

MAILBOX BIBLE COURSE

LESSON 1 – CAN WE KNOW GOD BIBLE STUDY

Welcome to our Mailbox Bible Study Course. We trust you will enjoy these lessons as much as we did composing them. We are glad to be able to serve the Lord and you in this way. Many are being saved and helped through these simple Bible lessons. We suggest that you try to do one lesson each week; this will keep your interest in them active. This particular course contains twelve lessons on Can we know God Bible Studies. Please save this lesson onto your computer, read the lesson carefully, full in the answers in the blocks provided then attach this lesson into an email addresses to us biblelessons@uniserve.com and then push your send button. We will then evaluate and return any corrections to you with your next lesson. On completion of the full course, you will receive a beautifully presented certificate. Should you have difficulty opening or sending this file to us, please let us know by return email. We suggest that you print these lessons and put them in a binder for future studies.

May God richly bless you as you proceed?

Your Instructor

Harold Smith

All Courses are copyright and may not be used as Courses without permission. Copyright 1966
I am indebted to R.E.Harlow for his kind permission to use this material for Email Bible lessons. Also the publishers.
Everyday Publications, 421 Nugget Ave, Scarborough, Ontario.

LESSON 1: CAN WE KNOW GOD?

IS THERE A GOD?

Many people say they do not believe in God. Some live as if there were no God. Others say maybe there is a God, but He has not made Himself known to men. We will first of all answer the question, "Is there a God?" When we look at all the things around us, we ask, "Where did they come from?" How did the trees and mountains and lakes and animals and all the other things come to be? They all came to be through that Being who is called God. He must have great power. In the Bible the word used for God means The Powerful One. When we look more closely at the things around us, we see that each one was made for a certain purpose and is part of a great plan. Who planned it? Who thought it all out? It must have been someone very wise. No man is wise enough for that. Only God could do it. There must be a God who created or made everything.

This all seems very clear. Yet there are people who do not believe in God. They say that there is no God. These people are called atheists. How do they know there is no God? When a man says there is no God, he is saying that he himself knows everything. He is also saying that he has been everywhere in the world. If not, how could he be sure there is no God? God might be on a star far away from the earth, or in some other place. It does not make sense to say there is no God. To be sure that there is no God you would have to know everything and be everywhere at the same time! This means that you yourself would have to be God! So the Bible calls the atheist a fool. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God," Psalm 14.1. It is therefore much wiser to say, "I do not know if there is a God or not." A person who says he does not know may also say that no one can know. I think it is a great honour to know God. Some people think that evolution proves that the Bible is not true. Evolution teaches that in the beginning thousands of years ago there was only a little bit of something. This gradually grew and became a fish, later an animal and finally a man. But where did that first little bit of something come from? It must have had a beginning. Who started it and keeps it going? The answer is, God

started the world and keeps it going. If you have a watch, you may have looked at the little wheels inside it. If someone told you there is a man in another town that makes watches by shaking the different pieces around in a cup, would you believe him? You know only a very wise person can put all the many pieces of a watch together so that it will work. They will never come together by themselves by just being shaken around in a cup! In the same way we cannot believe that this wonderful world just came into being alone without God.

CAN WE KNOW GOD?

If there is a God, we can ask four questions about Him. **COULD** He make Himself known? The word God means The Powerful One. As men we can talk to one another. I can tell you what I am thinking. God can do the same. He would not create beings that can do what He Himself cannot do. What would be God's mason for creating people if He cannot make Himself known to them? **SHOULD** He make Himself known? God made man able to know right and wrong. God Himself knows what is right and what is wrong and He expects man to do the right and not do the wrong. Therefore He must tell us what IS right and what is evil. He would certainly not punish men for doing evil unless He told us what IS evil. Would God WANT to make Himself known? We have seen that God **CAN** reveal Himself if He wants to. But why would He want to? First of all, so that man would know what is good, and secondly, so that many would know and love God. He created man so that He could show us His love and righteousness. **DID** God make Himself known? If He did, HOW did He do it and WHERE? What is God like? What does He want me to do? These are very important questions. The answer is, God has made Himself known in the Bible. The Bible tells us that it is the Word of God. There are also other books, some old, some new, that say the same thing, but there is nothing to prove that these other books are really the Word of God. How can we know that the Bible, and only the Bible, is the true revelation from God? There are many things which show this:

