

# MOSAIC



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He will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for His own glory.

– Isaiah 61:3



## PREFACE

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*As you interact with the seven days of this Mosaic journey, our prayer is that you would carve out a time and place in your daily rhythm to commune with God and listen for His voice as He speaks to you personally. May the original artwork, images, narratives, and reflective moments usher you into a more intimate realization and awe of your Creator God's handiwork throughout history and in your own life. Through these pages, our hope is for you to discover a fresh vision of His loving intentionality to bring restoration, hope, and beauty into the seemingly broken places of life.*





## INTRODUCTION

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Mosaic artists are visual poets—skilled craftspeople who have a unique vision for taking something that has been broken and using it in a way that is both familiar and yet altogether new. In their creative process, these visual masters take broken pieces of a given medium, often tiles or glass, and envision them not as singular broken things, but instead as potential parts of a whole, able to serve a greater good in another work, much bigger than the thing itself.

Mosaic artists are stewards in the life journey of the shattered pieces of other people's crafts. This journey plays itself out in four beautiful and uniquely harmonious movements—**tile, break, reimagination, restoration.**

In these movements, we see a parallel journey of God, throughout human history, telling a beautifully intricate story of responding to human sin and gloriously restoring His purposes in redemption. Our Father is the ultimate Craftsman—weaving together love, love, and love again in an extravagant work of art that far outshines the individual parts, with a view of the glory of the whole.





## ■ TILE, BREAK, REIMAGINATION, RESTORATION

The **TILE**, an exquisite creation in its own right, mirrors the intentional artistry of a skilled craftsman who, much like our Creator, molds delicate wonders intended for aesthetic delight. In the paradox of our own human journey, beautifully crafted souls are susceptible to the fractures of a fallen world. Likewise, the tile, crafted with a purpose, is delicate and vulnerable to breakage. The very fineness that makes it beautiful can ultimately lead to a sometimes-inevitable fracture. This is the story of God’s initial acts of creation. He creates beautiful concepts and ideas in love, family, relationships, and unity. These are the tiles of His initial good creation.

The **BREAK** occurs at the moment our sin nature leads us to reject our created image-bearing nature, just like a tile is sometimes dropped or chipped in transit or during a project. So too are the Creator’s exquisite ideas in the hands of less skilled artists. We take the things that He created, and we bend and distort—we endeavor to create our own versions or to bend the pure in favor of the impure. We drop the tiles of God’s glorious purpose and make what would typically seem like a real mess of our lives and the world around us.

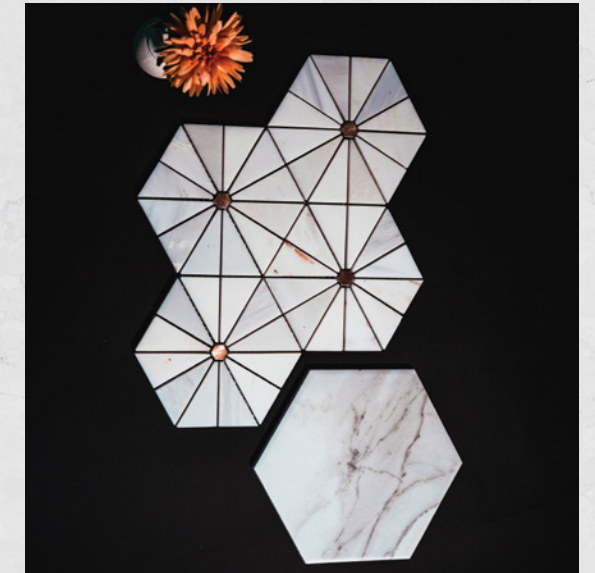


But God is so much bigger than our failures. He is not limited by our mistakes, and His glorious purposes continue as He is also the Master Mosaic Artist, driven constantly toward a **REIMAGINATION**. A mosaic artist can view broken pieces of tile and see beyond them to a restored work. With a renewed imagination, the craftsman believes they can still be purposed for something great. God creates with purpose, and when we fail to perfectly enact those purposes in our own lives, He remains ever faithful in His abounding grace to restore many broken things, people, and relationships. In Christ, the Lord has taken old things—fragmented and seemingly beyond repair—and established a plan to make them new.

This book will unfurl that tapestry to put on full display the power of God’s restorative plan and His great love of us. Through the corridors of history, we will explore pivotal movements where God’s wondrous creations—relationships, family, language—were distorted by the fallen nature of humanity. Yet, in His mercy and love, God through Christ provides an opportunity for restoration, both in the present and in the anticipated return of Christ.

