





# God's Creation

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## Foreword

*Foundations for Living* is a ten-unit elective for high school students, providing the biblical basis and historical development of the Christian worldview. Fundamental truths and principles from the Bible are used to apply the Christian worldview to a range of contemporary issues from family life to art, music, and politics.

Gathering all of a student's education into a unified whole, this course assists contemporary teenagers in recognizing the value of Christian truth. As teenagers discern the differences between Christian and non-Christian worldviews, they will be better equipped for their new adventures in life beyond high school.

*Foundations for Living* contains the following units. The specific unit you will be studying next is highlighted below.

Unit 1 – What Is a Biblical Worldview?

Unit 2 – Presuppositions

Unit 3 – The Doctrines of the Bible

Unit 4 – God's Creation

Unit 5 – The Family

Unit 6 – The Bible and Marriage

Unit 7 – Dating to Matrimony

Unit 8 – Christian Education

Unit 9 – Art, Music, and Politics

Unit 10 – Putting It All Together

**NOTE:** All vocabulary words appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used in the text. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given in the Glossary.

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# God's Creation

*By this time, this series should have helped you develop presuppositions that will determine how you process ideas and information. One presupposition is the unshakable belief that the Bible is the inspired Word of God; therefore, it follows that it is infallible (true), inerrant (without mistakes), and all-sufficient (contains everything that is necessary for faith and life which is pleasing to God). If this is one of your basic presuppositions, it will influence everything you see, hear, or do. It will affect how you interpret the things you learn as well as how you respond to the world around you. With such a view of Scripture, you will be able to wisely make decisions, be productive, and become a humble servant. Specifically, you will have a biblical worldview that will help you become a man or woman who is pleasing to God.*

*Beginning in this unit and continuing in those that follow, you will learn what the Bible says about the world and many of the personal situations you will encounter during your life.*

## The Worldviews Presented in this Unit



## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC®.

When you have completed this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

- Clarify God's ownership of the world.
- Present the Scriptural definition of man.
- Defend the sanctity of human life.
- Explain man's purpose on earth.

# The Worldview Tree

**B**efore you read your first section, we would like to introduce you to the “Worldview Tree,” a recurring visual metaphor that will unify and explain the entire curriculum. It teaches that our actions do not occur randomly; rather, they are the natural results of our beliefs and presuppositions. Therefore, what we believe and think truly does make a difference! This is how it works (see the opposite page for the chart).

The Worldview Tree illustrates how a **culture** develops within a particular **civilization**. This process begins in the soil with **presuppositions**, which move up a root system into the trunk of the tree. Once above ground, the **worldview** affects one’s perspectives on life and directs one’s choices. These choices manifest themselves in a variety of activities, which are repeated over time as an ongoing **heritage**, passed from one generation to the next.

There are four successive steps that lead to a developed culture. The first step is **believing**, followed by **thinking** (or, in the case of Postmodernism, **feeling**). The process moves to **seeing**, and this leads through choices to **doing**. These steps of human progress illustrate how internal ideas lead to external actions.

Each time a Worldview Tree is displayed, its structure remains essentially the same, while its content follows the information in each unit and is represented by the **roots** (boxes in the lower portion of the ground) and the **fruit** (which are located on or near the tree). This content demonstrates how a variety of topics all follow a similar path of development from foundational beliefs (roots) to behavior (fruit).

There are two basic worldviews, God’s and Man’s. **God’s Worldview** is depicted with bright green leaves and healthy red fruit. **Man’s Worldview** is depicted with dull brown leaves and decaying purple fruit. Within **Man’s Worldview**, there are two variations: a single tree represents a single worldview and multiple trees represent a plurality of sub-worldviews (as with Postmodernism, which will begin in Unit 4). Each Worldview Tree asks a thought-provoking question and provides space for your answer.

Historically, these two worldviews (God’s and Man’s) developed over four periods of time as depicted in the pullout chart and provide a picture of the ongoing differences between the Christian and non-Christian perspectives on the origin, history and destiny of humanity.

