



 **3ABN** BIBLE STUDY GUIDES
Looking Higher

COSMIC BEGINNINGS



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An author puts a story on paper and crafts the words to express each thought so it is just right. When the finished work receives a copyright, everyone knows whose mind it came from, who deserves the credit, and who has authority over how it can be used. If someone else uses those words as their own, the law confirms the rightful source. The Earth, itself, and all that is in it, has a copyright. Not an affirmation from the courts of man, but the absolute acknowledgment that God alone is the Source of all life, God alone is our ultimate authority, and God alone deserves all our praise.

1 Why is it important to know where you came from?

John 13:3–5 “Jesus, knowing that ... He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel ... and began to wash the disciples’ feet ...”

Isaiah 51:1 “... you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn ...”

From its opening line, God’s Word reveals where we came from: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). Jesus knew both his origin—where He came from—and where He was going. Then He rose to serve His disciples. Like Jesus, we must know our source, as well. Then we will know Who to trust, what is true, and how to live. Without this knowledge as our foundation, what we believe is simply an assumption and a wish.

2 How can we know there was a Creator who made the Earth and all that is in it?

Hebrews 3:4 “For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”

Honest logic and wisdom tell us that nothing can create itself. Every created thing was made by a cause outside and before itself. Life can only come from life. Each person receives life through the generation that came before. “One generation shall praise Your works to another ...” (Psalm 145:4). However, the first generation received life from God, who alone has life in Himself. “For with You is the fountain of life ...” (Psalm 36:9). To create, He must have a will; and to give life, He must not depend on any other being for His own existence. “If I were hungry, I would not tell you ...” (Psalm 50:12). The Creator is not subject to the boundaries of biological life, nor is His life marked by death. He is outside the cycles of time, because He initiated them “in the beginning.”

3 Is there evidence in the physical world that declares there is a Creator?

Job 12:7–9 “But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you ... and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this ...?”

Psalms 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

Throughout nature, from the smallest animals to the largest stars, we see evidence of design and order. This delicately balanced planet and



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each complex living creature does not function by chance and chaos. Every living thing must be supported and maintained by something outside of itself. Creation obeys dependable and orderly laws that exist beyond the facts we observe. Design and order in nature point to a thinking Designer.

4 Is there evidence when we look “inside” that there is a Creator, who is also our God?

Romans 2:14–15 “... when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness ...”

When we look inside ourselves, we find a real standard of morality. We didn't put it there or establish it on our own. We know when we do right or wrong and can identify what is evil. The conviction of guilt when we live contrary to the Creator's plan testifies that, “He has put eternity in their hearts” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We can silence this moral conviction and live as if it does not exist; but we agree there is a moral standard of right and wrong that is not man-made.

5 Along with knowledge and a thinking mind, what else do I need to have in order to know that God is our Creator?

Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

Job 38:4–5 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?”

Each person chooses what to believe about the source of life by faith, because no person was there to observe the moment God brought our young Earth into existence and fashioned it as a home for us. Scientists

cannot reproduce the past in a laboratory, but God was there. The faith it takes to accept God as Creator is an act pleasing to God, since “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

6 What did God do to bring this world into existence?

John 1:1–3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

In Jesus, “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14). Jesus is our Creator, “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).

Psalm 33:6, 9 “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

The Creator's power is in His word. He spoke, and life, order, and beauty came into existence. “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). The same Voice that created, speaks with power and authority to instruct and guide our lives today.

7 How long did God take to create the world?

Genesis 1:5 “God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.”

Genesis 1:31 “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

God chose to create the world in six consecutive, literal, contiguous 24-hour days, consisting of an evening and a morning—the dark part of the day first, followed by the light. This seven-day cycle found across generations and cultures, originated with God and confirms His truth about Creation. Genesis 1 describes the order of God's work. He formed our environment in the first three days: light on day one, air to breathe separated from the waters on day two, and dry land and vegetation on day three. On day four, God began to fill what He had formed by setting lights in the sky: “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name” (Psalm 147:4). Next, he created fish and birds to fill the waters and sky on day five. Finally, He created land animals and man on day six. Following His pattern, God forms each of us, then fills us, first with His breath of life. Then, when we are able to know and choose what is right, He offers to fill us with His righteousness so we will desire and do what is good.



“All human life has intrinsic value, because life comes from God ...”

8 Why did God use six days to create the Earth as our home?

Genesis 2:2–3 “And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

God is a God of order and organization. He could have created everything in a moment, but chose to establish a pattern for our lives for all time. Every week consists of six days of labor, culminating in a special seventh day of rest. This gift was given to the human family before there were any cultural divisions, so all people would have a weekly reminder that God is our Creator and Sustainer, our Law-giver, and the One who would be our Savior from sin. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:8, 11).

