

# CREATIONAL SALVATION

## God Saves Us By Recreating Us

The biblical story of Redemption is a retelling of the story of Creation. Redemption is Creation, recreation to be more precise. They are distinct but twin manifestations of the same power, parallel actualizations emerging from the same divine love. God's love is the creative force He employed in the original creation and it is also the power He is exerting to recreate sinners in His beautiful image.

**Colossians 1:13-17**—**13**He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14**in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. **15**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16**For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17**And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

The Creation Redemption Parallel

### Parallel One: “In the beginning...”

**Genesis 1:1**—In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**John 1:1**—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

### Parallel Two: “Darkness” Gives Way to “Light”

**Genesis 1:2-3**—**2**The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3**Then God said, “Let there be light;” and there was light.

**Isaiah 60:1-2**—**1**Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. **2**For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

**John 1:3-9, NRSV**—**3**All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being... **4**in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it... **9**The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**2 Corinthians 4:6, NIV**—For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

### Parallel Three: The Image of God

**Genesis 1:26-27**—**26**Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”

**Ephesians 2:15, NIV**—His purpose was to create in Himself one new man.

**2 Corinthians 4:4**—...the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Ephesians 4:23-24**—23Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness.

**Colossians 3:10**—Put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

**2 Corinthians 5:17**—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**Ephesians 2:8-10**—8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**Psalms 51:10-12**—10Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

#### **Parallel Four: It is “Finished”**

**Genesis 2:1-2**—Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished... all His work... done.

**John 17:4**—I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

**John 19:30**—So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

#### **Parallel Five: Sabbath Rest**

**Genesis 2:1-3**—1Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2And on the seventh day God ended His work, which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work, which God had created and made.

**Luke 23:54-56; 24:1**—54That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near. 55And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. 56Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. 24:1Now on the first day of the week... 2they found the stone rolled away from the tomb... 3Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

**Exodus 20:8-11**—8Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... 11For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

**Deuteronomy 5:12-15**—12Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... 15And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

**NOTE:** For all of mankind the sin problem is a bondage/slavery problem and salvation is deliverance from that bondage (Gal. 5:1; Rom. 6:14-16). Therefore the Sabbath, as rendered in Deut. 5, is a memorial of salvation.

### **“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9**