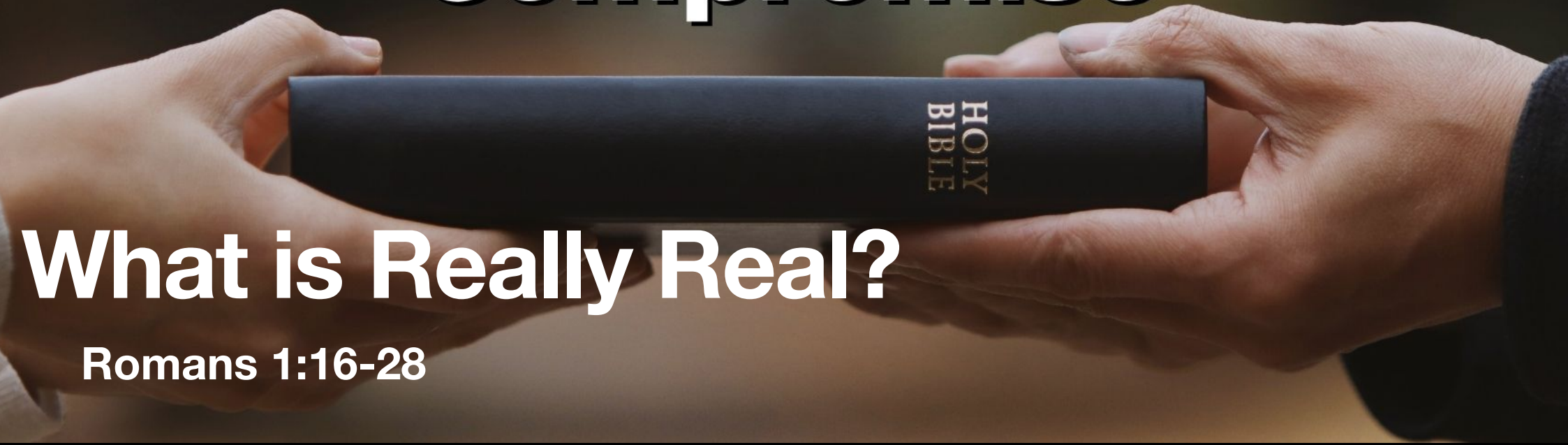


Proclamation Without Compromise

What is Really Real?

Romans 1:16-28



16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

- Romans 1:16-28



Operating System



“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

- C.S. Lewis, “Is Theology Poetry”

Romans 1:16-29

Main Idea: The Creator God made us to know him and to worship him, but humanity has turned to worship creation instead of the Creator.

- **vss. 18-20:** The Creator makes himself known- What is really real?
- **vss. 21:** Humanity created to know and worship God- What is human?
- **vss 22-28:** Humanity rejects God- What is the Problem with the World?
- **vss 16-17:** The Gospel is the solution- What is the solution?

