

# Orlando Bible Students Newsletter

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## God and His Creation

Recently, physicist Stephen Hawking was asked by Larry King, “What, Stephen, do you most hope people take away from your new book ‘Grand Design?’” Hawking responded: “That science can explain the universe, and that we don’t need God to explain why there is something rather than nothing or why the laws of nature are what they are.” In his book, “Grand Design” Hawking provides his answers to, “Why is there a universe--why is there something rather than nothing? Why do we exist? ... Did the universe need a designer and creator?”

The Bible already answers these questions. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). There is a universe because the Creator exercised his wisdom and power and made it. “God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Gen. 1:26). Man’s existence and his dominion over the earth were all the result of the creative work of God and His son, the Word or Logos (John 1:1,3,10; 1 Cor. 8:6).

The universe is the result of God’s wisdom and power. Its order, laws, elegance and beauty reflect the wisdom and power of a being far greater and far higher than man. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:9). God is spiritual, far above mortal man. We cannot see Him with our senses nor measure Him with our instruments. But if we carefully study the Scriptures that God has given us, we can see Him with the eye of faith.

Today, God reveals Himself to those who de-

sire to “worship him in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). All others, God is not dealing with at the present time. Many like Mr. Hawking question or even deny God’s existence. Since they cannot see or measure Him, God must not exist.

However, God who declares “the end from the beginning” has given us evidences and promises in His word which demonstrate His existence, power and love (Isa. 46:10). The miraculous deliverance of Israel from Egypt, the miracles and resurrection of Jesus, the re-gathering of Israel and the current time of trouble all point to a creator so wise, powerful and far-seeing, we should reverence Him in awe and humility.

The day is coming quickly when mankind’s journey into unrighteousness will be stopped. This time of trouble will culminate in a great battle the Bible calls “Armageddon” and Jacob’s trouble (Rev. 16:16-21; Jer. 30:7). God will deliver the nation of Israel from all of her enemies and in this way will be sanctified in eyes of all the people (Ezek. 38:18-23; Joel 3:16; Zech 14:2-3). Then all mankind will see God through in His rescue of Israel and intervention into man’s affairs. “So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel” (Ezek. 39:7).

Thereafter, through the 1000-year kingdom of Christ, God will write His law in the hearts of man. “And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD”—Jer. 31:33-34. ■

*For more information, see our offer for the free booklet “God and Reason.”*

# Compassion

According to Webster's Dictionary, compassion is the "sympathetic consciousness of OTHER'S distress together with a DESIRE TO ALLEVIATE IT."

Do we see much compassion today? No! Instead, the focus is on self, me, and I rather than "others." This world is nearly all about "self." But when we do see compassion being exercised, it is wonderful to behold. Compassion brings happiness, joy, caring, goodness, kindness, sharing, selflessness, and love! It brings tears to our eyes to see the blessings of compassion brought to those who need it.

These qualities are exactly what our Heavenly Father possesses and planned for mankind before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19-21)! Together with His only begotten son, the Word or Logos (John 1:1,2 *Emphatic Diaglott*), God expressed His compassion in developing a plan of salvation for all mankind. God's compassion is shown in the Scriptures by what God promised for both His heavenly family, the followers of Jesus (Rev. 2:10) and the rest of the human family (1 Cor. 15:22).

This same compassion was demonstrated by God's only begotten son, the Logos, who gave up his spiritual existence to be made flesh, to do God's will (Matt. 3:17, Heb. 10:7) and fulfill God's plan of salvation (John 17:3-5). As a man, God's son paid the redemption price for Adam's sin (Gen. 2:17, 3:17-19). By taking Adam's place under the penalty of death, Jesus made it possible for God to release Adam and his descendants from the sentence of death and give them an opportunity for life.

Jesus' dying on the cross was a demonstration of compassion that will never be matched. He gave up his earthly life to redeem ALL of mankind (Gal. 1:3,4) out of the horrible conditions of this present evil world. This gift, prompted by God's compassion, covers not just a few but all who have ever lived (John 3:16, 17). All will be resurrected (John 5:25) in Christ's kingdom of peace and given the opportunity to learn righteousness, come back into harmony with God and live forever as perfect human beings on a restored earth. NOW THAT IS COMPASSION!! ■

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## The Increase of Knowledge

**"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."—Daniel 12:4**

The increase of knowledge is important to every Christian because Daniel was told it was one of the signs indicating the time of the end had begun and the kingdom of God was soon to be established. People traveling to and fro and knowledge being increased are things that we should look for to indicate fulfillment of this prophecy. Their presence would tell us when the sealed words of Daniel's prophecy were due to be understood.