9 How significant are humans in God’s plan for the Earth He created?

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 2:7 “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

Psalms 119:73 “Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.”

God “formed the earth ... to be inhabited” (Isaiah 45:18), and He made humans last, to enjoy His completed and perfect work. All human life has intrinsic value, because life comes from God, and each person is made uniquely in His image. “He fashions their hearts individually” (Psalm 33:15). Instead of speaking man into existence, God formed him intimately to enjoy a special relationship with Him, to reflect His glory, and

to display His righteous character. Of all the living creatures God made, only man was given the capacity to understand and love God’s Law and to choose to obey. “Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him” (Isaiah 43:7).

10 What responsibility rests upon God to care for the people He created?

Psalms 8:3–5 “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.”

Psalms 100:3 “Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”

Each living creature is completely dependent on our Creator, and God is involved in the lives of all. “The eyes of all look expectantly to You ...” (Psalm 145:15). God invites us to “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). Trusting God in faith is the cornerstone of what it means to depend on Him for life and salvation.

11 Does the Earth belong to us humans, and to our generations to come?

Genesis 1:28 “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply... have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

Genesis 2:19 “Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.”

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers ...”
Psalm 8:3



We care for the Earth, not to selfishly preserve it for our own use, but because God has entrusted it to our care. The Earth belongs to Him alone. God asks, “Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine” (Job 41:11). We may truly enjoy His Creation by caring for it as He does—providing for the needs of others without any thought of reward. This gives glory to Him and allows us to “be partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4), because we work together with Him.

12 What does Creation teach us about what God is like?

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead”

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things”

God’s character can be seen in everything He made. “You will know them by their fruits ...” (Matthew 7:16). Even in its sin-damaged condition, Creation illustrates God’s generous kindness, wisdom, and power, as well as the joy of obeying His Law. “He has made the earth by His power” (Jeremiah 51:15), and still He has an unlimited supply “upholding all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:3). “... He is before all things, and in Him all things consist” (Colossians 1:17). When we trust in God as our Creator, we acknowledge His attributes, which are worthy of praise. “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).

13 How is Creation related to trusting in God’s Word?

Isaiah 45:12 “I have made the earth, and created man on it....”

God has declared unmistakably that He is our Creator. By trusting God’s Word that “in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” (Exodus 20:11), we choose to trust the truthfulness of the whole Word of God. When we place human opinions about origins above God’s Word, we deny His wisdom, reject His Word, and



“God’s character can be seen in everything He made.”

“Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air ...”
Genesis 2:19



accuse Him of falsehood. We look to our limited human minds as the infallible judge of what is true, and turn away from trusting and obeying God as Lord (Romans 1:25).

14 How is Creation related to God’s desire to save us from sin?

Genesis 2:16–17 “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

As our Creator, God has authority to give His Law as a blessing to us. His authority to govern is seen in the instruction to the first people He created. If God is not the Creator, then He has no right to either give His Law or to condemn law-breaking. If there is no law-breaking, there is no sin. If there is no sin, we are not sinners. If we are not sinners, there is no need for a Savior to die in our place and offer forgiveness. So, without God as our Creator there can be no salvation, no rescue from death! The best we can hope for is to make life comfortable—for as long as it lasts.

Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation”

The Creator who made us is also our Savior who can restore us. He promises, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26). If we deny God’s power of physical Creation in the beginning, we deny both His right and His power to make us into a “new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3:10).



“God’s plan at Creation was that healthy labor be a blessing ...”

15 How is Creation related to God’s promise of the Second Coming and things to come?

Revelation 14:6-7 “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’”

This is God’s final invitation of the Great Controversy, before Jesus returns. The final conflict centers around who we will worship. Everyone will worship something by exalting it to a position of greatest honor. Satan tempted Jesus on this supreme issue, promising to give Him all the splendor of the world, “if You will fall down and worship me” (Matthew 4:9). And Jesus responded, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve’” (Matthew 4:10). When we deny God as Creator, we reject His attributes that deserve our worship, and we set ourselves in His place as the expert with all wisdom. Any idea or belief that denies or weakens God as our Creator is designed by the enemy to turn our rightful worship away from Him and focus it on ourselves.

Revelation 21:5 “Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ ...”

God’s power to create the Earth in the beginning confirms He has power and authority to create a New Earth at the end, free from sin. God’s promises rest upon who He is—our Almighty Creator.

Revelation 2:7 “‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.’”

The conclusion of the Great Controversy of sin will be fulfilled when God gives eternal life which He desired us to have from the beginning. If we deny God’s power to create life, we reject His promise of eternal life.

