

GO IMPACT

Creation to Christ



The Most High God

I want to tell you a story. This story is from a book called the Bible. Men did not make up the Bible. It is the word of the Most High God. These stories are true and reliable because they are God's words. There is only one God, and He really is the Most High God. He is more powerful than any ancestor, person, government or false god that people worship. This story is true and reliable because it is the word of the Most High God.

- + This is a true story from the Bible
- + There is only one God
- + He is most powerful

1 Chronicles 16:25-28



Creation

The Most High God is the Creator. He existed before there was anything else. He created everything on earth and in heaven and is all powerful over everything. When God began to create things, He just used His words. He spoke and everything came to be. He created angels to worship and serve Him. They were very beautiful. He also created everything we can see – the sky, land, water, mountains, oceans, sun, moon, stars, all plants and animals. Finally, He created man in His image. God created man to enjoy all that He has created. God created everything and saw that it was good.

- + God spoke and made everything
- + God made man
- + All He made was good

Genesis 1:1; 26-27



God and Man Together

God placed the man and woman in a beautiful garden to live. They had a very good relationship with Him and with each other. He told them to take care of the garden and enjoy everything. He gave them a special command: they could eat from every tree in the garden except one. If they ate from that one tree, they would be punished and die. At first, the man and woman listened to God and had a wonderful relationship with Him in the garden.

- + Man and woman were in a garden
- + One rule to follow
- + They had a good relationship with God

Genesis 2:16-17

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- + Fall of the devil
- + Temptation came
- + The man and woman disobeyed God
- + Broken relationship and eternal punishment

Sin and Separation

One of the angels God made was very smart and very beautiful. This angel became very proud. He wanted to be like God and to have the other angels worship him instead of God. Only God deserves all the worship and service. Therefore, God cast this bad angel, called Satan, out of heaven. One day, Satan tempted the woman to eat the food from the tree that was forbidden. The woman listened to him and ate the fruit and then she gave it to her husband to eat. Both of them disobeyed God's command. Disobeying God's command is known as "sin." God is righteous and holy. He must punish sin. God cast the man and the woman out of the garden and their relationship with God was broken. Human beings and God were now separated forever. Like the first man and the woman, all people since then have sinned by not listening to God's commands and are separated from God. The result of sin is eternal punishment in hell. We cannot live forever with God as we were designed.

Genesis 3:1-8
Isaiah 59:2



Commandments

Over time, the number of people on earth multiplied. Yet God loved them very much and wanted them to have a relationship with Him. He gave them ten commandments to follow. Remember God is perfect and holy, so we must be perfect and holy to live with Him. The Ten Commandments teach people how to relate to God and how to relate to other people. Some of the commands were: do not worship other gods or make idols; honor your parents; do not lie, steal, murder or commit adultery. However, no one was able to obey all of these commands.

- + People multiplied
- + God still loved them
- + God gave the Ten Commandment
- + No one was fully obedient

Exodus 20:1-3



Sacrifices

So, when they sinned, God allowed them to turn away from their sins and offer a blood sacrifice to take the place of their punishment. This sacrifice was shedding the blood of a perfect animal like a lamb. If they would repent and offer the blood sacrifice, God would forgive them and let the animal die in their place. Only by the shedding of blood can a person's sin be forgiven. However, people kept sinning and the sin sacrifice became a ritual rather than something from their heart. God became tired of their insincere acts. People were still separated from God. We cannot come back to God on our own no matter what we do.

- + God provided a way to repent (turn away from sins)
- + Blood sacrifices
- + Soon became an insincere ritual

Hebrews 9:22

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God Sends Jesus

God loves people and wants a relationship of love and trust with them, so the time came when He sent man a perfect way to reconnect to Him. God sent Jesus to show us the way back to Himself. Who is Jesus? Jesus is God's son, His one and only son. He became human like us: God in the flesh.