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

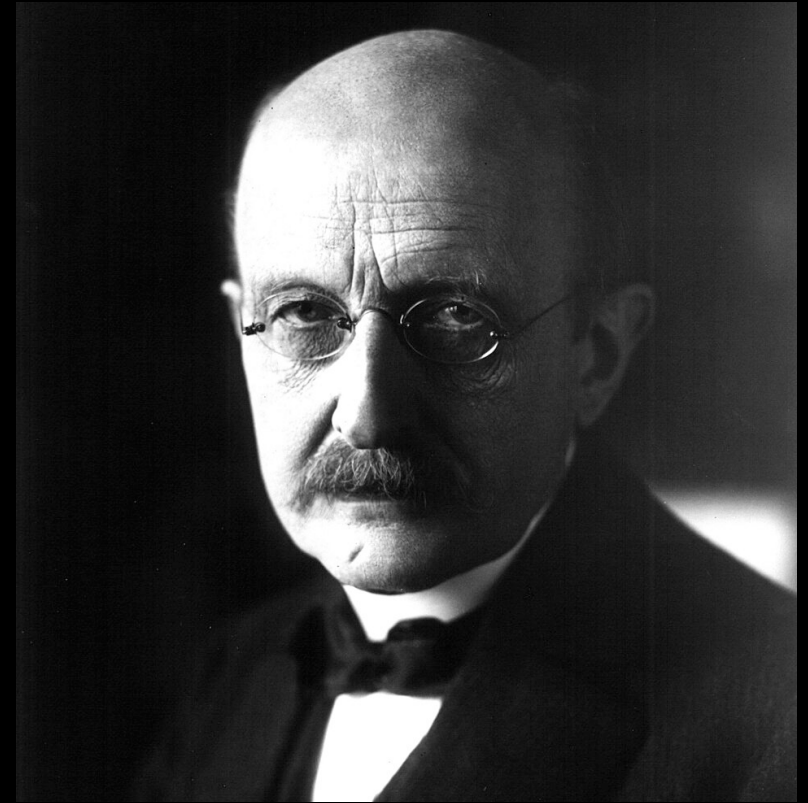
- Romans 1:18-20

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above
proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours out speech, and
night to night reveals knowledge.

- Psalm 19:1-2

As a man who has devoted his whole life to the most clear headed science, to the study of matter, I can tell you as a result of my research about atoms this much: There is no matter as such. All matter originates and exists only by virtue of a force which brings the particle of an atom to vibration and holds this most minute solar system of the atom together. We must assume behind this force the existence of a conscious and intelligent mind. This mind is the matrix of all matter.”

- Max Planck





"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."

- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- Romans 1:21

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me,

- Jeremiah 9: 23-24

The Westminster Shorter Catechism:

- **Question:** What is the chief end of man?
- **Answer:** Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

- Psalm 73:25-26

Biblical Worldview Anchor Points

1. We were created by an intensely personal God, who speaks and reveals and reaches out for us.
2. We were created in the image of God, to know him and reflect back to him worship (honor and gratitude) as a response.

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became **futile in their thinking**, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

-Romans 1:21

"We are the custodians of life's meaning... There is no other authority."

— Sam Harris

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.
19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God.

- 1 Cor. 3:18-19

"When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything"

- G.K. Chesteron

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. . . 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

- Romans 1:22-23, 25

X-Ray Questions: Diagnosing Your Idols

- “If I lost this, would I feel like I had lost everything?”
- What do I think I absolutely need in order to be happy?
- What am I most afraid of losing?
- What do I sacrifice other good things for?
- What do I turn to first when I'm anxious or empty?
- Where do I derive my identity and worth?
- What, if taken away, would make me say, “My life is no longer worth living”?

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions.

- Romans 1:24-26

Checking Your “Feelings”

What makes you angry? What do you fear? In what do you delight?
For what does your body burn for? What do you daydream about?
Why does this hurt me?

- “What do I want, need, fear, or trust so deeply that it is beginning to function as my god?”

And then test it with:

- “How am I willing to sin to get it—or how am I willing to sin to avoid losing it?”

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- James 1:14-15

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

- Romans 1:26-28

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

- Romans 1:28

Biblical Worldview Anchor Points

1. We were created by an intensely personal God, who speaks and reveals and reaches out for us.
2. We were created in the image of God, to know him and reflect back to him worship (honor and gratitude) as a response.
3. Humanity has rejected God and this leads to sin, which is multifaceted and deeply ingrained in every human being. Our rejection of God creates a pattern of sin: distorted thinking, distorted worship, disordered desires, disordered behaviour.

