



Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Why God Created the Universe

Why God Created the Universe

For thousands of years, people have gazed at the blanket of stars strewn across the sky. Where did these stars come from? And where did we come from? How did human life start? Is there a connection between the stars and us? Or is it all just random coincidence?

Philosophers and scientists have pondered these questions for thousands of years. Yet the answers to these questions are found right in the pages of your Bible!

In this issue of the *Imperial Academy Bible Lessons*, you will learn why God created the stars and human life. To understand these amazing mysteries, you will need to get your Bible and a pencil. Look up every scripture as you study this incredible truth about why God created the universe, the Earth and you!

BEFORE THE BEGINNING

What existed before the universe? The Bible tells us—not in its first book, Genesis, but in the book of John.

Turn to *John 1:1* and fill in the blanks below: “In the _____ was the

_____, and the _____ was with God, and the _____ was God.”

This is the *true* beginning: before the Earth, before the stars, before time itself! Stretching back into eternity, all that existed were two magnificent, glorious, powerful Superbeings. Their eyes appear like flames of fire; their voices sound like thundering waterfalls; their faces shine like enormous, blindingly brilliant suns!

These Superbeings were together; they were close to each other, like being in the same family—much like you are part of the _____ family. The first Superbeing is called **God**; the second is called **the Word**. The Word is together *with* God, and the Word *is* God, similar to the way you are *with* the _____ family and you *are* part of the _____ family. (Write your last name in the blanks above.)

These two God Beings conversed with each other and worked. They lived their unique **way of life**. For eternity, that way of life was to **love**: to give, share and cooperate. Then God and the Word chose to love, share and give even more. They decided to create more beings to

love! These new beings would be unique individuals who could think and choose. God and the Word would share with them their wonderful way of life.

God and the Word would create these new beings out of literally *nothing* by using their power and their government. Their power is called the Holy Spirit. Their government put God as the head and the Word as His communicator. God and the Word are equal in power, but they have different roles: God told the Word what to create, and the Word spoke those exact things into existence using the power of the Holy Spirit: “All things were made by him [the Word]; and without him [the Word] was not anything made that was made” (John 1:3).

Much later, the Word came to Earth as a human being. He was named **Jesus Christ**. He sacrificed Himself for mankind, died and was resurrected. The Word became the *Son of God*, and God became *God the Father*!



God and the Word created the whole universe.

MEMORY TEST

How many members were in the God Family before the beginning of the universe? _____

What are the names of these God Beings?

What scripture in the Bible can answer both of the previous two questions?

ANGELIC CREATION

Now it was time to put into action the genius plan of creating new individual beings. God and the Word created many spirit beings, which we call **angels**. This was before God created the universe and the Earth.

Turn to Job 38:6-7 and fill in the blanks: “Whereupon are [Earth’s] foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the _____ thereof; When the morning _____ sang together, and all the _____ of _____ shouted for joy?”

This verse reveals that God built the Earth. It also reveals that before He set its foundations, there were already “morning stars.” This is another name for angels.

Angels are spirit beings who have much less glory and power than their Creators. God created millions of angels, yet designed each of them individually (Revelation 5:11).

In the same way that each human being is unique, each angel has its own

personality, thinks its own thoughts, and makes its own decisions. Some are more musical; some are more powerful. The Bible mentions three archangels, angels with the highest positions and the most power. Their names are Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer.

Even though they are much lower than God, angels still have far greater power and better minds than human beings. Even though they are incredibly young compared to God and the Word, they are incredibly old compared to human beings. They have experienced thousands or perhaps millions of years of life. They don't require food, water, sleep, shelter or even air. They are immortal and can never die.

What were the angels like? What was their **character**? God and the Word have had righteous character for eternity. They freely choose to do the right thing—perfectly, forever. But the angels were brand-new beings. They could not have instant righteous character, because they hadn't made any decisions yet.

God created each angel to be able to make its own decisions. That is why they were so unique. If they freely chose to follow God's wonderful way of life, over time they would develop righteous character. It couldn't be created in them instantly.

This is the reason why God and the Word created angels!

After they created angels, they created the physical universe. This universe did not need to provide food and air for angels,

since angels do not need these elements. God and the Word created the universe to be a testing ground for the angels.

The angels would help God and the Word beautify the Earth and the universe. As they did this, they could learn how to live God's way of life. They could choose to obey God and learn to build, cooperate and love. Over time, as their character formed through the choices they made, it would become permanently set.

