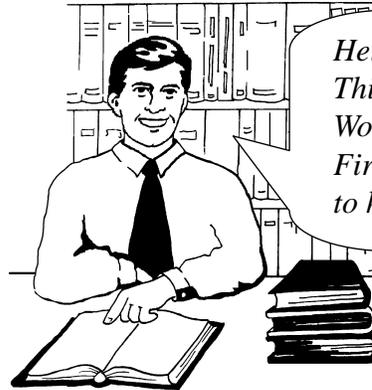


# UNIT 1 - Lesson 1

## In the Beginning



*Hello! I'm your teacher.  
This Lesson introduces us to the "Spirit  
World" and how it relates to us.  
First let us begin with prayer, asking God  
to help us throughout our study.*

- In Genesis 1:1 we read,  
*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*
  - According to this verse, who created all things? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Now memorize Gen. 1:1 as given above, with its reference.
- So from this verse in Genesis we can clearly see that (check the correct answer):  
 a. God created only the earth.  
 b. God created only the heavens.  
 c. God created both of the above.
- Genesis 1 also tells how God created the sun, moon and stars in the heavens, and plants, animals and man on the earth.  
Are these physical things all visible (things that we see)  
or invisible (things we cannot see)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Colossians 1:16 tells us again that all things in heaven and earth were created by God and adds "visible and invisible".  
We have seen that Genesis 1 speaks of the physical, visible world. As you can see from the cover of this book, the title of our course is a) "The \_\_\_\_\_ World", which is the b) inv\_\_\_\_\_ world.

### Answers

- |    |                               |    |         |    |              |
|----|-------------------------------|----|---------|----|--------------|
| 1. | a) God                        | 2. | c.      | 4. | a) Spirit    |
|    | b) Memory verse (Genesis 1:1) | 3. | visible |    | b) invisible |

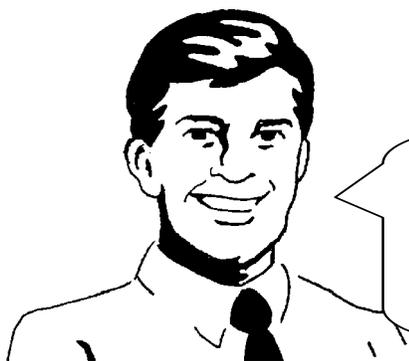
5. Both the world we see and the spirit world were created by \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The invisible, spirit world, is the abode of God and of angels. There is a lot in the Bible about angels. Already we know two things:
- a) As spiritual beings, they are usually inv \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) They were created by \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Although they are usually invisible, Revelation 5:11 informs us that John saw ten thousand times ten thousand angels singing and circling the throne of God; Daniel 7:9-10 is similar. These passages tell us two more things about angels; they serve and worship
- a) \_\_\_\_\_ and they are b) [many/few] in number (underline the correct answer).
8. The word “angel” really means “messenger”. Part of their service to God is to **bring his messages** to us on earth. For example:
- a) Who came to tell Mary she would have a child? (Luke 1:26-31) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) At the tomb, who told the women that Jesus had risen? (Matthew 28:5-9) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Angels, then, bring us messages from God and Hebrews 1:14 says they are “...ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation”, that is, those of us who believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord. So, which is right?
- a. **We** are to serve angels.
  - b. **Angels** are to serve us.
  - c. Neither of these.
10. Some people think that we ought to worship angels and spirits because they are stronger than we are. We shall see shortly that Satan himself is a fallen angel and Matthew 4:9-10 tells us that when Satan tempted the Lord Jesus to worship him, Jesus refused to do so because it is written, “*Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only*”. (See also Deuteronomy 6:13 and 10:20) So according to the Bible:
- a) Who alone should we worship? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Are we then allowed to worship angels, as well as God? \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers

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- |    |              |    |                      |     |        |
|----|--------------|----|----------------------|-----|--------|
| 5. | God          | 7. | a) God               | 9.  | b.     |
| 6. | a) invisible |    | b) many              | 10. | a) God |
|    | b) God       | 8. | a) The angel Gabriel |     | b) No  |
|    |              |    | b) An angel          |     |        |

11. We have seen that angels are usually invisible to us. However sometimes, when they bring messages from God, they become visible for a while. Once an angel appeared to the Apostle John, who fell at his feet to worship him. The angel rebuked him saying “*Do not do it! I am a fellow servant... Worship God*” (Revelation 22:8-9). So from all we have learned, why must we not worship angels? (Check more than one answer)
- a. Jesus said that the Bible forbids it.
- b. They, too, are God’s creation.
- c. It is God’s plan that they should serve us.
- d. Angels are all evil.
12. Let’s review what we have learned about angels.
- a) They are part of the s\_\_\_\_\_ world.
- b) Although they are sometimes visible to men, usually they are inv\_\_\_\_\_.
- c) They are very [many/few] in number.
- d) They serve both G\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) We are told that we are not to w\_\_\_\_\_ them.



