



110: Discovering God

Correspondence Course

LESSON 1: HOW CAN WE GET TO KNOW GOD?

Introduction

In this lesson, you will learn about how human beings can get to know God. We can get to know many things – we can gain knowledge in many areas. We can know how to do our jobs, we can know how to raise a child, we can know how to drive a car, we can know facts about history and science, we can know places and people and things. But, how can we know God?

In order to complete this lesson: First, read the materials provided (pages 1-3). Second, answer the Study Questions as clearly as possible (pages 5 & 6). Third, mail in your answers for correction and comments. Remember, as you complete this lesson, you are free to go at your own pace – there are no time limits. Note, it is always important to begin your study of God's Word with a moment of prayer.

If you need any help with this lesson: Please contact your teacher at New Covenant House: 416-636-1045 or info@messianicforum.org. God bless you!

A. How Can We Know Anything At All?

Before we ask the question, "How can we know *God*?" we have to ask a more basic question: "How can we know *anything*?" In other words, how do we gain knowledge about people and places and things? It may seem obvious, but let's give it some thought...

✳1. Scientists can barely understand the potential of the human brain! Yet, God has given you this marvellous and powerful gift! We read in the Bible, "For You [God] formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:13,14).

First of all, we all need to start off with some brain power. If God didn't give us a brain, we wouldn't know a thing! And, of course, we must use our brain – it's not for sitting on! See ✳1.

✳2. Imagine you're locked away in a small sealed room all your life. You never go outside; no one ever talks to you; you are allowed no books or TV or internet. What would you learn? How would you know about this world? Well, you wouldn't! You wouldn't know anything except the four walls of that room. The only solution is for someone to open a door and *show* you the outside world, or for someone to come in and *tell* you about it.

However, it's not good enough to use our brain if there's nothing to learn. We need books to read, people to talk to, classes to go to, web sites to browse. We have to be *told* and *shown* information. There must be open lines of communication from others. See ✳2.



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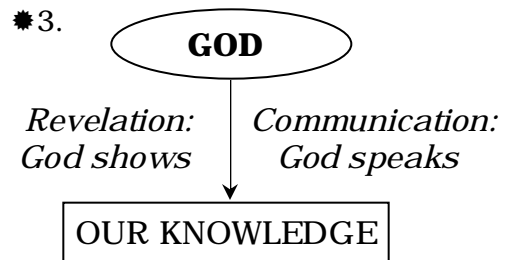
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For example, if you want to know about engineering, someone has to be willing to teach you or write a textbook for you to read. Information must be given out before your mind can take it in. You may process that information and come up with your own unique perspective, but someone needs to communicate data to your brain in the first place.

So, how can we know *anything*? 1. We need the gift of a brain. 2. We need to use our brain. 3. Others must open up lines of communication to our brain.

B. How Can We Get To Know God?

When it comes to getting to know God, the process is much the same as we have discussed. Knowing who God is requires we actively use our brains. We must seek after Him and learn and learn...

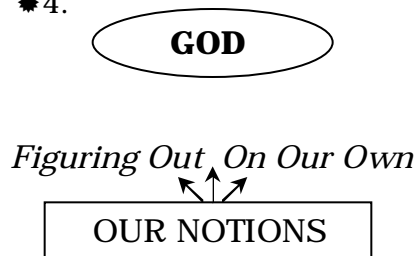


However, all this would be absolutely useless if there were no *open lines of communication*.

God needs to provide information about Himself – He needs to show Himself to us, and tell us about His ways and character. We must wait on Him to speak. If He didn't do this, we'd know nothing! See ✳3.

The fact is that every believer must confess: I can't figure out God on my own. The Bible says, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and His ways past finding out! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord?'" (Romans 11:33,34).

✳4.



We can never reach up to heaven and bring God down to earth. When we try, we come up with all kinds of crazy notions. See ✳4. However, when we simply listen to what God has to say, then we can be *absolutely sure* of who He is; we can be sure about what He has done; we can begin to truly grow in our knowledge of Him and His purposes for us.

