

# DOCTRINE

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## THE SCRIPTURES

God has communicated this grand narrative through the written Word, inspiring some 40 authors over a period of over 1,600 years to pen the 66 books of the Bible. This library of history, poetry, and prophecy, as originally written in its original languages, is trustworthy and without error. Every word is the result of divine inspiration and guidance, expressed through human personalities and styles. Accordingly, the Scriptures hold highest authority over all other means of revelation, and everything within can help us learn about who God is and who we are called to be in response. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

## CREATOR

The story begins with the one and only true God, eternally existent and self-sufficient in a community of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God exists in Trinity—three, yet one; one, yet three—each member equal in glory, co-eternal in majesty. Within the Trinity, every attribute of God is perfectly embodied and effectively revealed. (Genesis 1:26, Genesis 11:7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:1-2, 14, 18; Hebrews 1:8-9; Revelation 22:3)

### GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an everlasting, infinite, perfect personal being who is the sovereign and rightful ruler of all that exists – perfect in all of His attributes. (Genesis 1:1; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Isaiah 43:6-7)

### GOD THE SON

Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, begotten, not created. He became man without ceasing to be God. He did so in order that He might bring us back into a relationship with our Creator. (John 3:16; Colossians 1:15; John 10:30; Philippians 2:5-8)

### GOD THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit of God is the Divine Person who brings conviction of sin to the world and is the indwelling Guide and Counselor in all believers, guiding them into all truth as the Father wills. He equips and partners with believers in the mission of God. (John 14:15-17, 26, 16:12-15; Galatians 5:22-23)

## CREATION

As an expression of divine love and glory, God chose to create the Universe and all things therein. He made everything out of nothing by the power of His word—all of which was good. At the pinnacle of His creation, He fashioned humanity in His own image, male and female, and gave them dominion over all else that He had made. (Genesis 1:1-31)

## BROKENNESS

The story takes an unfortunate turn. Despite having every needed provision for lives of joy and peace with God and creation, mankind chose himself over God. We believed the lie that we knew better what would bring us fulfilled lives. Because of man's rebellion, the perfect relationship between us and God was broken, and Heaven and Earth were no longer one. Every human since this fall has been born with a sinful nature—a heart bent away from God—prone to choose self over God, in need of God's saving grace. (Genesis 3:4-7; Romans 3:23-24)

## REDEMPTION

From the moment of man's initial sin and the plunge of all creation into its curse, God promised to set things right. Jesus proved to be that figure, fulfilling all Old Testament prophecies. He was God made flesh—the second person of the Trinity. He entered human history as a man to live without sin in perfect obedience, to die for sin as the propitiation from God's righteous wrath, and to victoriously resurrect over sin and death. Jesus then returned to His place of glory in Heaven, where to this day He intercedes before the Father on behalf of all those who trust in His sacrifice. God adopts this people of faith as children and unites them as His church. He regenerates our dead hearts to new life and gives the Holy Spirit to help us continue Christ's work of restoring Shalom. (Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16; Leviticus 16; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Isaiah 53:1-12; John 1:1-3, 14; Hebrews 2:17, 4:15, 7:25; Colossians 2:13-15; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:13; Titus 3:5; 1 John 4:12)

## RESTORATION

The story ends with God making things as He originally created them: perfect. Free from sin, pain, and even death, we will be united with our Creator again, invited to partake in the Kingdom He has been establishing. Jesus has promised to return one day, not again as a humble servant, but in glory to judge the nations. He will usher in a resurrection of all peoples and will bring final justice. He will establish a new Earth in which the redeemed people of God will enjoy Him and His blessings forever. (Revelation 11:18; 2 Peter 3:13)

