

GOD IS A SPIRIT, EXISTING IN THREE PERSONS: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Isaiah 44:6-19; Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21, 22

John 4:24 “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

A. God’s Words Concerning Himself: Read Isaiah 44:6-19

1. What two people are speaking in this passage? Isaiah 44:6a

2. Yet, when they speak, what do they say? Isaiah 44:6b

3. How many Gods are there? Isaiah 44:6b, 8b

4. Since God is a spirit, does He have a body? (See Luke 24:39b)

5. Can a spirit be seen with the human eye? 1 Timothy 6:16b

6. Would it be possible to make an image of a spirit? Isaiah 40:18, 25

7. Yet, do some people try to make images of God? Isaiah 44:9a

8. What does God say of such people? Isaiah 44:9

9. What do such people do with the remainder of the tree from which they make an idol?
Isaiah 44:16, 17

10. Is there any real difference between the part of the tree which was made into an idol,
and the part which was burned? (*THINK!*)

11. Which part of the tree really did the man more good?

12. Do those who make idols seem to realize how foolish it is to do so
Isaiah 44:18, 19

B. God’s Revelation of Himself: Read Matthew 4:13-17; Luke 3:21, 22

1. Who came to John the Baptist to be baptized? Matthew 3:13

2. After this, what two unusual things happened as He prayed?
Luke 3:21, 22

3. Whose voice was it that spoke from heaven? (*THINK!*)

4. What are two other names for the Holy Ghost? Matthew 3:16; Ephesians 4:30; Luke
11:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:8

5. What did John the Baptist know about Jesus as a result of this experience? John 1:31-34

6. How many persons of the Godhead are mentioned in connection with this event? Luke 3:22a, b; John 1:34
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QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Does my worship require the use of something I can see, hear, or touch? Is this necessary in order to truly worship God?

2. What changes must I make in my worship, in order to truly worship God?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all, Amen.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

PRAYER:

O Lord God, I thank You for what I have learned of You this day! I thank You that You are not a dead image, with no power to see or hear--but You are One Who is living, who loved me, and sent Your Son to die for me, and now desires fellowship with me Your Holy Spirit. O Lord, help me to appreciate Your love and grace, and to enjoy Your fellowship, for Your own name's sake, Amen.

**GOD IS *INFINITE* (WITHOUT LIMITS OF ANY KIND) AND
OMNIPOTENT (ALL-POWERFUL)****Isaiah 40:10 - 31**

Job 11:7 “Can You by searching find out God? Can You find out the Almighty unto perfection?”

A. God’s Physical Power: Read Isaiah 40:10-12

1. Although God is a Spirit, and does not have a body like man, what parts of a man’s body is He described as having? Isaiah 40:10a, b

2. Why do you think such terms are used in describing God to man? (*THINK!*)

3. What characteristic of God do you find in Isaiah 40:10?

4. As a Spirit, God does not have a hand; but if He did, what would He be able to hold in that hand? Isaiah 40:12a

5. If God stretched out that hand, what could He measure with his *span* (the space from the end of the thumb to the end of the little finger when extended)?

6. If God had a measuring cup, what would He be able to measure in it?
Isaiah 40:12c

7. If God had scales, what would He be able to weigh in them? Isaiah 40:12d

8. How would you sum up God’s physical power? Is there any limit to it?

B. God’s Mental Power: Read Isaiah 40:13, 14

1. What is the obvious answer to the questions in Isaiah 40:13, 14?

2. How would you sum up God’s mental power? Is there any limit to it?

C. God’s Comparison with the Great Things of Earth: Read Isaiah 40:15-17

1. How large are all the nations of the earth to God? Isaiah 40:15a, 17

2. How large are all the islands of the world to God? Isaiah 40:15b

3. How large is the great forest of Lebanon to God? Isaiah 40:16a

4. How large are the many beasts of that forest to God? Isaiah 40:16b

D. God's Comparison with Idols: Read Isaiah 40:18-26

1. Even if it were right to make images of God, would it be possible to make an idol which would portray Him in all His power, as seen above?

2. Notice how men make idols: Isaiah 40:19-20. Could these idols do anything?

3. By contrast, note some things God does, and has done. Isaiah 40:22-26

E. God's Use of His Great Powers: Read Isaiah 40:27-31

1. How long will God's infinite power continue? Isaiah 40:28

2. On whose behalf does He desire to use it? Isaiah 40:29-31

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is it possible to imagine all the greatness of such a God as this?