This is the Mosaic that we celebrate in the body of Christ—the richness of a God so vast in His imagination that He can create and restore beautiful works of enduring art even in the midst of our tremendous brokenness. ■

Finally, the fourth movement embraces the culmination of the artist’s labor—**The RESTORATION**. Through meticulous skill, God sees eternally beyond what is apparent to us. The broken becomes whole, and the discordant notes of shattered tiles harmonize into a symphony of beauty. This mirrors the transformative work of God, who is rich in mercy and abundant in love and extends an opportunity for restoration through Christ. The completion of the artistic process reveals a resplendent tapestry, woven from the threads of brokenness, proclaiming the divine narrative of redemption.





# 1

*Children and Children Again*

ADAM, EVE, AND THE PRODIGAL SON

Genesis 3 and Luke 15



## ■ DIVINE LOVE DISPLAYED

In the cosmic masterpiece of creation, God's love stands as the guiding force, shaping a tapestry of beauty, purpose, and identity. It is a culminating overflow of the eternal harmony between Father, Son, and Spirit. The divine craftsmanship unfolds in a symphony of light and dark, waters and skies, Earth and seas, plants and their seeds, celestial bodies, and the diverse array of living creatures. Each one is spoken into being, guided into life and imbued with purpose for a spectacular display of the Creator's boundless love.

The sixth day of this cosmic design brings His spectacular and favorable love to a crescendo. God makes a final pair of creatures, the first man and woman, who bear the imprint of their Creator, unique compared to all else and given a specific purpose to have a guardianship and dominion over all He has made. This is His final act before rest, when the "good" of God's creation becomes "very good" (Genesis 1:31), when the first man is made from the dust and breathed into by God Himself, and the first woman is made from a bone in the man's side to become the glorious counterpart and completion of the human "one flesh" dyad.





# BREAK



## ■ THE SHATTERED HARMONY

God's beloved image-bearing children live in the idyllic harmony of the garden for a time, communing with their Creator, until one day, something is not right. The relational joy is questioned and a perilous choice is forced upon the couple. The deceptive Serpent sows seeds of doubt about the trustworthiness of God's command in the woman's heart, warning her of a supposed missed opportunity that God is keeping from them. Tempted by the delight of the fruit's wisdom-giving power and the allure of becoming more, she takes it and eats. The man, her counterpart, the one who God gave responsibility to care for and protect creation, especially his wife, makes the second perilous decision. He too chooses to defy God's directive, plunging creation into a fractured state of shame, blame, and fear.

The consequences are swift and profound. The once pristine garden becomes a distant memory as God, in righteous sorrow, pronounces curses upon the Serpent, the man, and the woman. Remaining true to His word, He declares the consequences of pain, enmity, hardship, and death that will fall on the couple and their descendants. Their expulsion from the garden marks the advent of a world tainted by the results of disobedience. With an uncertain hope that their choice to know good and evil will protect them, Adam and Eve venture into the vast unknown. The beloved mosaic of creation, once resplendent, now bears the scars of brokenness.



## ■ STORIES OF REDEMPTION

In the centuries that followed, humanity's narrative echoed the recurring themes of dimmed love, fearful distrust, and muted identity. One story, used as an illustration by Jesus, shows God's relentless, enduring love for His creation. A man with a significant estate has one of his two sons demand his inheritance early. The father agrees and the wayward son, driven by distorted love for wealth and self-determination, begins his reckless journey. Eventually driven to the depths of despair, the son is propelled to return home with a rehearsed speech about his unworthiness and a plea for mercy.

In an unexpected twist, the father's response defies expectations. The one wished dead sees his son on the horizon and runs to him, expressing excitement and joy. Instead of retribution, the prodigal son encounters overwhelming compassion and extravagant grace. This astounding response replaces the vindictive justice and shame-filled imprisonment he expected, and he is never the same again. This narrative offers a glimpse into the possibility of renewed beauty, relational joy, secure identity, and rediscovered purpose that can be found by the many outcasts who live east of Eden.





# RESTORATION



## ■ THE DIVINE ACT OF LOVE

What often eludes the children of God is the profound truth that every consequence of rebellion is met with an equally profound manifestation of grace. When the first humans chose to know good and evil, God barred their way into eternal brokenness so the tree of life would not seal their fate. When they were naked and ashamed, He performed the first sacrifice and clothed them with animal skins. As they received their declared consequences for disobedience, the Creator promised them a wounded Savior, bearing witness to His redemptive love. God's grace emerged as a beacon of hope, assuring that the path to restoration was never completely closed.

