

## God – Creation – Rebellion – Promise – Redemption – Mission – New Creation

### God -

- **HOLY** (Unique – Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 44:6-8)
- **TRIUNE** (Community – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – Gen. 1:1 – Elohim – plural; Gen. 1:26; Matt. 28:19)
- **LOVE** (Fellowship of love in God’s essence – 1 John 4:8, 16; John 17:5, 24)
- **ETERNAL SPIRIT** (Infinite – life within himself - John 4:24; Isa. 57:15; 1 Tim. 6:15-16; 1 John 5:20)
- **FULLNESS** (Complete – fullness of joy & love & happy fellowship – Acts 17:24-25; Matt. 25:21,23; 1 Tim. 6:15-16; Psalm 16:11)

*“In the beginning, God...” “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36 ESV) God is an eternal, holy, triune God of love and joy and glorious fullness.*

### Creation –

- **GOOD** (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)
- **IMAGE of GOD** (Humans created as the pinnacle of creation to image forth the God of love in community – thus not good for man to be alone – Gen. 1:26-27; 2:18)
- **OWNERSHIP** (By virtue of creation God owns us – we were designed to live in dependent relationship with God – Isa. 64:8; PS 100:3; John 15:4-6)
- **PURPOSE** (Created by him and for him – to expand the paradise & fill the world with God’s glory – Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; Hab. 2:14; an infinite number of “yesses” and one “no” – Gen. 2:16)
- **REST & RELATIONSHIP** (Dwelling in refreshing fellowship with God and in intimate relationship with one another– in paradise - Gen. 2:1-3, 8; 20-25)

*“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31a ESV) God created a good world. Humans were created in the image of God. Thus they had purpose, living in a dependent love relationship with their Creator and imaging forth his glory in community. God is community (see Gen. 1:26-27). God is love (1 John 4:8, 16) which necessitates him being community in his very essence and nature.*

### Rebellion (Fall)–

- **DEVIL** – (The tempter comes with deceit causes them to doubt the goodness & wisdom & love of God – Gen. 3:1-5)
- **WRONG BELIEF** – (This sin is not the mere breaking of a rule, it is cosmic treason. At its heart sin is a relationship & worship issue where we do not believe the truth & goodness about God. Instead we choose to believe a lie about God. Gen. 3:6; Isa. 14:13-14; Rom. 1:18-25)
- **SEPARATION** – (guilt & shame & broken relationship with God & people – Gen. 3:7-16; 3:23-34; 4:8-12)
- **DEATH** – (spiritual death – cut off from God the source of life & goodness; physical death – they begin to die physically; second death – ultimately they will be cast into the lake of fire – eternally separated from God – Gen. 2:16; 3:23-24; Rom. 5:12, 6:23; Rev. 20:14)
- **CURSE** – (both humans & the creation itself come under the curse – Gen. 3:14-19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 8:18-25)

God’s people believe the lie and doubt the goodness and love of God, choosing to dishonor God in an act of cosmic treason (Genesis 3). This was not the mere eating of fruit or breaking a rule. They decide to find their own sense of purpose and meaning in the world apart from God and his good purposes for them. They want to decide for themselves what is good and evil. As they turn from God, all of creation turns with them, and humanity has been in rebellion against a good and loving God ever since. While they remain image-bearers, that image is significantly damaged – they can no longer be the people God intended them to be. They put themselves and their glory first, rather than God and his glory. The result of sin is death and all the brokenness that results from separating ourselves from the God of life and source of all goodness.

## **Promise -**

- **PROPHECIES** – (God gives some direct prophecies – Gen. 3:15; 12:3; 22:14, 17; Gal. 3:16 -18; Deut. 18:18)
- **PICTURES** – (God also wove pictures of the Redeemer in the law & history – A greater than Moses – a greater Exodus – a greater Sabbath – a greater Sacrifice; a greater Temple etc. – Matt. 5:17; Luke 24:27; 44-47; John 5:39-40; Col. 2:16-17)

Right in Gen. 3:15 God gives a promise of a Redeemer – one who would come to save us from sin, Satan, death, and hell. (“The crushing of the serpent comes at real personal cost to the one inflicting the blow.”) The Redeemer will set things right and restore the relationship with Himself that was fractured and lost at the fall. God is a pursuing God. The One offended sets about to conquer sin, Satan, death and hell. The Scriptures continue to point toward the Redeemer in pictures and in promises.

