

# The Scheme of Redemption

## The Existence and Nature of God (Gen. 3:1)



### Cause and Effect

Everything has an adequate cause.



### Matter is not eternal

The laws of thermodynamics are important to consider, when answering the question of origin.

The first law says that no new matter is being created today.

The second law says that matter decays over time.

## The Existence of God:

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made..." (Rom. 1:20)

1. Why do you think the existence of God is important to our study of the Scheme of Redemption?
2. Are there consequences for denying the existence of God? What?
3. What are the only options/possibilities regarding the origin of the universe?

4. Consider Romans 1:18-32. Why is God's existence important? What does it provide for us?

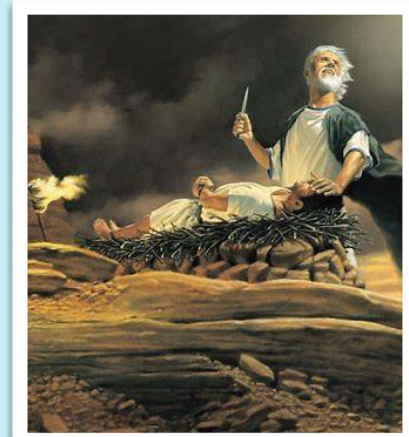
## The Importance of the Nature of God:

**"And Abraham called the name of the place, The Lord-will-provide..." (Gen. 22:14).**

1. Consider some of the attributes of God. What do they tell us about God (as it relates to His provisions in redemption):
  - a. His omnipotence (Rev. 19:6; Psa. 147:5)?
  - b. His omniscience (Psa. 147:5; Acts 15:18)?
  - c. His omnibenevolence (1 John 4:8-10)?
  - d. His Justice (Gen. 18:25; Acts 17:31)?
  - e. His eternity (1 Tim. 1:17; 2 Pet. 3:8)?

### A LESSON FROM ABRAHAM

In Genesis 22, Abraham is presented a challenge of his priorities. Would his love for Isaac trump his love for God? The story is more than just one of victory for Abraham. The real victory is the provision from God of a substitute. In this, we have a foreshadowing of Jesus' work as our substitute. Within the story, we find an emphasis on the nature of God (Gen. 22:14). He is the God that provides. Without understanding the nature of God, we cannot fully marvel at the Scheme of Redemption.





# The Scheme of Redemption

## Understanding the Creation and its place

"And the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life..." (Gen. 2:7)

1. We notice that before the promise of redemption (Gen. 3:15), God prepares us by drawing our attention to what He made (Gen. 3:1).
2. What theme do we discover in Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25? There is another theme in Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29. What is that theme? Are they related? What is the difference in Genesis 1:31? How do we understand this? What does it tell us about creation?
3. Based on Genesis 1:26-28, what can we conclude about humanity's place in creation?

# The Uniqueness of Mankind

1. Is mankind unique in creation? If so, how?
2. What does Genesis 1:26-28 mean, to be in God's likeness (also Genesis 5:1; 9:6)?



"Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness..." (Gen. 1:26)

3. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:23 tell us about human beings?
4. What does it mean that we are "moral beings" (Gen. 2:16-17).
5. What potential consequences can come from being a moral being?

# THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

## Understanding Our Adversary

### The Fall of Satan

Does 1 Timothy 3:6 tell us anything about why he fell from God? Can you think of any other verses that might help?

### A Crushed heel?

When God addresses Satan in the garden, He says that would "bruise His (Jesus') heel" (Gen. 3:15). Does this tell us anything about the devil? What do you think is considered in this prediction?