Prior to 1852, there were less than 15,000 patents filed. From 1852 to 1915, more than 500,000+ patents filed. Knowledge is said to have doubled from the previous 6,000 years during this 62-year period. Knowledge has continued to increase and in 2005, was doubling every 30 months. For

example, the invention of the Personal Computer (PC) has made it possible to complete a college degree with 75% of the course study being completed on the Internet. Additionally, we can keep in touch with others round the clock and have access to billions of items of information from Pre-K text books to surgical procedures.

Likewise, man's ability to travel has increased and millions travel to and fro every day. With today's modes of transportation, nearly everywhere in the earth can be reached within 24 hours. In the United States, there are over 4 million miles of road to connect towns and cities. In China, some trains travel 300 miles an hour enabling those living in remote areas to commute to the cities.

**Continued on next page**

# The Binding of Satan

**“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”—Revelation 20:2**

The binding of Satan described in Revelation chapter 20 is a symbolic one. Satan will not to be bound with literal chains but God’s restraining power will subdue him. The binding includes not only Satan but all other evil influences and institutions. This binding will make it possible for man to be taught righteousness in Christ’s earthly kingdom as the prophet Isaiah writes: “When the judgments of the Lord are in the earth, the inhabitants thereof will learn righteousness” (Isa.26:9).

This teaching of righteousness will take time as mankind learns to develop the proper mind which leads to speaking and acting in accordance with God’s principles of righteousness and His love. Man will learn to love God and his fellow man through willing obedience to God’s laws and the rulers of this kingdom, Christ and his church. As man is being taught righteousness, people may still have thoughts not in accord with God’s laws of righteousness. When this happens, the same power of God which has bound Satan will prevent men from bringing harm to anyone else.

Since the fall of the human race through Adam’s disobedience, mankind has never known freedom from the evil influences of Satan and his fallen angels. Satan is the tempter, endeavoring to ensnare man into wrong doing. But the pitfalls of deception, temptation and sin that the adversary has been using will cease during his binding. We have Isaiah’s assurance of this: “cast up the highway, gather out the stones.” (Is. 62:10) No stones of evil will be permitted to stumble mankind and ruin their chance to be taught God’s ways. Isaiah confirms the binding of Satan during Christ’s kingdom with these words: “an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness. No lion nor any ravenous beast shall go up there; but the redeemed shall walk there” (Isa. 35:8-10). Satan as a roaring lion and his agents as ravenous beasts will be barred from that highway that will lead mankind back to righteousness and harmony with God (1 Peter 5:8).

Mankind will have much to rid himself of during the time that Satan will be bound. It will take the 1000-year kingdom of Christ to teach man righteousness and transform mankind’s character back to the likeness of God. Then, Satan will be loosed for a little season as a final test of mankind’s obedience to God’s laws. After that, Satan and all who follow him will be destroyed forever in the lake of fire, the second death—Rev. 20:7-10,14. ■

## Gospel of the Kingdom

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### The Increase of Knowledge continued from previous page.

Millions of people every day use airplanes to fly short and long distances.

Having seen these advances, we conclude that this prophecy has been fulfilled and the sealed words of Daniel are due to be understood. “None of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand”—Dan. 12:10. ■

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## Calendar of Events

### **Orlando Bible Students Convention**

**October 30, 31 2010**

Garden Club of Sanford

200 Fairmont Drive (corner of US Hwy 17-92  
Sanford, Florida

[Free admission, no collection]

For further information contact:

**Orlando Bible Students**  
**PO Box 180216, Casselberry, FL 32718-0216**

Or contact us at our website:  
**[www.orlandobible.org](http://www.orlandobible.org)**

The Orlando Bible Students is a nondenominational group that meets for Bible studies and devotions on Sunday mornings at the Eastbrook branch YMCA, Winter Park, FL and in area homes during the week.

For further information call: (407) 831-2098

## Special Offer

We would like to send you a complimentary copy of the booklet,

### **“God and Reason”**

This booklet describes how God brings blessings to all mankind through Christ’s 1000-year kingdom.

For your FREE copy, call (407) 831-2098 and request a copy, or fill in your address below and mail this coupon to:

**Orlando Bible Students**  
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