

# Live Bible Study Session 5

## Genesis Chapter 1 and John Chapter 1

### Interpretation

### 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016

[Ask questions for Understanding](#)

[Key words](#)

We noted that there were 7 key main words common to both passages let us take a look at each one in turn.

**Beginning:** What is the significance of this word? What does it mean or imply? How significant is it in the context of the purpose of the passages? we note that in Genesis God began by making order in the earth and in John we are told in the beginning was the word we know that the word of God was what made order come about in the earth. In the book of John, we see that the word, was the second triune nature of God, Jesus Christ.

**Created:** Why was this word significant? What does it mean and imply? How does it relate to both passages? Is it used literally or figuratively? What role does this word play in the progression of ideas and purpose of the passage? I decided to make the assumption that the word '**made**' was synonymous with the word **created**. In Genesis we see that he created several things over six days, heavens, earth, land, water, light and the living things including man. In John we observe that a general powerful statement is used to summarise the meaning of what occurred in Genesis, that through God everything that is made that is made, in particular, the word of God. So what can we deduce from this? If God says nothing, then nothing really happens. It goes even further to suggest that without him nothing is made that is made. What are we to infer from this statement? That is if we try to do things on our own all our efforts are futile and come to nothing. Things that are created are things that were not in existence previously. Nothing is created without an idea, all ideas come from God.

**Darkness:** Was this word used literally in both passages or figuratively? What was the meaning of this word in each passage? How significant is this word in both passages? How significant is this word to understanding the passages? In Genesis we understand that there was a natural physical visible darkness present over the face of the earth hence why God said let there be light. In John there is a darkness that is mentioned but it is one which is not physically visible to the naked eye. What can we infer from this, that this darkness is a supernatural darkness in the Spirit. Now to contrast with what God did in

Genesis the word became light of men to show what is hidden. Go to Jesus and all spiritual wickedness and plans of the enemy will be revealed. God provided us with his only son Jesus the light of all men.

**Spirit of God:** What was the significance of this word in each passage? How significant is it in the progression of ideas in each passage? In Genesis we are told that the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the deep, what exactly do we mean by the spirit of God? God's essence we know that God is a living God therefore it is not that part of him after he has died or passed away. We observe the works of God in Genesis Chapter one. From this we know one of his characteristics he is a God of order, he is creative. In John we see several other characteristics of God he is a word, he sends people, he is caring, and the first character of the triune nature of God he is a father he is invisible, not seen by the naked eye yet he sees everything visible and invisible.

**Light:** Is this word used literally in both passages or is it only used figuratively? What is the meaning of the word for each passage? How much significance is placed on this word in each passage? What is implied by this word? In Genesis we see that the light once again was physical just like the darkness and God created light lesser and greater light. In John we see that the word of God became light, the light to all men to reveal.

**Man:** What does this word mean in each passage? In Genesis we see that the first man was made in God's likeness and his assignment was to have dominion, subdue the earths living creatures and to maintain and multiply. In John the man God brought forth was John the Baptist, his assignment was twofold to make way for the coming of the Christ, through baptism, and to bear witness about his identity.

**Life:** Was this word used literally or figuratively in both passages? What does this word mean in each passage? What are the implications of this word? How significant is it in understanding the purpose of the passages? In Genesis we see that all life form was created by God, the birds of the air, the creatures of the sea, the beasts of the land, living creatures and Man. In John we see that the life of man is what God, the word, the light became. We may well ask the question why was this second life needed? Did something die between the first man and John?

**Advice, Admonitions, Warnings and Promises.**

## Genesis Chapter 1

**V22** Why the use of the words fruitful and multiply in the context that they appear in?

Does it imply there is a difference between being Fruitful and Multiplying?

Why be fruitful and multiply? What importance should we place on this verse?

There is an underlying implication I believe, although the two words are identical in meaning there is a subtle difference. Being fruitful means you can impart on someone else your skills and activate them. A result of this is multiplication. Multiplication can happen on a personal level were you create personal wealth or gain. Whilst multiplication on a fruitful level implies second generation clone of, diversification of resources by imparting what you are able to do into another so they are able to personally multiply.

