

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 5: God, the Good Creator

Unit 5 Big Question and Answer:
Can You Tell What God Made?
God Made All Things Good!

PFI ESV Songs 5, Tracks 3,4

Unit 5 Bible Verse: Genesis 1:1,31, ESV

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good."
PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

God Created People Perfectly Good in the Beginning

People were God's last creation when He created the world. In some ways, God made people like the other earthly creatures. He gave them wonderful, perfect bodies. They were just right for all He wanted them to do and to be--just like He had done for the other creatures.

But in another way, God made people very different from everything else. You see, God created the other creatures after their own kind, but God chose to make people in His own image.

They were to be a one-of-a-kind reflection of who He is. So God gave to them alone a mind that could learn about the world and see how it showed what He was like--a bit like His great mind. And, He gave them alone a everlasting spirit that could know and love Him and each other--a bit like His Spirit. And because God created them good, they could know and love Him and each other without any sin or sadness. How wonderful that must have been!

God put these first people He made--Adam and Eve-- in charge of the earth. They and their children were to enjoy it, care for the creatures in it, explore it and fill it with people until they made all of it their home."

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Genesis 1:26-28, ESV

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

CASE STORY

Genesis 1-2; John 1:3

Our story is:

The Case of the Definitely Different Design.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was design differently?
2. What made them definitely different from everything else? What did this difference mean they could do?

Our story today takes place at the beginning of time, thousands of years ago, when the world was only six day old.

What was the world like at dawn on Day Six? The light of the moon and stars faded in the blazing brightness of the rising sun. Tall, mighty mountains rose high above the gently sloping hills and wide, grassy plains. Birds swooped across the brilliant, blue sky and nested in leafy treetops. Fish flip-flopped in the foamy ocean and wriggled in the clear, sparkling rivers. What was the world like on the dawn of the Day Six? Both air and water were full of life that morning.

And yet, something was still strangely still and quiet. It was as if the earth was waiting for something more. The forests silently waited for creatures to wander through its cool greenness. The plains waited for someone to nibble their juicy grasses. Small seeds lay sleeping under the fields, ready to sprout when there was someone to tend and harvest them. For you see, at dawn on Day Six, the LORD had yet to make any living creatures to live on the beautiful land that He had created.

All this was about to change. The LORD said, "Land, produce animals each according to their kinds! Produce farm animals and wild animals and creatures that move along the ground."

God spoke, and it came to be! There were pigs, cows, sheep, donkeys, horses, chickens and all sorts of other farm animals. There were zebras, koala bears, antelope, polar bears, squirrels and all sorts of other wild animals. There were bugs, worms, lizards, snails, and all sorts of other creatures that move along the ground. Now there were thousands of land creatures, all made by God, each according to their own kind. God saw all the creatures He had made and saw that it was good. How wonderful it was for the land to be filled with creatures, wriggling, digging, leaping and climbing all over the land of God's beautiful world!

The earth was abuzz with life, but the LORD was still not through with His Day Six creations. Now it was time for Him to create one last creature: the creature He had in mind as He created everything else in the world. A creature so special, that it would be unlike the rest. This one would not simply be made after its own kind, as God had made the others. This creature would be made in God's own image!

Created in God's own image? What in the world does that mean?! It means God would make this creature to be a bit like Himself. God was going to make this creature with a mind that could create things and think about things a bit like His great mind. This creature would be able to look at everything God created and know that God created it, like God could. This creature could rule over other creatures and care for them, a little bit like God rules and cares for everything. This creature would be able to know the difference between good and evil— and choose one over the other. And most amazing of all, this creature would have an everlasting spirit—a soul that would never die, a bit like God's great, eternal Spirit. With this spirit, this creature could know and love God. Wow! What a creature, this last one was to be!

Do you know who is this last creature? Was it the dog? The buffalo? Maybe the elephant? No, of course not! It was people! That's right! People were God's most special creation, made on Day Six.

So the LORD said: "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7, NIV 1984)

God had made man special and now He would make a special place for him to begin life. The other creatures built their own nests or dug their own holes, but God, Himself, made a special home for man. He planted a garden in the east, in a place He called Eden; and there He put the man he had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were beautiful to look at and delicious for eating. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river watering the garden flowed from Eden and the lands around it.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:8-10, 15-17, NIV 1984)

What a lot had happened since the dawn of Day Six! God had created land animals, then He had created man. Now He made him a home with food, shelter and water. It seemed like everything the man would need. But it wasn't. God still had one more very, very special something to create for the man—or I guess I should say someONE. Can you guess who it was?

