

When Did God Plan Redemption For Man?

I have a question for you. I'm sure that most of you already know the answer to this question, but many in the world don't. But before I ask you that question I would like you to read some passages from the Bible.

Genesis 1:1-31 The History of Creation (NKJV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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. 4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear"; and it was so. 10 And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was* good.

11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made* the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

20 Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food"; and it was so. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

IT WAS GOOD! IT WAS ALL GOOD! IT WAS ALL VERY GOOD!

Everything that God had created including man and woman were good.

Verse 27 tells us that man was created in the image of God.

- * Man was given intellect
- * He had a capacity to think
- * Man had a capacity to reason
- * He had a capacity to do good and to know right from wrong
- * Man had a spirit and HAD eternal life

Verse 31 tells us that God was pleased with His Creations.

Man was created perfect and without sin.

But man was also created a free moral agent. Man wasn't created to be like a robot, or some puppet on a string. Man was created so he could willingly obey and serve God.

Genesis 2:15-17 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 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."

Since man is a free moral agent; man needed that opportunity to sin, or not to sin.

Man needed the opportunity to do right, or do wrong.

Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

The fruit looked good. It appealed to the lust of the eye, and the lust of the flesh.

This was the test. God is all knowing. God knew that man would sin.

Then both man and woman tried to put the blame on someone other than themselves.

In Genesis 3:13-15 the Messianic Promise is presented to us for the first time.

13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent:

" Because you have done this,

You *are* cursed more than all cattle,

And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”

Man had chosen to do wrong! God could not tolerate that. God couldn't be in the presence of evil.

Genesis 3:22-24 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

This of course was the initial consequence of Adam and Eve's sins. They were distanced, or moved away from God. God had intended for man to live forever in the Garden of Eden, but because of sin man now dies and man is separated from God spiritually.

Man chose to do wrong!!!!!!

Genesis 4:8-10 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother;^[a] and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?”

He said, “I do not know. *Am* I my brother's keeper?”

10 And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

Man chose to do wrong!

Genesis 6:5-7 Then the LORD^[a] saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Man chose to do wrong!

Now after having read all this I ask you this question: When did God plan Redemption for man? Was it when man became so wicked? Or, was redemption planned by God before the world was created?

Let's look at what the Bible says about God's wisdom, and then you can make up your own mind about how you will answer this question.

Daniel 2:21-22 And He changes the times and the seasons;
He removes kings and raises up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
And knowledge to those who have understanding.
22 He reveals deep and secret things;
He knows what *is* in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

Psalm 147:5 Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power;
His understanding *is* infinite.

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.

Job 36:5 “ Behold, God *is* mighty, but despises *no one*;
He is mighty in strength of understanding.

Job 37:14-17 “Listen to this, O Job;
Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

15 Do you know when God dispatches them,
And causes the light of His cloud to shine?

16 Do you know how the clouds are balanced,
Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?

17 Why *are* your garments hot,
When He quiets the earth by the south *wind*?

Psalm 104:24 O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.
The earth is full of Your possessions—

Job 38:34-41 “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
That an abundance of water may cover you?

35 Can you send out lightnings, that they may go,
And say to you, ‘Here we *are!*’?

36 Who has put wisdom in the mind?^[a]
Or who has given understanding to the heart?

37 Who can number the clouds by wisdom?
Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven,

38 When the dust hardens in clumps,
And the clods cling together?

39 “Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

40 When they crouch in *their* dens,
Or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?

41 Who provides food for the raven,
When its young ones cry to God,
And wander about for lack of food?

Daniel 2:20-21 Daniel answered and said:

“ Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
For wisdom and might are His.
21 And He changes the times and the seasons;
He removes kings and raises up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
And knowledge to those who have understanding

Did God error? No, God didn't error. He can't error.

Is not God all Knowing? YES!

God knew that man would sin before the beginning. Before creation.

And God knew that the only way to purify man was through the blood sacrifice of a perfect being.

His Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Now let's take a look at that plan of redemption, or as we usually call it, the plan of salvation.

In Matthew 18:1 we see that Jesus has already been born. He has grown up, and has begun to teach His disciples the plan.

Matthew 18:1-3 Who Is the Greatest?

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said,
“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

As we know there are some who claim, particularly because of this statement, that children are born with sin and need to be baptized immediately or they will perish in sin if they die. But we understand from reading other passages in the Bible that this isn't the case. What it is telling us is that we have to have a childlike acceptance of God's will and not question it. We have to try to be pure and innocent as a small child is, to be acceptable to God. In Ezekiel 18:20 We can read that there is no original sin, or sin of the father, carried by the child.

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

We are each responsible for our own sins and will die for our own sins, if we don't repent of them and obey God.

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's plan is revealed to us in both the Old and the New Testament.

Isaiah 59:1 Separated from God

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

We are justified in God's eye through the redemption of Jesus' blood. Through His shed blood our sins are washed away. Because of Jesus we won't suffer God's wrath, IF WE OBEY HIS WILL.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. This verse is exclusive, reserved for those who are walking right with God. If we are in obedience to His word, then we have fellowship with God.

Revelation 1:5-6 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed^[a] us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings^[b] and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus, dying on the cross paid the full price for our sins. His blood washed away our sins and gave us the opportunity to once again be right with God.

Why? The verse above which we just read says. because He loves us.

Let's take a brief look at how the plan was fulfilled.

John 19:30-34 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation *Day*, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. 32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

That's the moment, according to the Bible that man was redeemed from his sin, by the blood of Jesus. In Romans 6:3-6 we read how our baptism is likened to Christ's death.

Romans 6:3-6 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

In order to understand God's plan we have to have some instruction in God's word.

Acts 8:30-31 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Before we are baptized; before we become obedient to God, we are slaves to sin. When we become obedient to God's will we are made right with Him.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Man must become obedient to God to receive the gift that He so freely offers us, and part of that obedience is baptism.

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

God sent a man to Saul to tell him what he must do to be saved, and we must do the same thing.

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

There is no other way to receive salvation.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ

We put on Christ in baptism. We have Christ as a blanket of protection around us, because He has taken away our sins.

Ephesians 1:3 Redemption in Christ

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

It is only in Christ that we receive spiritual blessings so we need to obey His words.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into^[a] one Spirit.

We are all baptized into one body, which is the church. The family of God.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

We are added to that body, the church, through our baptism and obedience to God.

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

And of course once we are members of that body, we must continue to be obedient to God. We must put away our old self and be willing to live a life that is righteous in God’s sight. We know that we won’t be perfect, but we will keep trying to be with the best of our abilities.

Rev 2:10 tells us- Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

If we are faithful to God and do His will we have nothing to fear, for He will give us the crown of Life.

Knowing from the beginning that man would sin, God created a plan of salvation.

God created that perfect sacrifice to redeem us from our sins. The sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ upon the cross of Calvary.

ARE YOU READY TO OBEY GOD?

ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT HIS INVITATION? ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT HIS GIFT?

IF YOU AREN'T A CHRISTIAN YOUR TIME TO ACCEPT THAT CROWN OF LIFE MAY BE SLIPPING AWAY. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT AWAITS YOU LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW. WHETHER YOU ARE OLD OR YOUNG YOUR LIFE COULD SUDDENLY END.

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? If so are you willing to confess that?

Are you willing to repent of your sins and ask God's forgiveness for them?

Then I pray that you will do so and then be baptized into Christ.

If you are willing to do this and then continue in obedience to His will God is waiting for you and I pray that you will do so at your earliest opportunity.

Arnold Kohl