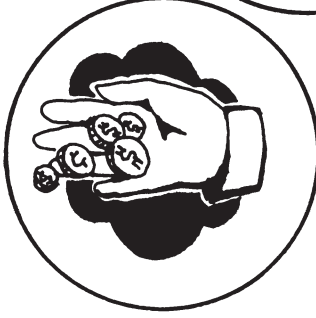
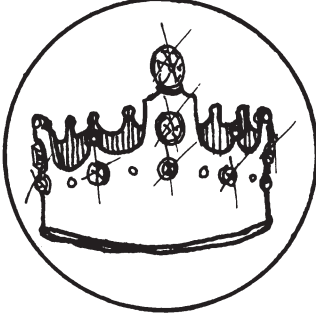
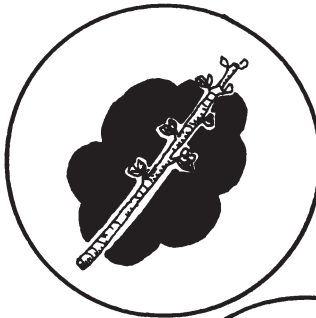
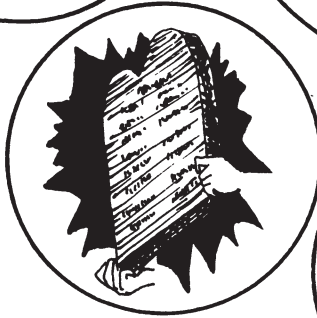
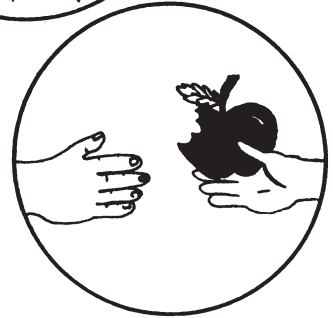


# IT'S A FIRST





# Theme Thoughts

It is not difficult to go through the Bible and compile an extensive list of first events from which we can learn valuable lessons. Most people are interested in how or when something started and who started it. This quarter will focus on beginnings. The first two lessons deal with the beginning of everything—Creation and the first man. The next two are about the first sin and the first plan of escape from God’s judgment for sin. The next lesson is about the people who built the first “skyscraper” and the pitfalls of trying to be independent from God.

Four Bible characters will be studied: the first Hebrew, Abraham; the first leader, Moses; Israel’s first priest, Aaron; and the first king of Israel, Saul. There also will be a lesson on God’s first written Law.

The point of studying these lessons is to help us get a better understanding of some of the firsts in Bible history and, more importantly, to learn that, since the beginning of our world, each of these has played an important part in God’s plan for our lives. We want to grow spiritually from what we have learned.

# In the Beginning

**TEXT:** Genesis 1:1-25

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** Nehemiah 9:6; Hebrews 11:3

**KEY VERSE:** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. — Colossians 1:16

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:** Tract No. 58 — God the Creator — First, Last, and Always

The Bible is not only a book of beginnings, but also a book of eternities. The very supreme revelation of the Bible is the revelation of God. If one starts to think of the beginning, using his own reasoning, he will have trouble and will possibly supply a humanistic assumption for the real beginning. He would therefore substitute the creature's point of view for the Creator's point of view. Among many scientists there are basic differences of opinion as to the origin of the universe. Evolutionists hold that all living things developed from non-living materials. Creationists believe that all basic categories of nature were brought into being by a supernatural force. It takes as much faith to subscribe to the theory that our complex universe is a mere chance happening as to accept the first verse of the inspired Word which declares, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

1. Make a list of what God created on each of the six days.

2. Many say that the days mentioned in the Creation account are actually long periods of time. What does Scripture teach about the length of these days?