## WORLDVIEW TREE LOCATIONS

Contemporary Christianity . . . . .	34
Postmodernism . . . . .	35

Believing



THINKING  
OR  
FEELING

**Civilization:** Locations that display worldviews

**Fruit:** Resulting behavior



**Culture:** Activities that express a worldview

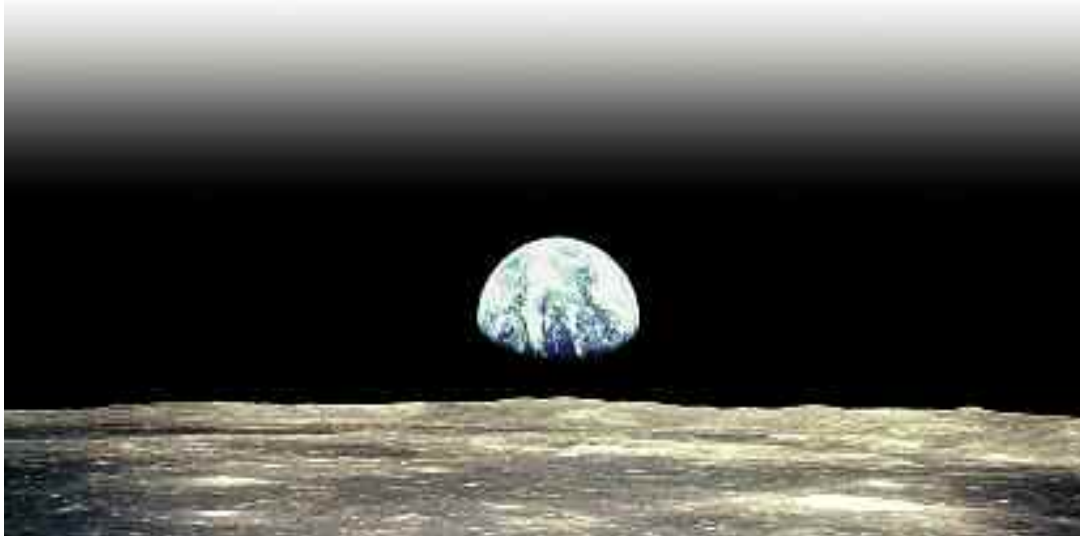
**Roots:** Foundational beliefs

**Worldview:** A comprehensive view of life

**Presuppositions:** Beliefs that develop a worldview

▶ **Seeing = Doing**

# I. The Sovereignty of the Creator



## Who Owns the World?

We will begin this section with a hypothetical question. If you built something from scratch with materials you owned, whose would it be? The answer is obvious—it would be yours. Unless you were commissioned to build it for someone else, it would belong to you. You would be the owner by virtue of having built it.

In the first chapter of Genesis we read that, *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). Therefore, by virtue of creation, God is the owner of the world. Psalm 24:1 states, *“The earth is the LORD’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”*

When we carefully consider all the words of the first verse of the Bible, we see something that places even greater emphasis on God’s ownership. The verse begins with the words, *“In the beginning God.”* In other words, before God created heaven and the earth, there was only God. Nothing existed before God. God created all things, and He created them in the true sense of the word.

We often use the word **create** in reference to someone who made or composed something original, as in the case of an artist, musician, or builder. However, all of these individuals actually made something out of components that already existed. An artist sculpts or

paints using the materials that are available to him; a builder also constructs out of existing materials. Only God created in the true sense of the word create. To **create** literally means to make something out of nothing. When we say God created heaven and the earth, we mean He literally made them out of nothing. By simply commanding their existence, the heavens and earth came into being. In order to create, God was dependent upon no one or no thing.

When a person creates something, he not only owns it, he also knows exactly how it operates. If we invented and constructed something, we would know its purpose and how it works. That is what is so unique about new inventions.

Take the example of Alexander Graham Bell, an American scientist who invented the telephone. In 1865, he conceived the idea of transmitting speech by electric waves. He worked on developing that principle until 1875; and in 1876, he transmitted the first sentence. Consider the implications—Mr. Bell invented the telephone. The idea was his, and after more than ten years of work, he made the idea a reality. Once the telephone was constructed, Mr. Bell was the rightful owner. The telephone was his by virtue of conceiving the idea and constructing the instrument. No one but Mr. Bell

could claim ownership. Mr. Bell was also the one who determined the purpose of this instrument and how it would operate. No one could rightfully say that the telephone was constructed for a different purpose, nor could anyone say that it was to operate in a manner different from what was envisioned by Mr. Bell. These are logical conclusions because the inventor is the rightful owner.

