

The Creation to Christ Story

This is a true story from the Bible.

It is the story of the Most High God's relationship with the world. Men did not make up the Bible. This story is true and it is trustworthy because it comes from God.

God created us to have a wonderful relationship with him forever!

God existed in the beginning. He is the one and only *true* God, more powerful than any other spiritual beings or higher powers. He is the Creator who created all things in heaven and on earth. He is the almighty God who still interacts with his world today. In heaven he created angels to worship him and to be his messengers. On the earth he created everything in nature; he created people in his own image so he could have a special loving relationship with them. God is eternal, and he created humans to live forever, so he gave us a soul which will never die.

God created a man and a woman and placed them in a beautiful garden. God was real and personal to them, and spent time with them in the garden. He gave them only one rule to follow, that they could eat anything in the garden except for fruit from one particular tree. He told them that if they disobeyed and ate from that tree, they would die a physical death. For a while the man and the woman obeyed God, and they lived in peace and harmony with God.

Disobedience to God is sin and sin separates us from God.

Remember the angels? One of the angels, whose name was Lucifer, was very smart and very beautiful, but he was also very proud. He wanted to be worshipped instead of God. He led a rebellion against God, so God threw him and the other angels who followed him out of heaven. Today we refer to these rebellious angels as Satan and demons, or the Devil and evil spirits.

The Devil tempted the woman to disobey God. He lied to her saying she would not die if she ate the fruit, and not only that, but that she would also become like God. For the first time, she began to question whether God could be trusted. Both the man and the woman chose to listen to the Devil and to disobey God, and they ate the fruit. This caused them to feel ashamed and to hide from God. As a result, God was very sad because there was no longer the relationship of love and trust that He had intended. Disobeying God is sin and results in a broken relationship with God. The punishment for sin is death and separation from God forever. As a result of their sin, the man and the woman were thrown out of the garden and would now face physical death.

Sin not only brought death into the world, it also brought disease and pain. From that moment on, people would get sick and their bodies would grow old. God's perfect created order in nature was also disrupted. Disasters, chaos, and decay entered the world. In addition, sin meant that people had to work in order to survive.

People can't come back to God on their own strength, no matter what they do!

As time passed, God gave people 10 commandments to follow; which teach people how to relate to God and how to relate to other people. Some of his rules were that people should not lie, steal or kill. He said people should not be jealous of things that belong to others. God even said people were to not to use his name carelessly. But no one could keep these rules, and worse yet, people were not able to repair the brokenness between themselves and God. But God still longed for a love relationship with people. Since the punishment for sin is death, God allowed people to repent—to turn away from their sins by offering the blood of an innocent animal which would become a substitute for their punishment. But people kept sinning, and eventually the sacrifices became mere rituals. The big problem was that animal sacrifices didn't make people's hearts right.

Jesus comes to earth to show us the way back to God.

God still loved people and longed for a relationship of love and trust with them. So he sent man a perfect way to reconnect to him. He sent Jesus to show us the way back to himself. Jesus was unique in that he was the essence of God who lived in human flesh. While he was fully God, he was also fully human at the same time and he experienced many of the things we do as we walk through this life. Even though he lived as a man, he resisted temptation. He never sinned, and he remained obedient to God. Jesus had great compassion for people, especially those who had no hope. Like God, Jesus had power over nature, over disease, over evil spirits, and even over death.

Many people loved Jesus but some religious leaders were jealous and decided to kill him. They nailed him to a cross, which in that day was a common way of killing their most hated criminals.

Jesus became the perfect sacrifice; he took our punishment and now provides a way for us to come back to God!

Remember I told you that the consequences of sin were death and separation from God? Because Jesus hadn't sinned, he didn't deserve any punishment. But he willingly took all our sins as if they were his own and then died on the cross. Since God cannot tolerate sin, he turned his back on Jesus; their perfect relationship was broken. In this way, Jesus paid

the debt all mankind had to God, allowing our relationship with God to be restored. Jesus substituted himself for us and became the perfect sacrifice. Only through the shedding of Jesus' blood was God able to completely forgive our sin and to turn our hearts back to him. This was all part of God's plan, and it shows us how much he loves us. Jesus rose from the dead proving his power over death and victory over sin.

The decision is yours.

Like the man and woman in the garden, you and I have rebelled against God—although you might not even realize it. We have a tendency to want to be in charge of our own lives and control the world around us. But God's original purpose was to be a Father to us, and that we would follow and obey him.

Each person has a choice to make. You can continue living for yourself, or you can choose to live God's way. If you choose to live for yourself, you are choosing the consequences of your sin. Your relationship with God will never be made right. You may experience temporary happiness, but the things you gain in this life will disappear at your death. If you reject God's way, you will be judged according to your deeds and punished for your sins. You will end up in hell, separated from God forever.

On the other hand, to choose God means you understand that you have hurt God by rejecting him and rebelling against his ways, either wilfully or unknowingly. It means you understand that you have offended God by sinning against him. You must repent and ask God to forgive you. When you are forgiven, your relationship with God is restored. On judgement day when you face God, he will ask you, "Have you paid the debt for your sins?" If you have accepted the gift of Jesus' death, you will be saved. You will be able to answer "Yes, Jesus took my punishment and paid my price!" It means you are part of God's family and you will spend eternity with him in heaven.

Before you make such an important decision, it is very important that you count the cost of following God's ways. He wants you to die to your old self by turning away from your sins. He wants you to understand that the things of this world are of little value when compared to your life to come. God wants you to love him with all of your being. God wants you to give yourself over completely to him; to make him the most important thing in your life. You cannot just add God to your existing life; he wants to BE your life every day for the rest of your life! God wants you to surrender your will to him; he wants you to follow and obey him. He wants you to seek his direction in all you do. He longs for you to spend time with him in relationship. God also instructs you to love others, even those who are hard to love. Most importantly, he expects you to share what you have just learned with others who don't know God! The life of a follower of Jesus is not easy.

Why would anyone want to make such a choice? Because the rewards of loving and obeying God are far far greater than the costs! Just to list a few:

- God will reveal himself to you.
- God will guide you through life.
- A relationship with Jesus "completes you;" gives you fullness of life.
- God promises to give you strength to live; he will renew you.
- God promises to supply all your needs.
- God promises to comfort you.
- God promises to give you peace despite your circumstances.

Through Jesus, God has done everything he can possibly do to reach out to you. He is still trying to get your attention in many ways and longs for you to come back to him. He is knocking at the door of your heart and waiting, but the next move is yours. You have an opportunity before you right now that you may never have again.

Are you ready to choose God's way and follow him?

(If the answer is Yes...)

What do you want to say to God? Let's pray together.

The Bible tells us that when someone decides to follow Jesus, there is great joy in heaven!

God is waiting for your whole family to believe in him. Go home and tell your family and friends this good news.

(If the answer is No...)

Is there anything about this story that you don't understand?

I am available to talk to you more about this if you like.

