



The Greatest News Ever!

"Jesus came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly"

John 10:10

We have great news for mankind. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth" (Genesis 1:1). When He finished, He marveled over His creation and "saw that it was excellent in every way" (v. 31). He then placed man and every other living thing in the paradise He created called the "Garden of Eden" (Genesis 2:8).

Later, Lucifer – who had been kicked out of heaven according to Revelations 12:9-11 – came down to speak with Adam and Eve in the garden. He had a two-fold mission: to challenge the greatness and goodness and grace of God, and to seduce Adam and Eve, and fracture their relationship with God. Satan appealed to man's pride and urged them to make the self-centered decision to eat the forbidden fruit. The first couple ended up breaking the only law God gave them. In every society, when a law is broken there is a penalty. Because of their disobedience, God took the quick decision to oust them from paradise and placed a curse on them and everything He created (Genesis 3:10-19). God's original plan to have an eternal relationship with mankind seemed to end in disaster, and Satan appeared to win the great contest.

But not so fast! God, in His infinite wisdom, mercy, goodness, and kindness, became a man in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ with a perfect rescue plan. At Jesus' first coming, everything on Earth was broken and bankrupt because of sin. This is how Isaiah describes the situation: "The Earth suffers for the sins of its people, for they have twisted the instruction of God, violated His laws, and broken His covenant. Therefore... the Earth has broken down and has utterly collapsed. Everything is lost, abandoned, and confused" (Isaiah 24:5, 19). So, Jesus' first mission was to make a public spectacle of Satan and his co-hosts by dying on the cross.



Colossians 2:15 says, "In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross" (NLT).

Furthermore, He restored the broken relationship between Father God and mankind as He planned from the foundations of the Earth. Paul wrote, "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross" (Colossian 2:13-14, NLT). Not only did the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ restore the Father's relationship with mankind, He also took the penalty of sin away. "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2), as well as the curse that God put on mankind: "But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, He took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing" (Galatians 3:13, NLT).

The good news is, the best is yet to come! When Christ will appear in His second coming, His physical presence will usher in a new Heaven and a new Earth, lasting peace and joy, and there will be no sin, no death, and no more evil. Indeed, Revelations 21:4, 22-27 predicts, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.... I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Additionally, "No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and His servants will worship him.... And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever" (Revelations 22:3 and 5).



Today, your call to action is to receive God's generous gift of salvation. The phrase "exclusively inclusive", coined by John Koessler, has two implications: First, God is giving the gift of forgiveness to anyone who asks, but Jesus Christ is the only door through which we can receive salvation (John 14:6). On the other hand, salvation is also a free gift which includes everyone who comes to God through faith in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:8 says, "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God" (NLT). Finally, Jesus assures us that whoever comes to Him will never be turned away: "However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them" (John 6:37).