

UNIT 1 – SECTION 1

God the Glorious Creator

QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

- 1. Who made you?**
God made me.
- 2. What else did God make?**
God made all things.
- 3. Why did God make you and all things?**
For His own glory.

* * *

God's glory is revealed through His creation and through His ongoing interaction with His creation. In this section, the story of Job and the events in the life of a scientist named Galileo Galilei show the glory that God displays in His world, and the praise it has elicited from mankind throughout the ages.

“Behold, My Creation”

Job looked at his friends and sighed. A fine lot of comfort they'd been these past few weeks! His friends had only made his suffering worse, convinced as they were that he had done something to make God angry.

“How can you say you're innocent?” Bildad said. “Don't you know you're a sinner? No one is righteous before God. You should quit claiming to be.”

“You're a great help, Bildad,” Job replied, sarcastically. “I'm telling you I'm holding on to my righteousness. There's nothing hurting my conscience. I have left no sin unconfessed.”

Job's friend Zophar was silent. He had already tried to tell Job that God only punishes wicked people. If Job were really innocent, he would still be healthy and rich.

Indeed, Job had once had ten beautiful children and had been considered the greatest man in the East. He had owned thousands of sheep, camels, donkeys, and oxen, and everyone had respected him. Most importantly, he had always loved and obeyed God. Then God had allowed everything to be taken from him—his wealth, his children,

even his health. He now sat, a little apart from his friends, scraping his diseased skin with a piece of broken bowl.

“Never has my heart been secretly enticed to worship the sun or the moon,” Job declared to his friends. “I’ve been faithful to God and obeyed him. I’ve shared my bread with the poor. I’ve been true to my wife and children. I was kind to my servants and upheld right causes in court. Yet now God is against me for no reason, and I don’t think it’s right.”

Job’s friends eventually gave up trying to convince him and fell silent. As they all sat pondering Job’s recent misery, a gust of wind caught their attention. A storm was beginning to brew off toward the west. The distant rumble slowly grew to a loud howl. Above them, they saw a black sky closing in. What they heard in the gathering winds and pelting rain caused them to fall face down. God was speaking.

“Who is this who questions my wisdom?” God’s thunderous voice asked Job. “Were you there when I created the earth? Did you stretch a measuring line across it to mark off its borders? Who shut up the sea behind doors and knit the clouds into its garment? Have you given orders to the morning or shown the sun where to rise?”

As God opened the secrets of the world to Job, Job listened fearfully. Who was he to question God’s doings?

“Tell me if you understand how really big the earth is, Job. Have you seen where light lives, or have you cut channels through the earth for the

torrents of rain? Do you dispatch the lightning bolts, and do they come back and tell you where they have been? Do you know when the mountain goats have their babies, or do you nourish the hungry raven?"



On and on, God unfurled the wonders of His creation to Job, while more and more, Job realized the wisdom and goodness of God. Finally, the storm subsided and Job was silent before God. Never had he fully understood God's ways until now! Everything in the creation belongs to God and He can do no wrong with it. He is holy and powerful and good. Thereafter, whenever Job didn't understand something, God's creation was a magnificent reminder that God could still be trusted. God had shown Job His glory.

(Taken from Job 25-31; 38-39:1)

FROM THE BIBLE:

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20)

TALKING IT OVER:

- 1. To glorify means to praise, give honor, or ascribe beauty. How did God use the creation of the world to glorify Himself to Job?*
- 2. If someone did not believe God created the earth and all people, how do you think this belief would make them act?*
- 3. How do you think a person who believes that God made him and all things would act?*
- 4. How does God's creation of you bring glory to Him?*