When we apply the same logic to the world, we arrive at the same conclusions. The world was God's idea. To illustrate our point, we could say God was the inventor. Having conceived the idea, God created the world. He is therefore the rightful owner of the world. Not only is He the owner, He is also the one who determined the purpose of the world and established how the world was to operate. One can neither justifiably deny God's ownership, nor His **sovereignty** over the world. God's sovereignty is His supreme power and authority over His creation. When one rightfully owns something, he or she also possesses the right to control it. An owner can do as he pleases with his possessions.



Alexander Graham Bell



**Complete these activities.**

- 1.1 Which important presupposition will affect all we see, hear, or do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.2 A biblical worldview will help us become the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- 1.3 Psalm 24:1: "The \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof; the \_\_\_\_\_ and they that \_\_\_\_\_ therein."
- 1.4 Define *create*. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.5 When one creates something, he not only owns it, but knows exactly how it \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.6 Who determines the purpose for which someone creates something? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.7 In your own words, explain what we mean when we say God is sovereign over His creation.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





### Complete this activity.

- 1.8 Research a late 20th-century invention and write a one-page report. Who was the inventor? How many years did it take? What challenges were faced in making the invention? What was the designed purpose for the invention? Is the invention a product that can be purchased? How does the product differ from the design of the inventor?



Adult check

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

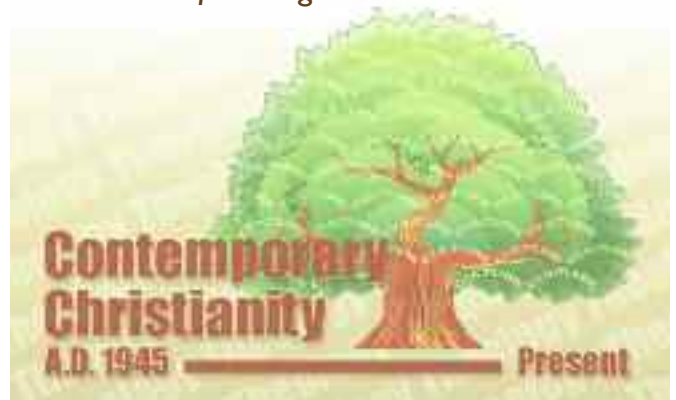
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When we say that God is sovereign, we must realize that He is King, not only in a general sense but also in a personal sense. God is personally sovereign over every miniscule part of His creation. Earlier, we mentioned Alexander Graham Bell and his invention, the telephone. We concluded that as the inventor, Mr. Bell was the rightful owner. We also concluded that he decided what people would use it for and how it would operate. When we say Mr. Bell was the owner and sovereign of his telephone, we do not mean that he held those rights in some sort of vague or general sense. Mr. Bell owned every minute part of that phone and determined exactly how each part worked to make up the whole. In the same way, God not only owns and rules over the world in a general sense, He is actually the owner and operator (sovereign) of every small part, and He has determined how each part should work to make up the whole. This is encouraging news, as we will point out throughout this unit.

In Genesis 2:2 we read, “*And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*” God rested from all the work that He had done. If you do not pay careful attention to the exact wording, you may misunderstand the intent of this verse. God did not merely rest—He rested from all the work that He had done. Up to that point, the work God had done was the work of creation. The verse does not state that since creation God has been simply resting. He rested from creation—He was finished with His work of creation; however, God has been interested and actively involved in maintaining it since that day. God is always at work.

**Deism** is the belief that God created the world subject to natural laws but takes no interest in it. Deists believe that, at creation, God imparted certain indisputable properties to His creatures, placed them under

*“When we say God created heaven and the earth, we mean He literally made them out of nothing.”*



constant laws, and left them to work out their destiny by their own powers. According to the deists, after creation God ceased to exercise specific oversight of His creatures. Deists believe that the work of God is much like that of a watchmaker. He makes the watch, winds it up, and then leaves it to run on its own. According to deism, the world is like a machine put into motion; however, this is not what Scripture teaches. Instead, God’s created world is like a ship or an airliner in which God commands every moment. The Bible teaches us that God is constantly active in the affairs of His creation.