2. How do *I* compare with such a God as this?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!" Psalm 8:1a

PRAYER:

O Lord God, help me to see that I am but nothing in comparison to such a God as this! Help me to appreciate something of Your infinite greatness, even though I cannot comprehend it all. Help me to learn to wait upon You, that I may learn something of Your great power in my own life; for Jesus' sake, Amen.

GOD IS OMNISCIENT (ALL KNOWING) AND OMNIPRESENT (EVERYWHERE-PRESENT)

Psalm 139:1 - 24

Hebrews 4:13b “All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

A. The Extent of God’s Knowledge: Read Psalm 139:1-6

1. Whom has God searched and known? Psalm 139:1

2. What two very common acts of ours does God see and know? Psalm 139:2a

3. What times of day does God watch us? Psalm 139:3a and *THINK!*

4. What three parts of our daily lives does God see and understand completely? Psalm 139:2b, 3b, 4

5. In what three directions has God enclosed or surrounded us? Psalm 139:5

6. Can human beings understand fully God’s knowledge? Psalm 139:6

B. The Extent of God’s Presence: Read Psalm 139:7-16

1. What three places might people try to go to escape from God? Psalm 139:8, 9

2. What would they find in each of these places? Psalm 139:8, 10

3. What do people often feel hides their evil deeds from discovery? Psalm 139:11a

4. Can this ever hide anything from God? Why? Psalm 139:11b -12

5. What part of us can God see that no one else can? Psalm 139:13a

6. How long has God been seeing us, and knowing all about us? Psalm 139:15, 16

C. Reactions to God’s Knowledge and Presence: Read Psalm 139:17-24

1. How did David feel about God’s great knowledge? Psalm 139:17, 18

2. How did David feel about those who would be disapproved in God’s sight? Psalm 139:19-22

3. When David thought of God's great knowledge and His constant presence, what did he want God to do for him? Psalm 139:23, 24
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QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What feelings do these wonderful facts about God arouse within me--love, admiration, and awe? Or uneasiness, fear, and terror?
 2. Do I willingly bare my heart daily to the all-searching eye of God? Do I confidently rest in the fact that I can never wander beyond the limits of His love and care?
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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“All along on the road to the soul's true abode, There's an Eye watching you; Every step that you take this great Eye is awake, There's an Eye watching you. Watching you, watching you, Every day mind the course you pursue. Watching you, watching you, There's an all-seeing Eye watching you.”

J. M. Henson

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, teach me this truth, that I can never escape from Your knowledge or presence. Help me not to fear because of this fact, due to my sin, but help me to rejoice in it, because of Your great love and care for me. If there is anything in my life that would cause me to fear Your constant presence, help me to confess it and be rid of it immediately, for Your own name's sake, Amen.

GOD IS ALL-HOLY, AND HATES SIN

Isaiah 6:1 - 7

Isaiah 6:3b “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: The whole earth is full of His glory.”

A. Isaiah’s Vision: Read Isaiah 6:1-4

1. In Isaiah’s vision, Whom did he see? Isaiah 6:1a

2. Where was He sitting?

3. What title might be given to Him, according to this vision? (*THINK!*) Isaiah 6:5d

4. What did the seraphim (angels of the highest order) do in His presence? Isaiah 6:2b

5. What did one of them cry out? Isaiah 6:3

6. What two things happened when he cried out? Isaiah 6:4
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

B. Isaiah’s Response to the Vision: Read Isaiah 6:5

1. What were Isaiah’s first words after he saw this vision? Isaiah 6:5a

2. What did Isaiah realize about himself when he saw this vision? Isaiah 6:5b

3. What did he realize about the people among whom he lived? Isaiah 6:5c

4. Did Isaiah feel that such a person as he was, had a right to see the Lord? Isaiah 6:5d

C. God’s Provision for Isaiah: Read Isaiah 6:6, 7

1. What did one of the seraphim do for Isaiah? Isaiah 6:6, 7a

2. What did he say this would do for Isaiah? Isaiah 6:7b

3. Would Isaiah feel better about being in the presence of the Lord after this? (*THINK!*)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Have I ever had an experience which would cause me to realize just how holy God is?

