

CHAPTER 2 – GOD’S STORY OF REDEMPTION

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
(John 3:16–17, NIV)

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

Genesis 1; 3:1–24; Luke 4:1–13; Revelation 22:1–5, 12–19

The majestic sweep of the Bible begins with creation in Genesis and is consummated with the re-creation of the world in Revelation. Central to the message of the Bible is what we do wrong and what God does to make it right. Please read Genesis 1.

1. When God created the world (v. 1), it was formless and empty (v. 2). In days 1–3 God gives the world form (light, sky, and earth). In days 4–6 God fills the world (luminaries, birds, fish, and land with animals, including humans). What insights about God and his world can you glean from this simple summary/overview?

2. Since Adam and Eve were made in the image of God (vv. 26–30), what might we learn about God from reflecting on the responsibility given to humans? What do we learn about humans by reflecting on the character and actions of God recorded in Genesis 1?

3. God declares the world good and takes pleasure in it (v. 31). What goodness and pleasure do you especially enjoy—being God’s creation and placed in his world?

4. Read Genesis 3:1–24. The goodness of God’s world is polluted and the image of God is fractured when Adam and Eve believe the lie of the serpent and disregard God. What do the serpent’s statements imply about the character of God?

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5. The consequences of believing Satan rather than trusting God are immediate as God’s creation fractures and twists (vv. 7–24). List or discuss a few ways you see and experience God’s good world as fractured, distorted, and painful.

6. In the midst of the curses that result from Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God, we find the first sign of God’s plan of redemption in Genesis 3:15. What is prophesied and how is this fulfilled in the New Testament? (See Rom. 16:20; Heb. 2:14.)

7. The choice of Noah and the call of Abraham are steps in God’s restoration process that leads directly to Jesus, who finally and faithfully bears the image of God—humanly and perfectly. What do you learn about Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Adam, as Jesus experiences the temptation of Satan? (Luke 4:1–13)

8. Read Revelation 22:1–5. The last chapters of the book of Revelation allow us to look at the consummation of God’s creating work as God renews, restores, and re-creates the world. What does the renewed world include, and what is it like?

9. Projecting your life into God’s future, how would your life be/feel different if you didn’t fear darkness, didn’t struggle with sin or other problems of body, mind, and soul, had all the food you wanted, and had direct and immediate access to God?

10. The renewed creation is the work of God and dependent on the return of Christ (Rev. 22:12–19). How are you supposed to live in the meantime?
