

Redemption

The effects of sin are wide-reaching. Because of sin we have a guilty record, a corrupt heart, broken communities, and a chaotic world. But *sin will not have the final word*. This leads us to the third movement of the Biblical symphony: **Redemption**.

Into our world shattered by the Fall, God promises to provide a Redeemer to destroy sin and restore relationship with humanity. As he says throughout Scripture: **“I will be your God, and you will be my people.”** ²

This promise grows throughout the Old Testament like an acorn into an oak tree. God’s promises to Abraham, Moses, and David are all stages of growth pointing forward to the fullness of the promise: God *with us* in **Jesus Christ**. (Matthew 1.23)

In Jesus, the eternal Son of God “became flesh and made his dwelling among us,” (John 1.14) which means that Jesus is fully God and fully human. Jesus is more than a religious leader giving us advice about how to live good lives. He arrives announcing the coming of the kingdom of God and in his life, death, and resurrection he achieves victory that he announces to us: **Good News** that through him God has brought forgiveness, transformation, and hope to our world.

And *that* means that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus changes everything for us. Scripture uses many images to describe what Jesus accomplished: a sacrifice of atonement, victory over death and Satan, light coming into darkness, satisfying God’s justice against sin, and life and love invading a world of death and violence.

But that’s not the end of the story. Jesus not only announces Good News, he applies it to our lives. We’ll talk about that next week with the fourth and final Act of the biblical story: **Restoration**.

Questions for Discussion

- 1) What’s the difference between Jesus and other religious leaders throughout history?
- 2) Just like sin impacts every part of our life, the redemption of Jesus touches every part of who we are. What does the redemption of Jesus mean for our friendships? Our work? Our families?



² Genesis 17:7-8; Exodus 6:7; Leviticus 26:12; Jeremiah 7:23; 11.4; 30.22; 31.1; 31.33; 32.38; Ezekiel 11.20, 14.11, 36.28, 37.23, 37.27; Zechariah 8.8; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 8:10; Revelation 21.3, 7.