# BIBLICAL PSYCHOLOGY, A SERIES OF PRELIMINARY STUDIES

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Biblical Psychology, a Series of Preliminary Studies by Oswald Chambers

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#### **OSWALD CHAMBERS**

## BIBLICAL PSYCHOLOGY, A SERIES OF PRELIMINARY STUDIES



# Biblical Psychology

### A Series of Preliminary Studies

By OSWALD CHAMBERS

Principal, Bible Training College London, England



GOD'S REVIVALIST OFFICE RINGGOLD, YOUNG AND CHANNING STS. CINCINNATI, OHIO

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#### PREFATORY NOTE

This book is simply compiled from verbatim reports of my lectures on Biblical Psychology, delivered at the Bible Training College, 45 North Side, Clapham Common, London, England, during 1911.

The reports were taken by my wife and sent on to the editors of the "Revivalist," who now, out of the generosity of their hearts, are publishing them in book form.

May this "Introduction to the Study of Biblical Psychology" stir up the minds of the saints, lest Satan as an angel of light instil error. (2 Pet. 1:12, 13.)

Oswald Chambers.

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#### CHAPTER I.

#### MAN: HIS CREATION, CALLING AND COMMUNION.

(Although the passages quoted appear as "texts," they are really portions of connected revelation.)

1 CONDITIONS BEFORE MAN'S CREATION. Gen. 1: 1.

(a) Celestial Creations. Job 38: 4-7.

- Celestial Catastrophe. Jsa. 14: 12; Luke 10: 18. (b) (c) Celestial Condemnation. John 8: 44; Jude 6.
- 2 CONDITIONS LEADING TO MAN'S CREATION. Neh.

Terrestrial Chaos. Gen. 1: 2. (a)

Terrestrial Creations. Gen. 1: 2-25. (b)

Terrestrial Cosmos. Gen. 1: 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31.

CLIMAX OF CREATION. Gen. 1: 26, 27.

(a) The "Son of God." Gen. 1: 27; Luke 3: 38.

(b) The Six Days' Work. Gen. 1: 28-31.

The Sabbath Rest. Gen. 2: 1-3.

#### 1. Conditions Before Man's Creation.

Between Genesis 1, verses 1 and 2, there is a great Verse 1 refers to an order of things before the hiatus. reconstruction referred to in verse 2. I mean by (a) celestial creations, the creations that were before men and our system of things as we understand These celestial creations all belong to the period before man. The creations first alluded to then are not men, but something other than man. Job 38, verses 4 to 7, has a distinct reference to such a time when the "sons of God shouted for joy." Who were these

sons of God? They were certainly not men; they were unquestionably angels and archangels, and you will find that the indirect inference from the Bible is that God had put that former world under the charge of an archangel "Lucifer."

The Bible also alludes to (b) a catastrophe before man was created, which makes the first and second verses of the first chapter of Genesis God gave the rule of this uniunderstandable. Lucifer, and he opposed himself to verse to God's authority and rule, and dragged everything down with him, and consequently called forth on this earth a tremendous judgment, which resulted in chaos "and the earth was without form and void." You will find this catastrophe referred to in such passages as Isaiah 14:12, and Luke 10:18, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven." When did out Lord behold this? Surely it is legitimate to suggest that it refers to the period before our Lord's incarnation, when He was with God, in the very beginning, before all things. (This particular verse is frequently taken to refer to the time yet to be, and that our Lord is annihilating time in His forelook.) These verses are like mountain peaks revealing a whole tableland of God's revelation of the order of things before man was created.

Then comes (c) the condemnation of the "angels," a celestial condemnation, nothing whatever to do with man, but the condemnation of Lucifer and all his angels. (Jude 6.) When Jesus Christ alludes to the

beginning, He does not mean the beginning of man; He means the beginning of the creation of God which was long enough before man was created. (See John 8:44.) ("Hell" has nothing whatever to do with man primarily.) Hell is a place of angelic condemnation. You will never find that God says Hell was made for man. It is true that it is the only place for a man who rejects God's salvation. Hell was the result of a distinct condemnation that was passed by God on celestial beings, and is as eternal as those celestial anarchists.

There are three amazing episodes that indicate the conditions before the creation of man, viz.: that the archangels and the angels governed a wonderful world which God created in the beginning, and which God's Spirit is alluding to by that phrase in Job, "The sons of God sang together." Lucifer fell, and with him all his angels in a tremendous ruin (clearly mentioned in Genesis 1:2), and "the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Without some such indication, the second verse would be unintelligible, for to say that "in the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth," and then to say that "the earth was without form and void" is a confusion and a confounding. The inference is that between the epochs referred to in the first and second verses there has occurred this catastrophe which the Bible does not say much about. The evident purpose of the Bible is to tell us what God's