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The Herald of His Joy

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

Volume 45
Issue 1103

Creation and Atheism

Bible Student's Courses

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Course 2: Creation / Unit 3: Creation and Atheism / Lesson 3: Creation and Atheism

by — Mark D. Vogt

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1:1).

Among the many philosophies that Satan uses to darken the minds of humanity, two stand out as especially dominant in the Western world today: **evolution** and **atheism**.

In this lesson, we'll explore **atheism** – what it is, why it has such a strong influence, and how it fits into God's larger plan of contrast and revelation.



THE CORE ISSUE: “THERE'S NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE”

Many atheists argue that there is not **sufficient evidence** to believe in God. Their reasoning often goes like this:

- “I see no proof of God.”
- “No one can show me convincing evidence.”
- “If God wanted me to believe, He would have made it clear.”

They believe that their unbelief is **reasonable**.

BUT WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY?

Scripture never sets out to **prove** God's existence. It simply declares it:

In the beginning, God created ... (Genesis 1:1).

[\(continued on page 9249\)](#)

WHAT IS ATHEISM?

Atheism is the belief that there is **no God** or any kind of supernatural spiritual being. It is not the same as **agnosticism**, which holds that we simply **don't know** whether a god exists or not.

The term *atheism* literally means “*against theism*” – a rejection of belief in a Deity.

As philosopher Kai E. Nielsen wrote:

Atheism is the denial of metaphysical beliefs in God or spiritual beings. – *Encyclopedia Britannica*

But atheism doesn't just reject the “one true God.” It also **dismisses every belief system** that acknowledges a higher power of any kind.

Creation and Atheism (Bible Student's Courses).....	9247
Firstborn: Exposing the Myth of Pre-existence – Chapter 7: Upholding Monotheism – God the Father as Sole Creator	9250
The Bloody Truth, Chapter 19: The Cosmic Reorder.....	9252
Editor's Desk: The Beauty of Words and the Gift of Focus (Study Bible Update)	9254
Correcting a Mocker (quote: King Solomon) ...	9254

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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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 Sneider

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The Heavens declare the glory of God ...
(Psalm 19:1-3).

against which God will one day show the fullness of His truth.

The Scripture straightforwardly asserts the God Who exists – and that **creation itself** is evidence of His existence. The skies, the stars, the cycle of day and night – all proclaim His power.

SO WHY DON'T MORE PEOPLE BELIEVE?

Here's the surprising truth:

God is the One blinding people.

Romans 11 tells us that God gives eyes that don't see and ears that don't hear. II Corinthians 4:4 says that Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers – but he does so **as part of God's plan**.

God has chosen, in this age, to blind most people to the truth. Why?

Because His purpose involves **contrast**.

- Light is visible only in darkness.
- Grace is appreciated only when law fails.
- Faith shines only when doubt surrounds it.

And so, atheism serves as a key part of the backdrop

THE FAILURE OF CHRISTIANITY

Christianity, especially in its organized, denominational forms, has failed to offer a true picture of God. Instead, it has often portrayed Him as:

- A tyrant who demands performance;
- A deity who tortures the disobedient;
- A judge who punishes endlessly in hell.

No wonder so many thinking people reject that version of "god."

If that were truly God, He **wouldn't** be worthy of belief.

And because **Christendom has distorted God's character**, it has lost its voice to meaningfully challenge philosophies like atheism. It has, in fact, been used to **help drive people into unbelief**.

GOD'S DESIGN: A FOIL AND A PLAN

Satan doesn't work alone or independently. He is **unwittingly serving God's purpose**, just as Pharaoh did in Egypt or Judas did in the garden.

(see [BSC](#), page 9253)



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Unit 5, The Attributes of God.

Unit 2, The Sovereignty of God

Unit 4, God as Father

Firstborn: Exposing the Myth of Pre-existence

(A Synoptical Examination)

Steve Martin, Compilation Editor

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

Chapter 7 (of 10) Upholding Monotheism – God the Father as Sole Creator

At the foundation of Israel's faith – and the faith of Jesus Himself – stands one unshakable truth: there is only one God. Yahweh. Not two, not three – **One**. The Old Testament declares it relentlessly, and Jesus affirms it without hesitation.



• *He alone spreads out the Heavens* (Job 9:8).

• *By the word of Yahweh the Heavens were made* (Psalm 33:6).

• *You alone are Yahweh. You made the Heavens ... You give life to them all* (Nehemiah 9:6).

That truth alone dismantles the idea that Jesus was a co-creator, or divine agent alongside God. The consistent witness of Scripture is that the Father *alone* created all things, acted alone, and shares His glory with no one.

The pattern couldn't be clearer. God didn't ask for help. He didn't delegate creation. He didn't share the stage. He *alone* spoke, acted and sustained everything into being.

And He's explicit about glory:

I will not give My glory to another (Isaiah 42:8).