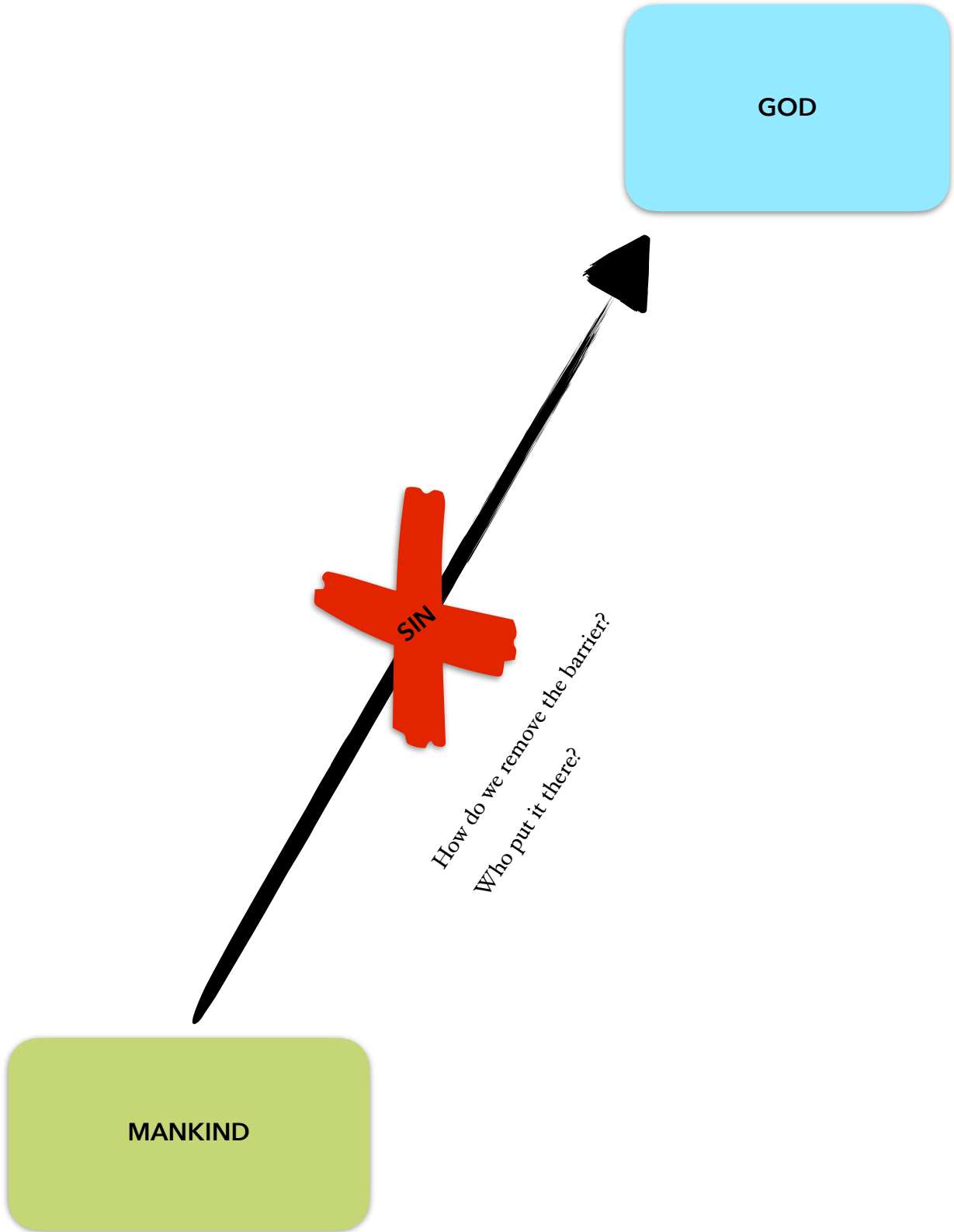
### Permission from God?

In the story of Job, Satan has to receive permission from God to afflict Job (Job 1:12). What does this reveal about Satan? What other things do we learn about him from Job 1?



## “You will not surely die...”

1. Why do you think it is important to understand the devil, when studying the Scheme of Redemption (Heb. 2:14)?
  
2. How is he introduced at the beginning of the Bible (Gen. 3:1)? What are his characteristics?
  
3. What do we know about Satan?
  
4. How do we understand John 8:44, Rev. 12:1-12 and other passages regarding his activity throughout time? What are his goals in the Scheme of Redemption?



# The Scheme of Redemption

## Divine Revelation from God



### God's revealed will

"God has said..." (Gen. 3:3)

1. The scheme of redemption is the story of God and man brought back together. When two parties are at odds with each other, what must exist in order for there to be reconciliation? Where does the Bible fit in this (Gen. 2:16-17; John 8:31-32; 2 Thess. 2:11-12)?



