



Summer Bible Study

Greentown Baptist Church
Wednesday, 8/30/2023

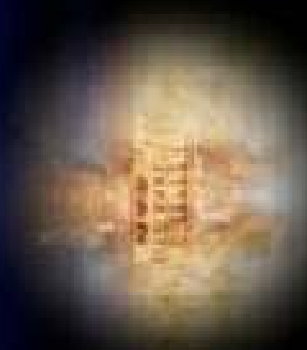
1. Why did God make a great nation out of Ishmael's lineage knowing what they would do to the Jews (Gen. 17:20)?

- God promises to bless and multiply Abraham's seed bringing forth a great nation **when he was 75** years old. Abraham _____ God would do it – Gen. 12:1-4, 15:1-6; Rom. 4:17-18.
- **Eleven years pass** with no heir and Abraham and Sarah panic and move ahead of God, _____ their lives and God's promise, bringing Ishmael into the world illegitimately – Gen. 16:1-12, 15-16.
- God blesses Ishmael and his lineage (*Arab nations*) in answer to Abraham's _____, because he is Abraham's seed, and because He cares for Ishmael – Gen. 17:15-22; 21:13-21; Ps. 68:4-5; Ja. 1:27.
- There is a bigger practical/devotional lesson from this story about doing things in the flesh vs. the Spirit/power of God – Gal. 4:21-26, 28-31.

2. God says "it was so" when He finishes Day 2 of creation (Gen. 1:7), but on every other creative day He ends by saying "it was good" or "very good." Why was Day 2 different?

- God finishes all but Day 2 of the creative days with the "good...very good" phrase. Every word of God matters, and God is _____, so this difference stands out – Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21.
- On Day 2, God establishes the firmament of the Heavens, a three-fold heavenly structure. He _____ the existing water above the firmament of the heavens and below it. The sun, moon, and stars are inside this firmament (*or division*) – Gen. 1:1-2, 6-8, 14-16, 20; Ps. 148:1-4; 2 Cor. 12:2.
- On Day 2, it appears that God creates a temporary _____ of separation between His Heaven above and man's dwelling below on Earth which is **not necessarily "good," but "it was so"** for the time being – Is. 66:1; Job 9:4-8; 26:7-12; 38:8-11, 30; Rev. 4:1-6.
- This sea of separation is _____ after the Millennium (*1000-year reign of Christ on Earth*) when the devil and sin are eradicated. God then dwells openly with man and His creation – Rev. 21:1-5.

3. What should a mom do when she is feeling cold and indifferent towards her children?



God's Throne
(Third Heaven)

Waters above Firmament

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. (Genesis 1:7-8)

Vacuum of
Outer Space
(Second Heaven)

The "Firmament"

The Earth's Atmosphere
(First Heaven)

Waters on Earth's surface