

# *The* STORY of REDEMPTION



God Reaching Out to Restore COMMUNITY  
through the cross of Jesus Christ



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**THE RESURRECTION**  
Part 8: Taking Hold of the New Life  
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**Note: For instructions on how to best use and lead this study, please go to [www.StoryofRedemption.com](http://www.StoryofRedemption.com).**

- Download free .pdfs of each lesson!
- Watch videos of those who have gone through the study!
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**For missional and evangelistic resources, including teaching materials, seminars, videos, blogs, and more, go to [www.MissionalOutreachNetwork.com](http://www.MissionalOutreachNetwork.com).**

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# *The STORY of Redemption*

## The Resurrection

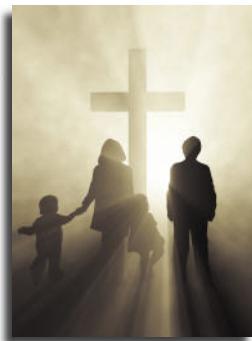
### PART 8: TAKING HOLD OF THE NEW LIFE

What if someone told you your life could be different? That the past could be forgiven, and you could be close with God? That the future for you and your family could be better than you could ever imagine? That the present could be filled with love, hope, peace, and joy as you partner with God and other Christ followers on an incredible mission? This new and better life, with meaning, purpose, and identity, is made possible through Jesus Christ and the resurrection.

#### 1. THE DEATH OF JESUS.

In the last part of the story, we saw how Jesus willingly gave up his spirit and died upon the cross for our sins. The mighty death of the Son of God would not go unnoticed by the universe. When Jesus died,

*51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split<sup>52</sup> and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life . . . <sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" (Mt. 27:51-52, 54).*



These strange and wondrous events point towards the monumental significance of Jesus' death. Rather than being portrayed as a tragedy, the overwhelming emphasis of Scripture is that Christ's death was a triumph, making possible our salvation.

#### The Savings Effects of Christ's Death

- Christ demonstrates his love for us, which should draw us to him (Jn. 12:32).
- Our sins can be taken away, as Jesus bore them in his body (1 Peter 2:24).
- We can receive righteousness and be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:21)
- We can be freed from the slavery of sin for a life of service (Mark 10:45).
- Satan and his evil forces were defeated (Colossians 2:15).

Jesus' death was literally earth shaking, followed by these events:

- **The tearing of the temple curtain**—This curtain separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, where only the high priest could enter. This was where God was specially located, and the tearing of the curtain showed that this access to God would soon be available to all.
- **The shaking of the earth and splitting of rocks**—Christ had died!
- **The breaking open of tombs and raising of the dead**—Those who were raised

from the dead would die again, since they were not *resurrected*.

- **The confession that Jesus is the Son of God**—This confession was made by the Roman centurion after seeing all of these wonders. This confession is the confession that all Christians make--that Jesus is the Son of God and Lord and Savior of our lives (Romans 10:9-10).

*What do you think it would mean to make Jesus Lord of your life?*

## 2. THE BURIAL OF JESUS.

Normally a person who was crucified by the Romans would not receive a burial. Jesus' body, however, would not suffer this fate.

*57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb (Mt. 27:57-61).*

The chief priests and Pharisees, however, were not satisfied that Jesus now lay dead and buried in a tomb with a large rock covering the entrance. They were aware of Jesus' prediction that he would rise from the dead after three days, and they thought that Jesus' disciples would steal his body to fulfill this predication. So they went to Pilate and asked him to secure the tomb.

*65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard (Mt. 27:65-66).*

Jesus' tomb was now guarded by the fierce Roman soldiers, sealed with a seal that would ensure the death of anyone who broke it.

*How do you think Jesus' disciples felt on "Saturday," the day after the burial?*

## 3. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

The religious leaders tried to keep Jesus in his tomb, but no one could stop the power of God. Note the wondrous events of that Sunday morning.

*1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*

*2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his*



*Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday, the 1st day of the week. The tomb was found empty by the women who came to see him.*

*clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.*

*<sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."*

*<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me" (Mt. 28:1-10).*

Jesus was alive! Death had no hold on him. With joy Jesus would be reunited with his disciples. He was resurrected--transformed, never to die again.

## The Resurrection and the Gospel (Good News)

One of the people to whom Jesus appeared after his resurrection was the apostle Paul. In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul would remind the believers there of the "gospel" (good news).