Since God is the creator and sovereign Lord of the earth, it follows that He is also a providential God. In the previous unit, we defined **providence** as the care exercised by God over the universe and the exercise of foresight and care for the future. God not only created the earth, He also cares for it in a personal way.

When we say that God is providential, we mean that He sustains the earth. To **sustain** means to uphold and support, to keep from sinking or falling. “The fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” are sus-

tained by a providential God. This is very encouraging because we are not dependent upon man or some unknown power (which might someday fail) to sustain us.

God is owner and in total control. This is not a fact that we should reject; rather, we should find great security in it. God is the earth's sovereign and providential owner, not so that He can confine us, but rather so that He can protect us and provide for us as a perfect, loving Father does for his children. The familiar hymn "This Is My Father's World" by M.D. Babcock conveys this truth beautifully:

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears all nature sings,  
And round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees,  
Of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light,  
The lily white,  
Declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world,  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:  
Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King:  
Let the heavens ring!  
God reigns: let the earth be glad! Amen.

Providence has to do with God's moving the world through time. The Bible speaks not only of the creation of the world, but also its **consummation**. Consummation means fulfilling to the highest degree; perfect completion. God created the world, and He will bring it to its consummation. He makes certain to sustain the world throughout time, bringing about His plan for it. In His providence, God provides for the world, sustains the world, and brings the world to its consummation.

Imagine getting up one morning and beginning a trip. We get in our car and simply begin driving. We do not know how much gas is in the tank, how much

money we have, where we are headed, how long we will be gone, and we do not even have a map—we are just going. That would surely be a foolish way to embark upon any journey. When we go on a trip, we have a destination in mind, make sure we have enough gasoline and funds, and have a general idea how long it will take to get there and when we will return. We may run into some delays or unforeseen circumstances; however, to the best of our ability, we follow a plan.

God created the earth and He has a plan for it. He did not simply get things going and hope that they would turn out all right. If it is foolish for us to start something without planning, how much more foolish would it be for God to do so?

Remember your lessons about God's attributes. Consider these attributes and how they relate to God and the world. God, who is omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnipresent (present in all places at all times), creates and controls His creation according to His plan. Again, this is very reassuring to us. We are not in the hands of chance. What happens in the future is not haphazard or unknown. The world is upheld and advanced according to the power, knowledge, and presence of God Himself.

Even when we do not understand what is going on, we can trust that it is all part of a loving God's grand plan. Even when things appear to be going badly for us, God is still in control and is doing what is best. As we read in Romans 8:28: "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" Remember that what is "good" for us is not always what makes us most comfortable or gives us the most pleasure. Rather, it is that which conforms us more to Christ and brings glory to Him. Consider the words of Isaiah 55:9: "*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*"

Following are Scripture references which teach the providential control of God.



### **Over the universe at large:**

Psalm 103:19: "*The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens and his kingdom ruleth over all.*"

Daniel 4:35: "*And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*"

Ephesians 1:11: *“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.”*



### **Over the physical world:**

Job 37:5, 10: *“God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened.”*

Psalm 104:14: *“He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.”*

Psalm 135:6: *“Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.”*

Matthew 5:45: *“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”*



### **Over the animal creation:**

Psalm 104:21, 28: *“The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.”*

Matthew 6:26: *“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”*

Matthew 10:29: *“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.”*



### **Over the affairs of nations:**

Job 12:23: *“He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again.”*

Psalm 22:28: *“For the kingdom is the LORD’s: and he is the governor among the nations.”*

Psalm 66:7: *“He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.”*

Acts 17:26: *“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”*



### **Over man’s birth and destiny:**

1 Samuel 16:1: *“And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.”*

Psalm 139:16: *“Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”*

Isaiah 45:5: *“I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me.”*

Galatians 1:15-16: *“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood...”*



### **Over the outward success and failures of men’s lives:**

Psalm 75:6-7: *“For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.”*

Luke 1:52: *“He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.”*



### **Over things which seem coincidental or irrelevant:**

Proverbs 16:33: *“The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.”*

Matthew 10:30: *“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”*



### **In protecting the righteous:**

Psalm 4:8: *“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.”*

Psalm 5:12: *“For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.”*

Psalm 63:8: *“My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.”*

Psalm 121:3: *“He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.”*

Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."