3. Can man create something from nothing? Explain. See Ecclesiastes 1:9-10.

	4. What scientific principle is illustrated by each of these verses?
	Job 26:7
	Job 26:8
	Job 26:10
	Ecclesiastes 1:6
	Ecclesiastes 1:7
	Isaiah 40:22
	Jeremiah 33:22
	5. What is meant by the statement, “after his kind,” in the creation of the plants, water creatures, fowls, and animals?
	6. Make a list of ways in which we benefit from the “lights” God made for us.
	7. In studying the entire first chapter of Genesis, how is the existence of the Holy Trinity demonstrated in the account of the Creation?
	Though no declaration which God makes needs to be substantiated by evidence or argument, the portions of His wonderful Book that touch upon the subject of Creation still serve greatly to strengthen our faith. For example, the Psalmist proclaims, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard” (Psalm 19:1-3). The heavens, and the earth also, are declaring to man by innumerable evidences—by the stars, by the seas, by the mountains, by the trees—that God is the Creator of all that is.
4	



# The First Man

**TEXT:** Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7,18-23

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 5:1-2

**KEY VERSE:** And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. — Genesis 2:7

What a person believes about his origin greatly affects his entire philosophy of life. If a man were convinced that he does not have an eternal soul, then it would seem to him that he would have no responsibility to God for the way he lives his life. But a person's disbelief in the Bible does not release that one from his responsibility to God. As Christians, we believe that the most important decision a man can make is the one that will affect the eternal destiny of his soul. It is imperative that we arm ourselves against those who would erode this basic belief—that man was created by God in His own image and possesses a never-dying soul. We can do this by studying the Bible, God's divine Word, with simplicity of faith.

1. When the initial part of the Creation was completed and the earth was in readiness, God performed His last creative act—He made man. Why did God make man? See Isaiah 43:7 and Revelation 4:11.

2. How was man's physical body created? What factor made the creation of man unique or different from all the creative acts which had already taken place?

3. Man is distinguished from all other living creatures in that he alone possesses a living soul. How and why was man given a soul?

4. Genesis 1:26-27 states that man was created in God's image and likeness. What does this mean to you?

5. Causing a deep sleep to come upon Adam, God took one of Adam's ribs and from it created a woman. Then He brought the woman to Adam for a helpmate. Why did God feel man needed a helpmate?

6. Read Psalm 8:4-8. What place was man given in God's creation?

7. What is meant by the word *dominion*, in Genesis 1:28?

8. How will the Christian look at God's creations differently than the non-Christian?

# The First Temptation and Sin

**TEXT:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-19

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** James 1:2-3, 12-15

**KEY VERSE:** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. — 1 Corinthians 10:13

Temptation is the means by which Satan attempts to deceive mankind into disobeying God. It is the common lot of all. But a Christian who faces up to temptation and utilizes the source of his strength—the overcoming power of God—will not fall into sin as did Adam and Eve.

1. What is the dictionary definition of the word *tempt*?

2. Give a definition of *sin*.

3. Temptation always precedes sin and yet it is obvious the two are not the same. Yielding to Satan's temptations is what causes sin. What means did God provide for Adam and Eve to escape yielding to the temptation?

4. How did the serpent's question, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" lead into temptation?

5. The devil promised Eve that she and Adam would be as gods, knowing good and evil. What could they gain by yielding?

6. Sin was introduced by the first lie. What was the first lie? What are the characteristics of a lie?

7. Using 1 John 2:16, what are the points of contact with the world that would lead us into temptation?

8. John 17:15-16 indicates that we do not need to be taken out of the world in order to be kept from evil. List several things we can do to avoid being overcome by temptation.

Through man's temptation and subsequent yielding, the curse of sin was brought into the world. But God offers mercy through His plan of redemption. The first promise of this is given in Genesis 3:15. On the Cross, the heel of the Savior was bruised in death, but the head of the serpent (Satan) is bruised every time a lost soul is redeemed or one of God's redeemed withstands temptation.

# The First Plan of Escape

**TEXT:** Genesis 6:5-22; 7:1-24

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 24:37-39

**KEY VERSE:** Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. — Isaiah 26:20

Just a few generations after Adam's sin, God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Being grieved with this condition, God decreed judgment upon corrupt mankind, but "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" and he and his family were spared from destruction. Thus we find from the beginning of God's dealings with men that His love provides, for those who repent, a way of escape from judgment.

