



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* mature in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 43
Issue 1072

God Before Creation ~ God Alone

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: God / Unit 7: The Divine Cycle / Lesson 2: God Before Creation (God Alone)

by — Mark D. Vogt

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is all ... (Romans 11:36, BSV).

Key Points:

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

Before creation, only God existed – perfectly complete.8997
[God Created Everything From Himself.....8999](#)

[Greater creations are still coming.....8999](#)

I'm sure all of us have, at least one time or another, gone out on a clear and starry night and peered up into the heavens with wonderment at the magnificent creation that God has made. While looking up, one begins to realize that the unaided human eye can see only a small fraction of the stars that are contained in the Universe. Possibly then we might begin to contemplate the vast distances between the stars, and even between the planets, in our own solar system.



and it was just God and Him alone. That is an almost impossible task, for we are such finite creatures, and have such infinitely ignorant and feeble minds. We would know nothing if it weren't for God telling us what we should know about Him and the Universe.

Have you ever contemplated how many stars there are in the universe? Isaiah 40:26 tells us that God created all of these stars, and that He called them all by their names (Psalm 147:4).

Astronomical distances are measured in light-years (the time it takes light to travel in one year, with light traveling at 186,000 miles per second) instead of miles because of these great distances. The farthest observed star in the universe is 9 BILLION light years away from the Earth.

Now that you have had some time to try to comprehend all of this, the need now is to go back and try to answer the question that was raised before, that is, what was it like before God created it all, when it was just God and Him alone?

Starting to feel insignificant?

What was God doing, what was He thinking, what was His desire before He created? ([continued on page 8999](#))

Daniel 4:35 should clear any doubt about that.

All the inhabitants of the Earth are reputed as nothing.

Now, when you have processed that, try to imagine what things were like *before* all of that came into being

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Volume 43, No. 1072 – May 26, 2025

Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3-4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice,

misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);

- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Ephesians 2:6);
 - adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of saints intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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The Scriptures give us very little insight as to what God was doing before creation, but we do know that at some point He created what we now see and experience as our Universe, so we know that there was a great purpose in His creation.

We can also see and read about His Plan or His *Logos*.

In the beginning was the Word [Logos], and the Word [Logos] was toward God, and God was the Word [Logos]. This [i.e., the Logos] was in the beginning toward God. All came into being through it [i.e., the Logos], and apart from it [i.e., the Logos] not even one thing came into being which has come into being (John 1:1-3, CV).

This is a comprehensive statement regarding God and His creation. Again, referring to Romans 11:36, we find that, *all is out of God, all is through God, and all is to Him*. Therefore, we see that God did not create things ex-nihilo, meaning out of nothing, as is so often promulgated by religion, but rather He created all things *out of Himself*. All was in Him –every planet, star, mountain, river, human being, animal, whale, celestial being, idea, emotion, intelligence of any kind, painting, sculpture, music, engineering principal – well, you get the idea. All, without exception, is from within God Himself.

Obviously, God loves to create, and He loves what He creates. He loves doing it, and He loves the result of those creative forces being manifested in His cre-

ation.

*You shall call, and I shall answer; You shall **long** for the work of Your hands (Job 14:15).*

What we see is only the beginning of His creation, for at the Consummation God will unleash a flurry of creative activity which will never diminish nor cease, in that future we sometimes refer to as "eternity."

Lo! New am I making all (Revelation 21:5).

Imagine the energy¹ that God possesses in order to accomplish these things! We are all along for the ride, and some of us will directly participate in the outworking of His *Logos* in the future.

Glorious times are ahead! **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: God; Energy; ἐνεργέω (*energeō*), G1754

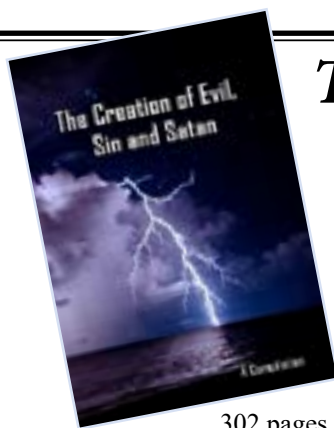
Minor: Creation; Divine Cycle

1. The effectual, operative power of God is expressed by the Greek word ἐνεργέω (*energeō*), which is G1754 (SEC), from which we get our English word "energy." *Energeō* is found, for example, in Ephesians 1:11,

In Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating [energeō] all in accord with the counsel of His will (CV).

Where the *Concordant Version* here translates *energeō* as "operating," (as does the *Emphatic Diaglott*), *Rotherham's Emphasized Bible* and the *Exegesis Bible* render it "energizes."

Energeō is tied to both God's absolute sovereignty and His indispensable imminence. It is God Who is the Divine Energy that pervades His entire Universe. According, to Ephesians 1:11, God Himself is the energizing force of "**all** in accord with the counsel of His will."



