

The Creation to Christ Story

This story is from the Bible. It is a true story and it is trustworthy because it is from God.

- story from Bible
- true, trustworthy

God existed in the beginning. He is the one and only God, more powerful than any other spiritual beings or higher powers. He is the Creator who created all things in heaven and on earth. In heaven He created angels to worship Him and to be His messengers. On the earth He created everything in nature and he created people in His own image so he could have a special loving relationship with them. God is eternal, and He created humans to live forever, so He gave us a soul which will never die.

- God existed
- one and only, powerful, Creator
- angels
- nature
- people, loving relationship
- soul, live forever

God created a man and a woman and placed them in a beautiful garden. God was real and personal to them, and spent time with them in the garden. He gave them only one rule to follow, that they could eat anything in the garden except for fruit from one particular tree. He told them that if they disobeyed and ate from that tree, they would die. The man and the woman obeyed God, and they lived in peace and harmony with God.

- man, woman, garden
- real and personal
- one rule
- disobey = die
- obeyed, peace and harmony

Remember the angels? One of the angels was very smart and very beautiful, but he was also very proud. He wanted to be worshipped instead of God. He led a rebellion against God, so God threw Him and the other angels who followed him out of heaven. Today we refer to these rebellious angels as Satan and demons, or the Devil and evil spirits.

- one angel: smart, beautiful
- proud, led rebellion
- thrown out of heaven
- Satan and demons

The Devil tempted the woman to disobey God. He lied to her saying she would not die if she ate the fruit, and not only that, but that she would also become like God. For the first time, she began to question whether God could be trusted. Both the man and the woman chose to listen to the Devil and to disobey God, and they ate the fruit. This caused them to feel ashamed and to hide from God. As a result, God was very sad because there was no longer the relationship of love and trust that He had intended. Disobeying God is sin and results in a broken relationship with God. The punishment for sin is death and separation from God forever. As a result of their sin, the man and the woman were thrown out of the garden and would now face physical death.

- tempted woman
- lied to her
- woman questioned God
- ate the fruit
- ashamed, hid
- God sad
- sin, broken relationship
- separation from God
- thrown out of the garden
- physical death

Sin not only brought death into the world, it also brought disease and pain. From that moment on, people would get sick and their bodies would grow old. God's perfect created order in nature was disrupted. Disasters, chaos, and decay entered the world. In addition, sin meant that people had to work in order to survive.

- disease, pain
- sick, grow old
- disasters, chaos, decay
- work to survive

As time passed, God gave people 10 commandments to follow. Some of His rules were that people should not lie, steal or kill. He said people should not be jealous of things that belong to others. God even said people were to not to use His name carelessly. But no one could keep these rules, and worse yet, people were not able to repair the brokenness between themselves and God. But God still longed for a love relationship with people. Since the punishment for sin is death, God allowed people to repent—to turn away from their sins by offering the blood of an innocent animal which would become a substitute for their punishment. But people kept sinning, and eventually the sacrifices became mere rituals. The big problem was that animal sacrifices didn't make people's hearts right.

- 10 commandments
- lie, steal, kill, jealous, God's name
- no one could keep them
- brokenness remained
- God longed for relationship
- sacrifices
- became rituals
- people kept sinning
- didn't change hearts

God still loved people and longed for a relationship of love and trust with them. So He sent man a perfect way to reconnect to Him. He sent Jesus to show us the way back to Himself. Jesus was unique in that He was God's son who lived in human flesh. Even though He lived as a man, He resisted temptation. He never sinned, and He remained obedient to God. Jesus had great compassion for people, especially those who had no hope. Like God, Jesus had power over nature, over disease, over evil spirits, and even over death.

- God longed for relationship
- perfect way
- Jesus: God's Son in flesh
- resisted temptation
- never sinned, obedient
- compassion
- power: nature, disease, spirits, death

Many people loved Jesus but some religious leaders were jealous and decided to kill Him. They nailed Him to a cross, which in that day was a common way of killing their most hated criminals.

- many loved Jesus
- some jealous
- cross

Remember I told you that the consequences of sin were death and separation from God? Because Jesus hadn't sinned, He didn't deserve any punishment. But He willingly took all our sins as if they were his own and then died on the cross. Since God cannot tolerate sin, He turned his back on Jesus; their perfect relationship was broken. In this way, Jesus paid the debt all mankind had to God, allowing our relationship with God to be restored. Jesus substituted Himself for us and became the perfect sacrifice. Only through the shedding of Jesus' blood was God able to completely forgive our sin and to turn our hearts back to Him. This was all part of God's plan, and it shows us how much He loves us. Jesus rose from the dead proving his power over death and victory over sin.

- consequence of sin
- didn't deserve punishment
- took our sins
- God-Jesus relationship broken
- paid our debt
- relationship restored
- substitute, perfect sacrifice
- forgiveness of sin
- rose from the dead
- power over death

Like the man and woman in the garden, you and I have rebelled against God—although you might not even realize it. We have a tendency to want to be in charge of our own lives and control the world around us. But God's original purpose was to be a Father to us, and that we would follow and obey Him.

- we have rebelled
- we want control
- God's purpose: to be a Father
- follow and obey

Each person has a choice to make. We can continue living for ourselves, or we can choose to live God's way. If we choose to live for ourselves, we are choosing the consequences of our sin. Our relationship with God will never be made right. We may experience temporary happiness, but things we gain in this life will disappear at our death. Those who reject God's way will be punished for their sins and will end up hell, separated from God forever.

- choice
- choose self = consequences
- temporary happiness
- punishment, hell
- separation forever

On the other hand, to choose God means we understand that we have sinned against God, and we ask Him to forgive us. When we are forgiven, our relationship with God is restored. On judgment day when you face God, He will ask you, "Have you paid the debt for your sins?" If you have accepted the gift of Jesus' death, you will be saved. You will be able to answer "Yes, Jesus took my punishment and paid my price!" It means you are part of God's family and you will spend eternity with Him in heaven.

- choose God = forgiveness
- restored relationship
- judgment day: paid the debt?
- Jesus paid price
- God's family
- eternity with Him

Through Jesus, God has done everything He can possibly do to reach out to you. He is still trying to get your attention in many ways and longs for you to come back to Him. He is knocking at the door of your heart and waiting, but the next move is yours. You have an opportunity before you right now that you may never have again.

- God has done all He can
- knocking, waiting
- next move is yours
- opportunity right now

Are you ready to choose God's way and follow Him?

- are you ready?

(If the answer is Yes...)

(Yes...)

What do you want to say to God? Let's pray together.

- say to God? pray

The Bible tells us that when someone decides to follow Jesus, there is great joy in heaven!

- great joy

God is waiting for your whole family to believe in Him. Go home and tell your family and friends this good news.

- go and tell

(If the answer is No...)

(No...)

Is there anything about this story that you don't understand?

- don't understand?

I am available to talk to you more about this if you like.

- I am available