



The Choice of a Lifetime

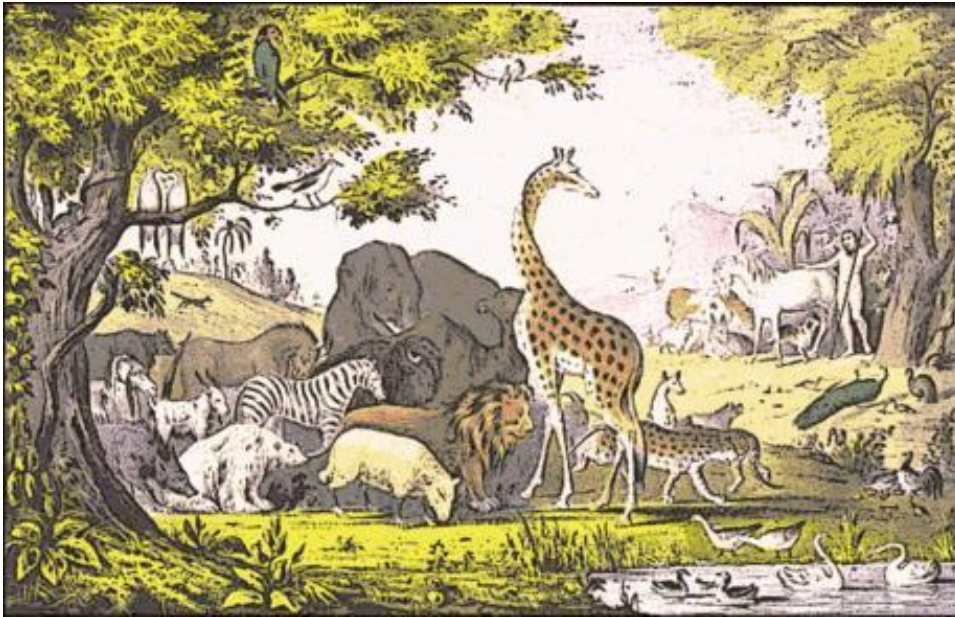
In the Beginning....

The Bible tells us that God created the earth and everything in it:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” – Genesis 1:1



God created the first man and the first woman and named them Adam and Eve. He placed them in His own special garden called Eden.



“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.”
– Genesis 2:7-8

Choices!

The only thing God told Adam and Eve they could not do was eat the fruit of one particular tree: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” – Genesis 2:15, ESV

Now they had a choice: obey, or disobey.



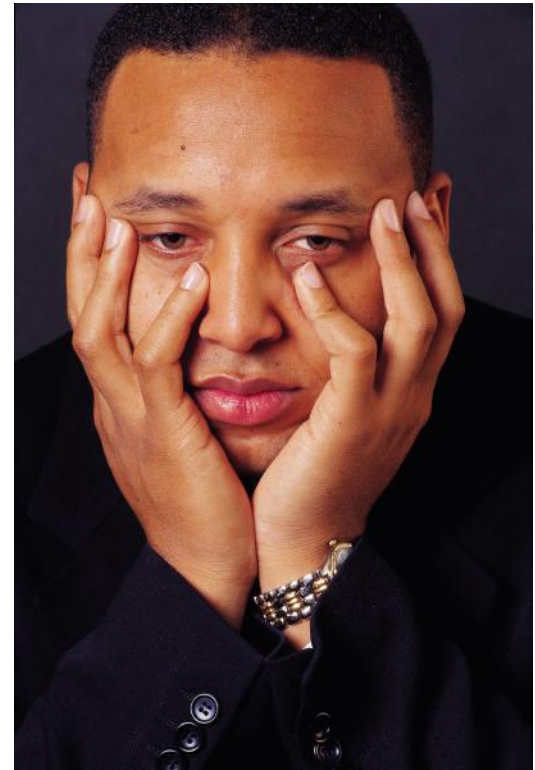
Instead of obeying God and living forever in His garden, Adam and Eve chose to disobey His rules. As a result, they were cast out of the garden and had to live with the consequences of their sin...a life of hard work, followed by death.

And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” – Genesis 3:17-19, ESV



Now, because Adam and Eve sinned, every human being descended from them is also born a sinner and comes under the condemnation of sin.

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...”
– Romans 5:12, ESV



The Price of Sin

“For the wages of sin is death...” – Romans 6:23, ESV



The Price of Sin

For years, God allowed men to sacrifice animals to try to pay for their sins, but these animals could never pay the full price.

“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” –
Hebrews 10:4, ESV



A bright yellow sun with rays and sparkles. The sun is a large, glowing circle in the center, surrounded by numerous rays of varying lengths and thicknesses, creating a starburst effect. Small, four-pointed sparkles are scattered throughout the scene, adding a shimmering quality to the background.

We needed something
better...

We needed a sacrifice
that could take away
our sins once and for
all!