302 pages

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The Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan (A Compilation)

The truth laid forth in this work should help us greatly in our dealings with others, especially those who have failed in some way which may bring dishonor on His Name, or cannot accept His truth, or even oppose it and us, especially mature teachings such as is put forth in the pages of this book. It contains 19 authors, 49 works, spanning 150 years. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams, E.W. Bullinger, Alan Burns, Edward Clayton, John Essex, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Norman P. Grubb, Donald G. Hayter, A.E. Knoch, William Mealand, André Piet, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Ray Van Dyke, William H. Walker, and James Webb.

All Is Out of God

Bible Student's Courses

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Course 1: GOD / Unit 7 - The Divine Cycle / Lesson 3 - All Is Out of God

by — Clyde Pilkington

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is all ... (Romans 11:36, BSV).

ORIGIN: ALL OUT OF GOD

Out of Him ... is all.

God is Elohim, meaning that He is the Originator of “all.”

In the beginning Elohim created ... (Genesis 1:1).

Since there was once nothing but God, then of course “all” is “out of Him.” He created the entire Universe and everything in it out of Himself. Everything is out of Him.

That *all is out of God* is the first principle. We must learn this first if we will truly learn anything else of true substance. We must start our doctrine with *God*, for He is the *source* of everything.

If God is not the starting place of our understanding, and we instead begin with ourselves, we will end up humanistic and evolutionary; we will be man-centered and world-conscious, placing our focus on the relative aspect of life.

If, however, our starting place is with God we will be God-centered and God-conscious, having our focus firmly anchored in the absolute aspect of life.

Some have no trouble with everything coming out of God, if it is restricted to His initial creation – the moon, the stars, the world, etc. – but when they get past that initial creation they quickly become humanistic and evolutionary in their thinking. To them, “all” is out of God in creation, but quickly things change and now somehow all comes out of *man*.

To emphasize the truth of Romans 11:36 more pointedly, let us misquote it:



Out of Him, and through Him, and to Him are *some things*.

The verse does not end with “some things,” but “all things” (KJV). Yet even the word “things,” that has been added by many English translations such as the KJV, is not the rendering of a separate Greek word. Thus, accurately, the *Concordant Literal Version* simply renders it “all.”

... out of Him and through Him and for Him is all ... (CV).

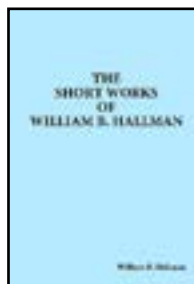
Therefore, God is the origin of “all.” Absolutely nothing is excluded from God’s meticulous design and purpose. Nothing.

All is out of God!

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TOPICS:

Major: Divine Cycle; God; Originator; Sovereignty
Minor: Creation; Elohim



The Short Works of William B. Hallman

by — William B. Hallman
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All Is THROUGH God

Bible Student's Courses

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Course 1: GOD / Unit 7: The Divine Cycle / Lesson 4: All Is Through God

by — Clyde Pilkington

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is all ... (Romans 11:36, BSV).

CHANNEL: ALL THROUGH GOD

Out of Him ... is all

"All" is not just "out of Him," "all" is also "through Him" as well. This speaks to the channel of everything – to the course of continued action – down to the minute details.

Everything happens through Him (Romans 11:36, MSG).

The Greek word for "God" is *Theos*, meaning that He is the Placer; while the Hebrew word for "God" is *El*, meaning that He is the Subjector. What this means is that God has placed "all" where they are in His creation, and He has subjected them "all" to the conditions and circumstances in which they find themselves. "All" have their course in God; He is behind absolutely *all* of

the circumstances and movements of His creation.

*... the One Who is operating **all** in accord with the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11, CV).*

God is the Operator of all. "All" are right where God placed them (for He is *Theos*, the Placer); "all" are subject to the conditions in which they find themselves (for He is *El*, the Subjector); and "all" remain subjected where they are until He places them elsewhere.

For in Him we live, and move, and have our being ... (Acts 17:28, KJV).

*For in Him we are living and moving and are (CV). **BSN***

TOPICS:

Major: God; Sovereignty

Minor: Placer; Subjector



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All Is To God

Bible Student's Courses

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Course 1: GOD / Unit 7: The Divine Cycle / Lesson 5: All Is To God

by — Clyde Pilkington

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is all ... (Romans 11:36, BSV).

CONSUMMATION:

ALL TO GOD

to Him ... is all.

“All” is not just “out of Him,” nor is “all” simply “through Him,” but “all” is also assuredly on a certain journey back “to Him” as well. This speaks to the *destination of everything* – to its *Divine Conclusion*.

It is a deep reality, as will be seen in the literal rendering of the original, which reads “*all is into Him*” (Romans 11:36). — M. Jaegle

Observe how translations render this final truth of Romans 11:36.

Everything ends up in Him (MSG).

All ends in Him (MNT).

In Him everything ends (GNT).

To Him, their consummation (WAY).