- + God loves people
- + A perfect way was needed
- + Jesus is God in flesh

John 3:16

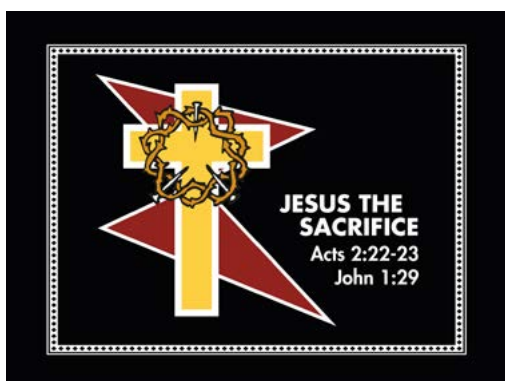


Jesus, God's Son

Even though Jesus lived as a man, He resisted temptation. He never sinned, and He remained obedient to God. Jesus had great love for people, especially those who had no hope. He was a wise teacher. He performed many miracles proving He was God's Son. Jesus had power over nature, over disease, over evil spirits, and even over death.

- + Jesus:
 - ... never sinned
 - ... was a miracle worker
 - ... had power over all things

Acts 10:36-38



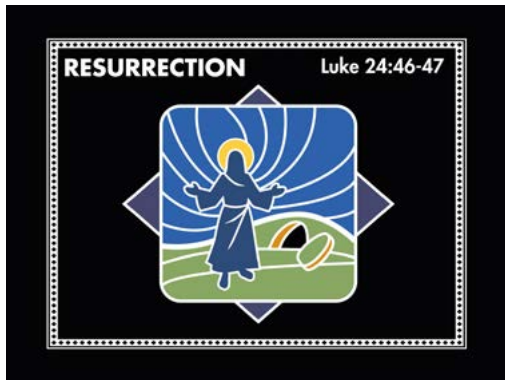
Jesus the Sacrifice

Many people loved Jesus. They believed Jesus and followed Him. However, some leaders hated Jesus and they were jealous of Him. They made plans to kill Jesus. Jesus willingly allowed Himself to be arrested, tried, and condemned to die. Soldiers placed Him on a cross. A cross is made from two large pieces of wood formed together. They took His hands and His feet and nailed them to the cross. His blood flowed from His hands, feet, and body. He suffered much pain, and He died on the cross. Because Jesus never sinned, Jesus is the perfect blood sacrifice. He did not deserve to die, but God sent Him to die on the cross and take the punishment for the sins of man, all people. He died on the cross in our place. Only through the shedding of His blood is God willing to forgive our sin.

- + Jesus:
 - ... was unjustly treated
 - ... willingly suffered
 - ... died on a cross
 - ... was the perfect sacrifice

Acts 2:22-23, John 1:29

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Resurrection

Jesus' death demonstrates God's love for us. However, this story doesn't end here. After Jesus died, he was placed in a secure tomb. On the third day Jesus rose from the dead and showed Himself to His followers! He proved that He has the power over death. Then He returned to His Father in heaven. Jesus took our punishment and now provides a way for us to come back to God!

- + Jesus:
 - ... died and was buried
 - ... has power over death
 - ... restored the way to God

Luke 24:46-47



Repentance

God wants you and your whole family to return to Him. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice, and He is the only way to restore our relationship with God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." You must go through Jesus to return to God. How can you go through Jesus? You must admit to God that you have sinned against Him. You must believe that Jesus died in your place. You put your trust in Jesus to bring you back and give you eternal life as God's son or daughter. From that point on, you let Jesus be your Master and obey His word. Do you want to let Jesus bring you back to God?

- + You need to return to God
- + Jesus is the only way
- + Admit, believe, trust

John 14:6
Romans 10:9-10



Kingdom

Jesus continues His work in the world through His Spirit and through His followers. God has set a day for Jesus to return to earth in all His glory and to judge all people. He will welcome His followers and turn away those who oppose Him. His kingdom will have no end. Until then, His followers are to pray and work together that the kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. We are to carry the good news of Jesus to others and serve Him in all that we do.

- + Jesus works through us
- + Jesus will return
- + We can share Jesus with others

Matthew 28:18-20
2 Corinthians 5:10