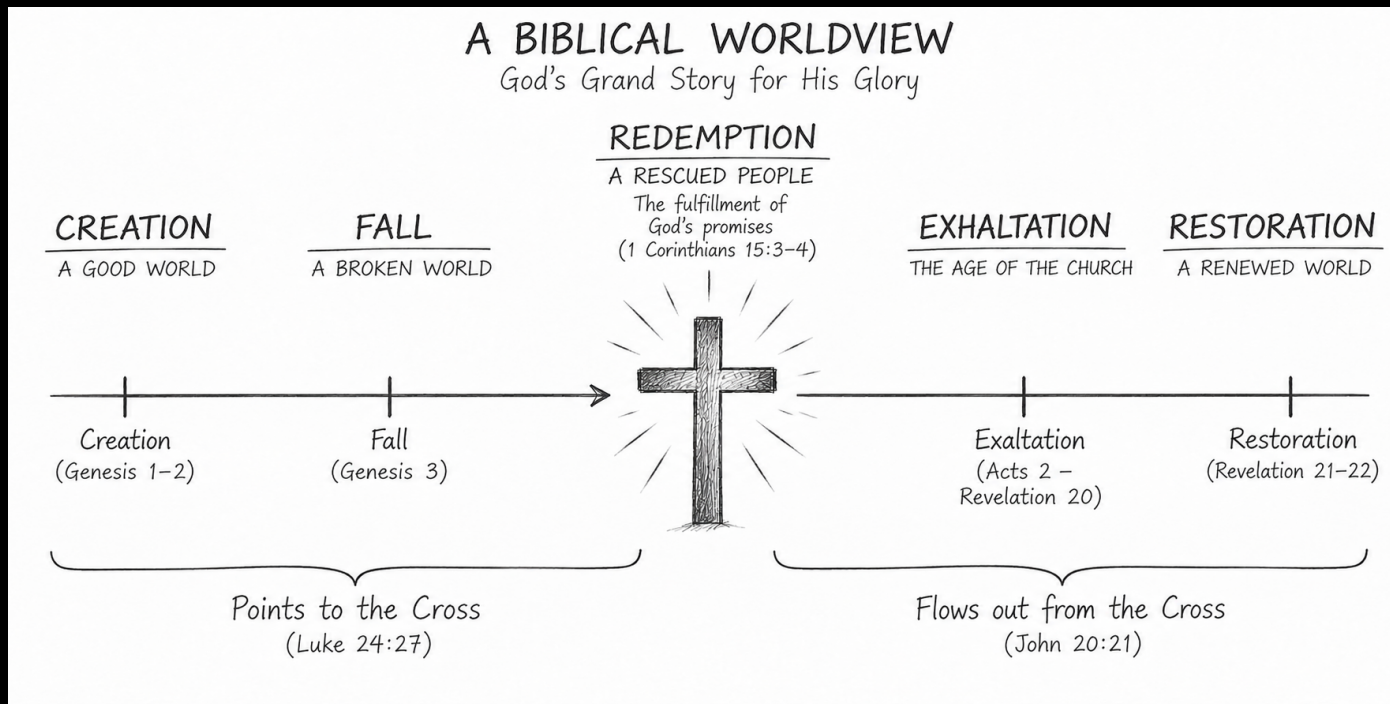
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-Romans 1:16-18

vs 24: Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts. . .

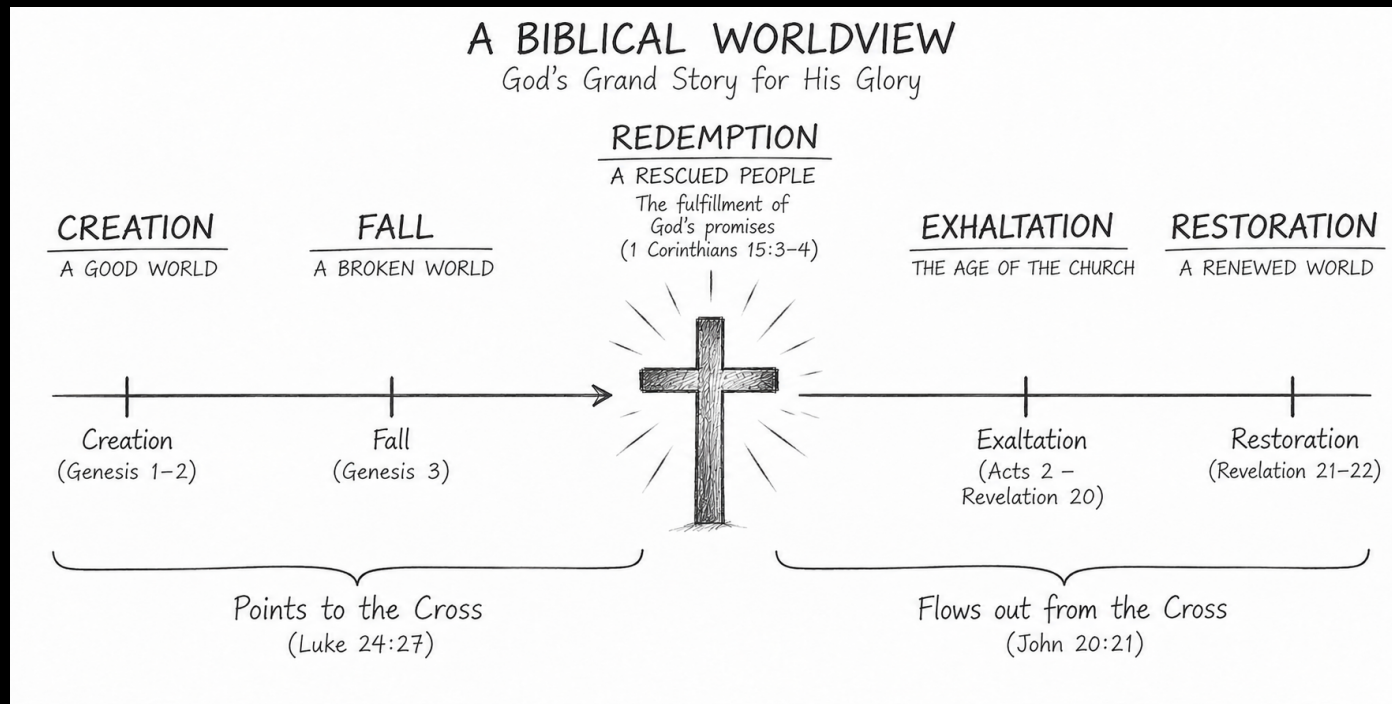
vs 26: For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions.

