

1 THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

THE AKWA PEOPLE

The Akwa people live in a village near the sea. They are fishermen and cultivate corn. They believe the all powerful God created their village out of a great sea turtle and then left to rest in a far off country of great mountains. Though the people of the village know that God exists, they do not know how to contact Him. In fact, they do not believe it is even possible to contact Him.

The world of the Akwa is filled with evil spirits that torment them. They offer sacrifices to the spirits in an effort to gain their favor. They live in fear of the spirits because they believe the spirits cause sickness and death. But the God who created them and their village cannot help them in their struggles. He has left them to their own devices.

One day a little boy in the Akwa village heard the village elders talking about the creator God. Later he asked his uncle about the elder's words.

Child: I heard the people talking yesterday in the village about the Creator. They said He created the world and then left for a far off country to rest. Is this true uncle?

Uncle: This is what the people believe in our village. Our village believes that He did create the world and that He is no longer with us. No one knows why He left.

Child: The spirits torment us so often, why did He leave us alone?

Uncle: We are not alone my child. I have come to know that God is near. He did create the world, but He did not leave us. He is the very power that keeps us alive. We can know Him because He has revealed himself to us in His book. It is called the Holy Bible.

Child: Oh uncle, can we truly know Him? Can He help us?

Uncle: Yes, my child, we can know Him. His book tells us that He longs for us to know Him.

Child: So God created the world but He did not leave us.

Uncle: Yes, my child. God is near and we can know Him through the book that He has given us. The Holy Bible says, “In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). He is near to help us and able to deliver us from all our fears.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- Who is the Creator of the world?
 - The true nature of the Creator
 - Can we know the Creator personally?
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WHO IS THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD?

Most people in the world believe in a God who created the world and all that is in it. But many people have a false understanding of who He is. Some believe He created the world and then left it. For them, He is unreachable. In His place, they worship spirits that they believe live with them.

Other people believe that God lives in nature such as in a mountain or in a river or in certain trees. Still others believe that God is the sun or the moon. Because of these beliefs, people worship things that God created rather than God himself. The Holy Bible talks about this:

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator. (Romans 1:21–23, 25)

Some people make images of metal, wood, or stone of their gods. Then they bow before them in worship. Other people believe that God is in everything. They think He lives in all of nature and created things.

However, the Holy Bible tells us that there is only one true God. He created all things, and is separate from His creation. The first words of the Holy Bible are: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). He is the Creator. Therefore, He alone should be worshipped. This means that all other gods are not gods at all. Let us look at what the Holy Bible tells us about God.

THE TRUE NATURE OF THE CREATOR

In Psalm 139, in the Holy Bible, we read about God’s nature. This Psalm was written by a king named David who was a man who knew God personally.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. (Psalm 139:1–6)

***God did create
people but did not
leave us alone.***

These are words of King David who marveled at the closeness of God. God knows everything about each of us. He knows what we think and what we do. He knows where we go and when we sleep. He knows the words that will come out of our mouths even before we say them. His knowledge of us is complete. He is with us every moment of every day. The Holy Bible tells us that God even knows the number of hairs on our heads.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE

We read this in the Holy Bible, God's Word:

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. (Psalm 139:7–12)

We cannot escape from God's presence. God is Spirit. He does not have a body. He is everywhere, but He is separate from the world He created. There is nowhere to run from His presence. He is present to guide us and protect our lives from harm. We need not fear the darkness because God sees in the darkness, and He will keep us safe.

GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL PEOPLE

The Holy Bible tells us: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13–14).

God created us. He made us just the way He wanted us to be. He made us spiritual beings by giving us a soul so that we could know Him. He knew us before we were born, and He has a wonderful plan for our lives. He made us so that we might know Him and enjoy Him.

***God created us
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GOD WANTS TO HELP US

God's Word tells us, "If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast....See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:9–10, 24).

God wants to be your helper. He wants to guide you and lead your life in the way that is best for you. As you trust your life into His hands, He will protect you and supply your needs. He wants to forgive you of the

wrong things you have done and by His grace give you a life full of His presence and blessing.

GOD IS THINKING ABOUT YOU

We read in God's Word: "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you" (Psalm 139:17–18).

***God is concerned
about all people
and wants to
reveal himself to
them***

God is thinking about you. He knows all about your life and your problems. He is concerned about you. He never forgets you whether you are sleeping or you are awake. He wants to help you and reveal himself to you. The prayer in the following sentence indicates that God even knows our anxious thoughts. "Search me,

O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts" (Psalm 139:23).

God sees deep down inside of you. He knows your deepest thoughts. He knows what is troubling you deep down in your heart. He loves you and wants to help you with your most secret needs. Maybe no one else knows your problems. Maybe no one else seems to understand. God knows. He understands and wants to reveal His love to you.

CAN WE KNOW THE CREATOR PERSONALLY?

God's Word, the Holy Bible, not only says that God created the world; it also tells us how He did it. He created it through His Son.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:1–3)

These verses in the Holy Bible refer to someone who is called the Word. He is Jesus, God's only Son. He was with God from the beginning and is God himself. God created the world through Him. So Jesus is our Creator, and He is also our Redeemer. The Holy Bible says, "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" (John 3:16).

Will you believe in Jesus today? He created you and redeemed you by becoming the sacrifice for your sins and for the sins of all people in the world. Please understand this truth: Jesus died for your sins. It was necessary for Him to die because the Holy Bible says every person on earth is a sinner. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

We cannot free ourselves from sin without God’s help. That is why God sent His only Son to become the sacrifice for our sins. Though Jesus never sinned, He took our sins upon himself. He was treated by men as a criminal, and was nailed to a cross, suffering in our place so that we might be forgiven.

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***God sent the Lord
Jesus Christ to be
the sacrifice for
our sins.***
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Jesus died and was buried, but three days later He was raised from the dead. If you will accept Him as your Savior, He will forgive your sins and deliver you from the fear of death and from Satan. The Holy Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

When you die and your spirit leaves this world, God wants to take you to paradise to be with Him forever. Your Creator wants to be your Savior. He wants you to live with Him forever. The Holy Bible says, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Will you trust in Him today? If you want to trust Jesus to be your Savior, please pray the following prayer to God.

Prayer

Father God, now I know that You created all things. I believe that You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I believe He rose from the dead. Please forgive my sins and give me a new life through Jesus Your Son. Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. Did God create the world and all people and then leave us alone?

2. Why did God create people? _____

3. What does the Holy Bible say about God's concern for us? _____

4. Why did God send His Son into the world?