2. What is the condition of my heart, in comparison with this holy God?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“The Holy One.” “Glorious in holiness.” “Holy and reverent is His name.” “The Lord is...Holy in all His works.” “Of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on iniquity.” “There is none holy as the Lord.” “Be ye holy, for I am holy.” “I am the Lord which sanctifies you.” “For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” “These...have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Job 6:10; Exodus 15:11; Psalm 11:9, 145:17; Habakkuk 1:13; 1 Samuel 2:2; 1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 20:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Revelation 7:14)

PRAYER:

O Lord God! Show me Yourself in all Your glorious holiness! Show me how perfectly pure You are! Cause me to see myself in all my sin and impurity--and cause me to hate all in myself which is not worthy of You. Bring me to Yourself for Your cleansing--and clothe me anew with those spotless robes of Your Son's righteousness, for Your own name's sake, Amen.

GOD IS ALL-JUST, AND PUNISHES SIN

Genesis 3:1 - 24

Job 37:23 “Touching the Almighty, we cannot find Him out: He is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice.”

A. The Serpent’s Suggestion: Read Genesis 3:1-5

1. Notice that the serpent was more *subtle* (wily, cunning, crafty) than any other beast God had made. Who was really speaking through the serpent? Revelation 20:2

2. What had God said would happen to the man and woman if they ate the fruit of the forbidden tree? Genesis 3:3b

3. What did the serpent say would happen to them if they ate it? Genesis 3:4b-5

4. Could both God’s statement and the serpent’s be true? (*THINK!*)

B. The Woman’s Action: Read Genesis 3:6

1. Whose statement did the woman begin seriously to consider? Genesis 3:6a and *THINK!*

2. Whose statement did the woman fail to consider seriously? Genesis 2:16, 17 and *THINK!*

3. What was the full name of the tree whose fruit was forbidden? Genesis 2:17

4. What did the woman already know? Genesis 2:17 and *THINK!*

5. What new knowledge would she gain by eating of this fruit? Genesis 2:17

6. As a result of her one-sided considerations, what did the woman decide to do? Genesis 3:6b

C. The Results: Read Genesis 3:7-24

1. What did the woman and her husband know after this that they had not know before? Genesis 3:7

2. How did they feel toward God after this? Genesis 3:10a

3. What did they do as a result of this feeling? Genesis 3:8, 10b

4. What did God say would happen as a result of this sin
 - a. to the serpent? Genesis 3:14, 15 _____
 - b. to the woman? Genesis 3:16 _____
 - c. to the man? Genesis 3:17-19 _____
5. What happened to both the man and the woman because of this sin? Genesis 3:22-24

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was there anyone who had any part in this sin who escaped punishment?

2. Did anyone receive a punishment which he did not deserve?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“Just and right is He.” “Shall not He render to every man according to his works?”
(Deuteronomy 32:4b, Proverbs 24:12b)

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, teach me what an awful thing it is to break Your law, and to sin against Your holiness! Help me to realize the absolute certainty of punishment for every sin which I have ever committed. Help me to see that this would be the only just and righteous thing for a holy God to do. Help me to loathe sin as You do, and to turn from it with all my heart; for Your name’s sake, Amen.

GOD IS ALL-LOVING, AND PROVIDES FOR FORGIVENESS OF SIN Isaiah 53:1 -12

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

A. Jesus’ Early Life: Read Isaiah 53:1, 2

1. To what is Jesus’ early growth compared? Isaiah 53:2a

2. How did people feel when they saw Jesus on earth? Isaiah 53:2b

B. Jesus’ Sufferings and Death: Read Isaiah 53:3-10

1. How did people treat Jesus on earth? Isaiah 53:3a

2. What did this cause Him? Isaiah 53:3b

3. What did people do as a result of this? Isaiah 53:3c, 4b

4. What was the reason for all His sufferings? Isaiah 53:4a, 5

5. What have we done that made this necessary? Isaiah 53:6a

6. What did the Lord God do to remedy this situation? Isaiah 53:6b

7. What did Jesus do when He was being oppressed and afflicted? Isaiah 53:7

8. What finally happened to Him? Isaiah 53:8b

9. Was He guilty of any fault of His own, for which these things might have happened to Him? Isaiah 53:9b

10. Who caused this to happen to Him? Isaiah 53:10a

11. What was Jesus doing through these events? Isaiah 53:10b

C. The Results of His Sufferings: Read Isaiah 53:11, 12

1. What would Jesus accomplish by these sufferings? Isaiah 53:11b

2. How would He feel as a result of this? Isaiah 53:11a

3. What position would He receive as a result of all His sufferings? Isaiah 53:12a
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QUESTION FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. For whose sake did Jesus endure all these sufferings? What did this show on His part? (See John 15:13) _____
2. Would God have been just in forgiving my sin, if someone had not first paid the penalty for it? _____

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet per adventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:7, 8

PRAYER:

Father God, how I thank Thee for Your great love in sending Your Son to die for me. Certainly I have done nothing to deserve such love as this, and I can never repay the debt I owe because of it. But I would return that love, dear Lord, as best I can. Take my life, and use it as You see fit. Help me to live for Him who died for me; for Jesus' sake, Amen.