1. The oneness of the Bible. This one Book is really made up of 66 different books. These were written by about 40 men. Some of them were kings, keepers of sheep, preachers, farmers, or priests. They wrote at different times. The last one wrote his book about 1500 years after the first one. And yet all these 66 books which were written at different times by different people tell about one great Person, the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament we read that He would come and that He would be the Saviour. In the New Testament we read that He has come and died on the cross in order to become our Saviour. So we see a wonderful oneness in the Bible.
2. Old books written hundreds of years ago show that the Bible is true. In old times people lived in great cities which are now just a pile of earth. Today some men's work is to dig in these old piles. They often find writings and other things which help to show that the Bible is true. You do not have to wait until you understand everything in the Bible before you believe it. Some things in it are very difficult to understand, but still we can believe what it tells us. Some people say the Bible is not true because they have never seen a miracle and do not believe miracles are possible. But let me ask you, If there is a God, why cannot He do something that man cannot do? A great act of God which no man could do is called a miracle. God is all-powerful. A book about God should tell of His powerful acts. Miracles do not show that the Bible is untrue. They show that the Bible really tells us about God.
3. Another thing which shows that God has made Himself known in the Bible is fulfilled prophecy. When a man of God says that something will happen in the future, his saying is called a prophecy. When this saying actually takes place, it is called a fulfilled prophecy. Many years before Jesus was born, God's servants wrote in the Bible that Christ was coming. They told when and where and how He would be born. They told other things as well. In the New Testament we

read that these things really happened. How could these men know what would happen many years later? Only God could tell them.

4. The Bible makes you feel that you are a sinner. In the Old Testament we read God's holy law, so holy that no man has ever obeyed it completely. In the New Testament we read of the life of a perfect Man, the Lord Jesus Christ. If you suppose you can keep God's law, think about the perfect life of the Lord Jesus. Thousands when they read the Bible see that they themselves are not as perfect as God wants them to be. They read what God wants them to be like and know that God will judge them.
5. If this were the only thing the Bible tells us, v, would never have any peace or joy. However this is not all. The Bible tells us also the story of a Saviour. This story is more wonderful than anything else ever written in any other book. Every religion tells men what they should DO. Only the Bible tells us that everything needed for our salvation has been DONE. The Lord Jesus Christ bore God's punishment for our sins. No man could have thought of such a wonderful and beautiful plan of salvation. Only God could think it up. This shows that the Bible came from God.
6. And the message of the Bible really works. Thousands of people have been completely changed through the gospel of Christ. Rich and poor, religious people and atheists, many have found peace in Christ.
7. Some people do not believe the Bible because it is so old. They want something new and modern. And yet the very fact that the Bible is so old shows that it is a very special book. God has kept it from being destroyed for many hundreds of years. Of course there are other books which are very old too. But although men have tried to destroy the Bible many times, God has kept it for us until now--- it is His Word.
8. And what about today? If the Bible is so old, and out of-date, if men have really shown that it is full of mistakes, you would think that people do not want it any more. Is that true? No. Each year more Bibles are sold than ever before. Parts of the Bible or all of it have been translated or written again in 1,200 different languages. Probably nine-tenths of all the people in the world can understand one of these languages. Every year millions of Bibles or parts of Bibles are printed and sold.

Yes, the Bible is the most wonderful book in the world. It is altogether different from any other book. Men could never have thought up by themselves the things that are written in it. Truly it is the Word of God. Truly God makes Himself known in the Bible.

TEST PAGE OF LESSON 1 OF CAN WE KNOW GOD BIBLE STUDY

TRUTH IS WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT A THING.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. God has made Himself known in the Bible - - TRUE FALSE
2. God created all things for a certain purpose - TRUE FALSE
3. Some people live as if there were no God - TRUE FALSE
4. You can know God - TRUE FALSE
5. Psalm 14.1 teaches there is no God. - TRUE FALSE

TYPE AN X BY THE CORRECT ANSWER.

6. The Word "God" means:

- a) The All-knowing One.
- b) The Powerful One.
- c) The Unending One.

7. God:

- a) tells man what is right and wrong.
- b) makes man do what is right.
- c) makes man do what is wrong.

8. Through the Bible, God:

- a) makes you feel that you are a sinner.
- b) says you are not a sinner.
- c) says you may sin a little bit.

9. God makes Himself known:

- a) through all the religions of the world.
- b) through education.
- c) through the Bible.

10. God wants you to:

- a) be more religious.
- b) know more about Himself through the Bible.
- c) understand everything in the Bible before you believe it.

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR DETAILS:

Your name:

.....

Email Address:

.....

Email Bible Lesson No 24

Can we Know God? Bible Study - Lesson 1 of 12 (can-we-know-God-01)

Postal Address:

.....

STUDY HELPER DETAILS:

Harold - biblelessons@uniserve.com

Shelly - email.bible.lessons@gmail.com

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Once you have completed this lesson, please attach it to an email addressed to us, and send it. We will then check it, send through any corrections and send you the next lesson. If there is something that you do not understand, please send us an email for an explanation. If you do not hear from us within two days of emailing us, please re-send it. Do you have a friend that would like to do these lessons? If so, email us their details and we will send them the list. Thank you.