1. Why was Noah told to build the ark, and from what source did he receive instructions to build such a vessel?

2. Give a description of the ark. How did Noah know that it would be seaworthy, or even float?

3. What took place as soon as Noah was finished building the ark? What space of time came between this event and the actual Flood? What significance can be placed upon this circumstance?

4. Who shut the door when Noah and his family were in the ark? Why?

5. Because Noah was a righteous man, he was saved from the Flood. Do you feel that God will eventually destroy the righteous with the wicked when He sends judgment upon the earth again? Why or why not?

6. Explain how the earth will eventually be destroyed. See 2 Peter 3:10.

7. What similarity is there between the days of Noah and the days in which we live? Matthew 24:37-39.

# The First Skyscraper

**TEXT:** Genesis 11:1-9; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 55:6-9

**KEY VERSE:** Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. — Jeremiah 17:5

It is astounding that, with Noah still alive about one hundred years after the Flood, the people of the earth should so lose their fear of God that they did not hesitate to join themselves in a project defying Him. Building a tower and concentrating their population instead of spreading out and repopulating the earth as God had commanded (Genesis 9:1), demonstrated their independent spirit and resistance to God. Because of their disobedience, God intervened and confused their language, thus preventing the world from again being given over totally to sin and lawlessness. God's Word is our blueprint for building our spiritual house. Deviation from this blueprint will result in the same confusion and disaster experienced by the people of Babel.

1. Who did the people of Babel consult with as they made plans to build a city and a tower? Who should they have approached about the matter? Why?

2. Note here two reasons why the men of Babel decided to build a city and a tower whose "top may reach unto heaven."

3. Who visited the people as they attempted to build the city and tower at Babel, and why? Is God interested in our plans today? Why or why not?

4. What action did the Lord decide to take regarding the building project at Babel? Why?

5. As Christians, we are co-laborers with God in building our spiritual house. List several things which show God's part in this labor. List several things which show our part.

6. In 1 Corinthians 3:12, the writer mentions various materials which one might use to build his spiritual house. Note here several Christians' experiences and Christian character attributes which he may be referring to as "gold, silver, precious stones." Now contrast these with what you think the writer may mean by "wood, hay, stubble." See John 17:17; Acts 2:39; Galatians 3:2-3; 5:22-23; Hebrews 6:1; James 1:22 and 1 Peter 1:5-7.

7. Explain what you feel the word *fire* refers to in 1 Corinthians 3:13.

8. How is it possible to lose the heavenly reward which we might have gained in our service for Christ? And how is it possible to be assured of that reward?



# The First Hebrew

**TEXT:** Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-8

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 1:1-6

**KEY VERSE:** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. — Romans 5:1-2

God is continually looking for one who will make up the hedge and stand in the gap (Ezekiel 22:30). Often He is disappointed, but the Bible tells us of some who did respond to the call of God. Among these was Abraham. Because of his implicit faith in God, he is known as “the Friend of God” (James 2:23). Isn’t it wonderful that Jesus said we, too, can be His friend (John 15:14-15)?

1. What were the promises that God made to Abram and on what were they conditioned?

2. List some promises God has made to you and reflect on what you have to do to receive them.

3. Of the seven promises God gave to Abram, which do you consider to be the most important to us? Why?

4. Genesis 12:1 tells us Abram was promised a land which God would show him. Where was that land? What other verse in our text brings out God’s promise that He would give this land to Abram’s descendants?

5. When Abram was ninety-nine years old God told him to “walk before me and be thou perfect.” Explain in your own words what this means. Why did God require this of Abram? See Genesis 17:2.

6. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus tells us to be perfect (Matthew 5:48). How many other references to perfection can you find in the New Testament?

7. What significance is there in the fact that God changed Abram’s name to Abraham?

8. List some ways that Psalm 1 might apply to Abraham.

9. It is obvious that Abraham received some wonderful benefits by following the Lord. In reading Psalm 1, we find some benefits to which we, too, have access if we follow the Lord. The first verse of this Psalm lists three contingencies. For each, give an example or illustration applicable to our day.