**God always does what is in our best interest**  
(1 John 5:3)



**There are consequences for tampering with Scripture**  
(Rev. 22:18)



**The Bible is all-sufficient**  
(2 Tim. 3:16-17)

2. Remember that we are one part of the reconciliation (1 Tim. 2:5). Our nature [“image of God”] is unique.

a. What is the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)?



b. How is the Bible profitable (2 Tim. 3:17)?

c. Why do you think God communicated this way to us? Remember that we are intellectual beings with free will (Eph. 1:18; Acts 17:3; Rom. 6:17; Rev. 22:17).

3. In summary, what does the Bible communicate to us (1 Tim. 3:16)?

## THE BIBLICAL “HEART”

While we tend to think of the bodily organ when we hear the word “heart,” the Bible is talking about something else. We are separate from all else in creation and are made in a special way. Humans have intellect. We are capable of processing information and considering facts. We have a will. This means we are able to make choices and respond to the information we have processed. We also have emotion. This is what propels our decisions to outward expression.





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# TODAY'S NEWS

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## Understanding Sin



1. Though the term is not used in Genesis 3, the event definitely centers around sin (Rom. 5:12; 1 Tim. 2:14). To understand sin, it helps to consider synonyms. Consider Leviticus 16:21 and 1 Samuel 15:23. How is sin described?

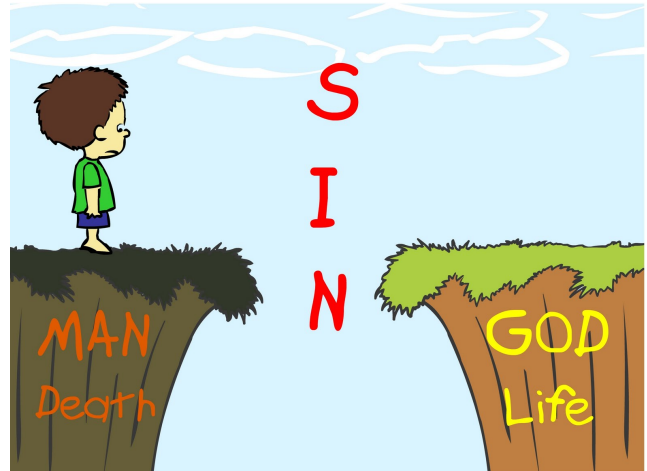
**“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin....” (Rom. 5:12)**

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2. Ultimately, what is sin (1 John 3:4)?

a. Are some sins “worse than others?” How would you answer this?

b. Is all sin intentional (Heb. 10:26; 1 Tim. 1:13)?



“For the wages of sin is death...” (Rom. 6:23).

