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*This is a self-study course
designed to help you discover
for yourself, from the Bible,
some important truths concerning
God's way of salvation.*

how to study the lesson

1. Try to find a quiet spot free from distractions and noise.
2. Read each question carefully.
3. Look up the Scripture reference given after each question. Make sure you have found the correct Scripture passage. For example, sometimes you will find yourself looking up JOHN 1:1 instead of I JOHN 1:1.
4. Answer the question from the appropriate Bible passage. Write, in your own words, a phrase or sentence to answer the question. In questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no" always give the reason for your answer . . . "Yes, because. . . ."
5. If possible, keep a dictionary handy in order to look up words you don't understand. .

6. Pray for God's help. You *need* God's help in order to understand what you study in the Bible. PSALM 119:18 would be an appropriate verse for you to take to God in prayer.

7. *Class teachers using this course for group study will find some helpful suggestions on page 47.*

how to take the self-check tests

Each lesson is concluded with a test designed to help you evaluate what you have learned.

1. Review the lesson carefully in the light of the self-check test questions.

2. If there are any questions in the self-check test you cannot answer, perhaps you have written into your lesson the wrong answer from your Bible. Go over your work carefully to make sure you have filled in the blanks correctly.

3. When you think you are ready to take the self-check test, do so without looking up the answers.

4. Check your answers to the self-check test carefully with the answer key given on page 48.

5. If you have any questions wrong, your answer key will tell you where to find the correct answer in your lesson. Go back and locate the right answers. Learn by your mistakes!

apply what you have learned to your own life

In this connection, read carefully JAMES 1:22-25. It is only as you apply your lessons to your own life that you will really grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of God.



The Basic Fact

A Self-Evident Truth

1. Does the Bible begin by attempting to prove God's existence or by taking it as a fact?

GENESIS 1:1 _____

2. How does nature, apart from the Bible, reveal the fact that there is a God?

ROMANS 1:19, 20 _____

The Date of Creation

3. According to the Bible, when did God create the universe?

GENESIS 1:1 _____

God Is All-Powerful

4. To what do the heavens bear witness?

PSALM 19:1 _____

5. How does astronomy bear witness to the fact that God is omnipotent (all-powerful)?

By telling us of the size, number, orbits and velocities of the heavenly bodies. The earth, for example, a relatively small planet, weighs six sextillion tons, while the sun is large enough to hold one and a half million worlds the size of our earth. Although it is losing weight at the rate of 4,200,000 tons of heat a second, the sun's mass is so great that 150 billion years from now it will

have diminished by only one per cent! The sun itself is a star, one of an estimated ten octillion stars in space and a small star at that. It is estimated that the star Antares could contain 64,000,000 suns as large as ours! Only an all-powerful God could create and orbit such enormous masses.

6. What was David's feeling when he considered the heavens?

PSALM 8:3, 4 _____

7. How did Isaiah describe the omnipotence of God?

ISAIAH 40:12-14 _____

God Knows Everything

8. How does astronomy bear witness to the fact that God is omniscient (all-wise)?

By telling us of the complex mechanism of the universe. There are billions of galaxies in space, all moving at fantastic speeds on fixed paths according to changeless laws. They move with such mathematical exactness that astronomers can predict the visit of a comet or the occasion of an eclipse years in advance. Sir James Jeans, the famous British scientist, once stated that the universe was fashioned by a "pure Mathematician."

9. Could the God who conceived all the laws of nature, of which the laws of astronomy are but a fragment, be anything less than all-knowing?

10. How does David describe the omniscience of God?

PSALM 139:7-18 _____

God Is Eternal

11. How does astronomy bear witness to the fact that God is omnipresent (present everywhere)?

Light travels at the speed of 186,300 miles per second. Light reaching the earth today from some of the remotest galaxies is reckoned to have been traveling at that speed for five billion light years to reach us. When we consider the age of the universe and remember that the Creator was present “in the beginning,” it is evident that He must be eternal.

12. How does David describe the omnipresence of God?

PSALM 139:7-18 _____

The Limitations of Science

13. Can we expect science to have all the answers about the origin, nature and purpose of the universe?

ISAIAH 55:8, 9 _____

14. How did the apostle Paul express the same truth?

ROMANS 11:33-36 _____

15. Has science really increased man's knowledge of ultimate realities?

Science has certainly documented a vast array of facts about the universe. But at the same time it has revealed how much man doesn't know. The more the frontiers of knowledge are pushed back by science, the vaster become the areas of the great unknown. Every question science answers in any given field only seems to raise a hundred more. Yet everywhere there is the same evidence of law and order, of a thinking mind behind it all—the mind of God.

16. Are there some things science will never know?

Yes. The origin of the universe, for example, is outside the realm of scientific investigation. The scientist who speaks of "origins" speaks as a philosopher rather than as a scientist. He says what he *thinks* not what he *knows*. He deals with *theories* not with *facts*.

17. Since in some realms the scientist cannot speak with authority, how must we accept his statements?

By faith.

18. Do the Bible's statements concerning the origin of the universe have to be accepted by faith too?

HEBREWS 11:3 _____

19. Since you have a choice either to accept by faith man's speculations about the origin of things, or accept by faith God's Word, which would you prefer to do? Why?

Why Become a Believer?

20. Does God expect that people will believe in Him?

HEBREWS 11:6 _____

21. Why do some people choose to disbelieve in God?

PSALM 14:2, 3 _____

22. Do people really escape the ultimate consequences of their sins by becoming atheists?

REVELATION 20:11-15 _____

You have just studied some important truths about the existence of God. Review your study by rereading the questions and your written answers. If you aren't sure of an answer, reread the Scripture portion given to see if you can find the answer. Then take the following test to see how well you understand important truths you have studied.

check-up time No. 1

In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.

1. The Bible begins by attempting to prove the existence of God. _____
2. The Bible reveals that God is all-powerful. _____
3. The Bible describes God as "a pure Mathematician." _____
4. David came to realize that God is omniscient. _____
5. God has always existed. _____
6. Science has all the answers. _____
7. Any statement concerning the origin of the universe must be accepted by faith. _____
8. God expects that people will believe in Him. _____
9. The reason people choose to disbelieve in God is moral rather than mental. _____
10. To say that there is no God provides a real escape from the sin question. _____

Turn to page 48 and check your answers.