10. Psalm 1:3 promises the godly man that “whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” How can we explain this verse in light of the fact that, obviously, all Christians are not materially prosperous?

# The First Leader

**TEXT:** Exodus 3:1-15; Isaiah 43:1-2

**KEY VERSE:** Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. — Isaiah 41:10

The commission Moses received from God, to lead the Children of Israel from bondage in Egypt to the Promised Land, was a huge one. Great issues were at stake and much would depend on him. One cannot blame Moses for saying, "Who am I?" When God calls one to a position of responsibility in His service, that person may not feel sufficient. But God's commands are His enablings; with an order there is given the required strength and wisdom. Surely there was great comfort and reassurance in the promise that God gave Moses: "Certainly I will be with thee."

1. Where was Moses when he heard the call of God? Why do you think God choose that location?

2. God allowed some unusual circumstances to direct the course of Moses' early life. Briefly outline those events, using Acts 7:20-29.

3. God used a supernatural manifestation to call Moses. How does He call people today? How can we know that any call from God is just as important as His call to Moses though it may not be given in such a spectacular way?

4. Of what importance was it to Moses when God declared Himself to be the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

5. Parallel Moses' response to how some people respond today when they feel the call of God.

6. In verse 12 of our text, God promised Moses a token. What was that token? Does God do this for us today? Explain.

7. In our key verse, God made three promises regarding what He will do for His people. What were they?

8. What did God promise Moses He would do for the Children of Israel? Draw the parallel between the promise to the Israelites and the promise to Christians.

9. Humility is an essential quality of leadership in the work of the Lord. What word is used in Numbers 12:3 to describe this quality in Moses' life?

# God's First Written Law

**TEXT:** Exodus 20:1-26; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

**KEY VERSE:** This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. — Deuteronomy 26:16

God's chosen people were the Children of Israel. His first written Law was given to them through the prophet Moses. It began with the Ten Commandments, which were later written on tables of stone by the finger of God (Exodus 31:18). All of these laws and ordinances were specific, and the people were required to know them and to teach them to their children. See Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

1. When and where did God give Moses and the Children of Israel the Ten Commandments? See Exodus 19:1, 20-25.

2. Briefly write down each of the Ten Commandments.

3. Which of these commandments covered the people's relationship with God? with their fellow man?

4. What was God's promise to the Children of Israel if they kept all His commandments? See Exodus 19:5-6 and Deuteronomy 28:1-14

5. What did Paul the Apostle say was the first commandment with promise (Ephesians 6:2-3)? What does the phrase “with promise” signify?

6. What was Jesus’ reply when He was asked, “which is the great commandment in the law?” See Matthew 22:36-40.

7. What did Jesus mean, in Matthew 22:40, when He said, “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”?

8. What was the reply of the rich young ruler when Jesus told him he would have eternal life if he would “keep the commandments”? How did Jesus answer him? See Matthew 19:16-22.

9. Today we live under the New Testament covenant through Jesus Christ, and not under the Old Testament Law of Moses. Under this new covenant, where does God tell us He will put His laws? See Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 10:16-18.

# Israel's First Priest

**TEXT:** Exodus 28:1-3; Hebrews 5:1-10

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Numbers 17:1-11

**KEY VERSE:** Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. — Hebrews 2:17

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:** A Series of Lessons on the Book of Hebrews

Included in the establishing of God's written Law was the process to be followed in administering the Law. The tribe of Levi was charged with the care of the sanctuary and the serving. Aaron and his sons, being of the tribe of Levi, were set apart for the priesthood; and this office was passed down from father to son.

1. What was the purpose of the Old Testament priesthood?

2. Why was it necessary for an Old Testament priest to make an offering for his own sins?

3. How was Aaron chosen to be the first high priest?

4. Why was the Old Testament priesthood not intended to be permanent? See Hebrews 8:4-11.

5. Read Hebrews 7:11-16. Was Jesus a descendant of Aaron? After what order was He a priest?

6. What were some of the things Christ went through to obtain this better priesthood? See Hebrews 5:7-9.

7. How is it that Christ can so readily relate to our disappointments, frustrations, and trials? See Hebrews 2:16-18.

8. Why would you rather be under Christ's priesthood than the Levitical priesthood?

9. What is God's promise to one in the time of need? See Hebrews 4:16.

10. Read Numbers 16:41-48. In what way was Aaron a mediator for the Children of Israel? In what way is Christ our mediator today?



