

Genesis 1-3 and beyond

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A briefer presentation, in a different format, of some of the material in the book [*Jesus Saves ... but How?*](#), available inexpensively on [Amazon](#) in both paperback and Kindle eBook format, or on <https://kspubs.com>.

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It's all true! And it's all love!

There really is a God; He is real. And He Created everything that exists¹. He actively runs it all and holds it together and makes it work². And He does it all for love!

Before Creation ...

God's very nature is love³. Even before the Creation, God had such a great thing going amongst Himself (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – the Trinity), that He wanted to share it, to share that love⁴.

¹ **God created everything:** [John 1:3](#) (BSB) -- Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made.

[1 Corinthians 8:5-6](#) (BSB) -- For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many so-called gods and lords), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we exist. And there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we exist.

² **God actively runs the world, minute-by-minute:** [Colossians 1:16-17](#) (BSB) -- For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

[Hebrews 1:3](#) (BSB) -- The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

[1 Timothy 6:15-16](#) (BSB) -- Which God will bring about in His own time—He who is blessed and the only Sovereign One, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable light. No one has ever seen Him, nor can anyone see Him. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

³ **God's nature is love:** [1 John 4:8b](#) (BSB) -- ... God is love.

⁴ **God wants to share His love with mankind:** [Genesis 1:26-27](#) (BSB) -- Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

[Romans 8:38-39](#) (BSB) -- For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[John 17:24](#) (BSB) -- Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, that they may see the glory You gave Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

[Matthew 25:34](#) (BSB) -- Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

etc.

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So He created us in order to share it. Bi-directionally: He wanted to love us and He wanted us to love Him back⁵. And it was very good.

It takes a ... Trinity

Since Creation is all about God sharing His pre-existing love with us, it's no surprise that all three persons of the Trinity were involved in the Creation: "In the beginning, God [the Father] created" ([Gen 1:1](#)); and "In the beginning ... the Word [Jesus] was with God, and ... all things came into being through Him" ([John 1:1-3](#)); and "the [Holy] Spirit of God was moving [or brooding] over the surface of the waters" ([Gen 1:2b](#)).

Note also that this is confirmed by the use of the plural in [Genesis 1:26a](#): "God said, 'let us make man in our image' ". (Some view this as the "plural of majesty", like the Queen saying, "we are not amused". But most Christian scholars now acknowledge that this indicates the complex unity of God as a Trinity⁶.)

The Universe is for life, and life for God

So the triune God created man out of His love. But of course, humans can't survive floating alone in outer space without life support, so God had to create the earth to support life before He could create human beings.

And, as scientists tell us, the earth can't just float around in space on its own. Everything in space moves and orbits something heavier. So God created the Sun and the Moon and, in turn, the whole universe to create, support, and enable life.

In fact, astronomers note that the whole universe seems to be extraordinarily finely tuned to support life, to such a degree that if any parameter of physics was off by just the slightest bit, it wouldn't work. Both theologically and statistically, this couldn't be accidental. It just shouts of Creation!

So essentially, God created the whole universe because of His love, so that He could create us, love us, and we could love Him back.

⁵ **God wants us to love Him, too:** [1 John 4:7-8](#) (BSB) -- Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁶ **Complex unity:** Note also that the Hebrew word for "one" used in Deuteronomy 6 is *echad*, a complex unity of more than a single part, not *yahid*, a singular unity:

[Deuteronomy 6:4](#) (BSB) -- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One.

See: <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/deuteronomy/6-4.htm>

So for love, God created mankind in His image

Now, robots can't love. Like slaves, they can only follow their pre-programmed instructions. So instead of making robots, God gave us a degree of freedom of action (free will) in order that we could love Him back. That's one of the many aspects of God creating us in His image⁷, and of course, there are several other aspects to that, also.

Ah, but there's a catch!

Now this freedom means that we could choose to do *other than* what God desired and other than what is good for us. We could choose to go our own way. Unfortunately, that's exactly what we did, first in the Garden of Eden and later, every one of us in our own lives. But I'm getting a little ahead of myself.

God's heartfelt desire was that we (humankind) would walk with Him in love, fellowship, and obedience⁸. That's why God created us, so that's how God created things. And that's exactly the way it actually was in the Garden of Eden ... before the Fall.