Let's hear: "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found." (Genesis 2:18-20, NIV 1984)

As all these creatures paraded before him, Adam saw beautiful animals that would be lovely to look at; strong animals who could help him with his work; soft animals who would be nice to touch and snuggle with; and birds whose melodious voices would be soothing to listen to. But none of them was the right helper Adam needed. None of them had an everlasting spirit inside their bodies. They didn't have minds and hearts that could know, love and have fellowship with God and with others. They couldn't look around at all of creation and see how it reflected God's glory. They couldn't know right and wrong, as Adam could.

"So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man." (Genesis 2:21-22, NIV)

Adam looked in amazement at this special creature. She looked like him, and yet she was very different, too. God had made her beautiful, strong, soft. He gave her a sweet, melodious voice. Best of all, she had an everlasting spirit inside her body. She had a mind and heart like Adam, which could know, love and have fellowship with God and others. Adam could share with her all of God's creations

and enjoy how it reflected His glory. She could know right and wrong. This was the helper Adam was looking for!

“The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” (Genesis 2:23, NIV 1984) Right then and there, they were married and began their wonderful life together in complete purity and honesty.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. (Genesis 2:27-30, NIV)

Dawn of Day Six had long passed. Now the sun was setting deep in the west. Its warm rays were growing dim and the twinkling stars were beginning to show their faces from under the dark blanket of outer space once more. Animals of every kind nestled down for their first night in their newly-made dens. Birds roosted in the trees. And the man and the woman—Adam and Eve— were in their special garden, enjoying perfect fellowship with God and with each other, and delighting in the display of God’s glory in His wonderful creations all around them.

God looked at all He made and said it was very good. It was completely delightful. It was pure and perfect. There was nothing that needed to be improved or changed. It was ready for His plans. “And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.”

Our Bible Truth is:

God Created People Perfectly Good in the Beginning

Our Bible Verse is: Genesis 1:26-28

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Isn’t amazing to think about the special ways the Lord made us humans?! He made millions of creatures to fill this earth, yet we alone did He make in His own image. We alone can know Him, love Him and have fellowship with Him. We alone can look around at creation and see how it Let’s ask Him to use the special minds He gave us to learn about Him, to see His glory reflected in His creation and to rule well over the creatures of the earth.

Yet, there is a problem that all people have that Adam and Eve did not have on that first day. Since that most wonderful, most perfect of time, all people have chosen to disobey God. They have broken the perfect fellowship that we were made to have with God. And now, we deserve God’s punishment for our sins. But there is hope, isn’t there? Why? Because God sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who will ever turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Let’s pray right now and ask God to work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Let’s praise Him for being the great Creator who gave us hearts to know and love Him and who sent Jesus that we might know and love Him, even today.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God created people in His likeness. He made them all powerful and all wise like Himself. Answer: False. God did create people in His likeness, but not in those ways. He gave them a mind that was a bit like His great mind. He gave them a spirit a bit like His Spirit.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who had the working words? What did the working words do? Answer: The LORD. They created everything in heaven and earth.</p> <p>b. What was so unusual about the work they did? Answer: God’s word was so powerful that He could create everything out of nothing...and every bit of it was very good!</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Genesis 1:26-28 “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...” So God ___ man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God ___ them and said to them, “Be fruitful and ___ in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Answers: created; blessed; increase.</p>	<p>All People Who on Earth Do Dwell <i>PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 11</i></p> <p>Verse 1 All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; Him serve with fear, His praise forthtell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.</p> <p>Verse 2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed, Without our aid He did us make; We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.</p> <p>Words Psalm 100; Paraphrased, William Kethes Music Genevan Psalter, 1551 Edition, attr. Louis Bourgeois</p> <p>This hymn reminds us that we, along with peoples of the earth, should serve and praise the Lord because He is our Creator. He made us to know Him and worship Him. Of all people, God’s people, have reason to rejoice in God, their Creator. He saved them through Jesus. He has made them His very own, special people, who He takes special care of.</p>
AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being our Creator and the Giver of the spirit inside us so that we might know and love You.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we don’t want to know, love or obey You.. Many times we want to do what we want to do—even if it is wrong. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You that for the spirit You gave each of us to know and love You.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Create in us a new heart, that knows You and loves You, as You created us to.</p>	<p>Then God Said <i>PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 12</i></p> <p>Then God said, “Let us make man, Let us make man in our own image.” Then God said, “Let us make man, Let us make man in our own image.” Male and female, He created them, Male and female, He created them.</p> <p>Then God said, “Let us make man, Let us make man in our own image.” Then God said, “Let us make man, Let us make man in our own image.” Genesis One, twenty-six and seven.</p> <p>Words: Genesis 1:26-27, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>The Bible tells us God made people in the beginning. He made them in His image, that means, they reflect Him in a very special way. Of all the earthly creatures, they alone were created with a spirit, like God’s Spirit, that can know and love God. God created people to be able to see God’s glory in everything He made. And, He created them to care for the world He created as caretakers under Him.</p>