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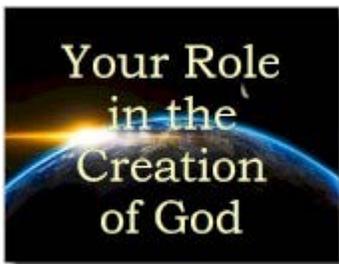
• **Internet:** www.askelm.com •

E-Mail: askoffice@askelm.com

Your Role in the Creation of God

by David Sielaff, October 2019

Read the "[October 2019 Newsletter](#)"



This article is a synthesis of biblical information about your role in God's creation. The creator has a personal name, which is YHWH.¹ He created everything through His first creation, which was His Son, Christ Jesus (Revelation 3:14; Colossians 1:15; Philippians 2:10–11). He not only was YHWH's first and primary agent for creation, He also created time (Hebrews 1:2). All creation was done for a purpose — to reveal **"the sons (children) of God"** (Romans 8:19, read verses 19–24 for the full context). In this article, I use the [Concordant Literal New Testament](#) throughout.

Beginnings

You are a human being descended from Adam, uniquely created by God, and from Eve made by God from Adam's body. All other human beings were born from them. No child of Adam is a child of God when born.² Yet all humans beings are created in a marvelous and special way different from other creations of God:

"And Elohim said: 'Let Us make humanity [adam] in Our image and according to Our likeness. Let them hold sway over the fish of the sea and over the flyer of the heavens, over the domestic beast, over every land animal and over every creeper that is creeping on the earth.'

So Elohim created humanity [the man, ha-adam] in His image; in the image of Elohim He created it: male and female He created them."

• **Genesis 1:26–27**

¹ Yes, God has a personal name, Read Exodus 3:15 in the *Concordant Literal Old Testament*:

"And Elohim said further to Moses: Thus shall you say to the sons of Israel, 'Yahweh, the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac and the Elohim of Jacob, He has sent me to you. This is My Name for the eon ...'"

Go read Exodus 6:3, 33:12, 19; Leviticus 19:12, 22:2, and 32 about YHWH being God's name. I prefer to write "YHWH" rather than Yahweh because the vowel points designating vowels in the Jewish Hebrew texts are traditional dating from the 4th century BC and are not biblical. God forbade Israelites to speak the name of YHWH except in special circumstances (Jeremiah 44:26; Amos 6:7–11). See Dr. Martin's articles "[The Divine Names and the New Testament](#)", as well as related articles "[How Should the Names of Deity be Properly Rendered?](#)" and "[What is the Proper Name for the Father of Jesus?](#)"

² Christ is an exception. He is the only begotten Son of God, Who was born from Mary. Dr. Martin understood that both elements, both the sperm and the egg, were implanted into Mary from God. Read Dr. Martin's *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, Chapter 34, "[The Theology of God's Grace](#)."

Genesis 5:1–3 confirms that all humanity was made in God’s image, male and female:

“This is the scroll of the genealogical records of Adam. On the day Elohim created Adam, in the likeness of Elohim He made him. Male and female He created them, and He blessed them and called their name Human [adam] on the day they were created. Adam lived two hundred thirty years and begot a son in his likeness and after his image; he called his name Seth.”

Still later in Genesis 9:6 God tells Noah:

“Whoever sheds the blood of a human [adam], by a human [adam] his blood shall be shed; for in the image of Elohim He has made humanity [adam].”

Without doubt humanity is still in the likeness and image of God, and all people born will continue to be so until the last person is born “of adam” sometime toward the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ. Then will come the Great White Throne judgment when every person not glorified at Christ’s return will be judged (Revelation 20:4–6, 11–15). That judgment will be mostly education, not punishment, although correction will definitely occur.

The **“image and likeness”** of Genesis have to do with appearance and shape. Unfortunately, almost all scholars tell us it means anything other than appearance or shape. The reason? Because of John 4:24: **“God is spirit, and those who are worshiping Him must be worshiping in spirit and truth.”** Therefore, scholars say, God does not have a body. They say He (supposedly) cannot have a body because He is spirit, an incorporeal, disembodied, non-physical entity.³

However ... Christ has a body. Christ is still a man (*anthropos* in Greek, Romans 5:15). Paul calls the risen Christ a man in 1 Timothy 2:5: **“For there is one God, and one Mediator of God and mankind, a Man (*anthropos*), Christ Jesus.”** Christ has a body today just as He had when He was on earth, but His resurrected glorified body is composed of flesh and bone with God’s Spirit energizing His body, but no blood any longer:

“Perceive My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and perceive, for a spirit has not flesh and bones according as you behold Me having.”

• **Luke 24:39**

Ephesians 5:30 also talks about His glorified, post-resurrection status: **“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones”** (King James Version).

God the Father (YHWH) also has a body. We know this because Christ is the express image of His Father and our Father (Hebrews 1:3). Paul writes about **“the illumination of the evangel of the glory of Christ, Who is the Image of the invisible God ...”** When we are resurrected, we shall see **“the invisible God”** because we shall be like Christ is now, able to see our Father in all His glory:

“Perceive what manner of love the Father has given us, that we may be called children of God! And we are! Therefore the world does not know us, for it did not know Him.

Beloved, now are we children of God, and it was not as yet manifested what we shall be. We are aware that, if He should be manifested, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him according as He is.”

• **1 John 3:1–2**

This would not have surprised the readers of the Psalms because King David said something similar:

“As for me, in righteousness I shall perceive Your face; I shall indeed be satisfied when I awake to Your semblance.”

