

God's True Love Story
A Four Act Play

Before there was any created universe, there was God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - infinite in love and happiness in the fellowship of the Trinity, existing absolutely and forever, never having come into being. Our triune God simply was and is, and always will be.

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Our eternal God called into existence things that do not exist for His Glory to be enjoyed, ultimately and primarily by His bride, resulting in eternal joy, worship and praise.

Creation exists for a reason. This reality that God created, unfolds as a drama, a love story. This very real story can be summarized in four words - Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation. The hero is Jesus, who comes to redeem, gather and perfect His errant bride, so that they can live happily together forever and ever.

Genesis 1:1a In the beginning, God...

Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from **everlasting to everlasting** you are God.

Isaiah 46:9b ...I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

Isaiah 46:10 declaring the **end from the beginning** and from ancient **times things not yet done**, saying, ‘**My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,**’

Isaiah 46:11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. **I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.**

John 13:19 I am **telling you this now, before it takes place**, that **when it does take place you may believe that I am he.**

Q: Why did create? A: Out of love He created for His glory to be known and enjoyed.

Genesis 1:1a In the beginning, God... created the heavens and the earth.

Psalms 19:1 The heavens **declare the glory of God**, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, whom **I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made.”

Isaiah 43:21 the people **whom I formed for myself** that they might **declare my praise**.

Word of caution about glory: God is glorious with or without creation. God and His glory is not dependent on creation. Creation / Man cannot increase God's glory. God's glory cannot be improved upon. God's glory cannot be diminished. God's glory is to be enjoyed!

“I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; **the delight is incomplete till it is expressed**. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with. . . . The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.”

C.S. Lewis

“God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in him. The glory of God, the greatness of God, the beauty of this all-satisfying Person is the most important reality in the universe.”

John Piper

Act 1: Creation

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

Genesis 1:2 **The earth was without form and void**, and **darkness** was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters**.

Romans 4:17b God...who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Genesis 1:3 And **God said, “Let there be light,”** and **there was light.**

Genesis 1:4 And God saw that the **light was good.** And **God separated the light from the darkness.**

God said...there was...it was good.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let **us** make man in **our image**, after **our likeness.** And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female he created them.**

Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that **he had made**, and **behold, it was very good.** And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were **finished**, and all the host of them.

Genesis 2:8 And the **LORD God planted a garden in Eden**, in the east, and there **he put the man whom he had formed.**

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up **every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.** The **tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

Genesis 2:10 **A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden**, and there it divided and became four rivers.

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and **put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.**

Genesis 2:16 And the **LORD God commanded the man**, saying, “**You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,**

Genesis 2:17 **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.**”

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “**It is not good that the man should be alone**; I will make him a **helper fit for him.**”

Genesis 2:19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

Genesis 2:20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. **But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.**

Genesis 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

Genesis 2:22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and **brought her to the man.**

Genesis 2:23 Then the man said, “This **at last** is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his **wife**, and **they shall become one flesh.**

Genesis 2:25 And the man and his wife were **both naked** and were **not ashamed.**

Act 2: Fall

Genesis 3:1 Now the **serpent** was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the **LORD God had made**. He said to the woman, “**Did God actually say**, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

Genesis 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

Genesis 3:3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, **neither shall you touch it**, lest you die.’”

Genesis 3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, “**You will not surely die.**

Genesis 3:5 For God knows that when you eat of it your **eyes will be opened**, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.”