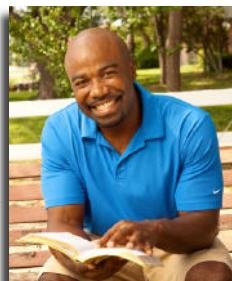
*<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

*<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas [Peter], and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time . . . (1 Corinthians 15:1-6).*

Paul mentions three things that, in addition to the kingdom of God, are a part of the gospel's core.

- 1. Christ died for our sins.**
- 2. He was buried.**
- 3. Christ was raised from the dead on the third day.**

Christ's death, burial, and resurrection makes it possible for our sins to be forgiven. This is good news!



## Why the Resurrection is Good News

- 1. Christ was resurrected, and when he returns, we will be resurrected too (1 Cor. 15:20-23).** Whereas Adam brought death to all, Christ brings life to all. When he returns, all who have died be raised, and those still living will be changed in a flash. We will be reunited then with loved ones (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

2. **When we are resurrected, our bodies will be transformed into imperishable, incorruptible spiritual bodies (1 Cor. 15:42-43).** With this transformation, cancer, diabetes, deformity, and every other human ailment will be eliminated. The world itself and all of creation will be redeemed (Rom. 8:18f)!
3. **When we are resurrected, we will be "like Christ"--sinless (1 Cor. 15:47-49).** Not only has God become like us through Jesus' incarnation, someday we will become like Christ, living with him as brothers. And because our bodies will be fully filled with God's Holy Spirit, we will no longer have the tendency to sin. We will then truly be like our sinless Savior.
4. **When we are resurrected, Christ's victory over death will be complete (1 Cor. 15:50-56).** By being raised from the dead, Christ showed that nothing could conquer him. He has power over everything--even death (1 Cor. 15:55-56)! Death, brought about by the curse, will be defeated.

*Which of these blessings do you most look forward to?*

#### **4. THE RESURRECTION AND OUR MISSION.**

Ultimately, the resurrection must be believed and felt in one's heart and accepted by faith. There are, however, many reasons to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' body was never found. It is unlikely that untrained fishermen could overpower the Roman guards, sworn on pain of death to watch the tomb. There were numerous eye-witness accounts.

But perhaps the greatest evidence that the disciples believed and saw Jesus' resurrection was their transformed lives. Of the original disciples, every one of them except John died for his faith, believing and confessing that Jesus was the risen Savior. They refused to deny that Jesus had been resurrected.

Before ascending back into heaven, Jesus gave his disciples a life-changing mission that would forever challenge them and change the world. Jesus said:

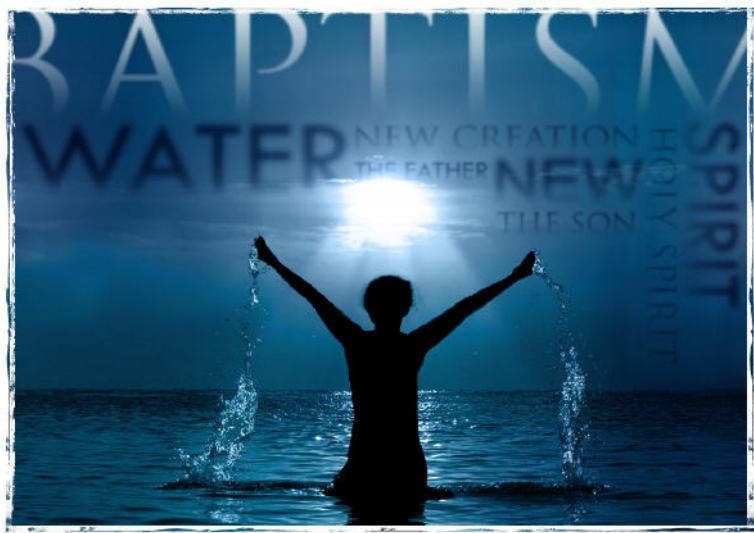
*"<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Mt. 28:19-20). - The Great Commission*



The disciples' mission was to make other disciples of Jesus from every nation (people group). They would love. Serve others. Heal the world of brokenness. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Visit the sick. Forgive and receive forgiveness. Tell people about Jesus.

