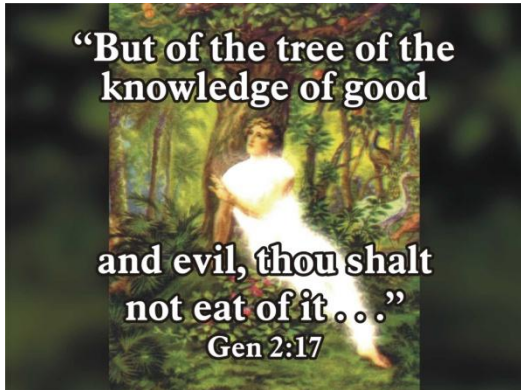


# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 1



## SUPERNATURAL ORIGIN

*Scripture Text: Genesis 2:7-20*

The fact that God made man and placed him here is the foundation of religion. This fact puts us in relationship with God. God created man. Therefore, He has authority over all people. This is the basis of salvation, or man's relationship with the true and living God. God prescribes the manner of that relationship. This makes it a supernatural religion, one given and administered by

God. No one can escape this relationship. Every person is responsible to God. As all Creation is of God's plan and work, so salvation, or Creation's relationship with God, is God's plan. Any other plan is a false religion.

In this quarter we will study and attempt to clarify why God's religion is completely supernatural. This is why man cannot arrange his own manner of worship.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*

—*Genesis 17:1*

### DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Genesis 1:26-31** Creation of man.

Tue.—**Deuteronomy 30:8-20** Duty to obey God.

Wed.—**Psalms 119:89-96** God's unchangeable Law.

Thu.—**Romans 14:7-13** We must give account to God.

Fri.—**1 Corinthians 3:16-23** Man made for God's dwelling.

**Devotional Reading: Psalm 24** Our responsibility to God.

### A Supernatural Creation

**Genesis 2:7** The Lord God formed man of the dust . . . breath of life . . . living soul. The materials were already created; now from some of them, God formed man. This is the origin of the whole human race. The beasts also were made of the ground (**verse 19**). Only man is made **in the image of God**, after the pattern of God, with power to think, reason, discern, love, worship, hope, plan, work out a plan, and know God.

God gave the first man a name, Adam, and then he named his wife and the other creatures. One theory of "modern thought" is that the name Adam means man in general and not one specific man. This is false, and from it follows a number of false theories. To produce man at all, one first man must be made. He could not come by chance (as the evolution theory guesses). He had to be supernaturally made by One greater than himself. That One is God. Adam was that first man.

What is God's purpose in making man a living soul and in the image of God? It is that man might show forth God's glory and praise (**Isaiah 43:7, 21**). It is that He might have a friend, a child, to bring forth pleasure to Him and to live with Him in love and fellowship (**Revelation 4:11**). It is tragic that all men do not enter into His fellowship. There is good reason. Read **Isaiah 59:1-4**.

### Supernaturally Placed

**Genesis 2:8-15** Man was perfect and good when created. God put the good man in a good place—a **garden eastward in Eden**—a place specially prepared for man. There was everything man would need. There were rivers, and there were trees for beauty and trees for food. **In the midst of the garden**, easily reached, were **the**

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**tree of life** and **the tree of knowledge of good and evil**. None were either of man's planning or making. They were gifts from God. They opened unlimited avenues of joy and happy achievement. Into this wonderful garden, God put man **to dress it and to keep it**. There was only one restriction. Had man obeyed, how different his history!

There were two special trees in the garden within reach of man. One was forbidden to him, one was not. Man made a tragic choice to eat of the wrong one—chose death instead of life. By this he came **short of the glory of God**. Because of this man had to be removed from reach of the tree of life. By their wrong choice Adam and Eve set their feet in wrong paths and led their descendants there. They began to devise religions of their own, none of which can free man from death. The one remedy lies in receiving Christ Who came that we might have life (**John 10:10**).

### Supernatural Law

**Genesis 2:16-20 Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat.** This was the sum total of that first supernatural law. This first law has been the basis of man's relationship with God constantly throughout the Word of God from that day until now. A valid law carries a reward for obedience and a penalty for disobedience. Here the reward would have been the smile of God, joy, harmony, and fellowship with Him. The penalty—**thou shalt surely die**. Disobedience is sin. Sin always brings death (**James 1:15**). **In the day that thou eatest thereof . . .** Did they die then? Yes, instantly (**Chapter 3**). Death is separation. Their sin separated them from God. Instead of being spiritually alive, they were then spiritually dead. Everywhere we see the working of death. Thank God for the Savior Jesus Christ Who has conquered death for every man (**2 Timothy 1:10; Hebrews 2:14; 1 Corinthians 15:26**). Take Him and have life (**1 John 5:12**).

Since all men were placed in this close connection with God, all are responsible as to how they maintain that connection. Since souls come from God, they must be given back to Him again. The record of each life will be laid bare at **the judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10-12; Revelation 20:13)**. This is the supernatural culmination of the religious system begun when God made man.

### Supernatural Religion

There are many kinds of religion. Which one is right? To be effective, a religion must connect with greater power than man has. To supply the needs of the human heart, a religion must come from a source outside of and greater than that heart. It must be supernatural. It must come from God.

Many professed Christians think so lightly of God's authority over them. They think Him only remotely concerned with their lives. They carelessly consider their relationship with God. They glance at Him and then turn away to order their lives after their own thinking, to act in their own power. That is human religion. It is natural rather than supernatural. It is false Christianity regardless of the name it claims.

We need to realize the immediate, continuous presence of God. We need to hold His majesty in awe. In our memory verse God told Abram to **walk before me, and be thou perfect**. He pointed to His right to require this of Abram—**I am the Almighty God**. He is also our Lord and Creator. He has the right to require perfect obedience of us. We are each responsible to Him.

He will never accept a life lived separated from Himself. He paid the price of the life of Jesus Christ that we might live in Him and He in us. Read Jesus' prayer in **John 17:20-26**. There is a difference between religion and salvation. Salvation is the only religion that is supernatural.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**Your religion will do more for you if you do more for it,**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.

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