

Sabbath School Lesson #1 – The Creation – 26 March-1 April 2022

Christ is our Creator. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). In this brief sentence we have the whole of the truth of the Gospel summed up. He who reads aright, may derive a world of comfort from it. In the first place, let us consider who it was that created the heaven and earth. “God created.” The Bible says it is “God, who created all things by Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 3:9). Who created all things? God. How? “by Jesus Christ.” God made the world, by His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2). Source of creation is the Father; the means of creation is His Son. “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him” (1 Corinthians 8:6). Only two Beings were involved in creation, Father and Son. The Father created through His Son. Only two Beings are to be exalted. All worship that goes to the Father is through Jesus. “And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:11). The One God, the Father, who created all things by His Son, says, “That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which sent Him” (John 5:23). “And again when He bringeth in the first begotten into the world, He saith, And let the angels of God worship Him” (Hebrews 1:6). When Christ receives worship, for through Him and by Him God created all things, He does not so receive that worship for His own glory. He said, “I seek not Mine own glory” (John 8:50).

Sunday: The God of Creation – What should be the human response to the God of creation, and why? Do Seventh-day Adventists do humble reverence to God of creation? Those who are nearest to God, beholding His power and glory, and who themselves occupy the highest position of all created beings, do humble reverence to God, saying, “Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory, and the honour, and the power, for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they were, and were created” (Revelation 4:11). “Know ye that the Lord He is God; it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture” (Psalm 100:3). Therefore; just as the child is of right subject to its parents, because dependent on them for existence, so all men are of right subject to God, absolutely dependent on Him for life, and breath, and all things; and this is the very lesson that God would have both parents and children (and that includes everybody) learn from the relation of parent and child. The child is dependent on its parents, in order that both it and they may see their common dependence upon God; and the child is by the nature of things compelled to be dependent on its parents until it comes to years of discretion, in order that, in the proper order of things, it may learn the lesson of dependence, and pass from the recognition of dependence upon its parents to the recognition of its dependence upon God; nay, more, long before it ceases to be dependent upon its parents, it should learn the lesson that it is subject to them for the reason that all are subject to God.

Monday: The Creation – How was the finished work of God described at creation and how is it today? At the close of each day’s work “God saw that it was good;” and at the close of the sixth day, when everything was finished, “God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). Man himself was perfect, and all was as good as God Himself could make it. But man, to whom the dominion of the earth had been given, sinned. By his sin the curse came upon the earth, so that God’s perfect, new creation was everywhere marred. But God was not defeated; His purposes cannot be thwarted, for He “worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.” “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Christ was given to death, that man might receive the eternal life which had been lost through sin. But the cross of Christ is “the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18). The Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth” (Romans 1:16). Therefore the cross of Christ – the Gospel – is the same power that is seen in creation. The same power of God, by which man was created in the beginning, is now manifested through the Gospel to re-create him – to bring him back to the perfection which he had at first. This is shown very clearly in the Scriptures. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (2 Corinthians 5:17). There cannot be a new creature without

there having been a new creation. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God before prepared that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

Tuesday: The Sabbath – How is the Sabbath related to creation and what significance is it to our new creation in Christ? "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:11). The Sabbath was the sign of the power of God's word. He had spoken all things into existence; and now He rested in perfect confidence that His word would uphold that which He had created. The Sabbath of the Lord – God's rest – is therefore the mark of a perfect, new creation. In the new creation, when we are re-created in the Gospel of the cross, we have the same mark, namely, the Sabbath of the Lord, the seventh day. Notice these points: (1) In Christ there is a new creation. In Him all things are created in heaven and in earth (Colossians 1:16). (2) With the new creation in Christ, there comes rest. Even so it was in the beginning. (3) Christ is of God made unto us "wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30). He is the truth, and He sanctifies Himself, that we may be sanctified through the truth (John 17:19). (4) The Sabbath of the Lord, the seventh day, on which Christ rested when He had finished the new creation in the beginning, is the sign of sanctification, which comes only through Christ. We read "I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them" (Ezekiel 20:12). As at the first, the Sabbath is the sign of the perfect, new creation. God has not changed; His power and His sign are not changed.

Wednesday: The Creation of Humanity – What is the significance of the fact that man was created from dust and in the image of God? "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?" (Psalm 8:3-4). Paul talks of men who they were wise that in their pride and self-conceit "they did not like to retain God in their knowledge" (Romans 1:21-23). The disposition of one who is truly wise is different; David recognised that "verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity" (Psalm 39:3-5). We read on the origin of man: "God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." "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" (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7). Man is made from the dust, that he may remember that he is nothing in himself; but also in the image of God, that he may know the infinite possibilities before him – association with God Himself; of himself having no more might than the dust upon which he walks, but capable of the greatest things through the power and goodness of God. And, strange as it may seem, the true capabilities of man are the greatest when he is most sensible of his weakness. "When I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Thursday: The Duty of Humanity – What was the occupation given to man in Eden and how does it compare to occupations men esteem most today? "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" (Genesis 2:15) – in the Hebrew the word rendered "to dress" the land means "to work, till" the land. Our first parents were farmers. Farming is still the best occupation today. We are told: "As a relaxation from study, occupations pursued in the open air, and affording exercise for the whole body, are the most beneficial. No line of manual training is of more value than agriculture. A greater effort should be made to create and to encourage an interest in agricultural pursuits. Let the teacher call attention to what the Bible says about agriculture: that it was God's plan for man to till the earth; that the first man, the ruler of the whole world, was given a garden to cultivate; and that many of the world's greatest men, its real nobility, have been tillers of the soil. Show the opportunities in such a life. The wise man says, "The king himself is served by the field." Ecclesiastes 5:9. Of him who cultivates the soil the Bible declares, "His God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him." Isaiah 28:26. And again, "Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof." Proverbs 27:18. He who earns his livelihood by agriculture escapes many temptations and enjoys unnumbered privileges and blessings denied to those whose work lies in the great cities. And in these days of mammoth trusts and business competition, there are few who enjoy so real an independence and so great certainty of fair return for their labor as does the tiller of the soil" – Ellen White, Education, p 219 {Ed 219.1}.