



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A2164 ~ In the Beginning.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

In this series of Bible Adventures, we are commencing with the first book of the Bible, named 'Genesis,' which means 'origin' or 'beginning.' The first eleven chapters of Genesis give an account of the origin of the earth, the universe and the human race. The rest of the book records the beginning of the nation of Israel, God's chosen people.

Some people quickly dismiss these writings as being myths and legends, and they believe that they have no basis of fact. The first five books of the Bible are believed by scholars to have been written by Moses. As there were many stone and clay tablets written in the earliest times, Moses may have edited these and formed them into the book of Genesis. Or the Spirit of God may have given Moses every single word to write. We don't know for sure how Moses wrote the book of Genesis, but we do know that God inspired the book of Genesis as words of truth that came from Him. At the end of Chapter 5 of the New Testament book of John, the Lord Jesus Himself indicated that He accepted the writings of Moses to be true and correct.

One reason for denying the creation account given in Genesis, Chapter 1, by so many people is that our human minds find it hard to understand where God came from. We can accept that there'll be an eternal future but it's harder to believe that God always existed. That means He lived in an eternal past. A prayer of Moses given to the Lord in Psalm 90 says: "(Lord), before You created the hills or brought the world into being, you were eternally God, and will be God forever."

In Isaiah, Chapter 44, the Lord God gives His own words about being the only God: 'I am the first, the last, the only God; there is no other god but me. Could anyone else have done what I did? Who could have predicted all that would happen from the very beginning to the end of time?' It's very foolish to declare the Creator of the world as non-existent. Our limited understanding can't explain everything while we still live on earth but in heaven, we'll have a better grasp of such matters. We need to accept by faith that God's prophecies given to His faithful servants throughout the centuries will all come true, because God is perfect and He cannot tell a lie.

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Everything begins with God. There was nothing in existence before that period of creation when God stepped in to create time as we know it. It may seem strange to us that the first day started in the evening and finished the next evening. This way of counting the days has been practised by the Jewish people for many centuries. The Jews have also counted the years from creation forward. For example, the Jewish Civic New Year in 2014 is 5775 in their calendar.

In the Western world, the calendar was divided by the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. All dates before that time were counted backwards from his birth and called BC, meaning 'Before Christ.' All dates after His birth were represented by the letters 'AD,' meaning the Latin language of 'anno Domini' to indicate the number of years since His birth. In very recent times, some people use 'BCE' and 'CE,' which means 'Common Era'.

The most widely used calendar internationally is the Gregorian calendar, which was named after Pope Gregory XIII and introduced in 1582. This solar calendar was created to upgrade the previous calendar and balance out the dates each year for Easter. Easter is tied to the Spring Equinox, which is one of two times of the year when the day and night are of equal length.

With the Gregorian calendar, a year lasts 365 days plus a small bit over 6 hours. That's why every 4 years there is a leap year day at the end of February. This extra day is needed to keep the winter months at the coldest part of the year. Otherwise the months and actual weather would become further and further apart. To fine tune it even further, the Gregorian calendar took out leap years in all the century ones like 100, 200 and 300 and left the leap year in only the 400<sup>th</sup> year.

For the Jewish people, their year of 360 days is based on the lunar cycle for the months while their years are based on solar years. To stop the same drift of months and weather from occurring, they include an extra month at the end of 7 years in a 19-year cycle. Although this seems complicated, the Jewish people still keep their feasts and memorials each year.

Many people seem to think that the basic workings of the world will go on forever in much the same way that it's been going on for thousands of years thus far. But in the Bible, there is predicted a time when God will intervene in the world systems and bring everything, including time as we know it, to an end. When that happens, there'll be the never-ending period of eternity again.

The book of Genesis reveals a single all-powerful, all-knowing Creator God. Christians aren't surprised when they read about Him in Genesis. But those people who are from cultures where natural objects like trees and animals are believed to have a soul or many gods are worshipped, they find the Biblical account of God of creation as astonishing. They'd never known of such a God, nor that was it in the human imagination possible to invent such a God who is totally pure and good. In all Roman and Greek god and goddess mythologies, each one had wicked traits just the same as human beings.

