bad ways have turned the world into a sad and troubled place. The Bible says, 'All have done wrong and all are far from being as good as God' (Rom 3:23). This happened because one man (Adam) did a wrong thing. Adam's sin passed to all men.

God did not give up on Adam and Eve, or on the beautiful world He had created. He calls to all men to leave their sin and come back to Him. Man does not seek after God, but God calls to man. He wants to be friends again.

'Where are you, Adam?' God called. Of course God knew where Adam was. He knew Adam and Eve were hiding. God wanted Adam to come to him and say he had done wrong. He wanted to forgive Adam and Eve for what they had done and be friends again.

Do you think Adam and Eve were sorry? No! They blamed each other. Eve said it was the snake's fault, and Adam blamed God for giving him Eve as his wife (Gen 3:12).

The Bible says we cannot blame others for the bad things we do. We cannot blame our mothers, or say that we grew up in a poor part of the country, or that we had bad friends when we were young. God says, 'Every person must give account....' (Matthew 12:36).

SHUT OUT OF HEAVEN

Because God is just and fair, he must punish sin. So God put Adam and Eve out of the garden and closed the way back. A mighty angel guarded the way back with a sword of fire (Gen 3:24).

God told Adam and Eve some sad things that would happen because of their sin. God told Eve, ' You will give birth to children in pain...' To Adam God said, ' The ground is cursed because of you. By hard work you will eat food from it all the days of your life' (Gen 3:17). That was the worst day in the history of the world.

From that day on Adam had to dig the hard ground to get only small crops. He worked long and hard in the hot sun to get enough food for his family. And every time Eve had a baby she had pain. All this was part of the curse that came on man and woman because of their sin. Sin always makes trouble. Sin causes us pain.

Mighty angels guarded the way to the garden and a sword of fire turned this way and that. The garden was a picture of heaven and the sword a picture of God's judgment on sin. Sin must be cut off before any sinner can enter heaven.

If God had judged Adam and Eve for their sin, they would have died right then. And we would not be here now!

GOD'S WAY TO STOP DOING WRONG

In this time of trouble, God promised to send a Saviour. One day, when the time was right, God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to undo all that was wrong in man's heart. He came "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). God said, 'All have sinned...' (Rom 3:23). Jesus was God born as a man. He was mankind, just like you and me. He came to be one with us. He was God come to earth. (Matt 1:23). He was born in Bethlehem.

'God was in Jesus, the Son. He was working through Jesus to bring the whole world back to Himself' (2 Cor 5:19).

The whole world was lost in sin and cut off from God. When Adam sinned, he passed his sinful nature on to his children. And they passed the same sinful nature on to their children. So the Bible says, ' There is not one person who is right with God. No, not even one. There is no one who tries to find God' (Psalm 14:2).

GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST SIN

We need to be saved from our wrong and bad ways and have God as our friend again. Only Jesus Christ can save us from our sins. He came to die in our place. He took our punishment. Because we are sinners, like Adam, we hide. We try to cover up our sins. We blame others. Why is this? Because we have Adam's wrong nature inside. We have his sinful ways. We do not obey God. And our hearts are always turning away from him.

Jesus Christ, God's Son, was perfect. He had no sin. Only Jesus Christ could die instead of us sinners. He died on a cross of wood. This was the kind of death used for very bad people. Jesus died to be the perfect sacrifice for sinful man.

'We were weak and could not help ourselves. Then Christ came at the right time and gave His life for all sinners.' He gave His own life in place of your life and mine.

When we tell God we are sorry for our sins, He will forgive us because Jesus died in our place. He will take away our sin and our friendship with Him will be made right again. We can walk and talk with him just as Adam and Eve did in the garden. God wants us to do this. He is waiting to be our friend. He wants to take our spirits to heaven to live with him when we die (John 14:2-3).

GOD'S GREAT PLAN

God had a great plan to save men from sin. His plan was in Jesus Christ, his Son. His

plan was for men to `Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved' (Acts 16:31).

When God saves us from our sins, we are born again by His Spirit (John 3:8). He makes our spirits 'alive,' so that we can be his friends. When we pray, we talk with him. When we read the Bible, he talks to us. This is possible because God sends his Spirit to live in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is God's voice in our hearts. He helps us live right lives. He gives us joy and peace in our hearts as we obey God's word.

WE CAN HAVE WHAT ADAM LOST

God promised to give back (restore) to us all the blessings Adam lost. When we trust in Jesus as our Saviour, God gives us these blessings. They are a free gift. "Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

If you trust Jesus as your Saviour, you will go to heaven when you die. Saved sinners go to heaven because Jesus took their punishment. Now the gate to heaven is open to all men who believe in Jesus.

Ask Jesus to save you from your sins. Then read more about God's plan for you in the Bible. You will find joy and peace when you are made right with God. God will help you and be your friend.

"There's a way back to God
From the dark paths of sin,
That way is now open and you may go in.
At Calvary's cross is where you begin,
When you come as a sinner to Jesus."

New Testament Verses

God is a person	John 17:1-3
God is three Persons, but One God	Matthew 28:19
God is Spirit	John 4:24
God is King	1 Timothy 1:17
There are no good people	Romans 3:10-11
God will punish sin	Romans 6:23
God promised a Saviour	Galatians 3:16
Man was created in God's image	2 Corinthians 3:18
Christian marriage	Matthew 19:6
Sunday worship and rest	Acts 20:7

QUESTIONS

1. Why did God create Adam and Eve (Rev 4:11)?
2. How did God provide for the man and woman he created?
3. How did Adam know what work to do in the garden?
4. How can a man or woman know God (John 17:3)?
5. Where do you see God's power?
6. What did God tell us about himself?
7. Did God make anything that was not good?
8. What order do you see in God's creation?
9. Can you name one of the laws of nature?
10. What does it mean for man to be 'like God'?
11. How did God make woman man's helper?
12. How is God 'King' in the universe?
13. Why do we say sinful man is 'lost from God'?
14. How can lost man come back to God?
15. How can a holy God forgive sinful men and women?
16. What is God's marriage law (Gen 2:24)?

Copyright © 2000 by Fred Morris, Manna Publications (USA)
All rights reserved
www.mannapublications.org

Copyright © 2023 edited by Manna Publications (UK)
www.manna-publications.org.uk