The verse continues to verify that it refers to sea creatures and birds of the air creating offspring and plenty of their kind. So in this context we can see that bearing fruit is strictly associated with reproducing. So we can deduce from this that this was a preventative measure for extinction.

**V28** Again the instruction to be fruitful and multiply is given here to the extent where the earth is filled even to the point of subduing it. Safety in numbers intimidation. This instruction was to man. Why have Dominion? What importance should we place on this verse? Dominion implies dominance confidence control, power. With such power and authority comes much responsibility, to have dominion over something does not imply arrogance but humility to be considerate to the needs of these less fortunate animals, being aware of their purpose and using them according to that purpose. Not abuse. To the Power hungry person this could imply a right to abuse, but we are to live and appreciate the world that we live in and respect the purposes of all that God created and to live in harmony knowing that we have a Dominion because of our unique ability to think intellectually and to worship and to renew and grow in our thinking. Now we know that the fish and the birds were instructed to multiply but man also was instructed to multiply to such an extent to have dominion, it was God's intention for the birds of the air and the fish of the sea to multiply so they would not be extinct. Birds and fish are vital resources for food and environmental studies provide great beauty and therapy to many. So we have to balance how we treat these species to preserve and to encourage their production which was God's original intention.

Dominion is given to man over everything even the beasts, the trees and plants for his use and survival.

**V29** What importance should we place on this verse? . Why make such an emphasis? Plants and fruit from trees for food. Emphatic statement very important God outlines what is to be used for food and emphasising that this is the only acceptable food What is the implication of this statement? Is it that God intended us all to be herbivores and not carnivorous beings. We see later on that this inventory of what is acceptable to eat is extended in Exodus when the laws and statutes are outlined.

**V30** What importance should we place on this verse? Again God states that the beasts and living things are to use the green plants for food. I sense a strong implication at this point of anti cannibalism. Do not eat each other. Why did God make such a distinct declaration? It was important to preserve a species and avoid extinction, to have order. That there was replenishment, so there would be no need to eat one another. Is there also a further implication that there is enough for all, therefore we do not need to fight one another but live in harmony?

## [John Chapter 1](#)

**V12** What importance should we place on this verse? What does to receive him mean? Why must they believe in his name? What is the meaning of believing in his name? Why give the right to become children of God? What does it mean to become Children of God? Acknowledge accept him and all that he is all that he believes in as your beliefs. Name is important, Jesus son of God the Christ. To believe in his name power of his name and all that his name implies, authority. To take on belief and acceptance of him means you become like him hence act and do likewise deserving the right to become children of God which is what he was. The verb become implies future action a progression of evolution.

**V13** What importance should we place on this verse? What does it mean to be born of blood? What does it mean to be born of the will of the flesh? What does it mean to be born of the will of man? Why but of God? What does this imply? Blood relative having the same mother and father. You were born because two people decided to conceive you through natural means. Similarly for the will of man, born because a man or woman decided you were born a son of God or your own choosing. The hope or promise of God, God's will, he decided this. Implies that there is nothing that you could have done or said or willed of your own volition to be born a son of God it was an entirely the will of God.

**V29** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did John Call Jesus the Lamb of God? What sin is he referring to? Why emphasise this point?

John's purpose as witness was already established, it was essential that he witnessed the identity of Jesus and his purpose.

Assuming you knew nothing about the bible and was reading it for the first time you would think I am not sure what this metaphor means. So you would have to read further to establish. So this is where it kind of doesn't make sense to compare two chapters so far apart when you haven't read the bits in between. Hence why it is encouraged that you read the whole book to gain insight. Lamb we know in the Old testament was used as a sacrificial offering to God in particular in and around the time of the exodus. For those of you who are unfamiliar the Exodus was where the Israelites were lead out of the captivity of the Egyptians who had bound them into slavery, poverty and abuse. So we get a sense that Jesus's purpose was a sacrifice to God. We see that it was necessary to deal with the sin of the world. Specifically the initial sin that Adam and Eve and all their descendants caused running down their blood line committed. Once again you would have to read the books between to gain a perception and understanding what this means. John had to emphasise this point to make it clear to all in order to prepare them for Jesus and to fulfil his mission.