3. Are we compelled beyond our will to sin? If not, how does it work (James 1:13-15)?

4. What are we taught in 1 John 2:15-17?

**“But your iniquities have separated you from your God...”**

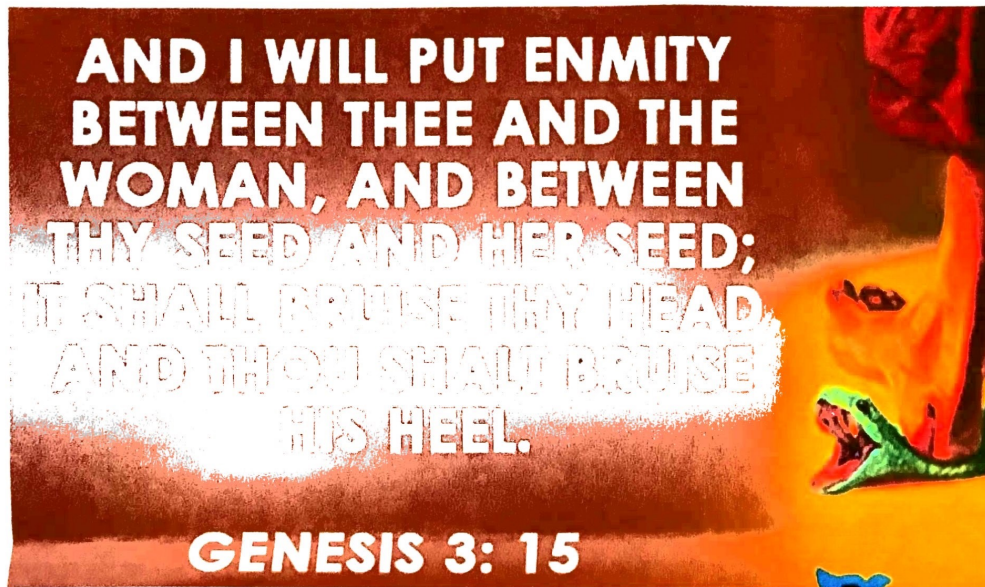
**-ISAIAH 59:2**

5. Were there physical consequences of sin to the world (Gen. 3:17-19; 1 Cor. 15)?

6. What relationships changed because of sin?

# The Scheme of Redemption

## The Seed of the Woman



### "Her seed"

The Latin for seed is *spermatos*. How does this help us?



### 1 Cor. 15:45-47

In what ways do Jesus and Adam compare?



### The First Gospel

Many refer to Gen. 3:15 as the "protoevangelium" or "the first Gospel."

## Discussion Questions:

1. Adam and Eve attempt solutions to their dilemma (Gen. 3:7ff). Why do you think we are incapable of solving the sin-problem on our own?
2. Carefully look at Genesis 3:15. This is very first revealed promised of the Savior and is a direct response to the entrance of sin into the world.
  - a. Is this a person or a thing being promised? How do you know?
  - b. What do you think is the lesson from "her seed?"

- c. Does the language tell us anything about the nature of “the seed?”
3. If we observe carefully, there are numerous expectations of the coming Savior after Genesis 3:15.
  - a. Consider Genesis 3:20: What can we learn about God’s expectation from this passage?
  - b. Genesis 4:1: What does this tell us about their relationship with God?
  - c. Genesis 4:26: What is the importance of people calling on the name of the Lord (Psa. 116:12-13)?
  - d. Genesis 5:22-24: What does this tell us about death?
4. Let’s consider also the promise God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. What can we learn from this promise?
5. There are others that show the continual theme of the Scheme of Redemption (Genesis 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:12-14; Ezekiel 21:25-27). What do we learn from these?
6. Based on what we have observed, does this help us understand the role/purpose of Israel? What was it (Deut. 7:6-9; 4:6-9)?



# The Scheme of Redemption

## Understanding Salvation

"He shall bruise your head" (Gen. 3:15)

### Discussion Questions:

1. Considering all that we have covered so far (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1ff), exactly what kind of work did Jesus come to do? What was His mission?
  
2. Carefully consider the statements in Genesis 3:15:
  - a. How should we understand "bruise your head"? What is involved in this prophecy (1 Jn. 3:8; Heb. 2:14; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:56)?

b. How should we understand “bruise your heel?”  
What do we learn from this?

3. The bruising of the head and the heel were necessary to remove sin. What is the result (Isa. 59:1-2; Acts 2:38)?

4. Some believe the prophets were only concerned with social reform and that Jesus would be the ultimate social reformer. Was this the hope of the Bible (Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 30:22; Dan. 9:8-9; Hosea 3; 14:1)?

# THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

## Understanding Sacrifice

### Fulness in Christ

Adam and Eve were made in perfection (Gen. 1:31) but even they could not understand the fulness of God that would be revealed in Christ (Col. 2:9; John 1:18). God would work through the ages to develop our understanding and condition us for redemption.

### Something to think about:

Sacrifice restore two things. First, it restores the life of the sinner. Second, it restores the character of sinner (by removing guilt).

### Blood and forgiveness:

"And according to the law almost all things are purged with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb. 9:22)



## Discussion Questions:

1. As we study redemption, we must also consider the subject of sacrifice. Was the sacrifice of Jesus an accident (1 Pet. 1:18-19)?
  
2. There is a profound implication in the story in Genesis 3. Put together the following verses and determine the importance of Genesis 3:21:
  - a. Genesis 2:16-17 — death as a consequence of sin
  - b. Genesis 3:1-6 - sin enters



## Animal Sacrifices?

Animal sacrifices in the Old Testament were merely types and shadows of the sacrifice of Jesus.