*Angels still serve us today. You might like to think of any visits from angels you know about, to share with your Counselor.*

13. Now let’s return to Genesis 1:1, one of the two verses that you will be memorizing this week.
- a) It says that “*In the beginning G\_\_\_\_\_ created the h\_\_\_\_\_ and the e\_\_\_\_\_.*”
- b) You will recall that the things mentioned in Genesis 1 are physical and visible. The list includes the creation of the first man and woman (v.27). So this tells us that human beings (check 2 answers):
- a. were created by God.
- b. arrived on this earth by pure chance.
- c. are visible beings with bodies.

## Answers

11. a. b. c.

12. a) spirit  
b) invisible  
c) many  
d) God & us  
e) worship

13. a) God/heavens/earth  
b) a. c.

14. Men and women, too, are physical and do, indeed, have bodies that we can see and touch just as animals. But, unlike animals we also have spirits. For example, David says to God *“Into your hands I commit my spirit;...”* (Psalms 31:5). Those were words that the Lord Jesus quoted when on the Cross. Earlier he also said to his sleepy disciples *“The spirit is willing but the body is weak”* (Matthew 26:41b).

So, as well as belonging to the visible, physical world, we men and women also belong to the a) inv \_\_\_\_\_, b) s \_\_\_\_\_ world.

15. It is because we have a spiritual nature as well as a body, that we are able to worship and to know God; it is also why angels are interested in us. Luke 15:7 tells us that there is joy among the angels when one sinner repents. God has given us humans a place in both the physical and the s \_\_\_\_\_ world.

16. The place God gave to man in the visible world was of great importance. God told Adam to rule over the creation he had made (Genesis 1:28). Also Psalm 115:16 says *“The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to man.”* So, who is to reign over the earth, in God’s plan?

- a. The first human beings, Adam and Eve and their descendants.
- b. Angels.
- c. Animals.

17. In Psalm 24:1, David says *“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”* This does not mean that Genesis 1:28 is not true. As an earthly ruler may appoint a minister to be in charge of part of his work, but still be responsible to him, so God has put man:

- a. to do whatever he likes with the earth.
- b. to be answerable to God for this rule over the earth.

18. Let’s review what we have learned so far. For each of the following statements mark the **one** column on the right that is applicable.

	<b>Only angels</b>	<b>Only humans</b>	<b>Both of these</b>
a) Made by God.	_____	_____	_____
b) Just part of the spirit world.	_____	_____	_____
c) Belong to both physical and spirit worlds.	_____	_____	_____
d) Only two created.	_____	_____	_____
e) Very many created.	_____	_____	_____
f) Appointed to rule over earth.	_____	_____	_____
g) Created to worship God.	_____	_____	_____

## Answers

14. a) invisible  
b) spirit

15. spirit

16. a.  
b.

18. a) Both  
b) Only angels  
c) Only humans  
d) Only humans  
e) Only angels  
f) Only humans  
g) Both

19. Now review the verse you memorized earlier, i.e. Genesis 1:1, by filling in the following gaps: “*In the* a) \_\_\_\_\_, b) *G*\_\_\_\_\_ c) *cr*\_\_\_\_\_ *the* d) \_\_\_\_\_ *and the* e) \_\_\_\_\_.”

20. Now please memorize a second verse, Genesis 1:31.  
“*God saw all that he had made and it was very good....*”

Which is right? **In the beginning:**

- a. only angels were good.  
 b. only human beings were good.  
 c. only God was good.  
 d. God, angels and men were all very good.

21. In the beginning, when all was good, there was perfect harmony. The angels sang and shouted for joy as God made the earth (Job.38:7); God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the garden he had made (Genesis 1:27-31 and 3:8a); they were filled with the joy of God’s presence. David also looked forward to this joy (Psalm 16:11). So which of the following are true? To obey God:

- a. is very dull.  
 b. is joyful.  
 c. is to experience the pleasure of being in God’s company.

