

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



**EARLY BEGINNINGS
COURSE 4**

**THE SALVATION ARMY
BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**



EARLY BEGINNINGS

Revised 2006
First Printing 2008
Second Printing 2010

1. The first step in the process of evangelism is to identify the needs of the people in the community.



2. The second step is to establish a relationship with the people and to share the Gospel message.

Hints for Success

1. Begin your study time with prayer, asking God to help you to concentrate and understand.
2. Use either **dark** pencil or pen, as long as the color is not red or green .
3. Print or write **neatly**, and large enough to be read easily.
4. Be sure to print your name and number (or, if you are not incarcerated, include your address) at the beginning of **every** lesson. Things sometimes get mixed in the mail.
5. **Don't rush!** Careful reading and, if necessary, re-reading is the true key to success in these lessons.
6. The numbers of the questions on the pages to be graded match the numbers given on the study pages.
7. Read **all** the Scripture references given in the study notes for each lesson. You will usually find the answers in these passages. It is recommended that you do one question at a time.
8. Read each question carefully. Look for “clue” words, such as: **who** said; **what** happened; **when** did; **list** in order, etc.
9. Give **complete** answers in as few words as possible.
10. Be sure to quote when asked to do so. **Quote** means to copy, word for word, from the Bible or from your study notes. Other ways that you might be asked to quote include: What did “so-and-so” say; Give four facts listed in the lesson; Name three ways to classify; etc. **When you quote from Scripture, always remember to give the reference (book, chapter, verse).**
11. When asked to answer **in your own words**, do so. **Your grade will be lowered** if you quote from the Bible or the lesson material.
12. When you are asked to tell the story or tell what happened, tell the whole story of the miracle, parable or event, not just the final result.

Example: Tell what happened when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter. *Mark 5:37-42*

WRONG

The little girl was alive again.

RIGHT

Jairus' daughter was dying, so he came and asked Jesus to save her. By the time Jesus arrived at the house, the child was dead. Jesus told them not to mourn. He went into the house, taking along her parents, and Peter, James, and John. He took the little girl by the hand and said, “Child, get up.” She came back to life, stood up and walked around.

13. **Avoid leaving answers blank**, especially for questions that ask for your personal thoughts or opinions. Questions that ask for your own personal opinions do not have a right or wrong answer; you will receive credit as long as you give an honest response. Always do your best to answer each question. Partial credit is often given where you show that you tried your best to answer the more difficult questions.
14. Please **submit perforated lesson (question) pages** only. Study notes and covers will not be returned, due to the high cost of postage.
15. Please send **all** the lessons from this book at one time for grading. However, if necessary, we will accept one or two lessons at a time.
16. When you have finished this course, and have received the required grade, you will receive a certificate.
17. Please read the comments on your lessons when they are returned to you. They will add to your learning experience.
18. There are six Bible courses in the Basic Series. In addition to the certificate for each course, you will receive a **Final Certificate** when you complete the Basic Series. There are continuing courses available to those who have satisfactory grades.

Spelling Helps

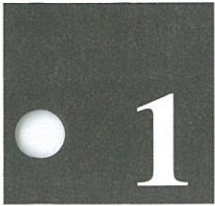
<u>Aaron</u>	<u>Holy Spirit</u>	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Satan</u>
<u>Altar</u>	<u>Idols</u>	<u>Mt. Sinai</u>	<u>Savior</u>
<u>Angel</u>	<u>Isaiah</u>	<u>Prophet</u>	<u>Temple</u>
<u>Apostle</u>	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Testament</u>
<u>Baptize</u>	<u>John</u>	<u>Resurrection</u>	<u>Worshiped</u>
<u>Disciple</u>		<u>Sacrifice</u>	

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy and be blessed through this study of the Bible.

God bless you.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)



INTRODUCTION TO EARLY BEGINNINGS

We have used the first three courses of our six course series to study the New Testament. We will now study the Old Testament for the next two courses.

The title of this course is “Early Beginnings” because these lessons cover the first Books in the Bible, called “Genesis.”

1. THE MEANING OF GENESIS

The word “Genesis” comes from the Greek word meaning “beginning” or “origin.”

2. GENESIS AND REVELATION COMPARED

We studied the book of Revelation in the last lesson of “The Early Church” course. Now this is a good time to study “Early Beginnings” since both Revelation and Genesis are very much related. Genesis deals with the beginning of time and Revelation deals with the ending of time.

3. THE BIBLE’S ONE THEME

From the beginning of the Old Testament to the end of the New Testament there is one theme;

God redeems mankind through a perfect blood sacrifice. *Revelation 13:8*

Then believers would be set free from Satan’s power to control them and make them do wrong.