• **Psalms 17:15**

³ Within the Jewish tradition, Talmudic scholar Maimonides was apparently the first to deny that God had a body and that our likeness and image was not a reflection of God’s body. See Dr. Martin’s articles, [“Maimonides - Saint and Heretic,”](#) [“The Bodily Composition of God,”](#) and my June 2008 Commentary [“God’s Body.”](#)

Jesus was asked a question by His disciples. He called a child to Him and spoke to His disciples with the child before Him (Matthew 18:1–2). Jesus went on to say the disciples should become as **“little children”** (verse 3), that such believers should be nurtured and protected. He even graphically threatened punishment to anyone who would snare or offend (KJV) **“one of the little ones”** (verse 6). Jesus went on:

“See that you should not be despising [or offending] one of these little ones, [Why?] for I am saying to you that their messengers [angels, plural] in the heavens are continually observing the face of My Father Who is in the heavens.”

• **Matthew 18:10**

Jesus was not speaking figuratively regarding **“the face of My Father.”** After all, He spoke openly to His disciples. Jesus spoke figuratively of those who believed He was the Messiah and Savior as **“little children”** and **“little ones”** who must be treated carefully and not offended in any way. Matthew was an apostle and a first-person eyewitness to this statement by Jesus. Jesus said that God His Father had a “face” that messengers observed when reporting about the “little ones” under their watch.

YOU Are “Dirt” (or “Soil”)

Another aspect of your role in creation is that your body is composed of “soil” or dirt of the ground that is miraculously structured, enabled, and animated by God. You became a “living soul” when you took your first breath at birth and grew to interact with your surroundings, just like Adam at his creation⁴:

“Yahweh Elohim formed the human out of soil [Hebrew, *aphar*] from the ground [the earth, *ha-adamah*], and He blew into his nostrils the breath of life; and the human [the man, *ha-adam*] became a living soul.”

• **Genesis 2:7**

Adam did not become a “living soul” until YHWH gave Adam his first breath.⁵

“By the sweat of your brow shall you eat your bread, Until you return to the ground [earth, *ha-adamah*], for from it were you taken. For soil [aphar] you are, and to soil [aphar] you shall return.”

• **Genesis 3:19**

This is true for you, me, and every human being: we are soil and **“to soil,”** we will return. Psalm 103:14 tells us **“For [YHWH] knows our formation, Remembering that we are soil [aphar].”**

“If He places no faith in His servants, And He charges His messengers [angels] with impropriety, How much more so those who tabernacle in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the soil [aphar]? Forces crush them like a moth. Between morning and evening they are being pounded; Without being regarded, they perish permanently.”

• **Job 4:18–20**

This is poetic language. These are figurative expressions, but they are also true to fact. You are dust; you are animated dirt. We all are. God says so, repeatedly. This should be humbling! At funerals it is common for people to express the sentiment, **“ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”** While this is not a biblical quote, it accurately describes a biblical truism:

- In Genesis 18:27, Abraham says **“I am dust and ashes.”**

⁴ See my “Addendum: “Congratulations, You’re Walking Dirt” in the bottom third of the article [“Figures of Speech and Holy Scripture.”](#) We are not “star stuff” as astronomer Carl Sagan said in his television series *Cosmos*, but we are animated dirt or soil.

⁵ It is the same with all children of Adam and Eve. Each of them becomes a “living soul” only after taking that first breath. See Dr. Martin’s controversial but biblical exposition article, [“Abortion and the Bible.”](#) See also my March 2004 Commentary, [“The Giving of God’s Holy Spirit”](#) and my April 2005 Commentary, [“What Does ‘Soul-ish’ Mean?”](#) Again, Dr. Martin’s book, *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine* deeply examines these subjects, covered only briefly here.

- The patriarch Job said, defending himself, “**He [God] has shot me down into the clay, So that I am made comparable to dirt and ashes**” (Job 30:19).
- Later Job humbled Himself toward God and said, “**Therefore I recant and repent on soil and ashes.**”
- Solomon expands on the idea in Ecclesiastes 3:19–20:

“**For the destiny of the sons of humanity [ha-adam] And the destiny of the beast, It is one destiny for them; As death is for this one, so is death for that one, And one spirit is for all;**

There is no advantage for the human [ha-adam] over the beast, For the whole is vanity. All are going to one place; All have come from the soil [aphar], and all return to the soil [aphar].”

God Is Not in the Salvation Business; God Is in the Creation Business

Dr. Ernest Martin had a saying, “God is not in the salvation business. God is in the creation business.” That statement struck me as being both realistic and biblical. If God was in the salvation business, He would be reacting to sin and trying to rescue His greatest creation — mankind — from the effects of sin caused by Eve’s and then Adam’s yielding to the serpent’s temptation of the forbidden fruit.

YHWH is the creator of everything that ever existed. Read these verses, mostly from Isaiah:

“**Do you not know? Or do you not hear? The Elohim eonian is Yahweh, Creator of the ends of the earth; He does not faint Nor is He wearied; There is no fathoming of His understanding.”**

• *Isaiah 40:28*

“**Thus says the One, El, Yahweh, Creator of the heavens, Who stretched them out, Who stamped out the earth and its output, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those walking in it.”**

• *Isaiah 42:5*

“**And now, thus says Yahweh, your Creator, Jacob, And your Former [the One who formed you] ...”**

• *Isaiah 43:1*

“**Former of light and Creator of darkness, Maker of good and Creator of evil, I, Yahweh, make all these things. Drip down from above, heavens, And**

let the skies distil righteousness;

Let the earth open up,

Let salvation bud [blossom], And

let righteousness sprout together with it;

I, Yahweh, I create it.”

