

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-19 Review 1

In today's lesson we will look back and review what we have learned about God's plan in our first 18 lessons.

Look up into the sky at night and what do you see? Do you see the moon and the stars? Can you count the stars or give them each a name? It is very hard to imagine how big and magnificent the universe is. Imagine a time before the very first star shone in the sky—a time before the creation of the universe with all of its marvels and mysteries. Imagine a place where God existed. Who is this God? What is He like? What is important to Him? How can we comprehend and know this God?

Before anything existed, God existed. He is eternal. He was not born or created. God has no beginning and will never end. This is hard for us to understand. We are born, grow, mature, then age and eventually die. But God has always existed and will always exist.

God is all powerful. He has the power to do whatever He wants to do. God knows everything. He knows everything that is in the past, the present, and the future. God knows the very thoughts and desires of every man, woman, and child. God is everywhere at once. There is no place to go to hide from God.

If we could see Him, what would He look like? The Bible gives us the answers to these questions. Not only does the Bible teach us many things about God, it says that God revealed His invisible qualities, eternal power, and divine nature through the things He has created.

So, what is God? Well, God is light and in Him is not a single shadow. If we could see Him as He truly is, we would be overwhelmed with pure blinding light. Everywhere we looked we would see brilliant light. It would completely surround us.

This God of light is also truth. His truth is absolute. It never changes. He and His truth were the same before time existed, throughout all time, and will be the same even after time comes to an end. Truth is truth. It is not different in one place or another.

God is holy. His holiness defines who He is. God's holiness will not allow Him to do anything that is wrong. His holiness demands that everything that He does is good. We know that God is good and does only what is right and kind. God is never evil or cruel.

Light describes God's being, holiness describes God's character, and love describes God's heart. The Bible tells us that God is love. His love is perfect. Now love is made perfect when there is someone to love. Perfect love is freely given, freely received, and freely returned. Perfect love is not forced upon someone nor is it ever demanded in return.

It was God's perfect love that led Him to decide to have children. These children would be created in His image and likeness. God would freely love the children and wanted the

children to freely choose to love Him in return. But in the place that God exists, there is only one choice, Him. If God created His children in His place the love would be lacking choice. So God made a plan to create a place where He could create children and there would be the opportunity for choice.

And so God created the universe as a place for His children to live. The universe is larger than our imagination with billions of galaxies and trillions of stars. The universe is the perfect place for God to create His children. But the universe was not ready for the children yet, as there was still only one choice, God. So God created spirit beings we call angels. The angels would be caretakers for the universe until God's children were born and came of age.

Angels were each individually created. They were not born like us. Instead each angel was designed for a task and God built within him the power and authority to accomplish his assignment. This meant some angels were more powerful than others. The angel Gabriel works as a messenger angel, while Michael is called one of the chief princes of all the angels. The angels are organized as great armies with the lesser angels under the authority of the greater.

There is another order of angelic beings called cherubim. Whereas angels look like normal men, cherubim are winged beings who have the ability to appear as an ox, a lion, a man, or an eagle. The cherubim are usually associated with the presence of God. There are four cherubim that fly above God's throne at all times crying out "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

One of these cherubim flying above God's throne was called Lucifer. One third of all the angels in the universe were under his authority. He was perfect. Lucifer's beauty was beyond comparison. He faithfully served God for countless millennia until sin was found in his heart. His pride in doing well to please God subtly changed into a self-pride which led to violent anger. Since God is holy and will not allow sin to exist in His presence, He expelled Lucifer from the throne room. Although Lucifer maintained his power and authority over one third of the universe, he no longer had the honor and position as an anointed cherub flying above God's throne. Lucifer, embarrassed and angered by this, chose to become the opposite of God. Since God was good, Lucifer would become the opposite. He would be evil. Since God was love, Lucifer would become hate. And by this choice evil, hatred, darkness, and lies entered into God's perfect universe.

The entire universe was thrown into chaos at this event. But God was not worried. He had known in advance that this would happen. His patient waiting was over. There were now two choices in the universe: God or Lucifer.

Your **assignment** is to review this lesson until you can easily present this overview to someone else. Then, tell someone this story and afterwards ask them questions to see if they understand these important truths.