### In fulfilling the desires of His people:

Genesis 22:8, 14: "And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen."

Deuteronomy 8:3: "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live."

Philippians 4:19: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."



### In answering prayers:

1 Samuel 1:19: "And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her."

Isaiah 20:5-6: "And they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory. And the

inhabitant of this isle shall say in that day, Behold, such is our expectation, whither we flee for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria: and how shall we escape?"

2 Chronicles 33:13: "And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God."

Psalm 65:2: "O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come."

Matthew 7:7: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Luke 18:7-8: "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? "



### In exposing and punishing the evil:

Psalm 7:12-13: "If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors."

Psalm 11:6: "Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup."



### Match the correct Scripture reference with its topic.

- |      |       |                                                                |                       |
|------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.9  | _____ | God's control over the physical world                          | a. Psalm 11:6         |
| 1.10 | _____ | God's control over the affairs of nations                      | b. Matthew 6:26       |
| 1.11 | _____ | God's control over the animal creation                         | c. Psalm 135:6        |
| 1.12 | _____ | God's control in protecting the righteous                      | d. Job 12:23          |
| 1.13 | _____ | God's control over the universe at large                       | e. 2 Chronicles 33:13 |
| 1.14 | _____ | God's control over man's birth and destiny                     | f. Deuteronomy 8:3    |
| 1.15 | _____ | God's control over the success and failures of men's lives     | g. Psalm 75:6-7       |
| 1.16 | _____ | God's control in answering prayers                             | h. Matthew 10:30      |
| 1.17 | _____ | God's control in fulfilling the desires of His people          | i. Psalm 103:19       |
| 1.18 | _____ | God's control in exposing and punishing evil                   | j. Psalm 139:16       |
| 1.19 | _____ | God's control over things that seem coincidental or irrelevant | k. Psalm 4:8          |



**Answer true or false.**

- 1.20 \_\_\_\_\_ God created the entire universe in seven days.
- 1.21 \_\_\_\_\_ God is owner of the world by virtue of having created it.
- 1.22 \_\_\_\_\_ God created the world and He sustains it.
- 1.23 \_\_\_\_\_ Man has total control over the earth God created.
- 1.24 \_\_\_\_\_ God upholds and sustains the earth.
- 1.25 \_\_\_\_\_ When God created the world, He did not know its future.
- 1.26 \_\_\_\_\_ What happens in the future is up to man.
- 1.27 \_\_\_\_\_ Everything that happens is ordained by God for the good of those who love Him.

## What is Man?

It is logical to move from **theology** (the study of God) to **anthropology** (the study of man) because of the special position man holds in relationship to God. The Bible is not only God's revelation, it is also His special revelation to man. The Bible tells us about God's creation and His relationship to it but especially the relationship He has with man. Scripture addresses God's dealings with man from his creation, through the present, and into the future. The Bible clearly demonstrates that man is of great importance to God, and an understanding of man's relationship to God is vital to a proper understanding of the Bible.

**The Origin of Man.** The record of man's creation is written in the first chapter of Genesis. There we first learn that man's creation took place after a divine counsel. Genesis 1:26 reads, "*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: 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 creepeth upon the earth.*" Notice the use of the words *us* and *our*. These show that God is a plurality. For this reason, Judeo-Christian theologians generally agreed that this is the first reference to the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) found in the Bible. From this phrase, we learn that man is distinct from all other creatures. God did not create man in the likeness of any inferior creature. His creation stands out as something completely distinctive from anything else created by God.

**Two Elements of Man.** In Genesis 2:7, we discover there are two different elements of man: the body and the spirit. God formed the body out of the "dust of the ground." He used previously created material in forming the human body. We read, "*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*" In this verse, we find that God created man with a two-fold nature, body and spirit.

