

What does it say?

We hope that as you go through these questions they will help you to understand what the Bible teaches about the world, about you and why Jesus came to help you. We would love you to help you understand more - if you think of any questions please email them to us.

Please read the Bible verses and then fill in the answers to the questions. We would love to read your answers, and send you our answers so you can compare them. As you go through filling the form in save it, and then when you have finished, attach it to an email and send it to study@chatnow.org.uk

The Beginning

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light"... God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

(From Genesis chapter 1, verses 1-3 and v 25)

1) What you have just read is the first verse in the Bible. What does this first verse in the Bible tell us about how long God has been around?

2) How did God create things?

3) What is God's opinion about the things He makes?

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

(From Genesis 1v26-27)

4) Humans are not just another animal we are different. What does the Bible say about us that shows we are different?

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

(From Genesis 1v31)

5) What does God think about everything He has made?

The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die".

(From Genesis 2v15-17)

6) What did God tell Adam not to do?

7) What did God say would happen if he did it?

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they

suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?" The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

(From Genesis 3v1-13)

8) What did Adam and Eve do wrong?

9) Why do you think they did it?

The devil's plan today is to twist God's words and to try and persuade us not to believe what God says. The purity and innocence of Adam and Eve was lost and instead fear, blame, death etc. entered the world! God then told them what would happen because they had done the wrong thing.

Then the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, grovelling in the dust as long as you live. And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

(From Genesis 3v14-15)

10) Who do you think is going to come and strike the devil's head?

Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God it made a barrier between them and Him, and they and their children began to do evil in the world.

What about me?

You might be wondering what does all of this have to do with you? You are Adam and Eve's relatives and we have all inherited from them a sinful nature, which means that we all do bad things - even a baby does not need to be taught how to be bad!

Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

(From Romans 5v18-19)

11) Why are we sinners?

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil - the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved).

(From Ephesians 2v1-5)

12) Before people become a Christian how does God describe them?

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

(From Isaiah 64v6)

13) How does God describe the good things that we do?

Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear.

(From Luke 12v4-5)

14) Why should we be afraid of God?

He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.

(From 2 Thessalonians 1v8-9)

15) What happens to people who don't follow Jesus?

God is very loving but He is also very Holy and can't just ignore the bad things we do. Everything that is done against Him, and His ways, is bad in His eyes. Everything that is not perfect is sinful and has to be punished!

How can we get out of this problem?

If God had just left us alone we would all end up in Hell, suffering for ever and ever. But God did not want everyone to go there and so He made a way for us to escape - a way for us to be saved!

In the Old Testament God chose a group of people, called the Jews, to follow Him. God told them that if they did bad things (sin) they deserved to be punished with death but instead of killing the person that had done wrong God gave them something else to do...

The LORD called to Moses from the Tabernacle and said to him. Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. When you present an animal as an offering to the LORD, you may take it from your herd of cattle or your flock of sheep and goats. If the animal you present as a burnt offering is from the herd, it must be a male with no defects. Bring it to the entrance of the

Tabernacle so you may be accepted by the LORD. Lay your hand on the animal's head, and the LORD will accept its death in your place to purify you, making you right with him.

(From Leviticus 1v1-4)

16) Describe what the animal had to be like?

According to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

(From Hebrews 9v22)

17) What had to happen before people could be forgiven?

A healthy and pure animal dying so people could be forgiven was a picture of what was to come! Jesus is God and is therefore perfect and free from evil and sin - He came down to this earth to be the last sacrifice, the not guilty dying to free the guilty. In the Bible there is a book written by a man called Isaiah, he lived 100s of years before Jesus but he predicted what would happen to Jesus...

He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers,

he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.

(From Isaiah 53v3-9)

So what did Jesus do?

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world".

(From John 1v29)

18) What did John the Baptist call Jesus?

For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.

(From Hebrews 10v10)

19) What did God plan to do to rescue us?

No one is righteous, not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.

(From Romans 3v10-12)

20) If God didn't help us first, how many people would look for God's help?

God knew that if He just waited for us, we would never turn to Him.

You didn't choose me. I chose you... The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

(From John 15v16 and 19)

21) What did God do so that we would find Him?

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

(From Ephesians 2v8-9)

22) Why can't you boast that you are really good and that's why God wanted to rescue you?

Salvation is a gift that God gives, not because some people are better than others but simply because He has decided to - even though none of us deserve it at all.

Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.

(From Galatians 2v16)

23) What makes us at peace with God?

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

(From John 14v6)

24) There are many different religions in the world but how many ways are there to get to God?

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God.

(From 1 Peter 3v18)

25) What does Jesus' death on the cross do for us?

We are human and we have done wrong against an infinite God, His holiness and purity is infinite and this means that the wrong we have done against Him deserves an infinite amount of punishment. Jesus, who is God, came down to this earth and was born as a human but, unlike us, He was perfect and never did anything wrong. He was killed on a cross and His Father in heaven punished Him with the punishment we deserve. He wasn't guilty at all and so He didn't deserve any punishment.

It would take a human an infinite amount of time to take an infinite amount of punishment and it would also take an angel (a created being) an infinite amount of time to take an infinite amount of punishment. But because Jesus is God (and therefore infinite) He was able to take an infinite amount of punishment in a few hours. When Jesus was on the cross He literally took the punishment people deserve.

When Christians die God will not punish them for what they have done wrong because their punishment has already been taken by Jesus and they are forgiven and set free. When we really understand how much Jesus did for us it will make us very grateful and full of love for Him and want to follow Him with everything!

What do we need to do?

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

(From John 3v16-17)

26) What do we need to do be rescued and have eternal life?

I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

(From John 5.24)

27) Will a Christian ever be punished for the sins they still do?

What has God planned for the future?

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us new in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. *(Ephesians 2v10)*

28) What has God planned for those He has rescued?

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead".

(From Luke 24v1-6)

29) Why wasn't Jesus still in the tomb?

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white robed men suddenly stood among them. 11. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

(From Acts 1v6-10)

30) Did Jesus die again a second time?

31) Where is Jesus now?

32) What will happen one day in the future?