• *Isaiah 45:7–8*

“**For thus says Yahweh, Creator of the heavens; He is the One, Elohim, the Former of the earth and its Maker, He Himself established it; He did not create it a chaos; He formed it [the earth] to be indwelt: I am Yahweh, and there is no other.”**

• *Isaiah 45:18*

“**So that, let those also who are suffering according to the will of God commit their souls to a faithful Creator in the doing of good.”**

• *1 Peter 4:19*

We should know our role in God’s creation because we are told the will of God regarding salvation. God’s will and purpose toward man includes every person. None will be lost. Our role and purpose is to do good, even in suffering, even in persecution (which was Peter’s focus in the verse above), or to do good in our everyday lives when persecution for our beliefs in Christ might not be a problem.

The apostle Paul tells us God’s will for mankind. It has been so from the beginning:

“I am entreating, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, pleadings, thanksgiving be made for all mankind [anthropous], ... for this is ideal and welcome in the sight of our Savior, God, Who wills that all mankind [1] be saved and [2] come into a realization [epgnosin, full knowledge] of the truth.

For there is one God, and one Mediator of God and mankind, a Man [anthropos], Christ Jesus, Who is giving Himself a correspondent Ransom for all (the testimony in its own eras).”

• 1 Timothy 2:1, 3–6

It is God’s will for **“all mankind”** to be saved, and also for **“all mankind”** to have a full knowledge **“of the truth.”** What truth shall all mankind learn? It will be the truth about God, about **“our Savior,”** and about the salvation that God has willed for **“all mankind to be saved”** by means of the **“ransom for all [mankind]”** by Christ Jesus.

What is a ransom? A ransom is a payment made for the release of someone (or something) from captivity. In this instance, the ransom was paid to release **“all mankind”** from sin. Who was the ransom paid to? It was not paid to Satan as some believe. It was paid to God who released mankind from sin and death because of Christ’s sacrifice. Read Matthew 20:28 and Mark 10:45 which use the root noun **“ransom.”** Paul in Galatians also tells us what Christ did, without using the word **“ransom”**:

“Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who gives Himself for our sins, so that He might extricate us out of the present wicked eon, according to the will of our God and Father, to Whom be glory for the eons of the eons. Amen!”

• Galatians 1:3–5

Christ sacrificed Himself on our behalf. He gave Himself in payment for our sins. This extricated us from this wicked eon. This was done **“according to the will of our God and Father,”** just as it is the will of God for all mankind to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).

God wills both the situations in 1 Timothy 2:4–6 and Galatians 1:3–5. Christ paid the ransom **“for all”** whether they know it or not, whether they accept it or not. Very few have a clue of what Christ really did to pay that ransom. Even fewer care. Yet, every human will eventually accept God’s gift when God determines it time for them to learn of His salvation through Christ: **“the testimony in its own eras”** (1 Timothy 2:6).

God will deal with those people who do not know, or do not care, in the future period of the White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:4–6, 11–15). The vast majority of people ever born will learn about and accept their salvation during that period. This refers to the 99.999% (or more) of humanity who have rejected God, not responded to God, or never heard anything about the Gospel of God and Christ their Redeemer whether as their Messiah (if they are of Israel), or their Savior (if they are Gentiles).⁶

God’s Words (the Scriptures) Are His Thoughts

I have written about this before, but I mention it again because I want to highlight the importance of God’s written Word in the context of YOUR role in God’s creation. Just as the words of any writer are the thoughts of the author when the pen was put to paper or the letters tapped out on a keyboard to make words, these also are the thoughts of the writer. The words you read on this page originated from my thoughts. They become thoughts in YOUR mind as you read them. You are thinking my thoughts, even if you disagree with them. You are nonetheless thinking my thoughts as I typed them in the past into my computer and they are subsequently put on the internet, printed out on paper, or being read audibly to you.⁷ Writing transcends time and space. All words are read after they were written.

⁶ Paul wrote in Romans 11:26–27:

“And thus all Israel shall be saved, according as it is written, ‘Arriving out of Zion shall be the Rescuer. He will be turning away irreverence from Jacob. And this is My covenant with them Whenever I should be eliminating their sin’” [quoting Isaiah 59:20 and probably referencing Psalm 14:7].

⁷ Ancient people who could not read thought that reading symbols from a clay tablet or papyrus and expressing them aloud by

When YOU read the Scriptures, you are reading God's thoughts. Most all reading in ancient times was done out loud by trained public readers. Furthermore, all writing in ancient times was composed to be heard, not to be read silently. God's written word was also read aloud, as Jesus read on a Sabbath in the synagogue (Luke 4:15–21). He read aloud His Father's thoughts from Isaiah 61:1–3, then He declared, **"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your ear"** (Luke 4:21). He identified Himself to be the one spoken about in the text. A riot ensued and they tried to kill Him (Luke 4:28–30).

We should readily and eagerly accept the words of Scripture. God's Word tells us what His will is for every child of Adam and for YOU. God will save you and bring you to **"a realization of the truth,"** meaning a full knowledge of the truth of God's salvation for you and eventually for everyone else.

If you choose not to read His written Word to learn His thoughts, then you are missing out on a great amount of information, love, and advice from YOUR Father, who you probably think does not communicate with you in the way and when YOU think He should. Read out loud these words by King David:

"Acquaint me with Your ways, O Yahweh; Teach me Your paths. Cause me to tread [walk] in Your truth, and teach me, For You are the Elohim of my salvation, And I expect You the entire day.

Remember Your compassions, O Yahweh, And Your benignities [*chesed*, loving kindness], for they are from the eon. The sins of my youth and my transgressions do not remember;

According to Your benignity [*chesed*], remember me, I pray You, On account of Your goodness, O Yahweh. Good and upright is Yahweh;

Therefore, He shall direct sinners in the way; He shall cause the humble to tread [walk] in right judgment, And He shall teach the humble His way. All the paths of Yahweh are benignity [*chesed*] and truth For those preserving His covenant and His testimonies."