16 What other gifts from God are connected to Creation?

Genesis 2:24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

God’s truth of Creation shows His purpose and plan for marriages and families. When we accept God as Creator, He leads us to His purpose and plan for happy and loving homes.

Genesis 2:15 “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”

God’s plan at Creation was that healthy labor be a blessing that brings dignity to our lives. The entrance of sin has tarnished work with hazards and danger. By rejecting Creation, we learn to despise the tasks (physical, mental, and spiritual) that God appoints for the good of our lives.

17 Why is the Bible truth of Creation under attack in the world today?

1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

2 Timothy 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers.”

The enemy introduces deceptions and false teachings to turn many away from God’s love and His Law, so they will not turn to Him for salvation. Many today “willfully forget” Creation (2 Peter 3:5), because the Creator is also the Lawgiver, and the human heart that is hardened by selfishness and sin resists God’s authority. We must trust God’s truth “not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

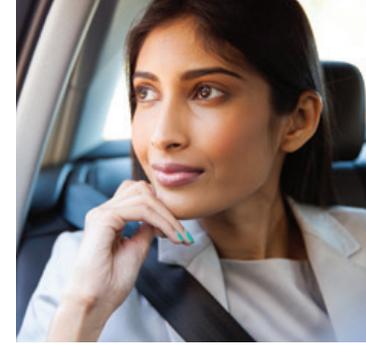
18 What will happen to God’s Creation when Jesus returns?

2 Peter 3:13 “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Revelation 21:1 “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...”

God will not leave His Creation to suffer under the degradation of sin. Jesus is coming soon to restore not only the Earth He made, but His people, who have “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LIFE TODAY?



1. The same God who created life also gave His life to save sinners.

When God created the world, He still had infinite power remaining. But when God “gave His only begotten Son” He paid a price that cannot be measured. What value does God want you to see in the people He created and paid for by His blood?

2. Nature declares what God is like. God teaches spiritual lessons through nature. For example, all Creation receives God’s blessings in order to bless others. Trees receive water and nutrients from the soil, energy from the sun, and the carbon dioxide we exhale. In return, they give back oxygen for us to breathe, beauty to draw our minds toward God, shade for flowers by the path, nutrients to the soil, and homes for the animals. What have you experienced in God’s wonderful, vast Creation to teach the truths about God?

3. Since Creation is a gift from God, we should protect it as a valuable treasure. What are you able to do to give glory to God by caring for the needs of the world He created?

4. God’s Creation leads us to worship and trust Him as our Creator.

When you see the beauty of nature, how can you praise God for all that He has done?

5. Who do you know that needs to hear what you have learned?

“Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men” (Psalm 66:5).

Additional Notes:

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS FOR ME IN GOD'S CREATION?



1. Because you are God's unique creation, He cares about every part of your life.

"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). "... the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

2. The same God who created you also offers salvation from sin.

"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine'" (Isaiah 43:1).

3. The omnipotent power of the Creator is available to help you with your needs.

"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You" (Jeremiah 32:17).

4. There is convincing evidence of God's creative power to be found by all who humbly and honestly seek for truth.

"Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:17). "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Luke 11:10).

5. The same God who created and loved mankind in the beginning will fulfill each of His good promises to us.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last" (Revelation 22:13). "For I am the Lord, I do not change ..." (Malachi 3:6).

6. Everything in Creation, from the grand skies to the tiny insect, reveals God's wisdom.

"Fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word" (Psalm 148:8). "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise" (Proverbs 6:6).

LESSON SUMMARY

1. **The Word of God clearly presents** this truth: God is our Creator and He is worthy of our worship.

2. **God created the world out of nothing** by His Word in six literal, consecutive 24-hour days.

3. **Nature demonstrates that it was designed** and ordered by an all-powerful, creative, and intelligent Maker.

4. **Evidence from nature** and from our God-given conviction of right and wrong give reason to trust God as our Creator by faith.

5. **Because God has created us,** He has authority to give us His Law to direct our lives.

6. **Without the truth of Creation,** there is no divine Law, no sin, and no rescue from certain death.

7. **God will soon recreate this Earth** and restore it to its original sinless perfection.

Additional Notes:

EXPERIENCE GOD'S INCREDIBLE CREATION



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in the presence of the Holy Spirit

11 "And the smoke of their incense ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of them."

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.
13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud one who sat like the Son of Man, wearing a golden crown and having many crowns

the winepress of the wrath of God

15 And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' brides, for one thousand and four hundred.

16 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

17 And I saw something like a glass mingled with fire, and they have the victory over the beast who have the image and over his image and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass.

18 And they sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord, and the way of your thoughts are inscrutable and wonderful. Who can understand your thoughts, or who can know your counsel?"