MEMORY TEST

What was the first thing the God Family created? _____

What passage in the Bible answers the above question? _____

What is the one thing even God cannot create instantly? _____

ANGELIC REBELLION

Lucifer was one of the three archangels mentioned earlier. The Bible records that he was actually trained in the throne room of God. After that, God gave him a special job: to rule Earth to make it more beautiful. A vast number of angels were assigned to help Lucifer as he administered God's government.

The name Lucifer means "light-bringer" or "shining star of the dawn." He was the most powerful, most musical, most beautiful angel God had created. It was his job to bring the light of God's way of life to the Earth.

What we know about the world at that time is that it was full of beauty and happiness while Lucifer obeyed God. The Bible tells us that Lucifer ruled from a garden in the land of Eden (Ezekiel 28:13). Ancient fossils indicate that the land was covered with giant fern trees and coniferous forests. There were also long-necked sea creatures, peaceful dinosaurs and flying reptiles.

God doesn't tell us how long Lucifer and the angels with him reigned on Earth. It may have been millions or even billions of years.

But at some point, something went horribly wrong!

More and more, Lucifer's thoughts began to turn to one subject: *himself*. He thought about his beauty; he thought about his talents; he thought about his intelligence. He did *not* choose to think about God and to submit to Him. Lucifer chose to become prideful. As his pride grew, he began to resent God. He began to covet God's power. He forsook humility, even though he had not even *existed* until God made him!

Lucifer rejected God's eternal way of life. He began to think in a new way. It was a different way, based not on serving others, but on serving yourself.

Lucifer began to spread his ideas. He told the other angels under him that they did not need to think like God. He said that they should not let God decide what was right and wrong, but each individual should decide what was right and wrong

on his own. Lucifer said that his way, competition, was better than God's way of cooperation. He said that God was unfair. And in his mind, his words and his actions, Lucifer began to plot *war* against God and the Word! If he could defeat God, he could rule the universe with *his* evil way of life.

Then a horrific event happened: Lucifer and his angels actually launched an attack against God!

To see Lucifer's state of mind, use Isaiah 14:13-14 to fill in the blanks: "For you have said in your heart, I [Lucifer] will _____ [go up] into _____, I will exalt my _____ above the stars of _____. I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most _____."

God and the Word were infinitely more powerful than the angels they created. It was impossible for Lucifer and his angels to defeat them. But God allowed Lucifer to attack so that He could see which angels would choose to follow Lucifer and which would choose to follow God.

The war that exploded devastated the Earth and most of the universe. One out of every three angels followed Lucifer and attacked God and the Word. Two out of every three angels stayed loyal to God and fought back, led by the archangel Michael.

This war was violent beyond imagination. Moons were smashed; stars exploded; planets were thrown out of

orbit. On just one planet, Earth, debris crashed through the atmosphere; it became filled with dust, blotting out the sun; and tidal waves sank continents. The destruction was so horrific all physical life on Earth died.

Earth, like the rest of the universe, became chaotic, wasted, decayed, polluted and dark.

In the course of the war, God saw which angels were loyal to His way of life. Then He personally intervened, casting Lucifer and his angels back to Earth. They fell like lightning bolts! (Luke 10:18).

God changed the name of the angels who rebelled to **demons**, and he changed Lucifer's name to **Satan**, which means *enemy!* The character of Satan and the demons had become permanently evil. And now the Earth that Satan still ruled over was formless, contaminated, cold and dead.

MEMORY TEST

What did Lucifer plan to do in his war against God? _____

What scriptures in the Bible answer the above question? _____

A NEW PLAN

The universe was a wreck. Earth's surface was demolished. Satan and the demons had become incurably evil. God now knew that the angels could not be fully trusted to live His way of life or to receive great power. Many angels had

developed righteous character and used their power for good. But many had not: They had ravaged the testing ground, obliterated their own happiness, and brought horrible **sin** into existence.

Only God beings could be trusted to perfectly live God's way of love.

Because of the choices Satan and the demons made, the angelic plan (which we often call "Plan A") had largely failed. So did God retreat from His plans for creating new individual beings? No! He began a new, even bolder, even greater plan! We often call this "Plan B."

God would create more God beings!

God and the Word then began to implement Plan B. This bold idea involved the creation of new individual beings—a different type of being. Unlike the angels, these beings would be physical and temporary. Like the angels, these beings could choose God's way of life and build God's character over time—or they could reject it. But unlike the angels, those who obeyed and built His character could be transformed into actual God beings! They could be born into God's Family!