• *Psalm 25:4–10*

The apostle Paul wrote a similar encouragement for us to study what God thinks. Read this aloud also:

"[In the past] you did not thus learn Christ, since, surely, Him you hear [by reading His Word?], and by Him were taught (according as the truth is in Jesus) [causing you ...],

to put off from you, as regards your former behavior, the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires

yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created [within YOU] in righteousness and benignity [kindness or holiness] of the truth [found in God's Word]. Wherefore, putting off the false, let each be speaking the truth with his associate [neighbor], for we are members of one another."

• *Ephesians 4:20–25*

Human Free Will? ...

Many Christians say (or are told to believe) that every human being has free will and that God's will to save all human beings is God's desire, not something He can accomplish contrary to our will. He leaves it up to us to decide to be saved by "accepting Christ." They think people have free will to reject God's salvation.

No. You have no free will. Yes, you have a will to do things you want to do, certainly, but that human will is not free. Your human will is bound by multitudes of constraints at any given moment. No one has free will. The concept is a construct of philosophy. It is not biblical and it is logically ridiculous. In fact, the adjective "free" and the noun "will" never occur together in Scripture.

Joshua challenged Israel to use their will to choose to follow either YHWH or other gods:

reading was a skill that seemed almost supernatural. They were somewhat in awe of those who could read. Over time as more and more people in a society were taught to read, they came to understand that reading symbols was an ability anyone could learn, in the same way people understood that counting sheep going through a gate by cutting marks on a stick was useful. Reading is similar. For my speculation about pre-flood abilities of human beings and the post-flood need to invent writing, see my July 2015 Commentary, "[Thoughts about Babel](#)."

“Yet if it is displeasing in your eyes to serve Yahweh, choose for yourselves today whom you shall serve, whether those elohim that your fathers had served when they dwelt across the Stream, or whether the elohim of the Amorite in whose land you are dwelling; yet I and my house, we shall serve Yahweh.”

• **Joshua 24:15**

Their freedom was limited by the knowledge they had at the time. The Israelites had knowledge about YHWH from their ancestors, the writings of Moses, and their own wilderness experience with YHWH.

Human will and freedom are connected only when knowledge of the truths about God which come from God becomes known and are learned by YOU. The connection of human will and freedom only comes from learning God’s truths. Note what Jesus said about God’s will, His own will, and His statement about truth and being free. The truth shall make you free:

“Jesus, then, said to them again that

‘Whenever you should be exalting the Son of Mankind, then you will know that I am, and from Myself I am doing nothing, but, according as My Father teaches Me, these things I am speaking. And He Who sends Me is with Me. He does not leave Me alone, for what is pleasing to Him am I doing always.’

At His speaking these things, many believe in Him. Jesus, then, said to the Jews who have believed Him,

‘If ever you should be remaining in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will be making you free.’

They answered Him,

‘The seed of Abraham are we, and we have never been slaves of anyone. How are you saying that “You shall be becoming free”?’

Jesus answered them,

‘Verily, verily, I am saying to you that everyone who is doing sin, is a slave of sin [and not free]. Now the slave is not remaining in the house for the eon. The son is remaining for the eon. If ever, then, the Son should be making you free, you will be really free.’”

• **John 8:28–36**

In this passage *sin = slavery* and *truth = freedom*. They had difficulty agreeing with Jesus, but they understood His message. No one can even begin to be free in life unless and until they begin acting from a basis of truth — the truth of God and Christ. I repeat, **“YOU will know the truth, and the truth will be making YOU free”** (verse 32). You will not begin to be more free in your life choices until you have knowledge of the truth of God and act on it. **Only then** will YOU begin the process of becoming free. **“If ever, then, the Son should be making you free, you will be really free”** (verse 36).

As you learn God’s truth, you begin to be more free. Free to do what? How does God want us to live? What does God require? God told us through the prophet Hosea and King David what He wanted from Israel:

“For I desire kindness and not sacrifice, And knowledge of Elohim rather than ascent offerings.”

• **Hosea 6:6**

“Every way of a man seems upright in his own eyes, Yet it is Yahweh Who gauges the hearts. To do righteousness and right judgment Is more choice to Yahweh than sacrifice.”

• **Proverbs 21:2–3**

... or God’s Will?

Only YHWH has free will. Only He does everything according to His own will, as He wishes, when He wishes. Christ did not have free will during His advent on earth. This is well attested to in many passages of

the New Testament. Christ does not have free will now. He continues to do the will of His Father in heaven:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in Christ, according as He chooses us in Him [when?] before the disruption [or foundation] of the world,

we to be holy and flawless in His sight, in love designating us beforehand [before the disruption or foundation] for the place of a son [child] for Him through Christ Jesus; in accord with the delight of His will.”

• *Ephesians 1:3–5*

Do you realize that His choosing you now in this life as opposed to 99.999% of all other human beings is an expression of “... **the delight of His will**”? That is an interesting phrase. God’s choosing you not only is His will, but it delights Him to choose YOU. He is pleased, He is delighted to have chosen you. So why did our God and Father choose you? He did not choose you because you are special. YOU are special and **“the delight of His will”** because you were chosen. You were lucky. God did not plan for you to be chosen.

He chose you in a lottery. (Yes, you are a winner!) Chapter 25 of Dr. Martin’s book *Essentials*, **“How Were We Chosen?”** explains the Scriptures of how that worked. When was the lottery done? It was before the foundation of the world and before time was made (Hebrews 1:2). Paul says God chose us ...

“for the laud [praise] of the glory of His grace, which graces us in the Beloved [Christ]: in Whom we are having the deliverance through His blood [Christ’s blood], the forgiveness of offenses [to God] in accord with the riches of His grace, which He lavishes on us; in all wisdom and prudence.”

