

GOD'S PERFECT BOOK

There was a time on this earth when man neither had, nor needed a Bible. The actual written Bible, begun by Moses many centuries later reveals why this was true. God created a perfect world, placed in that world two beautiful people and then regularly visited with them face to face in their Eden home. They witnessed His love for them, listened to His instructions, enjoyed the God-made beauties about them, and thrilled to the natural response that they found within themselves of a returned love and joyous appreciation for all that the Creator had given them.

In this first lesson we want to discover a bit more about this Eden of the past, what happened to it, the "Eden" that God's Perfect Book promises for the future, and how we can become inhabitants of it.

1. Let's open the Bible and read a few words in relation to how God once created this world. As you read the creation account in Genesis 1:1-2:3, what is the repeating thought that you find in verses 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31?

2. In the chapter you read in question 1, verses 26,27 make it clear that the first pair were created in the image of God – thus, we can say that they were perfect. Read some additional details of that beautiful creation in Genesis 2:7, 8, 15, 18. List these added facts in order to remember them more clearly.

It is not difficult to see why there was no Bible needed back then.

3. Turn to the opposite end of your Bible, to the last two chapters of the last book called Revelation. Read Revelation 21:1-5. What are the central points of these verses?

(a) Verses 1,2 _____

(b) Verse 3 _____

(c) Verse 5 _____

It is very clear that this is still in the future. There is no need for a Bible there either, for the Author will again be personally with His redeemed people. We do not need a Book to guide us when God and Christ are present with us.

4. The question that we must now ask is, What happened to God's perfect creation back in the beginning? How did we get into the mess that we find ourselves a part of? Our answer is actually found in the entire Bible story between its first two, and last two chapters. Read Genesis 3:1-6 and then write down a simple statement of what happened "back then."

5. Following what happened in the text above, Adam and Eve faced a problem. There could be no more face-to-face encounters with God--sinners could not endure that. Yet they now needed God in a way that they had not previously known. They needed His guidance in relation to what they could do about their sin, and how to become fit to live with God again. Read Revelation 1:1,2 and 2 Peter 1:21 and then attempt to state in your own words the means by which God solved theirs, and every human being's, need.

6. The whole purpose of God's holy Word, given to us through "holy men," by God and Christ, is to show us how to inherit God's new earth of the future. The actual writing of the Bible involves about forty writers--God's "penmen." The first, Moses, did his writing in the fifteenth century before Christ; the last, the apostle John, wrote Revelation near the close of the first century, AD. (Fill in details relating to the organization of the Bible on the illustration below.)
7. Your summary of the following four passages will help you to see the real focus of (a) the Old Testament, (b) the entire Bible, (c) its ability to prepare us for the future, and (d) its daily guiding qualities.
- (a) 1 Peter 1:10,11 _____
- (b) Acts 4:10-12 _____
- (c) 2 Timothy 3:15-17 _____
- (d) Psalm 119:11,105 _____

(1) _____ _____ _____	(3) _____ _____ _____
(2) _____ _____ _____	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> (5) _____ _____ _____ </div> <div style="font-size: 4em; font-weight: bold;">+</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> (7) _____ _____ _____ </div> </div>
(4) _____	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> (6) <u>OLD TESTAMENT</u> _____ _____ _____ _____ </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> (6) <u>NEW TESTAMENT</u> _____ _____ _____ _____ </div> </div>