A snake in the grass

Now, once upon a time, God said something like, "Hey, guys, it's a cool, beautiful morning again, isn't it? Let's go over here and do this and that together, and later on have a nice lunch of some really tasty vegetables I've created that I just know you'll love." But with our "freedom", we said, "Um. No. I'm tired of vegetables. I'd like to go over *there* and try that shiny fruit from that other tree. (Ahem, well yes, that *is* the one you told us not to eat from. But, well, I was sorta hoping you wouldn't notice that.)" That's an oversimplification, of course; but nevertheless, exercising our "freedom", that's exactly what we did: we went our own self-centered way instead of following God⁹.

⁷ **God created mankind in His image:** [Genesis 1:26a, 27](#) (BSB) -- Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

⁸ **God wants us to be saved:** [2 Peter 3:9](#) (BSB) -- The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.

⁹ **We chose to go our own way:** [Genesis 3:1-6](#) (BSB) -- Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field that the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat of any tree in the garden?'" The woman answered the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You must not eat of it or touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent told her. "For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and [continued ...]

Whaddaya mean, “we”?

But there was a serpent, you say? Sure, but so what? Flip Wilson notwithstanding, “The devil made me do it” is *never* a valid excuse. We have freedom of action, so we are responsible for our actions. Period. It comes with the territory.

Oh, it was *Adam* that did it (or was it Eve?); it wasn't *me!* Doesn't matter. I have every bit as self-centered a nature (a “flesh”) as Adam – and so do you, and so does every human. Eventually, each one of us would have done it, too – we would have chosen to go our own way rather than God's way. It's on us. We can't blame anyone but ourselves.

What does it mean?

Now when God – Eternal Life Himself – goes one direction, and we choose to go in the other direction, what have we done? We've separated ourselves from Eternal Life. And what is separation from Eternal Life? Eternal death!

And we “earned” it by our own actions, by separating ourselves from Life, from God Himself¹⁰.

That's “the Fall”. And that's the punishment. Or actually not *punishment*, but natural consequence. It's not God's wrath, it's just an automatic result simply by definition: If we turn away from Life, we've chosen death. It's as simple as that. Self-inflicted though it is, if that isn't a curse, then what is?

What's a person to do?

How on earth can we un-do death?!? We can't!¹¹

Yet that's never what God had intended for us. He *intended*, remember, to share His love with us and to walk together with us in fellowship. That became impossible when we turned and

that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

[Genesis 3:8b](#) (BSB) -- ... and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

¹⁰ **We earned death by separating ourselves from eternal Life Himself:** [Genesis 6:5](#) (BSB) -- Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was altogether evil all the time.

[Romans 6:23a](#) (BSB) -- For the wages of sin is death ...

[Romans 3:23](#) (BSB) -- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

¹¹ **We can't un-do death:** [Romans 7:24](#) (BSB) -- What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

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went the other way. So God, in His infinite love, foresight, and power, always knew it would happen and had made a way – even before He created us!¹²

The remedy

He, Himself, would pay our death penalty for us. He would die to redeem us because we can't do it ourselves!

Of course, in order to do that, He first had to become human, because God can't die. Yet He had to also remain God, because a mere human dying wouldn't redeem us from anything, much less from all the world's sin! So God became human and came to earth as Jesus¹³, the 200% man – 100% human and still 100% God.

And He came in order to die¹⁴.

Back to the future

As with so many things, the first glimmer of this is “in the beginning” in Genesis. In [Genesis 3:15](#), the “early edition of the Good News” of Jesus Christ (the almost literal meaning of the so-called “[Protevangelium](#)¹⁵, the first messianic prophecy in the Old Testament”, as theologians characterized it as long ago as the second century AD).

¹² **God made a way, from before the beginning:** [Revelation 13:8b](#) (BSB) -- ... all whose names have ... been written from the foundation of the world in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain.

[2 Timothy 1:9](#) (BSB) -- He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before time eternal.

¹³ **God became human and came to Earth with us:** [John 1:14](#) (BSB) -- The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[Matthew 1:23](#) (BSB) -- “Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel” (which means, “God with us”).

[Philippians 2:7](#) (BSB) -- But emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness.

¹⁴ **He came to die:** [John 12:27](#) (BSB) -- Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ No, it is for this purpose that I have come to this hour.

[Philippians 2:8](#) (BSB) -- And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.