When there was an older, self-righteous brother disparaging the wayward son and focusing on his own good record as a badge of honor, there was a True Older Brother, Jesus the Savior-King, who stepped into the narrative. He absorbed the punitive blows and conquered death, ushering in a restoration that transcended human expectations. The Father, Son, and Spirit collaborated to bind the wounds, reimagine life, and restore a fractured sense of self for humanity. The beautiful culmination is a joyous celebration of homecoming for His sons and daughters at the grandest of all festivals. ■



On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,  
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

And He will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,

and the reproach of His people  
He will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,  
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him,  
that He might save us.

This is the Lord; we have waited for Him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

– Isaiah 25:6-9

## ■ REFLECTION

1. In what ways do the consequences of disobedience reflect the profound love of God in your life?
2. How does the story of the wayward son resonate with your own journey of redemption and restoration?
3. Reflect on moments in your life where God's grace unexpectedly defied your expectations.

*Father, please remind me that not a day goes by that I do not stray from You in some way. Thank You for Your immeasurable grace. May I never forget my daily need for it and Your desire that I extend it to those around me who need it.*





*Fractured Family Renewed*

CAIN, ABEL, MARY, AND JOHN

Genesis 4 and John 19

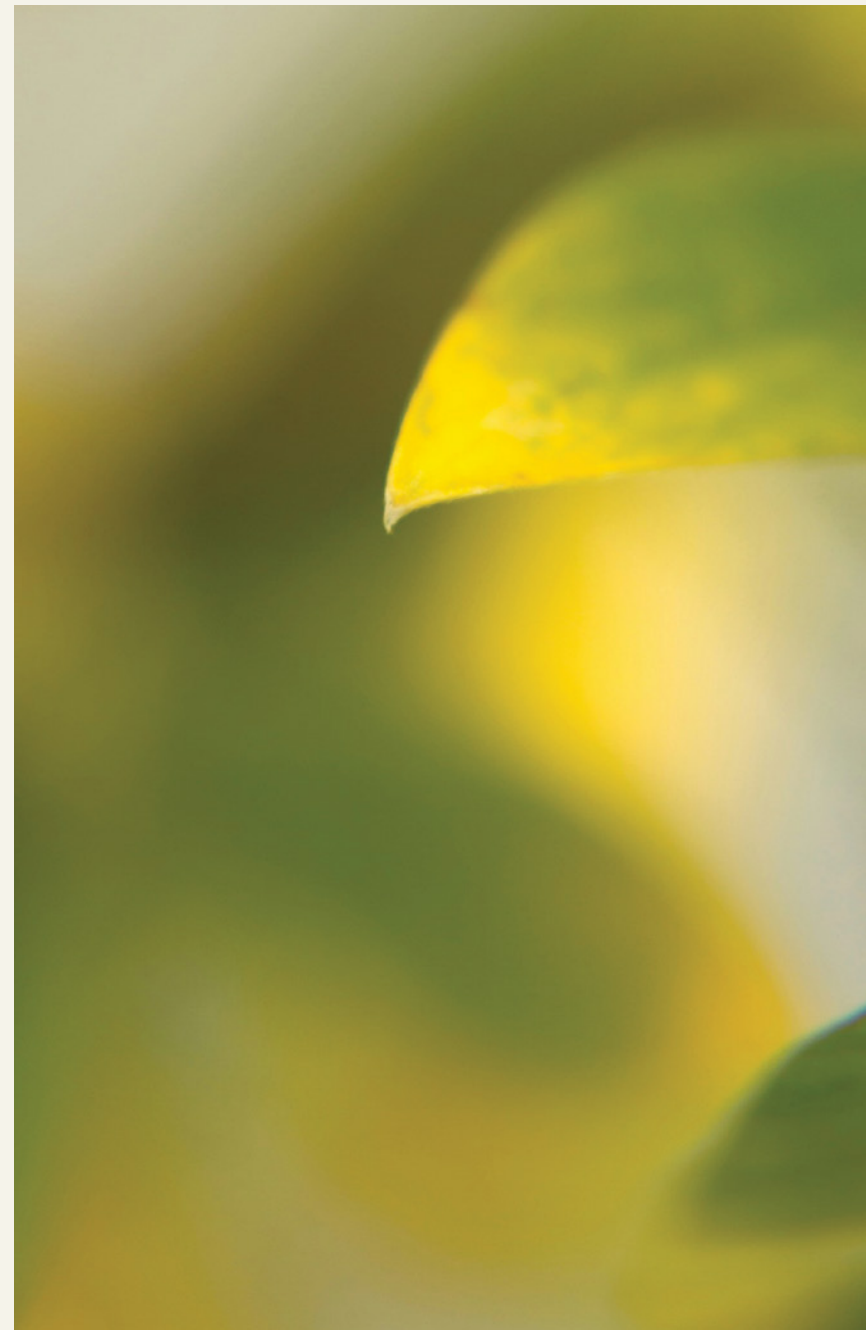




### ■ DIVINE CRAFTSMANSHIP OF SIBLINGHOOD

In the grandeur of creation, God intricately wove the fabric of family, crafting a masterpiece that reflected His boundless love and purpose. Cain and Abel, like delicate tiles in this divine mosaic, were intended to embody the beauty of siblinghood, shared purpose, and mutual love. God, the ultimate Craftsman, carefully shaped each of them with unique qualities, forming a family that mirrored the intentional artistry of a skilled creator.

Cain and Abel weren't just ordinary individuals; they were intricately designed souls carrying the potential for unity and love. Their lives were meant to stand as a testament to the goodness of God's original design for family relationships. As the tiles of God's initial good creation, Cain and Abel were symbols of the Creator's intention for love and harmony within the family.





# BREAK

## ■ THE SHATTERING DISCORD OF SIBLING RIVALRY

The idyllic surface shattered quickly as sin infiltrated the family mosaic. The story of Cain and Abel unfolded, revealing the brokenness that emerges when the sin nature leads individuals to reject their created image-bearing essence. Envy and rivalry between the brothers shatters the once-unified surface of the family tile.

While preparing an offering for God, jealousy consumes Cain, driving him to commit the unthinkable act of murdering his own brother. The tile of brotherhood, once beautiful and united, now lays broken and fragmented on the ground. The consequences of sin had shattered the intended harmony, leaving the family mosaic marred and stained.