**GOD IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, CONVICTING OF SIN,
AND FORGIVING SIN**
Acts 2:14, 22 - 41

Nehemiah 9:17 “Thou art a God ready to pardon gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.”

A. Peter’s Sermon: Read Acts 2:14, 22-36

1. About Whom did Peter preach in this sermon? Acts 2:22a

2. What had Jesus done among the people of Israel? Acts 2:22b

3. What did this show about His relationship to God? Acts 2:22a, b

4. What did Peter tell the people they had done? Acts 2:23b

5. Who determined beforehand that they should do this, and knew that they would do it?
Acts 2:23a _____
6. What did God afterwards do for Jesus? Acts 2:24

7. Who had prophesied in Old Testament days that this would take place? Acts 2:25-31

8. Who were witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection? Acts 2:32

9. Where did Peter say Jesus was now? Acts 2:30b, 33a

10. Therefore, what did this prove that God had made of Jesus? Acts 2:36

B. The Reaction to Peter’s Sermon: Read Acts 2:37-40

1. How did the people feel after they heard Peter’s sermon? Acts 2:37a

2. What did they ask? Acts 2:37b

3. What did Peter then tell them to do? Acts 2:38

4. To whom did Peter say this promise was given? Acts 2:39

C. The Results of Peter’s Sermon: Read Acts 2:41

1. What did some of the people do when they heard Peter’s advice? Acts 2:41a

2. About how many did this? Acts 2:41b

3. Could Peter's words alone have produced such wholesale conviction and turning from sin? _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. After all these people had done, did they deserve God's mercy in convicting and saving them from sin?

2. Is there any good in me, that would cause me to deserve God's saving mercy?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which you have showed unto your servant..." Genesis 32:10

PRAYER:

God, be merciful to me, a sinner! Father, I know that I do not deserve one thing from Your Almighty hand; much less could I deserve salvation, for it was my sin which nailed Your Son to the tree. I have no merit of my own, whereby Your grace to claim. But I need You, Father. Without You I am hopelessly doomed to an eternal hell. Have mercy upon me, O God, for Your own name's sake, Amen.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN, AND RULES OVER ALL

Daniel 4:1 - 37

Daniel 4:17b, 25b, 32b “Thou Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will.”

A. Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream: Read Daniel 4:1-18

1. What was Nebuchadnezzar’s condition before he had this dream? Daniel 4:4

2. How did this dream cause him to feel? Daniel 4:5

3. Who tried to interpret the dream for the king? Daniel 4:6, 7

4. When they failed, who was asked to interpret it? Daniel 4:8

5. Picture in your mind what Nebuchadnezzar saw in the first part of his dream, Daniel 4:10-12. Was it a pleasing sight?

6. Now picture the second part of the dream, Daniel 4:13-16. Was it pleasant?

7. What was the purpose of the events pictured in this dream? Daniel 4:17

B. The Interpretation of the Dream: Read Daniel 4:19-27

1. Whom did the tree in the dream represent? Daniel 4:20-22

2. What did the second part of the dream indicate would happen to him? Daniel 4:25a

3. What would be the purpose of these events? Daniel 4:25b

4. What advice did Daniel therefore give to the king? Daniel 4:27

5. Did the king seem to heed Daniel’s advice?

C. The Fulfillment of the Dream: Read Daniel 4:28-37

1. What was the king doing at the end of twelve months? Daniel 4:29, 30

2. What happened even as he was doing this? Daniel 4:31-33

3. What did Nebuchadnezzar do at the end of the days foretold in the dream? Daniel 4:34, 35

4. What happened to him as a result? Daniel 4:36

5. What great lesson did Nebuchadnezzar learn as a result of this dream and its fulfillment? Daniel 4:37

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there any human being anywhere who has the authority and the power to rule his own life? (See Isaiah 45:23; Romans 14:11)
 2. Would I like to learn this lesson about God in the way Nebuchadnezzar had to learn it? If not, when had I better learn it?
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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“...At the name of Jesus every knee (shall) bow,...and every tongue (shall) confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...” Philippians 2:10

PRAYER:

Lord, help me to learn *now* that You are the only Person with authority and power to rule my life. Forbid that I should fail to learn this lesson from the teachings You have given, and have to learn it by some terrible experience such as Nebuchadnezzar's. Help me to submit to Your rule now, rather than waiting until I enter eternity, where I shall *have* to submit, whether I want to or not; for Jesus' sake, Amen.