Listen to the thunder of Scripture:

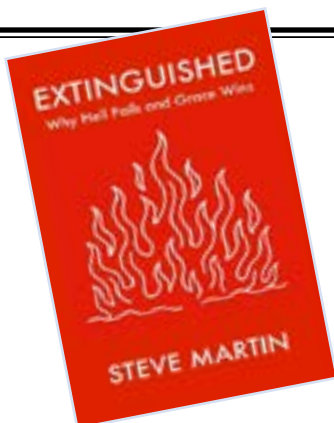
- *I am Yahweh, and there is no other; apart from Me there is no God* (Isaiah 45:5).
- *I am Yahweh ... stretching out the Heavens by Myself, stamping out the Earth – who was with Me?* (Isaiah 44:24).
- *I Myself made the Earth ... My hands stretched out the Heavens* (Isaiah 45:12).

If Jesus co-created – even 0.1% – He would deserve 0.1% of the glory. But God says He shares none of it.

The Grammar Game

Some defend pre-existence by twisting grammar, but the Hebrew doesn't play along.

- **Elohim**: Yes, Elohim is a plural word. But it's paired



Extinguished: Why Hell Fails and Grace Wins

by — Steve Martin

You probably know the story. There's a God Who loves you. But If you don't love Him back in time, He'll burn you forever. End of story. That's what many of us were taught. Somewhere between Sunday School and adult Bible study, it became the unshakable doctrine: *Eternal hell. Endless torment. No second chances.*

But something deep in your gut always whispered: This doesn't sound like good news. If that sounds like you, this is the book for you! 100 pages.

with singular verbs and pronouns nearly 2,000 times when referring to Yahweh. It's like "fish" or "sheep" – plural in form, singular in meaning.

- **Barah:** The verb "created" (*barah*) in Genesis 1:1 is singular. Genesis 1:27 says, "God created humanity in His image ... He created them." That's one actor, not two.
- **Plural of Majesty:** What about "Let Us make man in Our image" (Genesis 1:26)? This is the "royal we," the plural of majesty, just like Pharaoh saying, "We have decided" when he means himself. The very next verse clarifies: "So God created man in His Own image." One Creator, not many.

Jesus on Monotheism

When asked about the greatest command, Jesus didn't hesitate: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Mark 12:29). He didn't add Himself. He didn't hint at being co-equal. If He had, quoting it unchanged would have been misleading at best – or a lie at worst. And a liar couldn't be the spotless Lamb.

Paul echoes the same truth:

For us there is one God, the Father, out of Whom all is ... and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom all is (I Corinthians 8:6).

The Father is the source. Jesus is the exalted Lord, later appointed to His role.

Why This Matters

If we make Jesus a co-creator, we run into serious

problems:

- **God's Glory Diminished:** The Scripture says that God created alone. To insert another being undermines His repeated claims.
- **Contradiction Introduced:** If the Old Testament says "God alone," and the New Testament supposedly says "Jesus too," then Scripture contradicts itself. But God doesn't write contradictions.
- **Christ's Glory Undermined:** Jesus' glory comes not from being God's helper in the past creation, but from glorifying His Father through faith and obedience. To give Him a share in creation actually steals from His real achievement – being exalted as the faithful man.

One Creator, One Exalted Son

The consistent witness of Scripture is simple:

- God the Father *alone* is the Creator.
- Jesus is the faithful Man Whom God exalted.

This doesn't diminish Christ – it magnifies Him. He didn't begin with divine glory. He was given it as a reward. He didn't start as co-creator. He ended as Lord of all, the first glorified human, blazing the trail for us.

God remains the one Creator. Jesus remains the exalted Son. Both are honored. Both are magnified. And Scripture stays beautifully consistent. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Creator; God; Jesus Christ; Pre-existence

Minor: Faith; Father; Monotheism



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The Bloody Truth

Chapter 19 – The Cosmic Reorder

by – Stephen Hill

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

When we think of Christ's victory, our minds often focus on the human side of the story – sin forgiven, death defeated, believers redeemed. But Scripture paints a bigger picture: the antidote's reach is cosmic. The cross was not just a human rescue mission; it was a universal reclamation.



cosmic harmony.

THE UNIVERSE WITHOUT RIVALRY

Picture the future: no competing thrones, no rival allegiances, no hidden rebellions. Every sphere of creation willingly aligned under one Head. The Universe itself – spiritual and physical – is put right. The harmony of Eden, once broken, expands to fill everything.

HEAD OVER ALL

Ephesians 1:9-10 reveals God's ultimate intent:

... to have an Administration of the Complement of the Eras, to Head up all in the Christ – both that in the Heavens and that on the Earth – in Him ...

The Savior's Headship is not limited to a supposed "spiritual church" on Earth. It encompasses every realm and rank of creation – celestial beings, earthly powers, and the physical Universe itself. His rule is total because His cure reaches everywhere sin and death have corrupted.

PLAGUES AND PRINCIPALITIES

Just as the ten plagues of Egypt were direct challenges to the lesser gods of that land, the cross was a public spectacle of triumph over the god of this world and his rebellious hosts.

Each plague in Exodus was a statement: The Most High reigns, and your idols are powerless. At Calvary, the message was cosmic: The Most High reigns, and no spiritual power – however ancient, cunning or high – can resist His purpose.