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

Genesis 3:7 Then the **eyes of both were opened**, and **they knew** that they were **naked**. And **they sewed fig leaves together** and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the **LORD God walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and the **man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God** among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “**Where are you?**”

Genesis 3:10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and **I was afraid**, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Genesis 3:11 He said, “**Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?**”

Genesis 3:12 The man said, “**The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.**”

Genesis 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “**What is this that you have done?**” The woman said, “**The serpent deceived me, and I ate.**”

Genesis 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, **cursed are you** above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

(Still Act 2, but a promise of Act 3)

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and **her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.**”

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply **your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.** Your **desire** shall be **contrary to your husband**, but **he shall rule over you.**”

Genesis 3:17 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;**

Genesis 3:18 **thorns and thistles** it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

Genesis 3:19 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.**”

(Still Act 2, but a promise of Act 3)

Genesis 3:21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Genesis 3:24 **He drove out the man**, and at the east of the garden of Eden **he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword** that turned every way to **guard the way to the tree of life.**

(Still Act 2, but a promise of Act 3)

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Jeremiah 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.**

Isaiah 62:4 You shall no more be termed **Forsaken**, and your land shall no more be termed **Desolate**, but you shall be called **My Delight Is in Her**, and your land **Married**; for the **LORD delights in you**, and your land shall be **married.**

Isaiah 62:5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and **as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.**

Hosea 1:2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, **“Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.”**

Hosea 3:1 And the LORD said to me, **“Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”**

Hosea 3:2 So **I bought her back** for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine.

Hosea 3:3 And I said to her, **“You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.”**

Hosea 2:14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.

Hosea 2:19 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.

Hosea 2:20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

Act 3: Redemption

1Corinthians 15:45 Thus it is written, “The **first man** Adam became a living being”; the **last Adam** became a **life-giving spirit**.

John 1:14 And the **Word became flesh** and **dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3:29 The one who has the **bride** is the **bridegroom**. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the **bridegroom’s voice**. **Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.**

John 1:11 He came to his own, and his own people **did not receive him**.

Romans 5:12 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 3:10-12 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Jesus and His Bride

John 6:37 All that the Father **gives me will come to me**, and whoever comes to me **I will never cast out**.

John 6:44 **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.**

John 6:63 **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.** The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

John 6:65 And he said, “**This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.**”

John 10:14 **I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,**

John 10:15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and **I lay down my life for the sheep.**

John 10:26 but **you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.**

John 10:27 **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.**

John 10:28 **I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.**

John 10:29 **My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.**

John 17:24 Father, **I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory** that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, **because of the great love with which he loved us,**

Ephesians 2:5 even **when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive** together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved**—

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to **condemn** the world, but in order that the world might be **saved** through him.

Galatians 3:13 **Christ redeemed us** from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “**Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree**”—

1Peter 2:24 He himself **bore our sins in his body on the tree**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed.**

1Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,**

John 19:30b “**It is finished,**” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

John 19:41 Now in the place where he was crucified **there was a garden**, and **in the garden a new tomb** in which no one had yet been laid.

Act 4: Consumation

Matthew 22:2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a **king who gave a wedding feast for his son,**

Ephesians 1:4 even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be **holy and blameless before him.**

Revelation 13:8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose **name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.**

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, **for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,**

Revelation 5:10 and you have made them a **kingdom and priests to our God**, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 7:16 **They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;** the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their **shepherd**, and **he will guide them to springs of living water**, and **God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**”

Revelation 19:7 **Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory**, for the **marriage of the Lamb has come**, and **his Bride has made herself ready;**

Revelation 19:9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**

Revelation 21:4 **He will wipe away every tear** from their eyes, and **death shall be no more**, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, **for the former things have passed away.**”

Revelation 21:5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “**Behold, I am making all things new.**” Also he said, “Write this down, **for these words are trustworthy and true.**”

Revelation 21:6 And he said to me, “**It is done!** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.**

Revelation 21:9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “**Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.**”

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city **Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,**

Revelation 21:27 But **nothing unclean will ever enter it**, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, **but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

Revelation 22:1 Then the angel showed me the **river of the water of life**, bright as crystal, **flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb**

Revelation 22:2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, **the tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:3 **No longer will there be anything accursed**, but the **throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it**, and his servants will worship him.

Revelation 22:4 **They will see his face**, and **his name will be on their foreheads.**

Revelation 22:5 **And night will be no more.** They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and **they will reign forever and ever.**

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the Bride say, **"Come."** And **let the one who hears say, "Come."** And **let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.**

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, **"Surely I am coming soon."** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!