L2.1 "Who Is God?"

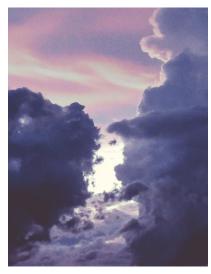


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It is very important to understand who and what God is. We can only know this information if God chooses to reveal it to us, and He has through the Bible. What was it like when nothing physical existed? In this pre-historic era there were two eternal, powerful, spirit Beings called God and the Word. Together, God and the Word planned and designed everything seen and unseen – the angelic hosts, the stars and planets, the plants and the animals, and man. The Word, who became Christ, was the One who did the creating. God is not some magical "force." No, God is real! He has form and shape. We can know what God looks like because He made us to look like Him. God is all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving. Through His Spirit, He can see what's going on

everywhere! However, we cannot know who God is without knowing His character. God is good, merciful, kind, and filled with compassion. Everything God does is motivated from love. God is love.

Read John 1:1-3; Gen. 1:26-27; John 4:24; John 3:15-16; Ps. 90:2; Col. 1:16-17; Isa. 46:9-10; 1 John 4:8.

Parents:

- Help your child understand that there are two Beings in the God Family, the Father and Jesus Christ.
- Explain that God wants every human being to be born into the Family of God.
- Help your child to understand that the Spirit of God is *not* a separate Person, but rather the power through which God does things.
- Ask your child to describe what they think the relationship between God and the Word was like before the creation.
- Speculate with your student about what it would be like to be a God Being. What would you do? Where in the Universe would you visit?

Review memorization

Isa. 46:9-10. Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure'

L2.2 "Where Did God Come From?"

God had no beginning, and He has no end. God was not created; He is the Creator. God is the ever-living One. One of His names is simply, "I Am". It means, He has always existed. It may be difficult to understand, but God did not come from anywhere. God is eternal. He is, and He has always been. Atheists say this makes no sense. They along with most people would rather believe that everything happened by chance. They



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believe that somehow cells and organisms and human

beings just came together, somehow! But they offer no explanation of how that happened. Evolution is an attempt by mankind to explain the existence of a creation without a Creator. God calls this foolish. He says they are without excuse; the Universe itself is proof of His existence. God now lives in the third heaven where He reigns over His creation.

Read Isa. 57:15; Ex. 3:13-14; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rom. 1:18-22; Rev. 4:1-4

Parents:

- Explain to your child that the Word was the God in the Old Testament who interacted with mankind (1 Cor. 10:1-4).
- Explain to your child that evolution, even though it is portrayed as a fact, is a theory which offers no evidence as proof. (You may wish to view the Tomorrow's World telecast <u>Darwin's Legacy</u> which explains this point.)
- Ask your child if they have heard of evolution. Help them to explain why it is false, in their own words.
- Help your child think about God's throne. What will it be like to be there?

Review memorization

Isa. 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure'

L2.3 "The Angelic Realm"



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Before time began, before the earth, sun, planets and stars, before anything of the Universe was created, God created the angels. Angels are created, brilliant, powerful spirit beings with personalities and the ability to make choices and decisions. God created millions, and perhaps billions of angels! They were created prior to the physical Universe to help God govern and manage the Universe.¹ Angels were created on a lower level than God, but with power and

intellect superior to human beings. The angelic realm is very real even though it is not within man's senses to perceive it. Their primary job at this time is to serve and help us, the future sons and daughters of God.

Read Col. 1:15-16; Job 38:4-7; Ps. 104:4, 91:11; Rev. 5:11; Heb. 1:13-14.²

Parents:

- Many people do not believe there is a spirit realm. Ask your child to identify things we know exist which cannot be seen such as gravity. Remind your child that God is a spirit who cannot be seen with the human eye. Angels are spirit, too.
- Discuss with your child how angels were given the job to help take care of human beings. What are some ways that angels do that? Explain examples in your family when you were saved from a terrible car crash or other accident, and how an angel might have been the one that helped your family be safe.
- Discuss with your child how angels have been witnesses from the beginning of God's power and His plan. Note that they've watched history from Adam to now.

Review memorization

Hebrews 1:13-14. But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those who will inherit salvation?

¹ Herbert W. Armstrong. *Mystery of the Ages.* (New York: Dodd, Mead, & Company, 1985) 61.

Parents may wish to read Mystery of the Ages, "Mystery of Angels and Evil Spirits", in preparation for discussion.

L2.4 "God Creates the Universe"



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There was a time when there was only God – two Beings that included God and the Word. But God wanted to have more people in His family. He first created angels, which were designed to be helpers of human beings. Afterwards, God began to create the physical Universe; at the instant the Universe came into existence, time began. All the planets, stars, comets, and everything on earth was created by God! The whole Universe, everything that we can see and everything that we cannot see, was created in preparation for the future sons and daughters of God Almighty.

Read Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-3; Job 38:4-7; Heb. 1:10, 13-14; Rom. 8:19.

Parents:

- Talk about how God and Jesus Christ wanted a family and built a creation for them to enjoy. Originally, it was just the two of them the Father and the Word and they wanted a much bigger family.
- Help your child to understand that God is the creator and that only God can create, i.e., make something from nothing.
- Explain to your child that God created the spirit world including angels before creating the physical universe.
- Ask your child what "things" in God's creation they enjoy the most. Help him/her understand, in a simple way, God created all of these things for us!

Review memorization

Isa. 45:18. For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the Lord, and there is no other..."