

## BIBLE STUDY on GENESIS (NIV) Part 1 (c)



### GOD CREATES THE WORLD

Read Genesis 1 : 1 - 28, 31

(continued from Issue 57)

### The Second Day of Creation - A Picture of the Cross of Christ

On the second day of creation, God made the firmament (sky) by separating the waters which were under the sky from the waters which were above the sky. In a similar way, on the cross, Jesus was separated from God (above) and from man (beneath). **“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”** (Matthew 27 : 46b). He was **“cut off from the land of the living”** (Isaiah 53 : 8). It was not enough for Jesus to be born as the light of the world. He also had to die for the sins of the world.

Just as God *purposed* to make the sky *before* He actually made it, so God planned beforehand for Jesus to die on the cross. Jesus was **“handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge ...”** (Acts 2 : 23). **“Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer.”** (Isaiah 53 : 10). Christ was **“... the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”** (Revelation 13 : 8b).

As the sky *divided* the waters, so the cross of Christ divides mankind. **“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”** (1 Corinthians 1 : 18).

How can this second day’s work of creation speak to us? The work of the cross must apply to our lives. **“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me.”** (Galatians 2 : 20a). Sin in our lives must be dealt with by bringing it to the cross. If we are in Christ, we have been crucified with Him. We are dead to sin. **“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live”** (Romans 8 : 13). Confessing our sin to God brings cleansing because sin has already been judged on the cross.

**“If anyone could come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”** (Luke 9 : 23b). This call to full commitment to God’s will separates those who are true followers of Jesus from those who merely profess to follow Him. True followers are “caught in the middle” - loved by God and their brothers in Christ but hated by the world who hates Christ. Are you living as one who has been crucified with Christ?



### The Third Day of Creation - A Picture of Resurrection Life

On the third day of creation dry land appeared, bringing forth living plants. Jesus once likened Himself to the seed of a living plant. **“... unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”** (John 12 : 24b). Jesus was saying that He had to die so that He could bring new life to many. Death had to come before life. However, a dead Saviour could not save anybody so on the *third day* He rose again, “according to the Scriptures” - all in God’s plan (1 Corinthians 15 : 4).

Jesus is *alive!* He says, **“... Because I live, you also will live.”** (John 14 : 19b). Not only will we live again in that last day (our bodies will be resurrected) but we are to live *now* in newness of life—as those who are dead to sin but **“... alive to God”** (Romans 6 : 11). He is able to **“... save completely those who come to God through Him because He always lives to intercede (pray) for them.”** (Hebrews 7 : 25b).

To follow Jesus, we need to follow Him in death—death to our sinful nature which was accomplished by Jesus on the cross—so that we might live new, powerful lives of righteousness as we follow Him in resurrection. We do not *have* to live in our old ways; we can be raised up with Christ to a new life. (Study Romans chapter 6). We need to *daily* reckon this to be so. Are there some areas in your life where God wants you to put away the old ways and through His Spirit, put on some new ways of acting and thinking?



### The Fourth Day of Creation - A Picture of Living Above the world

To complete our redemption, Jesus not only had to be raised from the dead but He also need to enter **“... into heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.”** (Hebrews 9 : 24b). On the fourth day of creation, our attention is turned to the heavens, to the creation of **“two great lights.”** we are reminded of Christ — **“The Sun of Righteousness”** (Malachi 4 : 2) - and of God’s people, who reflect His light and give light in the darkness just as the moon reflects the light of the sun to give light at night. Just as the moon was created to **“rule the night”** (Genesis 1 : 16). God’s people are to have power over sin and authority over satan. But we can have this authority only as we live **“... in the heavenly realms (places) with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”** (Ephesians 1 : 3b). The Spirit says **“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”** (Colossians 3 : 1-2).

When the earth comes between the moon and the sun, the light from the moon is eclipsed or blocked out. In the same way, if we allow the world to come between us and Jesus, our light to the world will be eclipsed (or blocked out); we will have no victory and no witness.



**“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2 : 15) “... don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”**

*(James 4 : 4b).* This does not mean we should not love the *people* of the world. It means that we should not love the *ways* or the *thinking* of the world that is against *God’s ways* and thoughts. Are you living “in the heavenly places” - living consciously in God’s presence moment by moment?

**The Fifth and Sixth Days of Creation—A Picture of Fruitfulness and Authority** LW

(To be continued in the next Issue ...)