# The First King

**TEXT:** 1 Samuel 9:1-2; 10:17-26

**KEY VERSE:** For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. — Psalm 75:6-7

This study shows clearly that God is vitally concerned about benefiting His people. When Israel persisted in their request for a king, God used circumstances to bring together the long-time prophet Samuel and a young man whose name was Saul. Despite Saul's impressive appearance, he demonstrated qualities of humility and obedience, two characteristics necessary to be a leader of God's people. If we possess these qualities, we will experience spiritual success and promotion from the Lord.

1. What position did Samuel occupy in addition to being a prophet to the people of Israel? How long did he occupy this position? See 1 Samuel 7:15-17.

2. Samuel was grieved that the Israelites had asked for a king. He felt as though he had been rejected, but, in 1 Samuel 8:7, God told Samuel this was not so. Who did God say the people had rejected, and why?

3. Throughout 1 Samuel 8, we read that Samuel had carefully followed God's instructions, pointing out to the Israelites the future oppression they would suffer under such kings who would require of them some of their sons and daughters and a portion of their wealth. Despite that, the people still rejected God's council. How does Isaiah 1:19-20 agree with Samuel's message to the people? What did God finally instruct Samuel to do? See 1 Samuel 8:22.

**4.** Circle the right answer:

Saul was of the tribe of . . . (1) Dan (2) Ephraim (3) Benjamin (4) Judah

He was . . . (1) little of stature (2) taller than others (3) a poor physical specimen

His father's name was . . . (1) Abiel (2) Zeror (3) Bechorath (4) Kish

Saul was . . . (1) proud (2) humble and obedient (3) disobedient

**5.** The extent of a family's livestock in Saul's day was a measure of its prosperity. How did Saul respond to his father's request to seek the lost donkeys? Was he thorough in his search? Why? See 1 Samuel 9:3-10, 20.

**6.** Do you think it was coincidental that Saul, in his search for the lost donkeys, came to Samuel at the end of his third day's search? Why or why not? See 1 Samuel 9:15-16.

**7.** Mark the following statements true or false:

(a) Saul had been anointed by Samuel prior to his coronation in 1 Samuel 10:24. See 1 Samuel 9:16; 10:1.

(b) Saul traveled with Samuel to the coronation. See 1 Samuel 10:21-22.

(c) God demonstrated to the Israelites the man that He had chosen to be king by directing the casting of lots (similar to drawing names). First, a tribe was chosen (Benjamin), then a family from that tribe (Matri), then a man from that family. See 1 Samuel 10:20-21.

(d) Saul immediately confirmed his kingdom by putting the political dissenters into prison. See 1 Samuel 10:27.

**8.** God has given Christians a system of success and promotion in His service. This is very different from the system used by most individuals, corporations, or by those seeking political office today. After studying 1 Peter 5:5-6 and this lesson, comment here on how you feel God's system differs from that of the world's.

# Give to God First

**TEXT:** Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 23:23-28; Luke 11:42

**KEY VERSE:** Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. — Malachi 3:10

**RESOURCE MATERIAL:** Tract 31 — Tithing — God's Plan of Financing; Booklet No. 237 — Tithing

The Lord does not need anything that man has accumulated. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10), the silver and gold (Haggai 2:8), the earth and everything in it (Psalm 24:1). However, He expects us to be good stewards of what He permits us to acquire. From Abraham's time on, God has blessed those who have given tithes and freewill offerings to the Lord. The tithe and certain offerings were required under the Old Testament Law of Moses. Tithing is not dwelt upon in the New Testament, but it was still approved of by Jesus. At one point, as He was giving a warning to the scribes and Pharisees, He called them hypocrites. They did tithe, but neglected more important matters like justice, mercy, and faithfulness. If the plan of tithing were to be done away with, Jesus would not have told them they should do these vital things *as well as* give tithes. See Matthew 23:23.