Herein lies the grand truth that “all” of God’s creation will be reconciled back to Himself – “all ... in Earth” and “all ... in Heaven” (Colossians 1:20). God will leave no corner of His vast and wonderful Universe outside of His unfailing love.

*That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in One **all things** in Christ, both which are in **Heaven**, and which are on **Earth**; even in Him (Ephesians 1:10).*

*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in **Heaven**, and things in **Earth**, and things under the Earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).*

This reconciliation is truly total and universal! No part of God’s creation will be left out. Nothing will be left alienated or unreconciled to God. All will return to Him, remaining always in complete harmony with its Source. There will be an entire, universal “*restoration of all things*,”

... that God may be All in all (I Corinthians



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Don't be discouraged when you look around you. What you see is not the end of God's plan and purpose. What you see is not the finished product of God. You are not now observing the destination, but only a very small part of the journey *toward* the destination. God is actively at work in His entire creation, and in every circumstance, with the sure goal of masterfully *bringing all things*, in complete fulfillment, back to Himself.

Romans 11:36 is a foundational gateway to Divine Orientation. A true understanding of the truth of this verse will facilitate a spiritual disposition toward God

and toward *all* of His creation, as well as *all* of the circumstances of life – *all* of them, without one single exception.

Thus, the *Divine Cycle* begins with God, operates completely through God, and ends perfectly back to and in God.

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all: to Whom be glory for the ages. Amen (BSV).

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Consummation; Divine Cycle; God; Sovereignty

Minor: Reconciliation



I just finished your book [Divine Lockup](#). Wow, what a read! One of the best books, if not the best, that I've read to date. Such a blessing to examine the content that you've assembled in this little *titan* of a book!

I couldn't put it down. I so enjoyed and applauded the etymology, and the fact that you took the time to insert what you learned about key words from the original Greek text. Plus comparing the verses with other English Bible versions. In doing so, it so cements

the thoughts and meaning that are communicated in the verses that were used!

Your work here has clarified and emancipated me from some previous bad doctrine (baggage) that I've drug around for many years now, but didn't know what to do with because of lack of pieces to complete the puzzle.

What you've done in this tidy little book by categorizing the four subjects of Unbelief, Sin, Vanity and Corruption was to unequivocally guide the reader to the "for certain" freedom that we have in Christ! All of it was very well arranged, as well as the Scriptures used, to substantiate the point being made! I so appreciate you sharing those, and the time it took. What a gold mine!

(see [MAILBOX](#), next page)



64 pages

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Authors."

An Evening with Mark D. Vogt

Mark and his wife Karyl grew up in Altoona PA, attending a church that placed emphasis on Paul's unique message, under the ministry of Henry Kulp, associated with J.C. O'Hair (1876-1958), Charles F. Baker (1905-1994), and C.R. Stam (1909-2003).

After an extensive military career as a Marine pilot stationed in Pensacola, FL, Mark had a career as a private pilot, as well as pastoring a "Grace Movement" church himself, in Williamsport PA.

Since 2020, Mark has been Associate Editor of the Bible Student's Notebook. He also serves as the Director of Curriculum for Bible Student's Courses.

Of God

A Poem, by — Darson Buckner

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

Of God came all the living
and all that's living not.
All that one can think of,
He made the entire lot.

All is out of God, my friend,
even space and time.
Ev'ry good thing done today,
and each and ev'ry crime.

Back to Him all things go,
for from Him they did come.
Nowhere that I look I find
where He just wants back "some."

Ev'ry minute and ev'ry hour
of your life and of mine.

MAILBOX [\(continued from previous page\)](#)

Christendom fails to understand that our lives are clearly not about performing to please God. So glad I'm off that treadmill! Thankfully, we are not the ones under the Law, Israel was!

I so loved this part: "Released from Failure" (pages 22-23), especially the following: "While the believer still fails (sins), his victory lies elsewhere. It is firmly rooted in Christ's perfection, and in the knowledge of the fact that human failings are all part of God's grander purpose and that it has no bearing on our standing before, and relationship to God." – NE

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Each second is accounted for,
He holds the keys to time.
When we go down into the grave,
what happens to us then?
Is that just the end of us,
will we see life again?

We should not be too worried
about the afterlife.
We bring Him so much joy now,
even with the strife.

Ev'ry one of us brings Him pleasure,
in this life and the next.
This fact is made very clear,
it says so in the Text.

All is from Him, all is through Him
and all is back to Him.
Our worries are unfounded,
sung in our favorite hymn. **BSN**

**... A MAN'S LIFE
CONSISTS NOT IN
THE ABUNDANCE OF
THE THINGS WHICH
HE POSSESSES.**

(Luke 12:15)



Prehistoric Creatures:

Chosen in Christ Before the Disruption of the World

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

This is a brief look at our place in God's plan: one that pre-dates "the disruption of the world" (Ephesians 1:4).

37 pages

See [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington."