
³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “**I am making everything new!**” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “**It is done.** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Conclusion:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: ¹⁹ that God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of **reconciliation**. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be **reconciled** to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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The Truth of God’s Larger Story

Grace and Truth—part 4

April 30, 2023

God’s Larger Story

‘The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.’ Thoreau

God’s truth helps us keep the moment and
the story of life straight.

Chapter 1: Creation

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

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

²⁸ *God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

²⁹ *Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.*

³¹ *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*

*Genesis 2:20 But for Adam no suitable helper was found.
21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep;
and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs
and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD
God made a woman from the rib^x he had taken out of the
man, and he brought her to the man.*

■ *23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of
my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out
of man." 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother
and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

Chapter 2: Fall

■ *Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding
and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance
that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.
19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves
over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity,
and they are full of greed.*

■ *2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this world has blinded the
minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light
of the gospel.*

*Colossians 3:5 Put to death what is earthly in you:
fornication, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is
idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.*

*Colossians 3:8 But now put them all away: anger, wrath,
malice, slander, foul talk from your mouths. Do not lie to
one another seeing that you have put off the old nature with
its practices and have put on the new nature which is
renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.*

Chapter 3: Redemption

*Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior
appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we
had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through
the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus
Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his
grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal
life.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a
new creation. The old has gone, the new has come.*

■ *Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new
spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and
give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you
and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep
my laws. 28 Then you will live in the land I gave your
ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.
29 I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for
the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine
upon you.*

Chapter 4: Restoration

■ *Ezekiel 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it
will be an **everlasting covenant**. I will establish them and
increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among
them forever. 27 My dwelling place will be with them; I will
be their God, and they will be my people.*

■ *Revelation 21:1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new
earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed
away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy
City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from
God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her
husband.*