**The disciples' mission is our mission, which we take up upon our baptism. And as we go out on mission together, Jesus will be with us.**

*How does this mission & life sound? How could you serve & be a part of this?*



## 5. TAKING HOLD OF THE NEW LIFE TOGETHER.

At this point you may be asking, How do I respond to the gospel? How do I participate in the resurrection life? In his letter to the Romans, Paul says:

*1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life (Rom. 6:1-4).*

Paul says that baptism is:

1. **A baptism into Christ's death.**
2. **A burial with Christ.**
3. **A resurrection from the dead so that we might live a new life.**

Does this sound familiar? When we place our faith (trust) in Christ and we are baptized (immersed), we participate in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. We make Jesus' story our story, giving us life, meaning, and purpose.

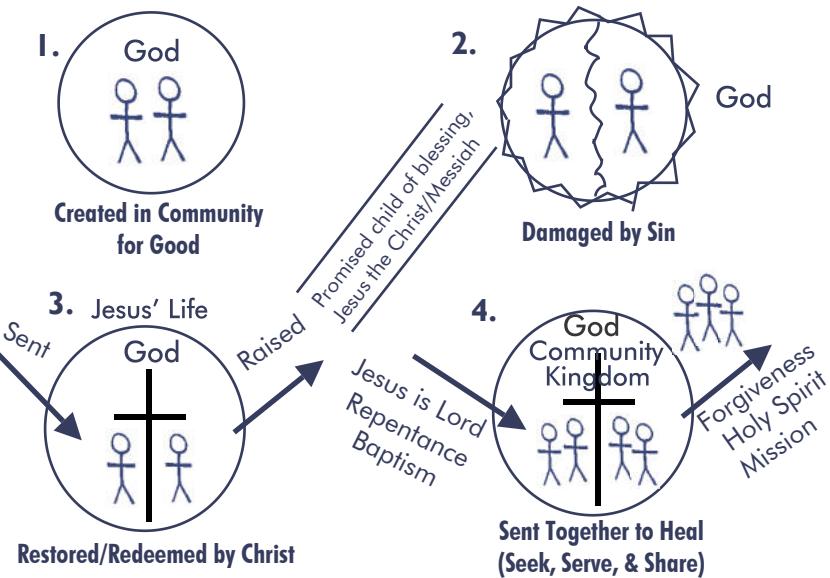
Through our submission to God in the act of baptism, we do not earn our salvation. We accept it by faith as a gracious gift from God. Baptism is an expression of this faith. It is at this point that the new life begins. We are freed from sin, receiving forgiveness and the Spirit of God to live inside of us. **We enter into God's kingdom, being born of water and spirit (John 3:5).** We are united by the Spirit in Christian community and are added to the church (Acts 2:38-47). **And when the sin that separates us is gone, community with God and others is restored.**

The final scene in Scripture is that of the restored community in the new heaven & new earth with no more curse or tears. All peoples are gathered around the throne of God and Christ, praising him in every language, serving him, and reigning with him in his kingdom (Rev. 5:10; 21-22). As we await Christ's return, we take up his mission to bring salvation, hope & healing to the world.

*Do you want to take hold of this new life and join in God's mission? What do you think you need do?*

## The Story of Redemption

Summary below adopted from James Choung's *True Story*.



**Part 1: Created in Community for Good.** In the beginning, God creates the heavens and the earth and everything in them "good." Humanity is "very good," made in the image of God. Adam and Eve live in close community with God, each other, and creation.

**Part 2: Damaged by Sin.** Adam and Eve fail to trust God, sinning by disobeying him and seeking their independence from him. Sin enters into the world, damaging humanity's relationship with God, each other, and creation.

**Part 3: Restored by Christ.** To restore humanity, God sends Jesus, the Son of God, into the world. Jesus, who is human and the promised descendent of Abraham, shows us how to live--loving, healing, and serving. He dies for us on the cross, destroying Satan & sin. He is buried. God raises him from the dead on the third day.

**Part 4: Sent Together to Seek, Serve, and Share.** By confessing Jesus is Lord, repenting, and being baptized, we show our trust (faith) in God. God saves us by his grace, and we receive forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, and enter the kingdom. We become part of the Christ-centered community, sent on mission to heal the world by seeking the lost, serving others, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God.

**Discovery Bible Study (Use three column method):** <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "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).

Please check which of the following applies to you:

- Yes, I want name Jesus as my Lord & be baptized (immersed) into Christ!
- I would like further study! Read Acts 2:36-41; 9:1-19; 22:1-16; Romans 10:9-10; Titus 3:3-7; John 3:3-5; 1 Peter 3:18-22