GOD IS A FRIEND, SEEKING FELLOWSHIP WITH HUMAN BEINGS

Genesis 12:1 - 8, 5:1 - 6, 17:1 - 8, 15 -19, 21:1 - 7

2 Chronicles 16:9a “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.”

A. God’s Call to Abraham: Read Genesis 12:1-8

1. What did God ask Abraham to do? Genesis 12:1

2. What did God promise to do for Abraham if he would do this? Genesis 12:2, 3

3. What was Abraham’s response to this call? Genesis 12:4, 5

4. What did Abraham do in each place where he went? Genesis 12:7b, 8b

B. God’s Promise to Abraham: Read Genesis 15:1-6

1. When God later appeared again to Abraham, of what did Abraham complain? Genesis 15:2, 3

2. What did God promise him at this time? Genesis 15:4, 5

3. What was Abraham’s response to this promise? Genesis 15:6

C. God’s Promise Renewed: Read Genesis 17:1-8, 15-19

1. When God again appeared to Abraham, what did He ask Abraham to do? Genesis 17:1

2. What did God promise him if he would do this? Genesis 17:2, 4

3. How long would God continue to be the God of Abraham and of his descendants? Genesis 17:7b, 8b

4. What further promise did God make to Abraham at this time? Genesis 17:15, 16

5. What made this seem so impossible? Genesis 17:17

D. God’s Promise Fulfilled: Read Genesis 21:1-7

1. What happened at the set time of which God had spoken to Abraham? Genesis 21:1, 2

2. What was Sarah’s reaction to this? Genesis 21:6, 7

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Could God possibly have been more of a friend to Abraham than He was?

2. Have I learned to believe God, to walk before Him with a perfect heart, and to fellowship with Him, so that He is indeed the God of *MY* life?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.” James 2:23b

PRAYER:

Dear Lord God, I could never have imagined of myself that You are such a personal God! My heart is overwhelmed to think that all your greatness is at my disposal when I give my life to You. Lord, I *would* give myself to you. Be *my* friend, and help me to be Yours: for Your own name's sake, Amen.

GOD IS THE ONE WHO MADE ME

Psalm 139:13 - 16 (A Psalm of David)

Psalm 139:13b-14b “Thou has covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

A. The Formation of a Human Being: Read Psalm 139:13, 15, 16

1. To whom was David speaking in this Psalm? Psalm 139:1a

2. What did he say the Lord had done for him? Psalm 139:13b

3. What else did the Lord possess (or form, ASV)? Psalm 139:13a
NOTE: *Reins* (rains) is an archaic word for the kidneys, or the region of the kidneys; hence, the loins, which were formerly considered to be the seat of the feelings or passions.

4. Who was watching all the time David’s body was being formed? Psalm 139:15, 16a

5. Was there any part which escaped His notice? Psalm 139:16b

6. When was it determined what David would look like? Psalm 139:16b-d

B. Evaluations of This Deed: Read Psalm 139:14

1. When David considered how he was made, what did he do? Psalm 139:14a

2. What did he recognize about the way he had been made? Psalm 139:14b

3. What did he say about God’s works in making him the way he was? Psalm 139:14c, d

4. Could God have made David’s physical appearance different if He had wanted to?

5. Could God have made changes in David’s inner being--his basic personality traits, his mental and physical capabilities?

6. Why did God not make any changes?

7. What mattered most to God: David’s visible self, or his inner, spiritual being? (See 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Peter 3:3, 4; Proverbs 15:13)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did God make David as He did? For what period(s) of his life did God prepare him?

