



### **A Broken Story – The Need for Salvation**

**A roadmap of the Gospel with scriptures for support and reference**

**Creation -> Sin -> Atonement -> Jesus -> Crucifixion -> Resurrection -> Salvation**

**Creation** – *God’s plan or original intent was birthed in the creation narrative found in Genesis.*

God created humankind in His image to rule creation.

*Genesis 1:26, 27, 31*

*<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

*<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

*<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*

“Very good” means good and upright.

**Sin** – *Sin entered the world through humanity’s free will to make choices, even when contrary to God’s plan.*

God’s command was a cultural mandate with specific instructions for humanity.

*Genesis 2:15-17*

*<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."*

Humanity's disobedience is sin.

Humanity's choice of disobedience incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death -- > separation from God.

*Genesis 3:1-7*

*<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

*Romans 5:12-19*

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—<sup>13</sup> To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. <sup>15</sup> But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup> Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! <sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

That's what sin is – separation from God. God's not trying to give us a list of dos and don'ts. Humanity lost their innocence, choosing to become independent from God and to set themselves up as their own god. Whether that happened in the Garden, or happens now in individual lives, human beings chose and choose to use their freedom to serve themselves rather than serving God, others and all creation. The end result of this fall from innocence is the disintegration of all human societies, their tendency toward self-destruction, injustice and violence.

Because of Who God is – holy, righteous, good, eternal – and the reality of our sin - the opposite of holiness, righteousness, goodness - in order to embrace relationship, sin has to be removed, or atoned.

**Atonement** – *To restore relationship between humanity and God, atonement was necessary. Atonement: an innocent party taking the punishment that was due the guilty party.*

Hebrew *kaphar* which means “to cover.”

God loves humanity passionately. He desires relationship with each of us.

Humanity’s response to sin was to cover themselves and hide from God.

*Genesis 3:8-13*

*<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

God uses animal skin to cover them.

*Genesis 3:21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.*

Throughout the OT the covering is achieved, ostensibly at least, with the blood of an innocent animal whose innocence renders the repentant sinner innocent as well.

Leviticus – repentance and forgiveness of sins through sacrifices – Leviticus 16 – detailed atonement plan with priests and animals, done annually.

Animals were never going to be enough for humans. Humanity needed one of their own to atone for their sins.

A perfect and holy sacrifice was the only way to redemption.

**Jesus** – *Jesus is God’s son, in flesh, who lived as a sinless man to accomplish what humankind could never do on their own.*

God’s love was so great for His people that He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to earth (John 3:16).

Jesus is God and became fully human (incarnation).

*Philippians 2:6-8*

*<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of*

*death, even death on a cross.*

*Hebrews 2:17-18*

*<sup>17</sup>Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

Jesus led a sinless life.

*Hebrews 4:15-16*

*<sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sin.*

*<sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

It's easy to talk about Jesus as a person, and that he's a nice guy. He did great things.

Jesus was perfect.

But talking about the cross is more complicated or uncomfortable.

## **Crucifixion**

Jesus paid a cost that humankind never could. He was crucified. In that moment, Jesus took all the sin and shame of humanity on Himself and offered His life as a sacrifice to restore a pathway to relationship with God. This atoning work was the propitiation for humanity's sin.

## **Resurrection**

Jesus rose from the dead, paving the way into the final transformation of all humanity to be like Jesus.

Jesus died, yet three days after His death, Jesus rose from the dead and defeated death. His resurrection ushered in the resurrection of all humankind. Resurrected life is available to all humanity.

*What does this have to do with Salvation?*

*Why do we need the cross?* The cross re-establishes:

- our true vocation as image bearers of God: identity and purpose
- and right relationship with God

**Justification** – the action of declaring or making righteous in the sight of God.

*Romans 5:18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.*

**Redemption** – the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil; the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt

*Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*

**Reconciliation** – the restoration of relationship to God

*Romans 5:11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

**Sacrifice** – an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy

*Hebrews 9:23-28 <sup>23</sup> Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; <sup>25</sup> not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— <sup>26</sup> He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. <sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*

**Triumph Over Evil** – disarming of sin and defeat of satan. The one eternally destructive weapon that he had was stripped from his hand. Healing was won! Freedom was won! Victory over the evil in this world was won!

*Colossians 2:13-15 <sup>13</sup> You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. <sup>14</sup> He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

This is why the Cross matters – it's not just a good Easter story – it's everything!

The cross is everything for everyone.

### **Salvation: a personal decision**

Dichotomy - The gospel is available to all people but only received by those who believe the clear, unwavering biblical message of Jesus. In *1 Timothy 4:10, Jesus is described as "the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe."*

Jesus came for everyone – the Gospel does not include any race, gender, socio-economic status, or ethnicity – it's available to everyone.

We see this in Jesus' ministry and interaction on earth:

- The Samaritan Woman – *John 4*
- The tax collectors – *Matthew 9:10 Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.*

- Zacchaeus – [Luke 19](#)
- Saul/Paul’s conversion - [Acts 9](#)

**The Gospel is the most INCLUSIVE act in all of history.**

*God has made salvation through Jesus Christ available to everyone.*

“Why would a loving God send people to hell?”

Relationship with God can be restored to anyone who confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in their heart the God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-13). At this decisional moment, a person is saved from their sin and restored to eternal communion with God.

We can personally enter God’s rule to set all things right through turning from the self’s way to God’s way and placing our faith in Jesus. We trust Jesus for forgiveness through the cross, commit ourselves to Jesus’ leadership for every part of life.

**The Salvation of Man** - *Humanity’s only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

The exclusivity of the Gospel is that it requires our participation.

God is not a genie or puppet master sitting in heaven moving you around. You have free will.

Conditions to Salvation – Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life.

*Luke 24:46-47*

*<sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

*John 3:3*

*<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

*Romans 10:13-15*

*<sup>13</sup> For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*

*<sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:*

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

*Ephesians 2:8*

*<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*

*Titus 2:11*

*<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,*

*Titus 3:5-7*

*<sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Evidence of Salvation –

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit.

*Romans 8:16*

*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.

*Ephesians 4:24*

*and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

*Titus 2:11-14*

*<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

The moment of salvation is instantaneous, yet ongoing conversion elements are present in scripture and the life of believers (*Acts 2:38-42*).

As seen in *Acts 2*, turning to God and repenting of sins solidified salvation, then believers followed in baptism for the forgiveness of sins and received the Holy Spirit completing their conversion. Then they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. These commitments are the fruit of a life submitted to Jesus’ lordship in their life. In the early church you

don't see one component of conversion without the others; all are included. Modern churches struggle to include all conversion elements, however, if you are connected to the right community, you will do well. The community makes all the difference. Our church community would be driven by these conversion elements through vision, values, and convictions.

*Acts 2:38-42*

*<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

*<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." <sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

The Gospel is the return to God's original intent of fruitful, thriving relationship with humankind. All of humankind is created in the image of God, designed for relationship that glorifies God, directed towards God's purposes (Genesis 1:27).

*Genesis 1:27-28*

*<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Salvation is the restoration of God's rule in our lives and personal relationship with Him.

Salvation is only brought about through the birth, life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit as **we respond and participate**.