In Verse 1 of Chapter 1 of Genesis, it says: "God created ...". This statement opposes atheism, the belief that there is no god. It stands against polytheism, which says that there are many gods. It also destroys pantheism, which says that God and the universe are the same. It also stands against the worship of idols, who themselves are merely human creations with no power in them at all. And it also opposes the supposedly scientific theories claiming everything came about by chance and from evolution. Can nothing make anything? Basic human intelligence and the Bible say "No".

A scholar once wrote: "For something to come from nothing, it must, in effect, create itself. Self-creation is a logical and rational impossibility. For something to create itself, it must have the ability to be and not be at the same time and in the same relationship. For something to create itself, it must be before it is. This is impossible – for solids, liquids and gasses, atoms, light and heat. Nothing anywhere, anytime, can create itself!"

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans, Chapter 1: "Ever since God created the world, his invisible qualities, both his eternal power and his divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made. So those people have no excuse at all! They know God, but they do not give him the honour that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness."

One good reason for accepting divine creation of the universe is that it results in human dignity and happiness, whereas the results of the evolutionary theory are dark, sinister and deeply selfish. Scientists gather evidence for their theories by conducting experiments often as they see fit and finding out what works and what doesn't.

Does evolution then 'work'? Does it result in healthy mental and relationship happiness? It is a well-known if seldom-mentioned fact of history that Darwin's survival of the fittest evolution speculation, seized upon by Karl Marx, provided the foundation for both Hitler's holocaust and Stalin's genocide.

If Darwin's theory is right, we're just accidental products of evolutionary dust living for a short time on a small earth lost somewhere in the vastness of a hostile universe. We're like a match that blazes for a moment and then is extinguished forever. We are without any divine guidance and no moral absolutes. We have no spirit and no soul, so we become obsessed with our bodies and pleasure.

What does such a belief do to optimism and hope, moral values and the sanctity of life; to human dignity and to the sacredness of home and family, law and order? If God is dead or doesn't have control of the world, then everything done against these things is justifiable. Selfishness is the order of the day. The dire consequences of excluding God from everything don't bring lasting peace and happiness to anyone.

Now we need to ask an important question. Our spiritual health depends on the answer! Was the Lord Jesus Christ present on Day 1 of creation?

If Jesus is not God or was not our Creator, then He is only a created being. If Jesus was created, then how could He have been an adequate sacrifice to atone for sins of the world committed against a perfect God? Jesus must have been God to adequately pay for our sins.

These sins left unpaid for only bring upon us an unlimited guilt, pain and the wages of an eternal hell.

But does it really matter whether or not we believe that Jesus is God? Yes it does! If one places faith in a false Christ, one that is not described in Scripture, can this false Christ also save the person? Truly, the identity of Christ is of utmost importance. And yet, in today's culture, there are many people teaching that Jesus was a created being. And they are leading people astray.

What sets Biblical Christianity apart from cults and other world religions? It's the person of Jesus Christ and who He is. In Islam, Jesus was a messenger of God, but not the Son of God. In many cults, the divine nature of Jesus Christ is denied, and in the many world religions and personal views, Jesus is just another wise teacher. But the Bible says that all things were created by Him and for Him in Colossians, Chapter 1:

“For by Him [that's Jesus] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” “Christ existed before all things and in union with Him all things have their proper place.”

In Hebrews, Chapter 1, God said to Jesus, the Son: “Your kingdom, O God, will last forever and ever! You rule over your people with justice. You love what is right and hate what is wrong.”

We should expect Satan, the adversary of God and the father of lies, to advance many alternative character types of the person of Jesus Christ. Satan would want all the false views to succeed in some measure to lead people away from who the true Jesus is and to seek Him.

In Psalm 113, Verse 5, it says: “There is no one like the Lord our God.” So may His name be praised now and forever!

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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