• *Ephesians 1:6–8*

God chose you for His own purposes. God did this so all intelligent beings in creation (not just offspring of Adam) would learn, understand, and praise God for His grace to His *ekklesia* through Christ. This was a different gift of grace than the grace given to the Old Testament saints and New Covenant saints. It was given to us saints now in the era of grace in the Mystery. There are different phases of God’s interaction with people, all of which coexist at this time before Christ’s return.⁸ Paul continues in Ephesians chapter 1:

“... making known to us the secret of His will (in accord with His delight, which He purposed in Him) to have an administration of the complement of the eras, to head up all in the Christ — both that in the heavens and that on the earth — in Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will,

[To what purpose?] that we should be for the laud [praise, applause] of His glory, who are pre-expectant in the Christ. In Whom you also — on hearing the word of truth, the evangel of your salvation — in Whom on believing also, YOU are sealed with the holy spirit of promise.”

• *Ephesians 1:9–13*

If you are in pain, if you are suffering, or are the object of great evils please read or review my article,

⁸ See *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine* (latest 2001 print and internet edition), Chapter 33, **“Just Who Are You?”** for the seven different phases of the progressive unfolding of mankind’s knowledge of God and true doctrines to mankind. God interacts with mankind during the eons that He and Christ created for man (Hebrews 1:2). All seven phases can coexist at the present time in some populations at this period before Christ returns. Dr. Martin wrote toward the beginning of Chapter 33:

“If you survey the earlier chapters of this book carefully (and analyze what the Bible states about the divine plan of God to rescue mankind to Himself), you will discover that there are seven phases of spiritual development through which God purposes to save mankind. They are steps of progression in knowledge and understanding.

We find the doctrine of Progressive Revelation being demonstrated every step of the way (see [*Essentials*] chapter 3, ‘Progressive Revelation’). In recognizing these stages of progression in the unfolding of God’s knowledge and true doctrines to mankind, every person should be able to ask [and answer!] in an intelligent manner the question: ‘Just who am I?’ in regard to each phase.”

“[Forgiving God](#).” It will help you understand why we undergo trials and suffering in this present time in your life. It may be hard to realize in present distress, but what Paul writes is true:

“No trial has taken you except what is human. Now, faithful is God, Who will not be leaving you to be tried above what you are able, but, together with the trial, will be making the sequel also, to enable you to undergo it.”

• **1 Corinthians 10:13**

And yes, your suffering now is allowed by the will of God. Such suffering and persecution have a purpose that we cannot fathom, but He will have a sequel to the bad with unimagined and unending joy.

God Wills the Salvation of All

Going back to Paul again and 1 Timothy 2:4:

“God, Who wills that [1] all mankind be saved and [2] come into a realization [epgnosin, full knowledge] of the truth.”

In light of 1 Timothy 2:4, read again what Paul said in Ephesians 1:10–11 (above in the previous section), **“to head up all in the Christ — both that in the heavens and that on the earth ...”** The Father directs Christ’s actions: **“according to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will.”**

Everything happens according to God’s will — everything. One result will be, as John the Baptist said, **“All flesh shall see the salvation of God”** (Luke 3:6). John preached to the Jews, expecting that the people would see the judgment of God, but hoping they would experience **“the salvation of God.”**

Everything Christ has done, is doing now, and will do in the future, accords with God’s will.

YOUR Present Life in Christ

Legally YOU as a believer in Christ’s resurrection are seated with Christ at the right hand of God the Father at this moment. Being **“in Christ”** YOU are part of Him, a part of **“the body of Christ”** in relation to the Father (Romans 7:4; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 12:27; and Ephesians 4:12). Your status at this present time is this: you are sinless before God, just as Christ is sinless before God.

If you do not like the life you have now, you had better come to terms with God. He loves you, in spite of how you may feel. God does not seem to care all that much how you feel about Him or your circumstances.⁹

Yet God loves us exceedingly (John 3:16–17), more than we know or can imagine. Does God care about how we feel at any given moment? I do not believe God cares how you feel if you are doing evil and throwing tantrums in rebellion against Him. Such tantrums project evil and sin to harm others while disparaging God in front of others. God knows our hearts (Acts 1:24, 15:8).

Social commentator Dennis Prager says, **“I don’t really care how you feel, I care how you behave.”** On His part, God cares also more about how you behave than how you feel. This is probably why He allows people to suffer and die in disobedience to Him. As indicated above, God has told us in the Scriptures what He wants from each of us. He wants us to be saved. He wants us to learn His thoughts. He wants us to behave decently and properly toward others, summed up in Luke 10:27 by a lawyer no less. The lawyer came and quizzed Jesus about how to live and be saved. Jesus asked, what do the scriptures say? The lawyer answered correctly:

“Now he, answering, said, [1] You shall be loving the Lord your God out of your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole strength, and with your whole comprehension, and [2] your associate as yourself.”

• **Luke 10:27**

⁹ See my Commentaries, [“God’s Emotions”](#) and [“You as a Child of God,”](#) Lest anyone thinks I do not believe God loves all children through Adam, read my April 2017 Commentary, [“Universal Salvation and Loving Your Enemies.”](#)

YOUR Death

“In Whose [YHWH’s] hand is the soul of every living creature And the spirit in all flesh of man” (Job 12:10). You are not immortal — not yet. Your soul is mortal, your spirit is mortal, and your body is certainly mortal. You will die, and you die in body, soul, and spirit, just as Christ died.¹⁰ **“No man has authority over the spirit to detain the spirit, And no one has authority over the day of death”** (Ecclesiastes 8:8).