This plan was even better than the angelic plan—but it involved a tremendous risk. If these new beings sinned like the angels had, they would eventually cease to exist; they would die because God's law required the death penalty for sin (Romans 6:23). The only way to save them from that penalty was for the Word to become one of them, live a perfect life, resist Satan, and die an excruciating



After Lucifer's rebellion, God had to set everything in proper order. God precisely set the heavenly bodies so we could measure time.

death in their stead. If He did not live a perfect life, He Himself would fall under the death penalty and die forever, then no one could be saved! Perhaps this is why God chose to try this plan second.

But God and the Word stepped out and *took that tremendous risk*—for the love of and the sake of the beings they were about to create: humans.

Now God and the Word turned their attention to one planet: Earth.

SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION

On the first day, God moved over the surface of the polluted, amorphous water and said, “Let there be light.” When He said this, the thick, polluted air caused by Satan’s rebellion began to thin. Rays of light once again reached Earth’s surface.

God set the Earth’s rotation to divide light from darkness. He called the light *day* and the darkness *night* (Genesis 1:3-5).

On the second day, God melted the frozen water and purified the murky water. As the water warmed, vapor rose into the sky, forming great billowing clouds. God then filled the sky with air that His new creation would be able to breathe (verses 6-8).

On the third day, God raised huge pieces of land from out of the water. These became islands and continents. The water flowed down off the land and formed seas and oceans. He planted vegetation on the land and in the water (verses 9-13).

On the fourth day, God set the rotations of the Earth to define the lengths of a day



Adam was created mortal so that if he rebelled he would die, instead of suffering eternally like Satan.

and a year. The time taken for the moon to to make one revolution around the Earth is a month. God set the movement of the stars to define other aspects of time (verses 14-19).

On the fifth day, God created birds: hummingbirds, eagles, pelicans and many others. God also made all the water creatures: goldfish, dolphins, whales and many others (verses 20-23).

On the sixth day, the world was almost ready for God's special new kind of being! But first God created land animals: cats, bears, elephants and many others. God

also made creeping animals, like spiders and insects (verses 24-25).

Now God was ready for His most important creation!

MEMORY TEST

Why did God create angels before human beings? _____

Why did God create humans out of physical matter? _____

What will human beings eventually become if they choose to live God's way of life? _____

HUMAN BEINGS

After He finished creating the land animals on the sixth day, God took some dirt and started molding it. He formed it into the first individual of His new creation: a male **human being** who was shaped like God Himself!

Turn to Genesis 1:26 and fill in the blanks below: "And God said, Let us make _____ in _____, after _____: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

God called this man **Adam**. He breathed into his nostrils, and Adam

became alive! God’s human plan for the God Family was now in motion!

Adam was different from all the other creatures God had made. God put a spirit in Adam called the human spirit. This spirit did not give Adam immortal life, like the angels. But it did give him the power to think, to reason and to make his own choices. This spirit is what made Adam so different from the animals.

God put Adam in a garden in the land of Eden, which was likely located in or near modern-day Israel. He gave Adam a task: naming the animals. While he named the animals with God, Adam noticed that all the male animals had a female animal to go with them. But there was no female human being—yet!

God was about to give Adam an amazing blessing on top of all the others. He was about to give him a wife!

Turn to Genesis 2:21-23 and fill in the blanks: “And the LORD God caused a _____ to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and [God] took one of his [Adam’s] _____, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the _____, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a _____, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now _____ of my _____, and _____ of my _____: she shall be called _____, because she was taken out of _____.”

When Adam woke up sometime before sunset on the sixth day, God presented him with his own wife! Adam named her Eve, which means “mother of all.”

God didn’t originally create millions of humans like He had created millions of angels. Instead, He made it so Adam and Eve could have children. He wanted Adam and Eve to freely choose to live His way of life: the way of give, cooperation and peace. He wanted them to teach this way to their children. God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply so that the Earth would become filled with people (Genesis 1:28).

God created Adam and Eve out of soil: physical matter. God put a spiritual essence in them to empower their minds, but they were not spirit beings like the angels. This way, if a human being chose a life of sin, selfishness and misery, that life would not go on forever; it would end in death. God did not want Adam and Eve to end up like Satan!

