

# THE BIBLICAL STORYLINE

Here is a simple summary of the Biblical narrative:

**CREATION:** God made everything, including the first people, Adam and Eve. They lived happily with God. Everything God created was good, but it didn't stay that way for long.

**FALL:** God created humans in his image, which included giving them free-will. We can choose to love, trust, and obey God. Or we can choose to turn our backs on God, and trust and obey ourselves. When given that option, Adam and Eve chose themselves, disobeyed God, and sin entered the world.

Because of this, God cursed the ground, humanity became separated from God, and we experience death, brokenness, and other consequences of sin. We are all born with a sin nature and are living in a creation that has been cursed. That is why we, and everything around us seems so broken. Apart from Christ, mankind lives in slavery to sin.

**REDEMPTION:** Mankind was created free from sin in the beginning, but chose to disobey God and in doing so, became slaves to sin. We are unable to free ourselves, no matter how hard we try. However, God has a never-ending love for his creation! Even before man sinned, God had a plan to redeem ("buy back") humans from slavery, fix the separation, and bring people back to Him.

This plan unfolded over time and is revealed throughout the Bible. Much of the Old Testament tells of mankind's love for evil and rebellion against God, and God's constant pursuit and rescuing of those same people.

During this time, God had given his people the Mosaic Law as a way of bridging the gap between Him, the Creator, and his much loved creation. However, we are all unable to obey the Law! It doesn't take long for people to rebel. It becomes a never-ending cycle of man choosing evil, which causes unbearable circumstances, which leads them to call out to God for help. In his mercy, when God hears someone call out to Him, He rescues them. However, the Law also serves to show humans their sinfulness, and to convince them of their need for a Savior.

Throughout Scripture, there are many promises that point toward Jesus. God's ultimate redemption plan is to send his Son from Heaven to Earth to obey and fulfill the Law for us, to take upon Himself the consequences of our sin, and to restore our relationship with Him.

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**JESUS CHRIST:** When everything seemed hopeless, God the Son left Heaven and came to Earth. Jesus became a baby, grew up, and lived among men. He taught about the Kingdom of God and performed miracles as proof that He was sent by God. He obeyed God's Law completely, and lived the perfect life that we could never live.

God sent Jesus, his Son, to save us. He died on a cross--taking the punishment and anger from God that we deserve for our rebellion and complacency against Him. Jesus rose from the dead, proving that what He says is true and making us friends with God. Through Him, we can be forgiven, restored to relationship with our Heavenly Father, and have eternal life.

**SALVATION AND THE CHURCH:** Through trusting in Jesus, we are redeemed from slavery to sin. He asks us to exchange our filthy unrighteousness for his perfection! He wipes our slates clean, puts his Spirit within each believer, and begins to change us from the inside out.

God calls us his children, and adopts us into his family--the Church. The Church is a community of believers who believe in and follow Jesus Christ and share his message.

**RESTORATION:** Jesus will come back again one day to bring final restoration. Death and evil will be defeated, the curse caused by sin will be lifted, and everything will be made new. Those who live as believers in Jesus will live with Him eternally. Those who reject Jesus and his offer of salvation, will not.

The main story of the Bible shows God's love, faithfulness, and his desire to bring unfaithful humanity back into relationship with Him through God the Son, Jesus Christ.