

The Really Big Picture



But something went terribly wrong, what was it?

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. . .

The world was a wonderful place. His love compelled Him to create man in His own image capable of a genuine relationship with Him. Life was good, harmonious and satisfying. There was no suffering, sickness or death.

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them... God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.”

(Genesis 1:27-28, 31)

2 Man rejected God’s authority and chose to go his own way

Adam was faced with a stark choice when the voice of the tempter challenged the voice of God.

His wrong choice brought devastating consequences on him – and upon the entire world.

To reject God’s rightful authority is called sin. It shows itself in many ways – from active rebellion to passive indifference – but basically refuses to allow God His rightful place as our Creator God.

We try desperately to fix ourselves and our world, but God has a different solution.

3 God sent His Son to right the wrongs we have done

Jesus came to earth announcing a new kingdom, giving us the opportunity to escape the snare and consequences of sin and come back to God. His mission: to reconcile us to Himself and restore us from the curse of sin. His claim: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6. His promise to those who would follow Him: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” John 5:24

Why Jesus?

Who He is:

Jesus is the Messiah – the Lord God in human flesh who offers Himself as the Savior of the world.

What Jesus Did

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.”
1 Peter 3:18

What He did:

Jesus is the only person to ever live His entire life as God required – not a single sin in thought word or deed. And, yet, He gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins when He died upon the cross. God declared His payment for the sins we’ve committed to be sufficient when He raised Him from the dead.

However, most people did not accept God’s solution to their problem. They rejected and killed God’s Son, Jesus. But some received Him and became His followers. Today is no different.

5. Making it Personal: Which Path Will You Take?

Existence independent from God

The Bible calls this “the domain of darkness.” Satan, who hates you, is the ultimate ruler of this domain. It is characterized by pride, emptiness, fractured relationships and bondage to sin. Ultimately, this path leads to eternal suffering in hell.

NO! Sorry God, I’m not interested in becoming a follower of Jesus Christ. I like my life just the way it is and I’ll take my chances on the judgment day. Thanks for Your offer of forgiveness and eternal life, but no thanks.

COME TO HIM:

“The one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.” John 6:37

BELIEVE IN HIM

“Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16

RECEIVE HIM

“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

CONFESS HIM

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

Express your decision to God in simple prayer

Restored Relationship with God

The Bible calls this “the Kingdom of God.” God loves you and invites you to experience the wonders of this life. It is characterized by love, joy, peace, forgiveness and security. Ultimately, this path will lead to eternal joy in heaven.

YES! Father, thank You for loving me and making a way for me to come back to You. I place my faith and trust in Jesus Christ. I believe He died for my sins and rose again from the dead. Right now, I receive Him as my Lord and my Savior and I desire to follow Him the rest of my life! I am so grateful for what You have done for me!