**Man's Heightened Position.** Genesis 1:28, often referred to as the Dominion Mandate, tells us that God placed man in a special position in His creation. God placed man at the apex of His creation. God designated him as the master of His creation and gave him dominion over all creatures of the earth. In this position, it was man's duty and right to rule all creatures and nature and to make them subservient to his will and purpose. That will and purpose was to glorify God, the creator and sovereign of the universe.

To further illustrate this concept, David wrote in Psalm 8:3–9:

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy*

*hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!*

In referring again to the account of creation found in Genesis, we see that each day God looked at what He had thus far created and saw that “it was good” (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). At the conclusion of His creative work, after He had created man, Genesis 1:31 states, “*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was **very** good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day*” (emphasis added). It was not until after God created man that He used the words “very good.” Since the time of man’s creation, God has considered us the most special of all His creatures.

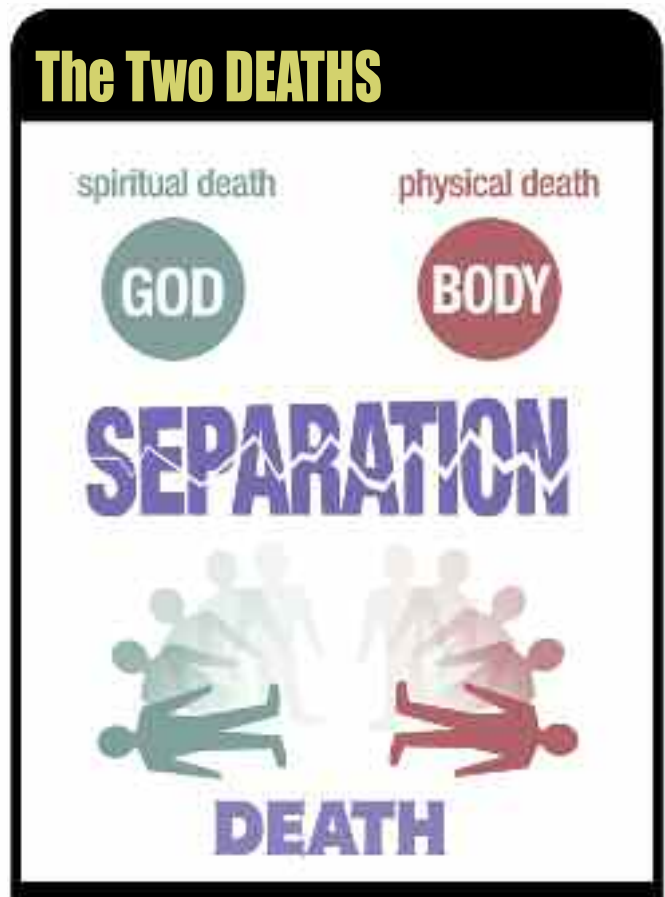
As we have already stated, God created man in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). It is commonly held that both these words refer to the same thing. Support of this position is written in the next verse (v. 27), in which only the word *image* is used. In Genesis 5:1, only the word *likeness* is used, but in the third verse of the same chapter only *image* is used. Turning to Genesis 9:6, we see that only the word *image* is used as a complete expression of the idea. The fact that the Bible uses these two words interchangeably indicates that they do not refer to two different things.

What does it mean that God created man in His own image and/or likeness? As we notice the difference between man and all other living creatures, we see what it means to be created in God’s image. Consider the following:

1. Man has intellectual power, natural affections, and moral freedom.
2. Man is spiritual—he is a spirit and body united.
3. Man is immortal in the sense that his spirit lives forever after physical death.
4. God gave man dominion over the lower creatures of the world.
5. God created original man (Adam) with “original righteousness;” God made man “very good.” Although this was lost at his fall (see Genesis 3), the New Testament indicates that the new man is renewed in Christ.
6. Man possesses degrees of knowledge, wisdom, love, and holiness. Although only God possesses

these attributes in perfection, man has elements of these as well as other attributes ascribed to God.