4. The Word in Life Study Bible - Thomas Nelson Publishers gives nine beginning/end comparisons.* These comparisons will help us to connect Revelation to Genesis.

Revelation

- a. God creates a new Heaven and earth. *Revelation 21:1*
- b. The devil is defeated and destroyed sin is done away with. *Revelation 12:9; 20:7-10*
- c. God restores people to their original sinlessness. *Revelation 21:4-6*

Genesis

- a. God created the world. *Genesis 1-2*
- b. The devil introduces sin into the world. *Genesis 3:1-5*
- c. Humanity falls into sin. *Genesis 3:6-7*

Revelation

- d. The curse is removed.
Revelation 22:3
- e. People live with God forever.
Revelation 21:3
- f. God wipes away every tear and removes sorrow.
Revelation 7:17; 21:4
- g. People may eat freely from the tree of life. *Revelation 22:1-2, 14*
- h. Death is done away with and people live forever. *Revelation 21:4*
- i. The peoples of the world are brought together before Christ and they sing His praises together.
Revelation 21:24-27

Genesis

- d. The world is subjected to a curse.
Genesis 3:14-19
- e. People are separated from God.
Genesis 3:8-10
- f. People shed tears and know sorrow.
Genesis 3:16-19
- g. People are barred from the tree of life.
Genesis 3:22-24
- h. Death enters the world. *Genesis 3:19*
- i. The languages of humanity are confused and the peoples scattered.
Genesis 11:1-9

5. IMPORTANT BEGINNINGS

Genesis, the first book in the Bible, tells us of the beginning of many things.

Among the most important are:

- The beginning of the world
- The beginning of mankind
- The beginning of human sin
- The beginning of the plan of salvation

6. SPECIFIC BEGINNINGS

These are very general beginnings. There are more specific beginnings or firsts found in the Book of Genesis. **(See note at the end of lesson.)

They are:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| The first parents: | Adam and Eve | <i>Genesis 2:20-22; 3:20</i> |
| The first murderer: | Cain | <i>Genesis 4:8</i> |
| The first Shepherd: | Abel | <i>Genesis 4:2</i> |
| The first city builder: | Cain | <i>Genesis 4:17</i> |
| The first musician: | Jubal | <i>Genesis 4:21</i> |
| The first person not to die: | Enoch | <i>Genesis 5:21-24</i> |

The first shipbuilder:	Noah	<i>Genesis 6:9</i>
The first priest:	Melchizedek	<i>Genesis 14:18</i>
The first wage contract:	between Laban and Jacob	<i>Genesis 29:15-20</i>
The first son of Jacob:	Reuben	<i>Genesis 29:32</i>
The first prison mentioned:	The Egyptian prison where Joseph was sent	<i>Genesis 39:20</i>

7. ADAM AND EVE

In Genesis we learn about our first parents, Adam and Eve, and how their family was the beginning of mankind. God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden providing them with all they needed. Their disobedience displeased God and he removed them from the Garden. Each generation of people lived hundreds of years until God shortened the human life span after the flood.

Although the period of time covered by the Book of Genesis is uncertain, two thousand years passed from the time that God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden until the death of Joseph in Egypt. This means that Genesis covers more time than all of the rest of the Bible. *(See note at the end of the lesson).

You will be studying everything from the Creation to the Death of Joseph in the next eleven lessons of this course. The material will cover all or at least most of the “beginnings” mentioned in this lesson.

Note:

* Resource: The Word in Life Study Bible New King James Version
Copyright © 1993, 1996 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Page 2334 “Genesis & Revelation - The First & Last Volumes” (Used with permission)

** Resource: The Word in Life Study Bible New King James Version
Copyright © 1993, 1996 by Thomas Nelson, Page 3 “Bible Firsts” (Used with permission)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

2

THE CREATION AND THE FALL

From the beginning of the Old Testament to the end of the New Testament there is one theme: Through a perfect blood sacrifice, mankind could be redeemed by God. Then believers would be set free from Satan's power to control them and make them do wrong.

The title of this course is "Early Beginnings," because these lessons cover the first Book in the Bible, called Genesis.

1. THE CREATION: Genesis 1; 2:1-3

The beginning of what is sometimes called God's Week of Creation, although this is not necessarily a week as measured now, is recorded in *Genesis 1:3*. It is true that God could have created the heavens and the earth in six days, but it is probable that each day of creation was a much longer period of time. For example, *Genesis 2:4* uses the word day to cover the whole six days of creation.