Every person dies alone. No one can die “with” us, even as others die next to us. Death is an individual process, sometimes rapid and sometimes not so quick (see my August 2013 Commentary, [“You ARE Alone”](#)). God is in control of everything, even our time of death. Hannah the mother of the Prophet Samuel sang:

“Yahweh is putting to death and is keeping alive, He is bringing down to the unseen, and He brings up.

Yahweh is making destitute and is enriching; He is laying low and is exalting too. He is raising the poor from the dust And exalts the needy from the ash heap, Seating them with patrons of peoples, Allotting them a throne of glory. ...

As for Yahweh, those contending with Him shall be undone; Against them shall He thunder in the heavens. Yahweh, He shall adjudicate the limits of the earth. He shall give strength to His king; He shall exalt the horn of His anointed one.”

• **1 Samuel 2:6–8, 10**

Life is easier if you are not contending with God. As we live and die, God is watching over us even when we forget He is doing so, even when we feel abandoned by Him, even when we actively walk away or run from Him (like the prophet Jonah), or run toward a precipice of disaster for us and our families. God is watching and He is with us.

I believe we will be surprised after we are resurrected how God and Christ have nurtured and delicately guided our spiritual maturation and growth in grace and in knowledge. But most people will not know much about God until their resurrection to judgment and education.

Solomon explains what happens when you die:

“For the destiny of the sons of humanity [*adam*] And the destiny of the beast, It is one destiny for them; As death is for this one, so is death for that one, And one spirit is for all; There is no advantage for the human over the beast, For the whole is vanity. All are going to one place; All have come from the soil, and all return to the soil.”

• **Ecclesiastes 3:19–20**

Later Solomon tells of decline and death:

“And the soil [the body] returns to the earth just as it was, And the spirit, it returns to the One, Elohim, Who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Assembler, The whole is vanity.”

• **Ecclesiastes 12:7–8**

Your spirit, the spirit of man, is not conscious in death. It will return to God and “put on the shelf” until He fashions a new body for your spirit. The moment that happens, you will again become conscious. Everyone is resurrected to a mortal body, just as Christ was. When Christ returns the mortal bodies of believers will be transformed into a new and marvelous spiritual body.

YOUR Resurrection

Regarding YOUR experience of resurrection after death, it will seem to occur immediately after your

¹⁰ See my [“January 2006 Newsletter](#),” Dr. Martin’s work, [“The Pagan Immortal Soul and ‘Double Doctrine’](#),” and Chapter 18 of *Essentials*, [“The Deceptive Role of Satan”](#) and how they explain how the concept of an “immortal soul” developed. For a non-ASK explanation, I highly recommend a 1958 booklet of 29 pages by German Lutheran theologian Oscar Cullman, [Immortality of the Soul or Resurrection of the Dead?: A Witness of the New Testament](#) (London: Epworth, 1958), accessed September 5, 2019.

death, though years, centuries, or for pre- and post-flood Old Testament patriarchs, thousands of years will have passed. (You will have no sense of time, so far as YOU will know.) It will be like going under and coming out of anesthesia for an operation. The apostle Paul tells us what YOUR resurrection experience will be the moment after you lose consciousness in death:

“Lo! a secret to you am I telling! We all, indeed, shall not be put to repose, yet we all shall be changed, in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. For He will be trumpeting, and the dead will be roused incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality. Now, whenever this corruptible should be putting on incorruption and this mortal should be putting on immortality, then shall come to pass the word which is written,

‘Swallowed up was Death by Victory. Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?’

• 1 Corinthians 15:51–55

For extended teaching on this matter, read my article [“Your Resurrection”](#) and Dr. Martin’s *Essentials*, [“Chapter 16: Resurrections from the Dead.”](#)

Of course, as you read this now, notice what our future will be, as Paul wrote to the *ekklesia* in Philippi, Macedonia, in northeast Greece today. Paul is writing after the revelation of the Mystery:

“For our realm is inherent in the heavens, out of which we are awaiting a Savior also, the Lord, Jesus Christ, Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation, to conform it to the body of His glory, in accord with the operation which enables Him even to subject all to Himself.”

• Philippians 3:20–21

Yes, all will be subjected to the Lord Jesus Christ. Your body will change from **“the body of our humiliation”** at the time of your death. At our resurrection your body will be transfigured to conform **“the body of His glory”** as it is now. This will occur when our Savior Jesus Christ comes.

What does Paul mean by **“our realm is inherent in the heavens”**? It means that **“our realm”** was intended for us of the Mystery to be **“in the heavens”** (plural), from the beginning of God’s plan. This will be a reward for those who are of the Mystery revealed by Paul in the epistles of Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians, and later accepted by John and Peter.¹¹

White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11–15 discusses the White Throne Judgment. It occurs just after the old heavens and earth dissolve away and a new heaven and a new earth are created. This time of judgment will occur on the new earth. The apostle Peter tells us about it:

“Yet the heavens now, and the earth, by the same word, are stored with fire, being kept for the day of the judging and destruction of irreverent men. Now of this one thing you are not to be oblivious, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day [quoting Psalm 90:4].

The Lord is not tardy as to the promise, as some are deeming tardiness, but is patient because of you, not intending any to perish, but all to make room for repentance.

Now the day of the Lord will be arriving as a thief, in which the heavens shall be passing by with a booming noise, yet the elements shall be dissolved by combustion, and the earth and the works in it shall be found.

At these all, then, dissolving, to what manner of men must you belong in holy behavior and

¹¹ Read [“History of the Revelation of the Mystery,”](#) [“The Mystery and the New Covenant,”](#) and particularly *Essentials*, Chapter 24, [“Our Destiny, The Final Revelation of God.”](#)

devoutness, hoping for and hurrying the presence of God's day, because of which the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and the elements decompose by combustion!

Yet we, according to His promises, are hoping for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is dwelling."

