

## The Whole Bible Story...in 2 Circles

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created Adam and Eve in his image and walked with them in the Garden. He blessed them and told them to fill the earth with His glory.

But Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God—effectively going their own way, without God. To keep them from eating the fruit of the Tree of Life and living eternally in sin, God removed them from the Garden but promised that someday one of their descendants would redeem and restore His creation—reuniting Heaven and Earth.

Without God, the earth became filled with all types of evil—oppression, hatred, violence, injustice, slavery, disease, and death. Godless powers and authorities ruled and deceived humanity. But God did not give up on His creation and his fallen image bearers...

The history of the world can be sketched on a timeline of God's initiatives to redeem Humanity. Soon after the Garden, the world became so corrupt that God started over—with ONE MAN, Noah. But soon after Noah emerged from the ark, people again refused to follow God and the earth was again filled with all types of evil. To keep them from multiplying evil, God separated them with different languages—and started again...

...with ONE FAMILY, the family of Abraham. Abraham was promised a great family and a land at the crossroads of the earth in order to bless all the nations of the earth with the knowledge and glory of God. But in a few generations, Abraham's large family was in slavery in Egypt—unable to keep the charge God had given them. But God was relentless in his determination to redeem his creation...

He brought the family of Abraham out of Egypt and made them into ONE NATION, Israel. He gave them His laws and His presence, first in a portable tent and later in a Temple. He also brought them back to the Promised Land, at the crossroads of the world, and promised King David a descendant who would reign forever. But, instead of following God, the Israelites followed the idols and evil practices of the other nations. Still, God persisted...

This time, He came Himself, in the form of His Son, Jesus—fully human and fully God. Jesus was the descendant promised to Adam and Eve and the Eternal King promised to David. He announced the Good News of the Kingdom of God—good news for the poor, healing for the broken-hearted, pardon for the prisoners, sight for the blind, and liberation for the oppressed. Jubilee—freedom and restoration—had come true in Him! The Kingdom of Heaven was breaking back into the earth! But... the people rejected Him and His message and killed Jesus on a cross...

Jesus died for our sins and was buried in a garden tomb. But on the 3rd Day Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to hundreds of witnesses. And 40 days later he left the earth and ascended to the heavens to rule at the right hand of the Father. But Jesus didn't leave His followers, alone...

Since ascending to the throne, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to people who believe and trust Him as their Savior and King. These Spirit-led believers are the People of God—commissioned to share His Good News and effect His rule. They live and testify in the overlap of This Age (Now) and The Age to Come (Not Here Fully, Yet). They are in the spiritual battle Jesus is waging with the powers and authorities still deceiving the earth. While the People of God have grown from several hundred people, then, to hundreds of millions, now, evil still plagues the earth...God's creation has not yet been redeemed and restored...

The next and final event on the earthly timeline is King Jesus' promised return to the earth as final judge and ruler. At that time, he will complete the reunification of everything under heaven and on earth...

...As it was in the beginning. The Garden with the Tree of Life will be restored as the New Jerusalem, a heavenly city. King Jesus will remove all evil, pain, suffering, sin, and death. He will reign—with worship from every tribe, language, people, and nation. And His glory will fill the earth.