God created man as a perfect human being, without sin and with the ability to perfectly worship and serve Him with all of the talents and abilities God had given him. We learned that God created him “a little lower than the angels” (Psalms 8:5). His original nature was one of holiness and righteousness—he was man in his ideal state. When Adam sinned, he lost that righteousness but remained man, although not in the perfect condition that God had created him. When man sinned, his human nature became flawed and corrupted.



God created man to be immortal in both body and spirit. In man’s original nature, only God would have been able to make an end to his life. As long as Adam and Eve remained in perfect communion with God, their bodies and spirits would not die. True life, as referred to in Scripture, is communion with God, while death is separation from God and subjection to His wrath. Adam’s sin caused spiritual death as well as inevitable physical death for himself and the entire human race.



**Complete these activities.**

- I.28 \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of God.
- I.29 \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of man.
- I.30 Where do we find the account of man's creation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.31 Why do we say that Genesis 1:26 is the Bible's first reference to the Trinity? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.32 Why do we say that man's body was formed out of previously created material? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.33 When God breathed into the nostrils of man, he became a living \_\_\_\_\_ .
- I.34 What is Genesis 1:28 often called? \_\_\_\_\_
- I.35 According to Genesis 1:28, what did God say man was to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.36 On the first five days of creation, what was God's assessment of what He had created?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.37 After God had created man, what was His assessment of His creation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.38 What are some attributes of man that are different from all other creatures? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.39 What happened to man's human nature when he sinned? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.40 Other than physical life, what does true life mean in Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I.41 What sort of death resulted because of Adam's sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### **Our proper management of the earth involves order and development**

Synonymous to the words *image* and *likeness* is the word *reflection*. When one sees his reflection in the mirror, he sees an image or likeness of himself. The reflection is not the real person, but an image of that person. Man is not, nor will he ever become, God. However, God created man to reflect who He is. Man possesses certain attributes that no other creature possesses. He has the ability to reason and to love. He is able to plan for the future, to learn, and to make a choice to obey God's laws. Such attributes, as well as many others, are not possessed by any other creature. These are also attributes possessed by God. Because God is wise as well as righteous, He also has a plan for the future.

When we examine God's attributes, we discover that the attributes of man are similar. Man's attributes are not exactly as God's because man is imperfect and

God is perfect. God is perfect in all His attributes. Although man possesses certain attributes, he is imperfect in all of them. For example, man possesses a certain amount of wisdom, but he is not omniscient. Man has the ability to obey laws, but he is not righteous in all that he does. Man has certain creative gifts and abilities, but he is not able to create something out of nothing. Man is able to express acts of love, but he is not all loving. Man has the power and ability to perform a great variety of deeds, but he is not omnipotent. Man is able to be at different places at different times, but he is not omnipresent. In many ways we may say that man reflects the attributes of God. God gave man dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28), but remains sovereign over all His creation. God is perfect; man was created in God's image and is a reflection (though sometimes an imperfect one) of who He is.



Before he sinned, man was a clearer reflection of God. One could look at Adam before he sinned and learn much about the nature and character of God. After the fall of man, that image was much dimmer; however, through a relationship with Jesus Christ, man images the nature and character of God more and more as he grows in Christ. Notice the words of 2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” One who is in Christ is a new creature, a creature that reflects the character and attributes of God.

All of God’s creation expresses something about God. Romans 1:20 says, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” However, only man is said to be created in God’s image and likeness. Man was created to be the greatest reflection of God our creator.

We have already referred to another noteworthy aspect of man. Look again at Genesis 1:26–28:

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: 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 creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue** it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

God gave man stewardship over all the earth. A **steward** is one who is entrusted with the management of someone’s property and/or affairs. In our consideration of the question, “What is man?” we cannot disregard the fact that man is the only one of all God’s creatures that He entrusted with such an awesome task. God delegated to man the responsibility of caring for the entire world and all other creatures in it. God remains the owner, but man, under God’s supervision, is the steward. In this capacity, man is responsible to God for the proper management of all He has created. This surely demonstrates that man is a special creation of God. God has not entrusted any other creature with such a great honor and responsibility. Neither has God created any other creature with the abilities necessary to fulfill such a task.