1. Shortly after their deliverance from Egypt, the Children of Israel were told by God to be prompt in offering the first part of all their increase (Exodus 22:29). What do you think this meant?

2. The first written record we have of anyone's paying tithes was when Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20). To whom do our tithes belong and why? See Leviticus 27:30.

3. The Israelites could not give their tithes to the Lord in person, but God had a plan for the tithes. In reading Numbers 18:21, what do you feel that plan was?

4. Since we are not Israelites with a priesthood to support, where should our tithes and offerings go?

5. What do you think is meant by Malachi 3:8?

6. What was God's promise to those who did bring in their tithes?

7. Do you think the "poor widow" mentioned in Luke 21:2 was foolish to do what she did? Give a reason for your answer.

8. How do you relate Matthew 25:35-40 with the thought of the title of this lesson?

# Give Thanks First

**TEXT:** Psalm 103:1-22

**KEY VERSE:** Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

— 1 Chronicles 16:8

Among the definitions of the word *thanksgiving* are: “the act of giving thanks,” “a prayer expressing gratitude,” and “a public acknowledgment or celebration of divine goodness.” Although the word *thanksgiving* does not appear in Psalm 103, this Psalm is an excellent expression of heartfelt gratitude and praise to God. The more one praises and thanks God for His goodness, the more reasons he finds for doing so. To deny God genuine thanksgiving is to fail to recognize God’s wonderful bounty to each individual.

1. In looking at the first verse of our text, with what part of his being did the Psalmist bless [praise] the Lord? Why? See John 4:23.

2. Name six benefits the Psalmist listed as coming from the Lord. How do you feel about these benefits?

3. What is likened to the eagle in verse 5? Why give thanks for this?

4. How do the oppressed fare when they trust the Lord?

5. List five other items, mentioned in verses 8 and 9 of our text, for which we should be thankful.

6. What are the wages of sin (Romans 6:23)? How does the Psalmist treat this truth (verse 10)?

7. How far does God remove the sins of those who repent? Why should this cause thanksgiving?

8. Why does God have pity upon His children? See verses 13 and 14.

9. In what way is the duration of life brought to our attention?

10. In what way is the mercy of the Lord emphasized? Why should this be an inspiration for thanksgiving?

# Quarter Review

**TEXT:** Review Quarter Texts

**KEY VERSE:** Student's choice from this quarter

1. Make a list of what God created on each of the six days and explain briefly how the progression of the successive creative acts were perfectly arranged.

2. In what way is man unique from all God's other creations?

3. Temptation is common to man, but God has given a promise to those who serve Him. What is that promise? See 1 Corinthians 10:13.

4. What lesson can we learn from the example of Noah and his family regarding God's judgment?

5. The builders of Babel failed when they disobeyed God and attempted to create their own security, and make a name for themselves. According to 1 Corinthians 3:9-15, who is the Christian's co-laborer in building a spiritual house?

**6.** Abram had an intimate relationship with God. Because of his noble character and faith in God, James 2:23 tells us he was called which one of the following: a) helper, b) friend, c) brother, or d) father of God? How might a Christian in today's crowded environment cultivate this same relationship?

**7.** Briefly describe the manner in which God called Moses. Then list the similarities and differences between Moses' call and the call of God to individuals today.

**8.** The first written Law of God is known as the Ten Commandments. God gave them so that man might live in harmony with Him and with each other. What bearing do they have upon a Christian's life today?

**9.** Sinful man needs an intercessor in order to come to God. What steps did Jesus take to become our High Priest? See Hebrews 2:17.

**10.** Most people, unlike Saul, desire to be promoted in the eyes of those around them. Describe the prerequisites for spiritual success and explain where promotion comes from. Use 1 Peter 5:5-6 for a reference as well as the text for this lesson.

**11.** God ordained that the children of Levi were to use the tithes for their own sustenance. What are our tithes and offerings used for in the church today? Does God's blessing given in Malachi 3:10 still apply to us today?