

## The Gospel

### The Main Players of the Gospel:

*The Triune God: Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit  
Good angels and fallen angels—especially Satan  
Us - Humanity*

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit—one God in three persons—existed in perfect harmony for all eternity before our world was made. This Godhead authored the entire story of our world before he put it into motion. He made our world for one main reason: to bring great honor to the Son, Jesus Christ. The Godhead knew that sin would enter the world and that Christ would bear the greatest brunt of suffering. Jesus would come into the world as a servant and submit perfectly to the Father's will in everything—even to the point of death on a cross. For this, Jesus would receive all glory and honor and his name would be above all names. Every knee would one day bow before him and people from every nation, tribe, tongue would one day be united with him in a new Heavens and Earth, out of the reach of all pain and suffering. God has been working out this plan since the very beginning.

*(Biblical support for the preceding paragraph: Genesis 1:26; Luke 3:22; John 17:5; Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 8:20; Revelation 5:9; Revelation 7:9; Revelation 21:1-4)*

First, God created angels. One of those angels, Satan, revolted and turned many others angels against God. Then, God created our world and created the first people, Adam and Eve. Satan tricked them, too, and they disobeyed the one command God had given them. Ever since, all of humanity has signed on to Satan's agenda and has agreed with his ideas that freedom and pleasure come from rejecting God and his way to live. We are

totally stuck trying to satisfy ourselves in this way. It gives us a dark kind of pleasure and the last thing we want is to give up this sense of autonomy. Sin, going against God's law, is the ultimate cause of all the suffering and death and conflict and tragedy in our world.

*(Revelation 12:9; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:15; Genesis 1-3; John 8:34; 2 Peter 2:19; Romans 8:7; Romans 5:12)*

But God promised after Adam and Eve first sinned that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head (rule). Many centuries later, as humanity continued to rebel against God, God picked one man and one nation: Abraham and his descendants, the Israelites. God would keep his promise through them. He made a special promise to Abraham—that he would give him a great amount of land and children more numerous than the stars, and that all the peoples of the world would be blessed through his descendants. Along the way, through his commands and laws, God gave the Israelite people many symbols—like animal sacrifices—so that they could understand their sinfulness and their need for a Savior. Israel's prophets gave glimpses of who this Savior would be and what he would do.

*(Genesis 3:15; Genesis 12 & 17; Leviticus 17:11; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 11:6; Isaiah 53; Micah 5:2)*

Many years later, Jesus came into the world as the fulfillment of all these promises. He came to set people truly free and to break Satan's power. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born in Bethlehem, and when he was in his late twenties, he started his earthly ministry. He chose 12 disciples, performed countless miracles, and taught in the Jewish synagogues and throughout Galilee and Judea.

*(Matthew 1:18; Luke 2:10-11; Galatians 4:4-5; Galatians 5:1; Matthew 5:17; 1 John 3:8)*

He taught that he was the only way to God the Father and to Heaven and affirmed that he was the expected Messiah. He referred to himself as the good shepherd who came for the sake of his sheep. He urged people to turn from their sin—to come to him, believe in him, and follow him.

*(John 14:6; Mark 14:61-62; John 5:24; John 10:11; John 3:16-17; John 14:1; Mark 1:15; Luke 9:23; John 10:27)*

When he was in his early thirties, Jewish leaders accused him of blasphemy. He was sentenced, beaten, and crucified on a cross. Even his disciples did not understand that, after three days and three nights in his tomb, Jesus would come back to life. His resurrection proved that he was God and that he had lived a totally sinless life. Death could not keep hold of him. Only after his resurrection did Jesus' disciples begin to understand many of his teachings. When Christ was being beaten and crucified, he was taking the punishment that was due to his people. They, in exchange, would get his perfect sinless record by simply believing in him. This was God's plan since the very beginning. After Jesus rose again, he spent forty more days on earth preparing his disciples for what was to come, then he ascended into Heaven.

*(Matthew 26 & 27; Mark 15 & 16; Luke 23 & 24; John 19-21; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:2; Acts 1:1-11)*

All people, because of our sin, believe that we have something good to offer God, that we are worthy of salvation. But trusting in Jesus means going to him with completely empty hands and trusting him alone to do all the work that is necessary for you to be new and clean and whole and reconciled to God. It means confessing your sin and your need to be saved from the punishment that you deserve.

*(Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 3:28; 1 John 1:8-10; Romans 10:13; John 8:51)*

When you believe in Jesus and express your need of him for your forgiveness and salvation, you will be immediately set right with God. Your sin-debt will be paid in full. You will be a child of God and united with Christ. I pray that you, reader, will accept this free gift of salvation.

*(Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 9:28; Romans 5:1; Romans 8:16-17)*

Everyone who trusts in Jesus becomes a member of his spiritual body, empowered and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Throughout our lives, the Holy Spirit supports us with everything we need to live a godly life. He always points us to the Word, to renew our minds and to guide us into the truth and to bring us to repentance when we succumb to sin. Jesus also continually intercedes on our behalf to God, since he is able to sympathize with all our weaknesses. He knows how difficult it is to fight sin. He did not breeze through temptation. The ante was upped for him all the way through his life up to his final test: the crucifixion.

*(1 Corinthians 12:12-31; John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:3; Romans 8:34-39; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 5:7, Luke 22:41-44)*

The Church now follows his teaching and his apostle's teaching and we are waiting for him to come back a second time. In the end, the final day of judgment will come. Jesus will cast Satan and all his followers into the Lake of Fire and will finally destroy death. Then, at long last, Jesus will create a new Heavens and a new Earth, and the people he redeemed from every nation, tribe, and tongue will finally know and enjoy total rest and joy for eternity, alongside our creator and redeemer. *(Matthew 7:24; John 8:31; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Peter 3:7; John 6:44; Revelation 20:7-15; Revelation 5:9; Revelation 7:9; 2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 21)*