¹⁵ **Protoevangelium:** ““first reference in Scripture to ... Messiah ... seen as the first presentation of the gospel. ... derived from the Greek prefix proto meaning ‘first’ and euangelion meaning ‘gospel’ or ‘good news.’” (Theopedia.com; for detail, see [Wikipedia: Protoevangelium](#))

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The “seed” of the woman prophesies of the promised Messiah (Christ) Jesus, Who on the cross crushed Satan’s power and authority¹⁶ over us, and will finally destroy him at Christ’s Second Coming¹⁷. Their enmity is reflected in [Revelation 12:17](#) ¹⁸ among several other places. That Satan “bruised” Christ’s “heel” indicates that Jesus would be crucified in order to accomplish this. Thus, the Good News of the Gospel: Jesus came to pay our death penalty on the cross.

How does that work?

And that’s exactly what He did: Jesus paid our penalty for us, nailed our sin to the cross with Him, and saved us¹⁹. What’s more, He gave us eternal life!

Why did His death on the cross give us eternal life? Because Sin *means* turning away from God and going our own way, walking away from Eternal Life Himself. And walking away from life *means* death. Jesus *paid* that death penalty for us, which redeems us and restores us and gives us back both the relationship with Him and the eternal Life that God always intended.

¹⁶ **He crushed Satan’s power and authority:** [Romans 16:20](#) (BSB) -- The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

[Matthew 4:10](#) (BSB) -- “Away from Me, Satan!” Jesus declared. “For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”

¹⁷ **Satan destroyed at Christ’s Second Coming:** [Revelation 20:10](#) (BSB) -- And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, into which the beast and the false prophet had already been thrown. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

¹⁸ **Satan’s enmity with God and Jesus:** [Revelation 12:17](#) (BSB) -- And the dragon was enraged at the woman, and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea.

¹⁹ **Jesus paid our death penalty for us:** [Romans 5:8](#) (BSB) -- But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

[Romans 6:23](#) (BSB) -- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Galatians 2:20](#) (BSB) -- I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

[Romans 6:6](#) (BSB) -- We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

[Romans 8:10](#) (BSB) -- But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

What is eternal Life?

Eternal life isn't just life in Heaven some day, eventually ("pie in the sky, by and by"). Rather, eternal Life is God's kind of life because only God is eternal, so only His life is eternal Life²⁰. And He freely gives it to us who believe in Him²¹. We don't get it some day in Heaven, we *have* it right *now*, as soon as we believe²². And His steadfast love endures forever²³.

We get eternal Life in the form of the Holy Spirit living within us when we are born again of the Spirit²⁴. The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Trinity, and so is eternal and has Eternal Life. As He lives in us, we have eternal Life also. Whether we die first or whether Jesus comes again first, either way, we will be with Him forever. We don't lose eternal Life (if we did, it wouldn't be eternal!) because we don't lose the Holy Spirit.

²⁰ **Only God is eternal so only He has eternal life:** [John 17:3](#) (BSB) -- Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

²¹ **He gives eternal Life to believers:** [Romans 6:23b](#) (BSB) -- ... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[John 20:31](#) (BSB) -- But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

²² **Believers already *have* eternal Life in Him:** [John 3:16](#) (BSB) -- For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

[John 3:36](#) (BSB) -- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, the wrath of God remains on him."

[John 5:24](#) (BSB) -- Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment. Indeed, he has crossed over from death to life.

[John 6:47](#) (BSB) -- Truly, truly, I tell you, he who believes has eternal life.

[1 John 5:11-12](#) (BSB) -- And this is that testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

[1 John 5:13](#) (BSB) -- I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

²³ **His love for us is eternal:** [Psalm 136](#) (BSB) -- Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His loving devotion endures forever. ...

²⁴ **All believers receive the Holy Spirit and eternal Life:** [John 3:5-7](#) (BSB) -- Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh is born of flesh, but spirit is born of the Spirit. Do not be amazed that I said, 'You must be born again.'

[Romans 8:9](#) (BSB) -- You, however, are controlled not by the flesh, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

[1 Corinthians 6:19](#) (BSB) -- Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

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So while eternal Life isn't just "going to Heaven" some day, we do get to be with God in Heaven eternally. Better than that, we get to start that eternal relationship of Life right now on earth.

Beginning and end and beyond

Our love relationship with God starts with [Genesis chapters 1-3](#) – or with [John chapter 1](#) way before Creation. And it goes on forever, through Jesus' advent, through His Second Coming, and into eternity in the New Heaven and New Earth in [Revelation chapters 21-22](#).

What could possibly be better?

For more information

For more detail presented somewhat differently, see: [*Jesus Saves ... but How?*](#), available inexpensively on [Amazon](#) in both paperback and Kindle eBook format, or on <https://kspubs.com>.