THE FIRST SABBATH

On the seventh day of the re-creation week, God rested. And at the same time, He made another special creation.

Fill in the blanks using Genesis 2:1-3: “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the _____ God ended his work which he had made; and he _____ on the _____ from all his work which he had made. And God _____ the _____, and _____ it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”

God did not rest because He was exhausted: God never becomes tired

(Isaiah 40:28). Instead, He stopped His work in order to make this seventh day special and holy. By resting, He put His holy presence in the seventh day and set an example for human beings to follow. He made this special seventh day for human beings to rest and spend time worshiping Him and learning how to be born into His Family as Spirit beings.

On the first Sabbath, God started teaching Adam and Eve about His plan for mankind. After the Sabbath, Adam and Eve worked hard taking care of their home, the Garden of Eden. They were very happy during this time as God continued to teach them about His loving way of life!

MEMORY TEST

How did God bring Adam to life? _____



Adam and Eve were placed in the garden to keep it.

What do humans have that makes their minds different from animals? _____

Why did God rest on the first Sabbath?

HOLY, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER

Even though Adam and Eve were created with adult bodies and adult minds, their minds were new and empty. Like a parent, God had to teach them everything they would need to know. He spent the entire first Sabbath teaching them about the Earth, about the garden, about their bodies, about marriage and about His law. Most of all, God taught them about His amazing plan for them and their future children!

Like the angels before them, God put Adam and Eve on Earth to develop holy, righteous character. By helping God beautify the Garden of Eden, and eventually the whole Earth, they could learn how to live God's way of life. They could learn to build, to cooperate and to love!

Turn to Genesis 2:15-17 and fill in the blanks: "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the _____ of _____ to _____ it and to _____ it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every _____ of the _____ you may freely eat: But of the _____ of the _____ of _____ and _____, you _____"

_____ of it: for in the day that you _____
thereof you shall surely _____.”

Adam and Eve were incomplete creations, just like you are also an incomplete creation. Like them, you have a body made of dirt and a mind empowered by the human spirit. But after a certain amount of time, human beings die. The part that is missing is God’s Holy Spirit! That Spirit gives humans the power to grow in God’s character as well as the ability for God to transform us into actual God Beings!

To teach this lesson to Adam and Eve, God planted two special trees in the Garden of Eden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree of life represented God’s way of give. God told Adam and Eve that they could receive His Holy Spirit and live forever in happiness if they ate from this tree. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented Satan’s way of get, or selfishness and competition. God told them that if they ate from this tree, they would die and return to the dust they were made from.

In order to develop holy, righteous character, Adam and Eve had to choose, of their own free will, God’s way. *You* also have to make your own free-will choice. You can freely choose to live God’s way of obedience and selflessness, or you can freely choose to live Satan’s way of disobedience and selfishness.

In the next lesson, we will learn about the choice Adam and Eve made.

MEMORY TEST

What did God teach Adam and Eve on the first Sabbath day? _____

What did Adam and Eve need in order to become a complete creation? _____

What did the two trees in the Garden of Eden represent? _____

BIBLE MEMORY Books of the Old Testament

Genesis	1 Samuel	Esther	Lamentations	Micah
Exodus	2 Samuel	Job	Ezekiel	Nahum
Leviticus	1 Kings	Psalms	Daniel	Habakkuk
Numbers	2 Kings	Proverbs	Hosea	Zephaniah
Deuteronomy	1 Chronicles	Ecclesiastes	Joel	Haggai
Joshua	2 Chronicles	Song of Songs	Amos	Zechariah
Judges	Ezra	Isaiah	Obadiah	Malachi
Ruth	Nehemiah	Jeremiah	Jonah	

Published by the Philadelphia Church of God and produced in cooperation with Imperial Academy.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Gerald Flurry

Copyright ©2016
All rights reserved.

Crack the Code

Use the code below to reveal the hidden scripture.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

1 14 4 7 15 4 19 1 23 5 22 5 18 25

20 8 9 14 7 20 8 1 20 8 5 8 1 4

13 1 4 5 ' 1 14 4 ' 2 5 8 15 12 4 9 20

23 1 19 22 5 18 25 7 15 15 4 ■ 1 14 4 20 8 5

5 22 5 14 9 14 7 1 14 4 20 8 5

13 15 18 14 9 14 7 23 5 18 5 20 8 5

19 9 24 20 8 4 1 25 ■

7 5 14 5 19 9 19 1 ■ 3 1