• 2 Peter 3:7–13

"The Lord is acquainted with the rescue of the devout out of trial, yet is keeping the unjust for chastening in the day of judging."

• 2 Peter 2:9

As 1 Timothy 2:4 says, God's will shall be fulfilled. He will perform what He desires to do:

"Remember the former things from the eon, For I am El, and there is no other! Elohim! and no other like Me! Telling from the beginning, the hereafter, And from aforetime what has not yet been done, Saying, All My counsel, it shall be confirmed, And all My desire shall I do."

• Isaiah 46:9–10

The Son's (Christ's) Ultimate Submission to God Our Father

This event takes place after YOUR resurrection and after the great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11. Christ the Son of God will make the ultimate act of submission to God the Father, YHWH. One thing to consider in this future event is, even then Christ does not have free will. Christ subordinates His will to the will of YHWH (God the Father).

Jesus subordinated His will to His Father when He emptied Himself to become a human being, an *anthropos* in Greek:

"Who, being inherently in the form of God, deems it not pillaging to be equal with God, nevertheless empties Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming to be in the likeness of humanity [*anthropon*], and, being found in fashion as a human [*anthropos*], He humbles Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

• Philippians 2:6–8

Jesus often spoke of His subordination to His Father's will when He ministered to His disciples and the people of Israel. For example, John 4:34: "Jesus is saying to them [His disciples], 'My food is that I should be doing the will of Him Who sends Me, and should be perfecting His work.'"

In our day, at this moment He continues to subordinate Himself to the will of God. When all creation is in submission to God's Son, then Christ shall return all power, glory, and authority to God the Father:

"(Yet now Christ has been roused from among the dead, the Firstfruit of those who are reposing. For since, in fact, through a man came death, through a Man, also, comes the resurrection of the dead.

For even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, shall all be vivified. Yet each in his own class:

- [1] the Firstfruit, Christ;
- [2] thereupon those who are Christ's in His presence;
- [3] thereafter the consummation [which will occur ...],

whenever He may be giving up the kingdom to His God and Father,
whenever He should be nullifying all sovereignty and all authority and power.

For He must be reigning until He should be placing all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy is being abolished: death.

For He subjects all under His feet. Now whenever He may be saying that all is subject, it is evident that it is outside of Him Who subjects all to Him.

Now, whenever all may be subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also shall be subjected to Him Who subjects all to Him, [Why?] that God may be All in all.)”

• *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

Paul does not tell us what the phrase “**All in all**” means, but it relates to “**the Consummation.**”¹² Some theologians call this obvious biblical truth to be the heretical theological doctrine of “Subordinationism.” It violates the (supposed) important equality of the three persons of the unbiblical so-called “trinity.” According to *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, “Subordinationism” is the ...

“Teaching about the Godhead which regards either the Son as subordinate to the Father or the Holy Spirit as subordinate to both. ... By the standards of orthodoxy established in the 4th century, such a position came to be regarded as clearly heretical in its denial of the co-equality of the Three Persons of the Trinity.”¹³

• *Oxford Dictionary, p. 1563*

However, Scripture shows that Christ was always subordinate to the Father, whose will He always follows. Why then does Christ give up “all authority” and all rule, including the Kingdom of God. Paul wrote,

“... for us there is one God, the Father, out of Whom all is, and we for Him, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom all is, and we through Him.”

• *1 Corinthians 8:6*

This explanation of who God is, is excellent. It is concise, direct, and understandable. No trinitarian gobbledygook! It clearly expresses the relationship of God the Father with His Son.¹⁴ Paul later tells about, **“... one Lord [Christ], one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.”** (Ephesians 4:5–6). The Father is God and His Son is the Lord Jesus Christ. It all fits perfectly with the explanation later in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, rather than a trinitarian description, which has no biblical basis.

“Who [Christ] is the Image of the invisible God, Firstborn of every creature, for in Him is all created, that in the heavens and that on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities, all is created through Him and for Him, and He is before all, and all has its cohesion in Him. And He is the Head of the body, the ecclesia, Who is Sovereign, Firstborn from among the dead, that in all He may be becoming first, for in Him the entire complement delights to dwell.”

• *Colossians 1:15–19*

YOUR Role in God’s Creation

In a limited but very real sense, YOU are the object of God’s entire creation. Yes, you are special to God. He is fascinated with you, He thinks you are beautiful, and He wants to have a relationship with you closer than any you have now or can conceive of having. Consider these words of the apostle Paul:

“Faithful is the saying and worthy of all welcome (for, for [two different words in Greek] this are we toiling and being reproached), that we rely on the living God, Who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers. These things be charging and teaching.”

• *1 Timothy 4:9–11*

“Now we ought to be thanking God always concerning you, brethren, beloved by the Lord, seeing that God prefers YOU from the beginning for salvation, in holiness of the spirit and faith in the

¹² Luke 1:33 says: “**He shall reign over the house of Jacob for the eons. And of His kingdom there shall be no consummation.” In light of 1 Corinthians 15:28 this means Christ gives up the Kingdom to His Father, but there will be no end to the kingdom itself. God’s Kingdom will continue. All authority the Father gave to Christ will be returned to the Father.**

¹³ *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingstone, eds. (NY: Oxford University Press, 2005), 1563.