**V33** Why the statement, I myself did not know him but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me?

Are we to assume that the spirit which descends is the Holy Spirit? Are we to assume that there is another baptism other than water? What was the purpose of water baptism? What is the significance of the Holy Spirit Baptism, how does it differ from water baptism?

Does With the Holy Ghost imply with the assistance of? To indicate that John himself had never met Jesus before the time he saw him and therefore had to have some form of recognition of Jesus upon meeting him. I feel without a doubt we are able to infer that the Holy Spirit is the spirit that descends. It also didn't just descend it remained, it stayed with him. I think it is a safe assumption to make that there is another type of baptism other than water baptism. Water baptism it would therefore seem is for preparation for this additional baptism. To make aware of what it means to be baptised in this new way and to identify the baptizer. The significance of the Holy Spirit Baptism is for identification, single the believer out in order for them to enter the Kingdom of Heaven John 3v5. Water was considered Good in Genesis Chapter 1, water is cleansing that is all, to be spirit baptised means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Water baptism is confirmation that you personally accept Jesus as your saviour, spirit baptism is a response a seal from God accepting you as part of his kingdom thus rendering you active for service, God's will and purpose. Water was outward with the Holy Ghost indicates an inward cleansing and infilling.

**V36** What importance should we place on this verse? Again John affirms Jesus's identity and purpose as the Lamb of God. Stressing the importance of this statement.

**V42** What importance should we place on this verse? Why describe Simon as the son of John? Why did Jesus say Simon will be called Cephas? What was the significance of this?

It was often common ground for people to be identified by their father's or family line. Throughout the bible Jesus often gives his servants another name when they are called to do works for him. Their names were significant of their role or purpose. Cephas we know means rock or stone, Peter later became the rock of the Early Christian Church speaking boldly and explaining events that happened to potential believers that they might believe.

Once again all this is obtained by reading and searching further into the bible.

**V47** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did Jesus say this? What was the significance of this statement?

He firstly, identified Nathaniel as an Israelite whom Jesus specifically came to restore back to the father. He then establishes the character of Nathaniel as honest, no nonsense and someone who speaks his mind.

**V50** What importance should we place on this verse? What did Jesus mean when he said this? Why did he say this to Nathaniel?

We see if we delve further into the verse Jesus is quite specific about what Nathaniel will experience the spirit ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. He was trying to expand Nathaniel's thinking and expectation of his own abilities as a prophetic.

**V51** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did Jesus state specifically that Nathaniel will see the Angels of God?

Establish that Nathaniel was in some way spiritually blind and unaware that something was going to happen to him to open his eyes. He would be taught to see.

Reasons results

Genesis Chapter 1v1-31

Reason

**V2** What importance should we place on this verse? The verse explains the reason why God created all that he created in Genesis Chapter 1. What is the meaning of Form and void? What is meant by darkness over the face of the deep, why not earth? Why was the Spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters? What is the significance of this verse?

Form, visible shape or configuration. The word could be a verb, in the sense, to be made into something.

Void, free from, lacking, empty and useless. Uninhabitable nothing would grow or live there. Without life form.

The deep part of the sea, in opposition to the earth. There was nowhere for God to be housed, also he was amidst the darkness because Darkness we are told was hovering over the face of the deep. Why was God hovering in Darkness? His brightness would have been so overpowering it would have had an affect on the deep. Why was God hovering over the water and not the earth? Well we know God is a living God and we understand that the earth was void uninhabitable for any living thing therefore he didn't hover over it. The significance of this verse would appear to be to establish the status quo at the time God came and observed the earth. To provide a reason for his subsequent actions.

### Result

**V3** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did God say let there be light? What was the significance of this?

Darkness was over the face of the deep so he made light so things can be seen.

**V4** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did God separate the Light from the Darkness? What is the significance of this verse?

To create order, make them distinct for their prospective purpose. The beginning of order.

**V5** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did he call the Light Day and the Darkness night? what is the significance of this verse?