- Hebrews 8-9
- Colossians 2:16-17

In every sacrifice under Patriarchal or Levitical covenants, there was an expectation of the real (Jesus).

*In sacrifice, there is a sin-offering. The sacrifice must atone for the sin. This means that offering a sacrifice was not merely a physical activity, but an action of a heart moved with the desire for the hope of life and restoration of fellowship with God.*

This also reminds us that animal sacrifices were not ultimately sufficient (Her. 10:1-4). They worked as a part of the system of redemption that was tied to Jesus

- Genesis 3:15 - the promise of victory over sin
- Genesis 3:21 - what is so important about this? What does this tell us about the restoration of fellowship (4:1)?

3. This might be a good time to consider the principle of grace. Some say there was no grace in the Old Testament. How would you respond?

4. Think deeply about Genesis 3:21 (and its connection to the rest of Scripture). There are two important aspects of sacrifice:

- Sacrifice must involve the shedding of blood to affect sin (3:21; 4:3-4; Heb. 9:22; Lev. 17:11). Why do you think blood is required?

- Sacrifice is substitutionary in nature. What does this mean?



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# THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

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## *UNDERSTANDING THE SENTENCE*

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. If God made a promise of salvation through Jesus and even offered a life-for-life exchange in a sacrifice, why would Adam and Eve still be expelled from the Garden? How do you understand the “Tree of Life?”

“Therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken” (Gen. 3:23).

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2. What would removal from the Tree of Life mean for their future beyond the garden (Gen. 5:1ff)? What is the consequence every person experiences because of the entrance of sin? Is there value in understanding this? What is the value?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Our world is full of suffering and pain. How does the story of redemption help us to understand the existence of pain and suffering? How have atheists and skeptics used the existence of pain and suffering? How can we explain evil and suffering in the world (Gen. 2:16-17; Deut. 30:15-20; Josh. 24:15)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. While we may never understand the cause of pain we experience, what are some possible immediate causes of suffering and pain? Does suffering always imply guilt? Are there benefits to suffering?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Does every pain we experience in this life have an answer through the Scheme of Redemption?

# The Scheme of Redemption

Bringing it all together



**Developed Understanding**  
Each successive covenant revealed more about Jesus



**Life!**  
All covenants emphasize life (Gen. 3:22; Deut. 30:15-20; John 10:10)



**Hope**  
All covenants offer hope through Jesus our Savior

## Discussion Questions

1. There have been three covenants with mankind since the beginning. What are these covenants? Also, what is a covenant (Heb. 9:15-17)? Are covenants unconditional or conditional, or both?

**1**

### COVENANT

A set of conditions to which one is bound

**2**

### PRIESTHOOD

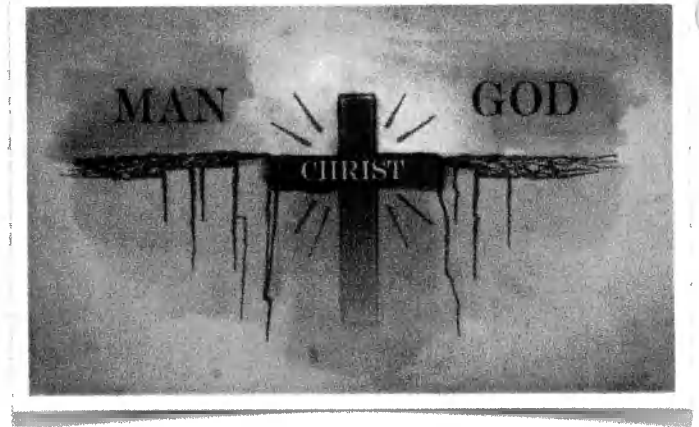
The ones that offer sacrifice (Heb. 7:12)

**3**

### SACRIFICE

Substitutionary...a life-for-life exchange

2. Are all three covenants the same? Are there differences between them?



**“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21).**

3. Every covenant operates on priesthood and sacrifice. Explain how these three things work together.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In every covenant, there are unchanging principles of pardon: Grace, Faith, Law and Works. Explain what these are and how they work.