¹⁴ The superior-inferior relationship between God the Father and Son Jesus Christ is expressed often in the New Testament. For example, note 1 Corinthians 1:9:

“Faithful is God [the Father], through Whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

truth, into which He also calls us through our evangel, [why?] for the procuring of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Consequently, then, brethren, stand firm, and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, whether through word or our epistle.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, our Father, **Who loves us**, and is giving us [Paul, his companions, those he is writing to, and to YOU] **an eonian consolation** [or, “comfort”] and a **good expectation in grace, be consoling your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.**”

• *2 Thessalonians 2:13–17*

The purpose for YOUR existence, the reason YOU were created at all, was so you could communicate, connect, and commune with God your Father and with all His other children, as well as all the intelligent creatures God has made. YOU were created to become a “god,” an Elohim.¹⁵ YOU are a chosen child of God. Act accordingly as best you can at this present time. By doing so you will help yourself in every way:

“Put on, then, as **God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved:**

pitiful compassions, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another and dealing graciously among yourselves, if anyone should be having a complaint against any. According as the Lord also deals graciously with you, thus also [do] you.

Now over all these put on love, which is the tie of maturity.”

• *Colossians 3:12–14*

These are words to live by as we wait for God’s glory. Once we understand that we are already saved, then good works make a great deal of difference to increase our rewards in the Kingdom of God. I know that seems somewhat mercenary, but what else does God and Christ ask of us? Nothing. We are called upon to do good works. You likely know well Ephesians 2:8 and 9, but I want you to concentrate on verse 10:

^{8–9} “**For in grace, through faith, are you saved, and this is not out of you; it is God’s approach present, not of works, lest anyone should be boasting.**

¹⁰ **For His achievement are we, being created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God makes ready beforehand, that we should be walking in them.**”

• *Ephesians 2:8–10*

We are to “walk” in good works. That means that we should live and strive for good works, because we are “**created in Christ Jesus for good works.**” It was one of the purposes for which YOU were created. “**For God’s fellow workers are we. God’s farm, God’s building, are you**” (1 Corinthians 3:9). “**For it is God Who is operating in you to will as well as to work for the sake of His delight**” (Philippians 2:13).

What should those works entail? One word describes them all: love. If you want to learn how love operates, read 1 Corinthians chapter 13. If YOU do anything from a genuine desire to love, then, even when you make mistakes (and you will make mistakes) it will be credited to you by God as a righteous work worthy of reward.

“**For all of us must be manifested in front of the dais [judgment seat] of Christ, that each should be requited for that which he puts into practice through the body, whether good or bad.**”

• *2 Corinthians 5:10*

YOU will make mistakes in this physical life because we are all little children in God’s eyes — barely toddlers able to walk without bumping into things or hurting yourself and others. Yet YOU and all who have

¹⁵ Unlike several New Age philosophies with no evidence, biblical or otherwise, you are **not** a “god” now (in case you have not noticed). God will make you a “god” once you have been educated and built character with God’s Holy Spirit. It is God’s will for this to be done (1 Timothy 2:4–6).

believed in Christ's resurrection, we are God's children that He will bring to maturity after our resurrection.

That will be the moment when YOU will begin to experience the true reality of God's awesome creation. That is when YOU will begin to truly live in the fullness of God's Holy Spirit, fulfilling the image and likeness of God as He intended. YOU will have a positive judgment and entry into the Kingdom of God. That is when YOU will see God and Christ face to face. Later, YOU will do good, marvelous, and creative works in whatever creation God chooses for us in the future, after God becomes all and all (1 Corinthians 15:28). At present, we are "**His achievement.**" (Ephesians 2:10) or "**His workmanship**" as the King James Version translates that verse. As I wrote above, every human being will become an Elohim like Christ. We shall become as Christ is at this moment:

"Beloved, we should be loving one another, for love is of God, and everyone who is loving God is begotten of God, and knows God. He who is not loving knew not God, for God is love.

In this was manifested the love of God among us, that God has dispatched His only-begotten Son into the world that we should be living through Him. In this is love, not that we love God, but that He loves us, and dispatches His Son, a propitiatory shelter concerned with our sins.

Beloved, if thus God loves us, we also ought to be loving one another. No one has ever gazed upon God [yet!]. If we should be loving one another, God is remaining in us, and His love is perfected in us. In this we know that we are remaining in Him, and He in us, for He has given us of His spirit."

• 1 John 4:7–13

Conclusion

God will complete the creation of Adam, YOU, and every other human being, by completing the image and likeness of Himself within YOU. That completed creation by God will not just be in your outward form, but you will also be given the inward character of YHWH Himself, not just as our Father and Creator, but also in His very essence. Yet you will still be YOU, an individual as Christ is an individual *anthropos*.

What will God do after the eons have been completed? Death ("**the last enemy**") will have been abolished and YOU will have put on immortality (1 Corinthians 15:53–54). All power and authority will have been put down and given back to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:26–28). I think it likely God will begin a new creative project. After all, as Dr. Martin thought, "God is in the creation business." God will complete His creation by reconciling all His enemies by the blood of Christ's cross, by justifying, vivifying, and reconciling every creature (Colossians 1:15–20; Philippians 2:10–11). YOU are justified already.

Whatever God does after the completion of His creation of mankind, YOUR relationship with Him will be the primary connection of your existence — YOU and your God, YOU and your Heavenly Father. YOU will be immortal, as will all your friends and family. YOUR body (yes, you will have a body as God and Christ have bodies) will be energized by God's own Holy Spirit without limit as Jesus was on earth.¹⁶

"It is sown a soulish body; it is roused a spiritual body [a body composed of spirit]. If there is a soulish body, there is a spiritual also. Thus it is written also, The first man, Adam, 'became a living soul': the last Adam a vivifying Spirit."

• 1 Corinthians 15:44–45

David Sielaff, October 2019

For greater detail and more substantial explanations of topics addressd in this article, again I recommend Dr. Martin's final book, the 2001 edition of [*The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*](#), available for purchase through ASK (we do not use Amazon), or read it free at: <http://askelm.com/essentials/index.asp>.

¹⁶ John the Baptist said, "... **God is not giving the spirit by measure**" referring to the Christ (John 3:28 and quoting verse 34).