

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-12 Creation

In our last lesson we learned that our God, who is love, devised a plan to create beings in His image and likeness. These beings would become His children. But He wanted their love to be a perfect love. We know that love must be freely given, freely received, and freely returned. This love cannot be forced, but must be of a free choice. And so God decided to create a place where the beings created to be His children would have the ability to choose to either love Him, or reject Him.

With His plans complete, God set them into motion. The very first verse in the entire Bible says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." In one brilliant moment the universe exploded into being. Billions of galaxies and trillions of stars exploded outwards from a single point of creation. This universe is beyond comprehension. It is so vast that it would take a person a billion lifetimes to travel from one side to the other, that is, if the person could travel as fast as a beam of light! It would be easier to count every grain of sand on every beach and in every desert than it would be to count the stars in the sky. Indeed, God's creation is beyond our ability to imagine.

But God did not just create the things that we can see, but also that which is invisible. God not only created the universe, He also created what we call 'heaven' or the spirit world. Both the spirit world and the universe are tied to one another with an amazing invention of God. They are both connected to what we call time.

We all understand time. We were each born in the past and our lives marched through time to the present. Someday in the future our lives will end. Each of us exists in time. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to go back to yesterday and correct a mistake we made? But we cannot. We cannot go back one second, let alone one day, because we all live in this universe and thus we live within time. All of us are limited by time. But God is not.

God existed before time and exists today outside of time. For Him, time is irrelevant. The apostle Jude wrote, "To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time, and now, and forever. Amen" (Jude 25). Jude recognized that God existed before time did. The apostle Peter likewise understood this about God. He wrote, "Do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day" (2Peter 3:8).

What do you think Peter was trying to say? Let's ponder this for a moment. God lives in a place outside of time. Do you think that God is limited or bound to time like you and me? Apparently not for He does not live in time, but exists outside of it. Why is this important? It actually explains how God can know everything, from the beginning to the end. Since He is outside of time He can see the beginning and the end at the same time.

It is much like you watching and listening to this lesson. The lesson has a beginning, middle, and the end. You can watch it from the beginning to the end or you can pause it, or

rewind it to the beginning, or fast forward it to the end. In one sense, the entire lesson can be five minutes long, or 5 seconds. Because you are not bound by the video lesson you can see the beginning or end whenever you like. In the same way God is outside of time. He has already seen the end. He already knows who will choose to love Him and who will not. This is why the apostle Paul would write; "For those God foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters" (Rom 8:29).

This lesson is **important** because it teaches that God created time to connect together both the physical and spiritual worlds he had made.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that because God lives outside of time He sees and knows about all events in time—the past, the present and the future.

Let's review some of the concepts we have learned in this lesson:

1. Why did God create such an enormous universe? [Pause]
A. If you said that He created it as a place for His children to live, you are correct.
2. When God created the universe, He also created heaven. Both the universe and heaven are connected with what? [Pause]
A. If you said they are both connected to "time," you are right.
3. Is God affected by time like you and I are? [Pause]
A. If you said "No," you answered correctly.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to this lesson a few times until you understand the concepts. Take the time to fast forward, rewind, pause, and replay this lesson. Imagine how God is able to do that with His creation. Then, find someone and teach them what you have learned.