This reconciliation isn't about God making nice with His enemies in a token gesture – it's the full removal of enmity, the healing of creation's fracture lines. The antidote doesn't just heal human hearts; it restores

This is not poetic exaggeration; it is the declared end toward which all history moves. The antidote is *that* complete.

YOUR PLACE IN THE COSMIC STORY

Believers aren't just recipients of this peace; they are its living proof. The reconciliation already at work in you is a preview of what's coming everywhere. You are part of the visible evidence that the Champion's reign is unstoppable, His cure irreversible.

The cross wasn't a narrow victory – it was the cosmic turning point. And when the final chapter unfolds, Heaven and Earth will stand together, alive under the Headship of the One Who shed His blood for all.

Chapter 19 Key Takeaways

- Christ's reign extends over Heaven and Earth, restoring cosmic harmony.
- The cross was God's declaration of supremacy over all powers.
- The antidote cures not just humanity, but the fractured universe.

ESN

TOPICS:

Major: Antidote; Substitution

Minor: Champion; Reconciliation; Sovereignty; Victory

BSC (continued from page 9249)

Atheism is not just a random belief – it is part of a **system of deception** that Satan is developing and organizing (see Ephesians 4:14). Paul warns that the enemy's lies come with craftiness and the **systematizing of deception**.

... by human caprice, by craftiness with a view to the systematizing of the deception (Ephesians 4:14, CV).

But again – **God has decreed this**.

Just as He created the Adversary to be the Adversary, He designed atheism to exist **so that His light will shine all the brighter** when He removes the veil.

GOD CONSCIOUSNESS: PLANTED IN EVERY HEART

Even in the face of deception, **every human being is born with a built-in awareness of God**.

Romans 2:14-15 speaks of the law written on their hearts.

Romans 8 speaks of a groaning for something more.

Psalms 19 reminds us that the creation speaks to every language and every soul.

Still, God has chosen to **blind most people for now** – but not forever. In His own time, every person will come to know the truth and acknowledge Who He is.

FINAL REFLECTION: ATHEISM IS A TOOL – NOT A THREAT

We do not need to fear atheism.

We do not need to defeat atheists in debate.

We do not need to prove God's existence with science or logic.

God has already declared Himself. And in the end, all will know Him.

This is not just a hopeful thought – it's part of the **Divine Cycle**:

- Out of Him is all
- Through Him is all
- To Him is all

God will be "All in all" (I Corinthians 15:28). **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Atheism; Creation; God; Sovereignty

Minor: Christianity; Philosophy; Unbeliever



Western PA Bible Conference

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8:30 Free continental breakfast (hotel)

9:00 - 12:00 Teaching Sessions

12:00 Lunch

Friday

6:00 PM - Dinner and Fellowship

Saturday

8:30 Free continental breakfast (hotel)

9:00 - 12:00 Teaching Sessions

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 4:15 Teaching Sessions

PLEASE RSVP your attendance (seating is limited – even if you made room reservations)

For more information, contact Steve Martin at 610-909-9285 or biblestudentsnotebook@gmail.com



Editor's Desk

Study Bible Update

The Beauty of Words and the Gift of Focus

Looking back, I can see that Father has had me on a decades-long journey preparing my heart and understanding for the work before us. In recent months, He has been gently purging my life – paring down distractions, simplifying my focus, and creating space for what truly matters. This isn't legalism; it's liberation. He's been giving me the “*want to*” for making my world smaller so that I can give my full attention to the work He's written for me.

One of the greatest joys in this work is rediscovering the beauty of *words*. There are fewer than 6,000 Greek words in the New Testament, yet nearly a million English words to draw from in expressing their meaning. What a privilege it is to search for the clearest, most faithful way to present God's revela-

WHOEVER
CORRECTS A
MOCKER INVITES
INSULTS.

– KING SOLOMON (PROVERBS 9:7, NIV)

tion – word by word, nuance by nuance.

As we organize, refine and prepare for the year ahead, I'm deeply grateful for those who have encouraged and supported us. Every prayer [TOWARD-WELL-HAVING], every note, every gift – large or small – reminds us that this is not a solitary task but a shared labor of love. Together, we build what God has written.

Joy & Peace,

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
Paint, PA

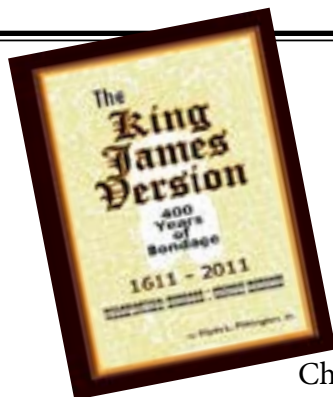
Video of the Week



Fellow Workers of Your Joy!

(click to watch in browser)

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



The King James Version – 400 Years of Bondage

1611-2011

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

1611 was not a high spiritual mark in the history of the church, the Body of Christ. Instead of being a grand year of the pinnacle of preservation or perfection of God's Word, it was rather the sad depths of the subtle corrupting of God's Word by the historic union of governmental and ecclesiastical politics.

An excellent book! – NC

Quite an eye opener to say the least! Very good! – NM