**Answer true or false.**

- 1.42 \_\_\_\_\_ Reflection is a synonym of image and likeness.
- 1.43 \_\_\_\_\_ Adam possessed all the attributes of God perfectly.
- 1.44 \_\_\_\_\_ God gave man dominion over the earth.
- 1.45 \_\_\_\_\_ After he sinned, man was a clearer reflection of God.
- 1.46 \_\_\_\_\_ All of creation tells us something about God.
- 1.47 \_\_\_\_\_ God said, “Let Me make man in My image.”
- 1.48 \_\_\_\_\_ God gave man the responsibility of caring for His creation.
- 1.49 \_\_\_\_\_ As steward, man is the owner of the earth.
- 1.50 \_\_\_\_\_ Man is the only creature with the ability to manage the earth.



Review the material in this section to prepare for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your understanding of this section. Any items you miss on this test will show you what areas you need to restudy.

# SELF TEST 1

**Underline the correct answer in each of the following statements** (each answer, 3 points).

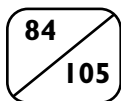
- I.01 The belief that the Bible is the (**new, inspired, catholic**) Word of God will influence all we see, hear, or do.
- I.02 One who (**creates, visualizes, manages**) something is the owner of it.
- I.03 One who has (**sovereignty, delegation, righteousness**) has supreme power and authority.
- I.04 The belief that God created the world but takes no interest in it is (**monotheism, pantheism, deism**).
- I.05 On the seventh day, God rested from His work of (**sovereignty, creation, dominion**).
- I.06 God cares for the world in a (**personal, distant, caustic**) way.
- I.07 In His (**law, intelligence, providence**), God brings the world to its consummation.
- I.08 Romans 8:28 tells us that (**all, some, most**) things work together for good to those who love God.
- I.09 (**Anthropology, Mythology, Theology**) is the study of man.
- I.010 Genesis 1:26 is the first reference to the (**sovereignty of God, seed of the woman, Trinity**).

**Answer true or false** (each answer, 3 points).

- I.011 \_\_\_\_\_ God owns the world and everything in it.
- I.012 \_\_\_\_\_ Create, in its true sense, means to make something using existing materials.
- I.013 \_\_\_\_\_ God created the heavens and the earth by commanding their existence.
- I.014 \_\_\_\_\_ God is the creator and man is sovereign over the earth.
- I.015 \_\_\_\_\_ God created the earth in seven days.
- I.016 \_\_\_\_\_ On the seventh day God rested from all His works.
- I.017 \_\_\_\_\_ God sustains His creation.
- I.018 \_\_\_\_\_ The hymn "This Is My Father's World" beautifully conveys God's commandments.
- I.019 \_\_\_\_\_ Man will bring God's creation to its final consummation.
- I.020 \_\_\_\_\_ Man was created to reflect the attributes of God.
- I.021 \_\_\_\_\_ Stewardship is the management of someone's property and/or affairs.
- I.022 \_\_\_\_\_ When man sinned, he most clearly reflected the attributes of God.
- I.023 \_\_\_\_\_ If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
- I.024 \_\_\_\_\_ Since the beginning of the world, God's invisible attributes could not be seen.
- I.025 \_\_\_\_\_ Man has many of the attributes of God, but not in a perfect sense.

**Matching** (each answer, 3 points).

- |       |       |                                                                         |                 |
|-------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| I.026 | _____ | the care exercised by God over the universe and His care for the future | a. anthropology |
| I.027 | _____ | the belief that God created the world but takes no interest in it       | b. consummation |
| I.028 | _____ | one who is entrusted to manage another's property                       | c. create       |
| I.029 | _____ | the study of God                                                        | d. deism        |
| I.030 | _____ | to render peaceful, to tame                                             | e. providence   |
| I.031 | _____ | to uphold and support                                                   | f. sovereignty  |
| I.032 | _____ | to make something out of nothing                                        | g. steward      |
| I.033 | _____ | fulfilling to the highest degree; perfect completion                    | h. sustain      |
| I.034 | _____ | the study of man                                                        | i. subdue       |
| I.035 | _____ | God's supreme power and authority over His creation                     | j. theology     |
|       |       |                                                                         | k. witness      |



**Adult Check**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Score**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Initial**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**