Gen. 22 - On the Mount it shall be provided – Mount Moriah

Ex. 19 – If...then... (conditional covenant) – fulfilled in Church (1Peter 2:9 – New Covenant)

Deut. 18 – Greater Prophet than Moses – Exodus

Law – to show us we could not earn our way back to God – and give us pictures of Jesus the Savior.

## **Redemption -**

- **CRADLE** – (God became one of us – Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 1:14)
- **CROSS** – (God manifested his love – shut down religion – & provided atonement for our sins – God alone, the offended one, could substitute to die in our place – bearing the curse so we could be forgiven, blessed, reconciled, and restored to a right relationship with God in and through Jesus. – (1 John 4:9-10; Gal. 3:13-14; Rom. 3:24-26; John 19:30; Matt. 27:51; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Col. 1:22, 2:13-15; Rom 5:6-8; Isa. 53:3-6)
- **CROWN** – Jesus defeated sin, Satan, death, and hell on our behalf – rising physically from the dead in glorious victory – setting up his kingdom that knows no end. – 1 Cor. 15; Col. 1:13 ;Rev. 1:5-6

Jesus lived the life we couldn't live and died the death we should have died.

We are more sinful than we ever imagined and yet more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dare hoped – at the same time. Yahweh is a God who loves people who have no love for him. His nature, revealed as it is most clearly at Calvary, is redemptive and missionary. At the cross, when God-in-Christ was crucified, we see the heart of God exposed. It is a heart that beats for the salvation of lost sinners.”

## **Mission-**

- **CHURCH** – (Jesus' builds this imaging forth community of blood bought people showing the joy of being under the reign and rule of King Jesus – Matt. 16:18; Acts 28:23-31; 1 Peter 2:5, 9-10; 4:10-11)
- **LOVE** – (The royal law of this new kingdom is love – love for God and love for people – John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; James 2:8; Gal. 5:14; Rom. 13:8-10; 1 John 4:7-21)
- **GOSPEL** – (formed by the Gospel & for the Gospel – Mark 1:14-15; Rom. 1:15-16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:3-9;
- **HOLY SPIRIT** – (equipping and empowering us to love and bear witness to the Gospel – Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Gal. 5:16-15; Eph. 5:18; 1 Cor. 12-13; 2 Cor. 4:4-6; John 3:3-8)
- **DISCIPLES** – (We are sent ones sent to make disciples – John 20:21; Matt. 28:18-20)

God first restores us to friendship with himself, then he commissions us as a new kingdom humanity – the church - to share the good news of Jesus with others. And He has poured out his Spirit to empower and gift, sending us into the world to use those gifts purposefully to serve others – the image of God who is love restored in a committed covenant community.

## **New Creation -**

- **SECOND COMING** – (the unveiling of reality – Jesus as King of kings & Lord of lords – 1 Thess 4:13-18; Rev. 1:7; Heb. 9:28; Acts 1:11)
- **RESURRECTION** - (all will be raised up – but only those in Jesus will be unto life - 1 Cor. 15:50-58; John 6:39-40; Rev. 20:11-15)
- **JUDGMENT** – (All sin in the universe will be righteously judged – either on the cross in our substitute or in the lake of fire – the second death - Matt. 25:41-46; John 3:36; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:11-15)
- **REST & RELATIONSHIP** – (Fully restored fellowship with God and one another in the new heavens and new earth. - Heb. 4:1-13; Rev. 21:1-8; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Psalm 16:11)
- **THE WORLD WE ALL WANT!** – (New heavens & new earth - No more curse – Rev. 21:1-8! – Paradise restored with a better King! – Isa. 65:17; Acts 3:20-21; Rom. 8:19-23)

This life is temporary; eternity in a love covenant relationship with the triune God awaits us. Jesus will return to create new heavens and a new earth. The sin and sorrow that we endure in this life will be no more and we will live forever in our resurrected, glorified bodies, worshipping the One who has redeemed us in love and a joy that increases forever!