vs 28: God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.



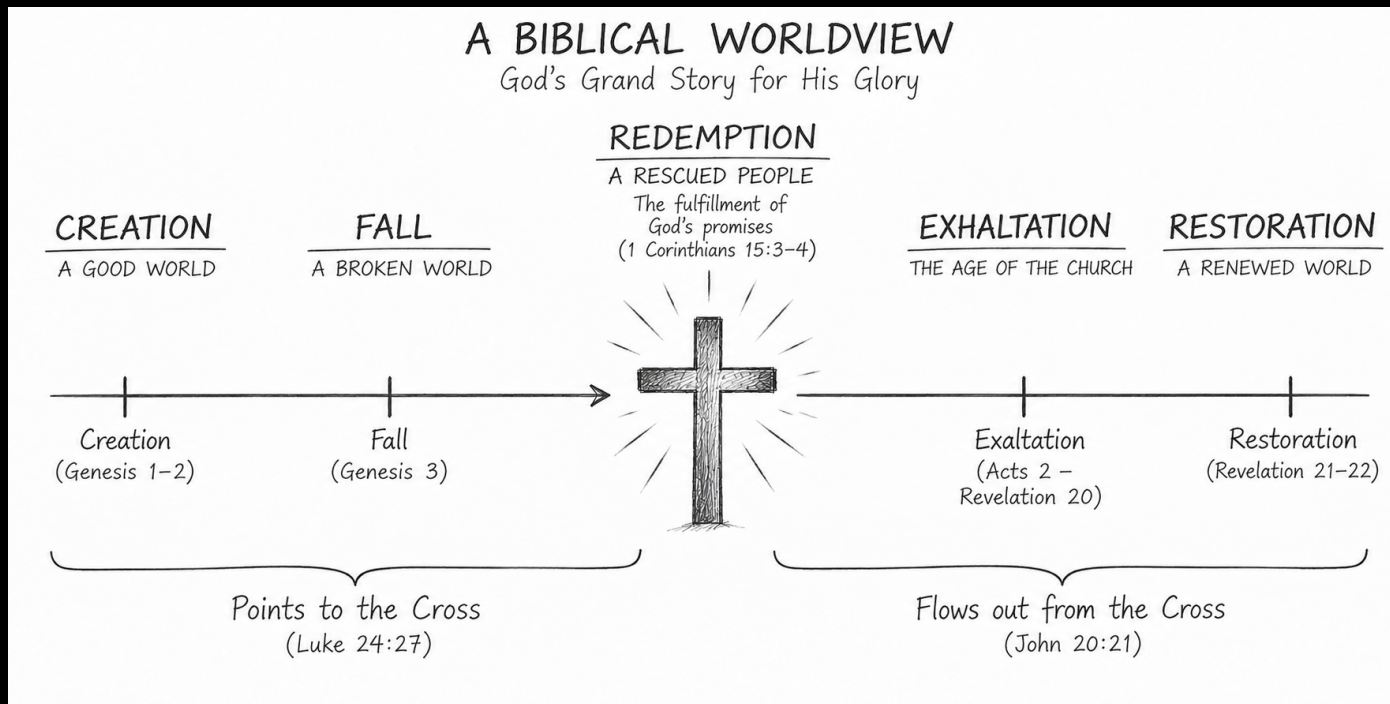
What is really real. . . what is true?