Why was there evening and morning? What is the significance of this?

To quantify and to establish the difference between Day and Night.

**V6** What importance should we place on this verse? And God said , "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.

What is an expanse? Why should there be one in the midst of the waters? Why did the waters need to be separated?

What is the significance of this verse? Expanse, a wide continuous area. I believe this to means the sky. For Preservation. This water to begin with, was pure without any life form, by extracting some of this water and separating it keeps a fresh supply in case of contamination or a draught. To illustrate how God anticipates a need and preserves.

**V7** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did God make the Expanse? What is the water above the Expanse? What is the significance of this verse?

To separate the waters for replenishment and the waters for daily use. The water above the expanse we can assume is in the format of the Clouds.

Establish that God had provided this vital resource in a format that was workable and practical.

**V8** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did God call the expanse Heaven? Would this imply in some way that the water preserved was holy? Why use the term Evening and morning the second day? Abode of God, literally the sky a place or state of supreme bliss. Open heaven would indicate rain, the water above the expanse. This was supreme bliss we presume that God is holy and good. The significance of evening and morning the second day concludes and summarises what God achieved in the whole of the second day. He took 24 hours to make an expanse the heavens to separate the waters.

Could we presume from this statement that what takes months or even years to achieve takes God only 24 hours or an instant? Evidence would point to this as everything God created he created in one day. Could we further presume if something takes you a long time to do, is it that you haven't asked God for assistance? We know from John 1 v1 without God nothing is made that is made. So in some ways we could presume that things become a lot easier with God.

**V9** What importance should we place on this verse? And God said "let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

Why did God say what he did? Why gather the waters? Why was it necessary for dry Land? What is the significance of this verse? Why was it so?

God's words are important they cause things to happen. If he says nothing, then nothing happens. Separation is a sign of order we see that God already separated the Darkness from the Light and the waters above and below the expanse now he separates the water below the expanse from the dry land. There is obvious a need to be discovered later on for each area. To demonstrate that God commands something and it is done, God is a God of order.

Subsequently whatever God says it ultimately always happens.

**V10** What importance should we place on this verse? Why did God call the dry land Earth? Why did he call the gathered water's seas? What is the significance of the phrase, 'And he saw that it was Good'?

Where we live, substance of the land surface, soil place for living things and vegetation later to be confirmed.

There were a lot of questions raised this evening with respects to key words, advice admonitions warnings and promises and reasons and results. This I hope has begun to generate a lot of thought processes in your mind to seek answers. Now you will find that your mind has started to saturate with the passage to an extent where you are thinking more deeply about it. It should naturally move you to look into other books that may assist your understanding but we are taking it slow deliberately to get the full experience and benefits of understanding completely without question, what it means to study and meditate upon something. So we are still only looking at questions raised about the Passages. Any premature interpretations are just ideas at the moment are not final

conclusions or concrete assumptions or implications. We will not be able to formulate a more comprehensive view point of what we have observed and learnt about the passages until we have gone through all the stages listed.

Extra Exercise start to record your findings in a chart form to summarise all that you have noted so far in the questions that you have raised.

Arrange the chart in a Landscape format there should be three columns with the following Headings

- Observations
- Scripture Passage
- Questions for understanding

Do this using a spread sheet because it is easier for you to manipulate cells in a spread sheet than say a page in word.

You are trying to construct a visual representation of your findings so when it comes to interpretations it is easier on the eye to spot and identify significant points to aid you in your understanding of the passage. What I would then ask all of you who watched the videos to send me all your tabular format of all that you have learnt so far. Just like I have shared my notes freely with you it would be interesting to note your personal notes and what I am going to attempt to do is compile all your findings and present them to you all who sign up for the Newsletter. It is easy to sign up for the Newsletter the signup form is indicated by the signup button on the Bible Study Facebook page. The Newsletter does not cost you a thing and it gives you updates about the Ministry, Founder and Bible Study up dates. You can submit your Tables to me for inspection to make sure that you are doing it in the format that is required initially and I shall send you back feedback. The Final submission of your findings will be just before we summarize what has been learnt.

|