2. GOD'S WORK OF CREATION

God completed His work of creation in six days and ceased from work on the seventh day, which He blessed and set apart as holy.

The order of God's creative work is perfect. Light, air and vegetation, needed to maintain life were created first and God has provided us an abundant supply of these through the years.

The word Genesis comes from a Greek word meaning beginning or origin.

This first book in the Bible tells us of the beginning of many things. Among the most important are:

The creation of the world

The creation of human beings

The beginning of sin by humans

The beginning of the plan of salvation for mankind

The study of Genesis is a study of mankind which descended from Adam and Eve, our first parents. Each generation of people lived hundreds of years until God shortened the human life span after the flood.

3. THE PURPOSE OF ALL CREATION IS

To glorify God. *Revelation 4:11*

To give mankind honor and satisfaction in being responsible for taking good care of God's earth, including the plants, birds, sea creatures and land animals.
Genesis 1:26-28 / Psalm 8:3-8

4. THE PURPOSE FOR CREATING US

God desired a special creature who could respond to Him in understanding, in love, in fellowship and in freedom of choice. God created **us** with mental, moral, emotional and spiritual capabilities. We are God's highest and best creation on earth, designed to bring joy and satisfaction to God and mankind forever.

5. CREATION OF EVE

For our good, God created man and woman for each other. God taught Adam the following important truths about relationships. *Genesis 2:18-24*

1. Creating woman from Adam's rib clearly shows that women are equal to men. She was not created from his foot to be inferior nor from his head to be superior. Man is to love his wife since she came from the part of his body closest to his heart.
2. Men and women are to leave their parents when they get married, and enjoy life together without undue pressure from others. *Genesis 2:24*
3. We are responsible for animals, but we are **not** to have sexual relationships with them. *Leviticus 18:23*
4. Man is intended to marry a woman, **not** another man, and a woman is to marry a man, **not** another woman. *1 Corinthians 7:2*

6. THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The Garden of Eden was a perfect place, man's first home. There were two special trees in the garden. God said that Adam and Eve could eat of the tree of life but He commanded them not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17

7. THE TEMPTATION AND THE FALL: Genesis 3

The devil came to Eve in the form of a serpent. He almost always tried to hide his true identity and evil purposes. He deliberately and untruthfully twisted God's command. He gave the impression that God is a liar and a selfish dictator. *Genesis 3:1-5*

The woman, Eve, was tempted and yielded. *Genesis 3:6*

8. RESULTS OF SIN

Eve encouraged her husband to eat the forbidden fruit. Peace and joy were lost; guilt and fear came instead. *Genesis 3:6-8*

9. THE BLAME GAME

God found man guilty; man blamed God and his wife, and she blamed the serpent.

Genesis 3:9-13

God promised a Redeemer to be born from Eve's descendants. *Genesis 3:15*

There will be a continual struggle between the devil and mankind. A man, born of Eve's seed (offspring, children) would one day bruise Satan's head (crush the devil's power over mankind), but at the same time Satan would bruise the Redeemer (cause the Redeemer to suffer). This prophecy was partly fulfilled by Jesus Christ when He suffered and died on the Cross and will be completed when Christ returns to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

10. GOD'S RESPONSE TO THE SIN OF ADAM AND EVE

God pronounced a curse on snakes and on Satan. *Genesis 3:14-15*

God's penalty for Eve and all women consisted of pains in giving birth to children and dependence on the husband, with him as the head of the family. *Genesis 3:16*

God's penalty for Adam, men and all people included a curse on the ground so that farming would be difficult, thorns and weeds would be a problem, all labor would be hard and then at the end all people will die and decay back into the ground. *Genesis 3:17-19*

INVITATION

Adam and Eve were forced out of the Garden of Eden as a penalty for their sin, but God provided clothes made of animal skins for them to wear. *Genesis 3:21-24*

When God supplied skins to cover their shame we know that an animal had to be sacrificed because of their sin. This is a type of Jesus Christ who was provided by God the Father to die for the sins of all people. When we repent of our sins and receive Jesus Christ as our Redeemer, we are then covered with His righteousness.

Romans 3:21-22 / 1 Corinthians 1:30 / 2 Corinthians 5:21

We hope that you have turned from sin (repented) and that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. If you are not yet a Christian, why not repent now and put your faith in Christ. He died for you so that you can live for Him now and live with Him forever.

“The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

Psalms 24:1 (NIV)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THIS COURSE,
PLEASE FILL OUT THE "INTRODUCTORY LESSON" LOCATED ON THE
BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE MAIN PAGE.