22. a) Genesis 1:31 says “*God* \_\_\_\_\_ *all that he had* b) \_\_\_\_\_ *and it was very* \_\_\_\_\_.”

b) Now cut out Memory Card 1 for Gen. 1:1 and 1:31 (the bottom, right-hand one, on page 95). Use this, following the instructions there.

23. Ezekiel 28:12-14 gives a glimpse of the wisdom and beauty of one of the chief angels when he was first created. Here, he is called a “guardian cherub”. It seems that, while not having authority over men, angels both serve and take care of us as our guardians. In Matthew 18:10 Jesus says that little ones have their angels in heaven who always see the Father’s face. This, too, suggests that God created angels to s \_\_\_\_\_ us, as well as himself.

(We shall be looking at Ezekiel 28 again in the next Lesson).

## Answers

19. a) beginning  
 b) God  
 c) created  
 d) heavens  
 e) earth

20. d.  
 21. b. c.

22. a) saw/made/good  
 b) No answer  
 23. serve

24. We have learned that the one with authority over all is God.
- a) But who did God appoint to rule over the visible world (the earth)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What do angels do for us? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) What were both angels and humans like, when God first made them? Very \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Why should people not worship angels (give two reasons)?
    - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
25. Now write again the two verses you have learned, with their references.
- a) "In the \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_." (G\_\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_)
  - b) "God \_\_\_\_\_ all that he had \_\_\_\_\_ and it was \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_)
26. In our next Lesson, we will learn how this all changed.
27. Now do Review 1 on page 77.
28. Be sure to keep your appointment with your Counselor when, in fellowship together, you can:
- a) check your answers to Review 1.
  - b) clear up any difficulties that you may have encountered in this Lesson 1, before proceeding to Lesson 2A.
  - c) and, most importantly, work through the following topics:

### Points for Discussion and Prayer

#### 1. Points to Discuss.

As we are **both** spiritual and physical beings:

- a) How should you relate to the physical world? Why must you, as a Christian, look after your body (1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 6:19; John 2:19-21)? What steps can you take to improve its well-being? What responsibilities do you have to the world in which you live, its wildlife and the environment?

Continued

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## Answers

- |    |   |     |  |
|----|---|-----|--|
| 24 | a) Human beings                             | 25. | a) beginning/created/<br>heavens/earth |
|    | b) Serve us                                 |     | Genesis 1:1                            |
|    | c) good                                     |     | b) saw/made/very good                  |
|    | d) Any two of those checked in<br>Frame 11. |     | Genesis 1:31                           |

Continued.

- b) How should you relate to the spiritual world and why? Why must you give even more attention to your spiritual well-being than to your physical well-being (Matt.16:26; John 4:24; Romans 14:17)?
- c) A right interaction between your spirit and body is most important. Dr. Paul Brand tells of a beggar who was ugly and disabled through leprosy, and totally lacking in any sense of self-worth. Although he came to their rehabilitation center, he was unable to hold any tools and his hands were too deformed for corrective surgery. But he came to know the Lord Jesus and his spirit came alive. His whole demeanor changed; he developed teaching skills and was always joyful. Some years later he was given the “best teacher of the year” award.

We may not suffer as this man, but most of us will experience some form of illness, or the weakness and infirmities of old age. How can we triumph in these and similar adversities as this Christian did (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)?

Jesus taught us to pray: “...*Our Father... your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*” (Matt.6:9,10).

**Pray** that the Lord will help you establish his kingdom on earth as it is **in heaven**, thus correctly bringing the spiritual and physical together. Also ask the Lord to help you constantly to serve and worship **only** him.

**If there is time:**

- d) **Discuss** the ministry of angels to us (Frame 1:8 and 9). Have you had, or know of others who have had, any genuine experience of angels? Thank God for setting his angels to watch over his people.
- e) **Discuss** wrong attitudes to angels (Frame 1:11). What must we never do to them?

2. **Topics for Praise and Prayer.**

- a) **Praise** God for all the wonders of his creation, both on earth and in heaven, after pondering on Genesis 1:1, 1:31 and Psalm 8:1.
- b) **Thank God** that unlike:
  - animals, that only have a body, you also have a spirit.
  - angels, that only have a spirit, you also have a body.