

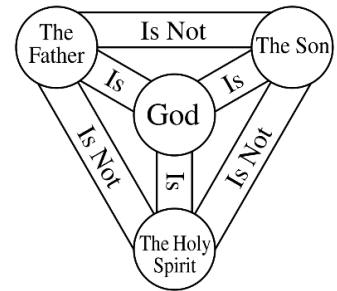
The Creation, the Brokenness, the Healing, and the Renewal

1. The Creation

Genesis 1 and 2 (the first book in the Bible) record how God created the world including human beings—Adam and Eve, a male and a female—in a perfect condition. Adam and Eve had a right relationship with God, with each other, and with the animals. God gave Adam and Eve authority over the animals and the world. They were the managers to take care of the world and the animals.

Genesis 1:26 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

God, who is the Creator of the Universe, is one God in three persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are equal in essence, power, and glory. God is spirit and is not flesh and blood like human beings. God's characteristics include eternal, holy, loving, wise, and almighty. God cannot be wrong or do wrong things. He cannot increase or decrease. He cannot become better or worse. He does not and cannot change. He remains the same in our past, present, and future. He is eternal. He is not bound by time and space. He created time and space for us. He is eternally holy, loving, wise, and almighty.



Why did God create human beings?



(painting by Wenzel Peter – Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden)

God is loving. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit love one another. God's love is unselfish. They give and receive unselfish love to one another eternally. They have a right relationship with one another eternally, and this never, does not, and cannot change, as God's characteristic is unchangeable. This kind of perfect love produces a perfect and beautiful environment that includes perfect joy and peace. God's creation reflects his perfection. The universe and the earth reflect the beauty and majesty of God.

The reason God created human beings is for us to experience this kind of perfect and unselfish love that produces perfect beauty, joy, and peace in our lives. This is the condition that Adam and Eve had in this world in Genesis 1 and 2. The world was beautiful and perfect. Adam and Eve had a right and beautiful relationship with God, with each other, and even with the animals. The animals themselves had a right and beautiful relationship with one another. God gave green plants as the food for human beings and the animals.

Genesis 1:31 *And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.*

2. The Brokenness

God created human beings with a free will. God wanted them to love him out of their free will. God gave them a command that they could eat any fruits except one—a forbidden fruit. God wanted them to obey him and warned them that the day they ate the fruit, they would break their loving and right relationship with God. They would experience a separation from God (spiritual death). They would also experience physical death. Their body would not be eternally young but would get old. They would experience pain in their physical body. Their body would be corrupted.

In Genesis 3, we learned that Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. As God had said, the day that they disobeyed and dishonored him, they would begin to experience the consequence of their sin (disobedience). After Adam and Eve ate the fruit, sin began to corrupt their soul and body. They began to feel shame, guilty, and fear. Then they tried to hide themselves from God. They began to be prideful and selfish by not acknowledging and confessing their sin but by blaming others. The beautiful and right relationship they had with God was damaged. Their relationship with each other was damaged as well. Sin corrupted their souls and bodies.

Since they were the first man and the first woman, all human beings were born from them. We were all born with sin or selfish nature. We were born corrupted with sin in us and were separated from God, without having a right relationship with him. We were born as sinner and rebellious persons. We prefer to rule our own lives than to obey and follow God. In reality, we cannot and do not want to have a right relationship with God and to have God as our King, letting him decide what is good for us.

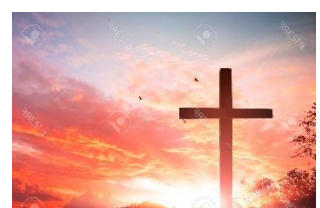
Since all human beings were born corrupted and broken, we have made our world broken. This world is a broken and corrupted world because of us. There is no perfect relationship in this world. Every relationship is marked with imperfection, because we are imperfect people. This is bad news. Wherever we go in this world, we see brokenness and corruption—the impact of our sin in us and in this world.

3. The Healing

Because we are born with sinful nature or self-centeredness in us, our tendency is to rebel against God, disobeying and dishonoring him and not wanting him to be in our lives. We disobey and dishonor God in our thoughts, words, and actions. Our sins are so many. God is a just and holy God, and He must punish us, because of our sins and rebellion against him. God is also a loving God, and He wants to save us from our sins. The Son of God came from heaven to our world, born as a baby boy, and was given the name Jesus. Jesus came to this world about 2,000 years ago, to teach people about having a right relationship with God and to sacrifice himself to die on the cross for the punishment of our sins as our substitute.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

The reason that God would sacrifice Himself is because He loves us. True love is proven by sacrifice. Jesus came to sacrifice Himself to bear our sin punishment, so that by believing in Him and trusting our lives to Him, we may receive God's forgiveness. Once we joyfully invite Jesus to be in our lives, giving our lives to Him and regretting our sins, the healing begins.



God forgives our sins, and our relationship with God is restored. We begin to have a right and loving relationship with God. We want to live for Jesus, who is our Savior, honoring and obeying Him with our thoughts, words, and actions. Furthermore, God gives us a great honor by adopting us as His children. This is a permanent adoption. We become God's children forever. God, as our Heavenly Father, will raise us up and take care of us as His children. He will work in us from the inside out, making us better and better persons—more and more like Him. There is much more that we experience in this healing process. God has redeemed us and brought us to His kingdom. We experience a small taste of God's kingdom, when we gather to worship Him on Sunday at a church. We will experience the full and ultimate reality of God's kingdom when Jesus returns to this world.

Colossians 1:13-14 He [God] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

4. The Renewal

This broken world that we live in is not suitable for God's children. Therefore, Jesus has promised us that He will return to this world and renew this world to be a place that is perfectly beautiful, peaceful, and joyful. The renewed world that Jesus has promised us is both spiritual and physical. The Bible describes it as heaven on earth. The spiritual beings (angels) and physical beings (human beings and animals) will be together. There is no corruption and brokenness in this renewed world. Jesus will be the King, who govern the world (His kingdom). Therefore, people who refuse to believe in Jesus, who do not want Him to be in their lives, will not be in this renewed world but will be put in another place called Hell. In this place, people will have a total separation from God and all His goodness. There will be no love, beauty, peace, and joy at all.

While we are still living in this world, Jesus wants us to tell our family members, friends, and others about Him. Help them to learn about Jesus and to get to know Him. It is a great privilege for us to be a part of anyone's life journey to eternal life with Jesus.

There is a lot of troubles in this broken world. When we die, our souls will be with Jesus in heaven and be made completely holy and pure, with no corruption from sin anymore. When Jesus returns to this world and renewed it, Jesus will give our souls a new body that is holy and pure as well. Our souls will be united with a new body, fit to live in the renewed world—heaven on earth, the kingdom of Jesus. The new body, since it is without sin and corruption, will be forever young and eternal. We will live with Jesus forever full of love and joy in a perfect and beautiful new world.

Revelation 21:1-5 ... a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away ... Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he [Jesus] who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."