

### The Bible-God's Story of His Plan of Salvation

Two thousand years ago a troubled jailer asked, "What must I do to be saved?" ([Acts 16:30](#)). This is life's most critical question!

First-An overview of God's plan of salvation in Scripture:

**Creation:** God created every created thing that exists Genesis 1:1 Then God said that all his creation was "very good"  
**Genesis 1:31**

That "very good" implies that God had a plan and purpose for mankind. God placed man in a Garden and supplied every need of Adam and his wife Eve.

The first couple had:

1. Position= they were king and queen of God's Garden. They were given authority over all things. "Dominion" was theirs. They named the animals, meaning they had mastery and rule over them.
2. Provision= God met every need.
3. Protection= there was no death, no law of the tooth and fang. They were secure in God's protection.
4. Presence= God was with them in intimate fellowship. His presence with them made life vital and real.
5. Purpose= they were existing for the sole purpose of giving God honor and glory by being his children.

**Rebellion:** Adam and Eve, had complete freedom to live in friendship with God, they chose to rebel against him instead of trusting in him ([Gen. 3:1-7](#)) Because God had designed the world so that Adam would represent the entire human race, Adam's sin was catastrophic not only for himself but for us as well: one sin led to the condemnation of all ([Rom. 5:18](#))

**Redemption:** The entire Old Covenant (testament) is the telling of the story of God's efforts to restore the Garden by redeeming mankind. He will do this by sending us a "second Adam" a chosen Son who will fulfill the first Adam's failure. Thus the Old Testament is the Gospel in shadows, symbols, and foretelling of Jesus the Christ. We must look for the Savior/Messiah throughout the Old Testament. The story is not about Abraham, Moses, the Law, Israel and the prophets. The bigger story is the Gospel story of God at work to redeem his lost children (the human race) and to restore what was lost in the Garden.

Thus redemption is God giving us back what Adam lost= God's power, God's provision, God's protection, God's purpose, and God's presence in us and lived out through us.

**Paul will say it this way,** "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:3) In **Romans 5:8** he says, "but God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" **John 3:16** "for God loved the world so much..." Note the **Condition:** "believe in Him..."

This condition of faith is inclusive of repentance and trust. **Act 20:21**, says salvation is conditioned upon "repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" Those who repent and believe will be restored to a right relationship with God. Thus believing in Jesus is a relationship of trust in Christ as the living Savior.



## "Where the Road Ends...Ministry Begins"

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**Restoration/consummation:** God not only rescues lost sinners but will someday fully restore all of creation. [Romans 8:21](#), *"the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God."* There is coming a new heavens and earth-the restoration.

God is going to take us back to the GARDEN! His purposes in us will be fulfilled in the Kingdom that is to come.

**Sanctification Process in Mankind:** God's new people-the church are destined for glory. That ultimate glory, lived out in the Kingdom that is coming is being worked out in us individually. *"Christ in you, the hope of Glory (Col.1:27)* is Paul's vision of our sanctification process. This is Christ "saving" us daily by His indwelling Spirit. **Romans 5:10** says *"much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by His (indwelling) life*

### **The details of Salvation:**

**Pardon for the past**=pardoned, forgiven, cleansed by blood, reconciled, redeemed.

**Power for the present**= Indwelt by the saving life of Christ, filled with His Spirit

**Prospect for the future**= Heaven when we die, Kingdom citizen's when He returns with us or for us.