C. What Does Creation Tell Us About God?

God wants us to know Him. He's not some recluse who quarantines Himself in heaven! God has always communicated to mankind, using various ways. He speaks through the Holy Bible; He speaks through His Holy Spirit; He has spoken through His Son Jesus; but also, He speaks through *creation*. In this lesson, we will touch on how God communicates to man in creation.



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God's Word says: ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
² Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.
³ There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.
⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world. – Psalm 19:1-4.



Psalm 19 tells us that all of creation speaks for God. (This communication is called “General Revelation”). It is as if God has left His fingerprints on everything His hands have fashioned. The days speak and the nights reveal knowledge of their Creator (v. 2). The sky and outer space testify to their Maker’s handiwork (v. 1). No matter where we reside on this earth, and no matter what language we may speak, the voice of God in creation is clear (v. 3). God has opened up a line of communication to all the earth by means of His creation (v. 4).

As a result of this, we can learn certain basic things about God from the universe. We can have a basic knowledge of God, which *should* drive us to seek Him further.

Our Basic Knowledge of God through Creation

1. Almighty Creator. Only an almighty, all-powerful, and sovereign God could create and sustain such a wondrous and vast universe.
2. Most High God. There needs to be a “higher Being” who created everything lower and lesser in this universe. We depend on Him, but He depends on no one.
3. All-Wise Master Planner. The detail, design, balance, and harmony of the universe speaks of a Creator who is super-intelligent, and who has a purpose for everything.
4. Just and Righteous One. Man’s sense of right and wrong tells us that there must be a higher standard of morality and truth. God is the One who sets such a standard.

D. Problems

Though God speaks to all mankind through creation, there are several problems. First, creation can’t tell us *everything* about God. It doesn’t tell us that He created the universe in only six days. It doesn’t tell us where sin, disease, and death come from. It doesn’t tell us His will for us. It doesn’t reveal all of His laws and truths.

A second problem is that mankind has a tendency to ignore or dismiss God’s “fingerprints” in this creation. Many people say that this universe is just a matter of chance and evolution. They leave God out. Human sin has darkened our mind and warped our understanding of God’s clear voice to us in creation.

In our next lesson, we will deal with these problems and consider an even better way to get to know God – through His Word.



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LESSON 1: STUDY QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions as clearly as possible. If you'd like, you may refer to the lesson material as you answer these questions. When you have completed these questions to your satisfaction, please mail in this sheet only (pages 5 & 6). We will correct and comment on your answers within several days. We will then return this page to you, along with the material for the next lesson.

Our mailing address is:

NEW COVENANT HOUSE
764 SHEPPARD AVE W
DOWNSVIEW ON M3H 2S8

Your Name: _____ Date Completed: _____
Please Print Clearly

1. Before we ask the question, "How can we know God?" what question do we need to ask ourselves?

2. What three things are required in order for us to know anything?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

3. a. What must people do in order to know God?

b. What must God do so people can know Him?

4. a. Can we know God all on our own? Circle one: (Yes/No)

b. What does Romans 11:33 have to say about knowing God?

"How _____ are His judgements
and His ways _____."

5. What are four of the ways that God speaks to us?

- 1. _____ 2. _____
- 3. _____ 4. _____



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6. Why does all of creation speak for God?

7. Looking at Psalm 19:1-4, name some specific things in creation that *speak* and *testify* for God.

8. What four basic things can we learn about God through creation? Why?

1. _____ **Why?** _____

2. _____ **Why?** _____

3. _____ **Why?** _____

4. _____ **Why?** _____

9. What are some of the things creation cannot tell us about God?

**10. a. Do all people recognize God's fingerprints in creation? (Yes/No).
b. Why or why not?**

Congratulations! You have now completed Lesson 1. The Bible reminds us that God "is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). As you seek God in His Word more and more, may you know His richest blessings in Messiah!

If you have any questions or comments, please write them down below.