- We were created by an intensely personal God, who speaks and reveals and reaches out for us.



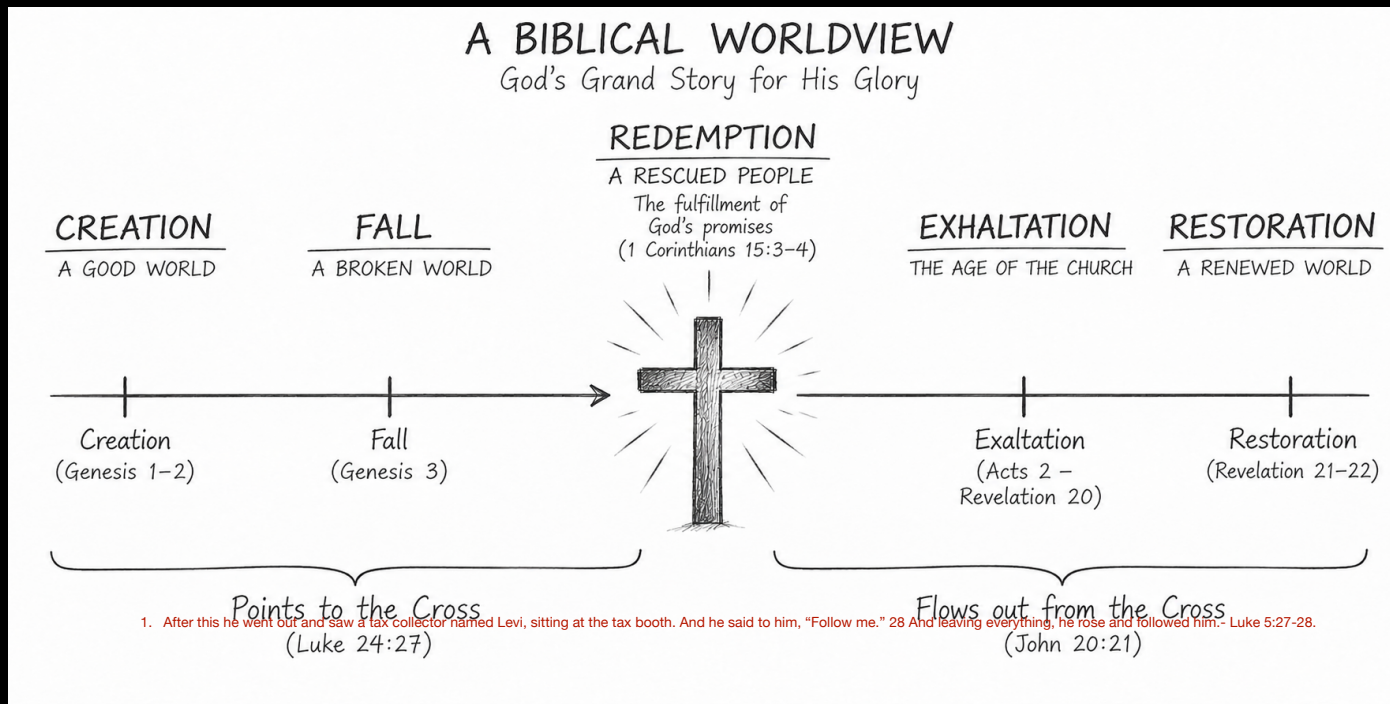
What is a human?

- We were created in the image of God, to know him and reflect back to him worship (honor and gratitude) as a response.



What is the problem with the world?

- Humanity has rejected God and this leads to sin, which is multifaceted and deeply ingrained in every human being. Our rejection of God creates a pattern of sin: distorted thinking—> distorted worship—> disordered desires—> disordered behavior.



What is the solution?

- Jesus entered into our sinful condition, while remaining sinless, bearing the just punishment we deserved. Rising from the grave to make us new creatures (re-creating us), restoring our relationship to God, the source of life, peace and joy.

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me."
28 And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

- Luke 5:27-28