 2. Who determined my physical appearance including any deformities or “defects”? My mental and physical capabilities? My basic personality traits? Am I satisfied with them? Do I praise God for them? What did God say about everything that He had made? Genesis 1:4a, 10c, 12e, 18c, 21f, 25d, 31b. If I am dissatisfied with the way God made me, what might I be implying?
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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“...O man, who are you that repleist against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why have you made me like this? Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?” Romans 9:20, 21

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, I confess that I have resented or rejected certain things about the way You have made me. But Lord, how foolish I have been! For I have such limited wisdom that I could not possibly know what is best for me even now, much less in view of the years to come! I would right now, by faith, thank You for the way You have made every part of my physical appearance and my inner capabilities, especially for those parts about which in the past I have not *felt* thankful. But I know that You *must* have a loving purpose for every tiny part of my being; and I now determine that I will cooperate with You in bringing to pass the perfect fulfillment of all of this purpose; for Jesus’ own dear name’s sake, Amen.

GOD PLANNED MY ANCESTRY AND PARENTAGE

Matthew 1

Ephesians 1:4 “...He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”

A. Jesus’ Ancestry: Read Matthew 1:1-17

1. How many generations of Jesus’ ancestors are listed in Matthew 1? Read Matthew 1:17 and add: _____
2. How many additional generations of Jesus’ ancestors are listed in Luke 3:34-38?

3. What two very important men were among Jesus’ ancestors? Matthew 1:1, 17

4. Were all the men from who Jesus was descended admirable and respected?

5. What about the women, mentioned in Matthew 1:3, 5a, 5b, 6b?

6. Did these ancestors have any bearing on Jesus’ earthly life? In what way?

B. Jesus’ Parentage: Read Matthew 1:16, 18-24

1. Which of Jesus’ earthly parents was directly descended from the kings of Judah? Matthew 1:16

2. Since the ancestry in Luke is different from that in Matthew, which is definitely stated to be that of Joseph, it is thought that the ancestry in Luke is that of Mary, Jesus’ earthly mother. But from whom was she descended? Luke 3:31

3. After Jesus’ mother Mary was *espoused* (betrothed, promised in marriage) to Joseph, but before they had come together as man and wife, what happened? Matthew 1:18

4. Since Joseph knew this was not his child, what was he considering doing to Mary? Matthew 1:19

5. If he had done this, what would he have had to do? Matthew 5:31

6. While he was considering this possibility, what happened? Matthew 1:20, 21

7. Why was all this done? Matthew 1:22, 23

8. Therefore, instead of divorcing his espoused wife, what did Joseph do? Matthew 1:24, 25

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who planned Jesus' ancestry and parentage? Did it matter from what ancestors and parents He was descended? Why?

2. Did God definitely lead my father to marry my mother, and vice versa? If not, did He permit them to marry each other? Have I ever wished that I might have had a different father? A different mother? Does God guide in the choice of adoptive parents, step-parents, and foster parents? Why did God allow me to have the ancestors and parents that I have? Could I have done a better job of choosing them than God did?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“God is love; and it is impossible for Him to do an unloving thing.”

Rev. Frank Sells, in a class at Columbia Bible College

PRAYER:

Dear Lord God, I thank You for showing me the tremendous number of years You did plan for the coming of Your Son Jesus into the world. I thank You for letting me see how definitely You lead His earthly parents to marry each other. And I feel sure You have planned just as definitely for my coming into the world, through the ancestors and parents You choose for me. Help me to honor and love them, because I know You have chosen them for me; and to obey them, because I know You have given them authority over me for my good. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOD PLANNED MY ENVIRONMENT
AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS
Luke 2:1 - 7; Matthew 2; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Isaiah 53:3

Acts 17:26, 27a “God...hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord...”

A. The Place of Jesus’ Birth: Read Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:1-6

1. Where did Joseph and Mary live before Jesus was born? Luke 2:4a, b

2. Why did they leave this city just before Jesus was born? Luke 2:1-3

3. Why did they go to Bethlehem at this time? Luke 2:4c, d

4. What was God’s reason for causing Jesus’ parents to travel right at this time? Matthew 2:5, 6

B. Jesus’ Home During Infancy: Read Matthew 2:7-18

1. After the wise men had presented their gifts to Jesus, why did they not return to King Herod as he had asked them to do? Matthew 2:12

2. Shortly after this, to what place did Jesus’ earthly parents move? Matthew 2:14

3. Why did they move there? Matthew 2:13

4. How long were they to stay there? Matthew 2:13

5. Why did God tell them to go to Egypt? Matthew 2:15

6. Humanly speaking, what would have happened to Jesus if His parents had not moved at this time? Matthew 2:16-18 and *THINK!*