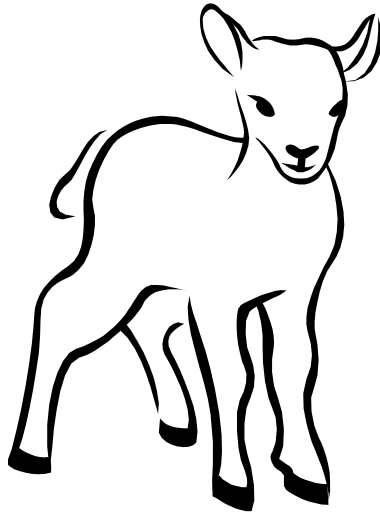
Then, when the time was just right, God Himself became a man so He could pay for our sins – forever!

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16, ESV



This is what John the Baptist said
about Jesus:

“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward
him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!’” – John
1:29, ESV

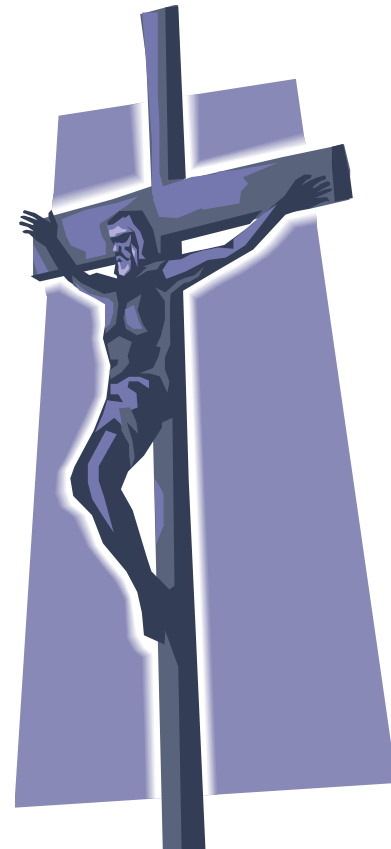


Jesus died so we wouldn't have to!

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

– Romans 5:8, ESV

Through Jesus' death,
burial and resurrection,
we can now have the
forgiveness of our sins
– and we can have
eternal life!



The Big Question

After Jesus died, rose again and went up to heaven, a group of people realized they were sinners and asked the Apostle Peter what they needed to do to be saved:

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

– Acts 2:37, ESV



The Answer

“And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
– Acts 2:38

This is what
everyone must
do to be saved!



What does it mean to repent?

When we repent, we tell God we are sorry for our sins...but that's not all!

- We ask God to forgive us, and
- We promise Him that, if He will help us, we will stop sinning and live a life that makes Him happy.

“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” Proverbs 28:13, ESV

What does it mean to be baptized?

The word “baptize” means “submerge.”

To be baptized correctly, we must be submerged in water in the name of Jesus Christ.

This causes our sins to be forgiven and washed away!

“And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.” – Acts 22:16, ESV

What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit?

When we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (also called the Holy Ghost), Jesus Himself comes to live inside of us!

“To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” – Colossians 1:27, ESV

How do I know I have received the Holy Spirit?

In the Bible, when people received the gift of the Holy Spirit, God caused them to speak a language they did not understand as they prayed. This is called **speaking in tongues**.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4, ESV

When you receive the Holy Ghost, you, too will speak in tongues!

“For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” – Acts 2:39, ESV

Even if you cannot speak, God will do a miracle and let you speak in tongues so you will know you have received the Holy Spirit!



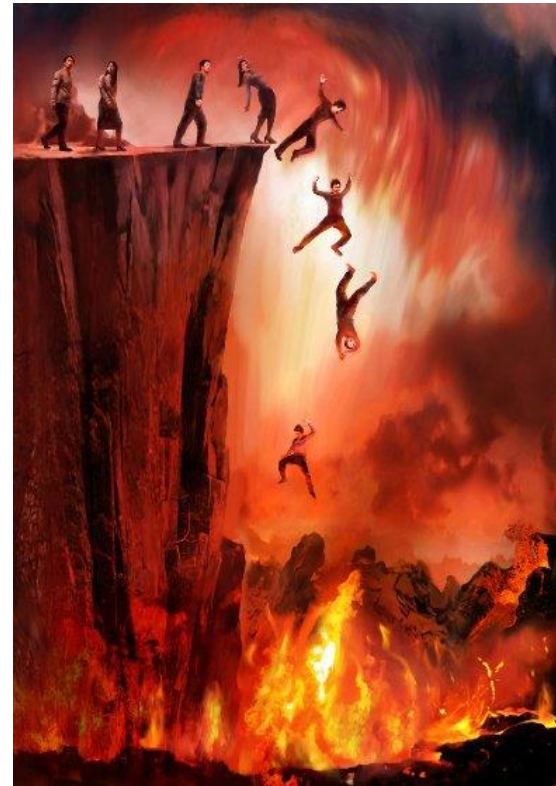
Life is Short...

...But after we die, our soul will live on.

Are you ready for eternity?

Now that you know how to be saved, you have two choices:

- Obey the Word of God by repenting, being baptized in Jesus' name and receiving the Holy Ghost, so you can go to heaven.
- Follow your own path and be lost for eternity.



Choose to live!

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

– II Peter 3:9, ESV