C. Jesus’ Home During His Childhood: Read Matthew 2:19-23

1. After King Herod was dead, why did Jesus’ earthly parents move back to Israel? Matthew 2:19-21

2. Why did they not move to Judea? Matthew 2:22a, b

3. Why did they return to Nazareth in Galilee? Matthew 2:22c, 23a

4. Why did God want them to live there? Matthew 2:23

- D. Jesus' Socio-Economic Status:** Read 2 Corinthians 8:9; Isaiah 53:3
1. What was Jesus' economic status while He was on earth? 2 Corinthians 8:9; Matthew 8:20 _____
 3. What was Jesus' social standing while He was on earth? Isaiah 53:3a, Matthew 13:54-57a _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did God lead Jesus' earthly parents to move so much? Why did He not provide for Jesus a better socio-economic status? Did Jesus' lack of money or social standing in any way hinder Him from accomplishing God's purpose for His life?

2. Does God guide my parents in choosing the place(s) where I shall live? Does God owe me a better socio-economic status than that which He provided for Jesus?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who...humbled himself, and became obedient...” Philippians 2:5, 8b, c

PRAYER:

O, My Lord! How foolish I have been to be dissatisfied with any part of my environment, or my social or economic status! Certainly I have not been called upon to endure more poverty or rejection than Your Son endured for me! Help me to learn how to live in such a way, that even if I have only food and clothing, I shall be content (1 Timothy 6:8). For Jesus' dear name's sake, Amen.

REVIEW OF THE GOD OF MY LIFE

As you come to the end of your study of this section, look back over the entire unit and try to get an overall picture of what you have studied.

A. Summary of God's Nature:

1. What is the primary characteristic of God? John 4:24

2. How many persons are in the Godhead? 1 John 5:7a, b

3. Yet what is true of these? 1 John 5:7c

4. What term is used to describe three in one? (*THINK!*)

B. Summary of God's Attributes:

1. From the titles of Lessons 2-7, list the various attributes or qualities ascribed to God (write each characteristic on a separate line):
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
 - g. _____
 - h. _____
2. What additional attribute of God is mentioned in Deuteronomy 33:27?

C. God's Relationships to His Creatures:

1. What is God's primary position in relation to both His creation and His creatures? (See title of Lesson 8)

2. What other relationship would God like to have with each of the human beings whom He has created? (See Title of Lesson 9 and James 2:23d)

D. God's Relationships to His Creatures:

1. What part of me is it most obvious that God made? Psalm 139:13b

2. What three very important parts of my being were largely determined by the time this was made? _____
3. What two other factors which greatly influence my life were settled by this time?

4. Even if changes have been made in my parentage since I was born, was God in control of such choices? _____
Prove your answer.

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5. Who has been in control of all the choices which were made to bring about my present environment, economic status, and social standing?
-
6. If God is really sovereign (See Daniel 4:17b), and is in control of all aspects of my life, could He change any part that He wished?
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7. If God is really love (See 1 John 4:8), would He allow any circumstance in my life which is not to my best interest?
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8. If there are things in my life which I would like to have changed, and I find no way to change them, what could I do about them? (See 2 Corinthians 12:8)
-
9. If God does not change them for me, of what may I be sure concerning those things? (*THINK!*)
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10. What might be one reason God does not change these things? What can He see that I cannot? (See Isaiah 46:10a)
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11. If I want something changed, but there is no way I can change it, and God does not see fit to change it, what should I do concerning it? Find two things Paul did about such a thing. (See 2 Corinthians 12:7, 10)
-
12. Why do I usually become dissatisfied with myself? (See 2 Corinthians 10:12 and *THINK!*)
-
13. What is usually the result of such comparisons?
-
14. But after all, to whom do I belong? (See 1 Corinthians 6:19c, 20)
-
15. Did God intend for me to be like anyone else? (See Ephesians 2:10 and *THINK!*)
-
16. Is God finished with what He is making of me yet? (See 1 John 3:2)
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QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there anything about God which is not perfect? Therefore, what is true of His will for me? Romans 12:2 (end of verse)
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2. What must I do in order to prove this to myself? (See Romans 12:1, 2) Then what can God do about all the wrong feelings I have had concerning Him and me and my family and my environment in the past? (See Isaiah 61:3; Joel 2:25; Matthew 5:16)
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