This brokenness mirrors our own lives. Just as Cain allowed jealousy to distort his relationship with Abel, we too are prone to bending and distorting God's intentions. The fractures in our families and relationships echo the fallen nature of humanity, as we drop the tiles of God's glorious purpose and create a mess of our lives and the world around us.



# REIMAGINATION

## ■ UNITED IN CHRIST— FAMILY REIMAGINED

Amidst the shards of the family mosaic, God remains bigger than our failures. The Creator, the Master Mosaic Artist, initiates a new imagination. In Jesus Christ, God presents a vision where broken elements can be repurposed for greatness. The family of God, once shattered by sin, is reimagined and united in Christ.

As followers of Jesus, we become part of a new family, a spiritual mosaic where the broken tiles are not discarded but transformed. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross becomes the adhesive that binds the pieces together, creating a mosaic that reflects the redemptive work of God. In this new imagination, the brokenness of our past is not a hindrance but an opportunity for God to showcase His grace and restoration.





# RESTORATION

## ■ JESUS, MARY, AND JOHN — DIVINE TAPESTRY OF REDEMPTION

In the ultimate movement of restoration, the narrative shifts to a scene at the foot of the cross. Jesus, hanging in agony, looks down and sees Mary, His mother, and John, the disciple whom He loved. In this profound moment, Jesus declares a new familial relationship, transcending biological ties and establishing a spiritual unity.

To John, Jesus says, “Behold your mother,” and to Mary, He says, “Woman, behold your son.” In this act, Jesus not only ensures the care of His earthly mother but symbolically declares that all believers are now part of a new family. The family of God is no longer defined by blood ties but by the redeeming love of Christ.

This moment at the cross is the pinnacle of restoration, where the discordant notes of shattered relationships are transformed into a symphony of divine redemption. The broken tiles of humanity find their place in a tapestry woven by the hands of the Master Mosaic Artist. The sacrificial love of Christ becomes the thread that brings together the fragmented pieces, creating a resplendent masterpiece that declares the beauty of God’s transformative power.

Through the new imagination presented in Christ, we find hope and purpose in the midst of our shattered experiences. The restoration at the cross extends an invitation to be part of the family of God, where unity is not based on our merit but on the unmerited grace of Christ through the transformative power of His cross. ■

## ■ REFLECTION

1. Reflect on a time in your life when jealousy or rivalry led to brokenness in your relationships. How did you navigate through that brokenness, and what lessons did you learn about the impact of sin on unity and harmony?
2. Consider an area of your life where brokenness exists now. How might the redemptive love of Christ transform these broken pieces into a beautiful mosaic, reflecting God’s grace and restoration?
3. Reflect on a moment in your life when you experienced restoration and redemption, either in relationships or personal struggles. How did God’s grace, through the cross, transform a broken situation into an opportunity for growth and renewal?

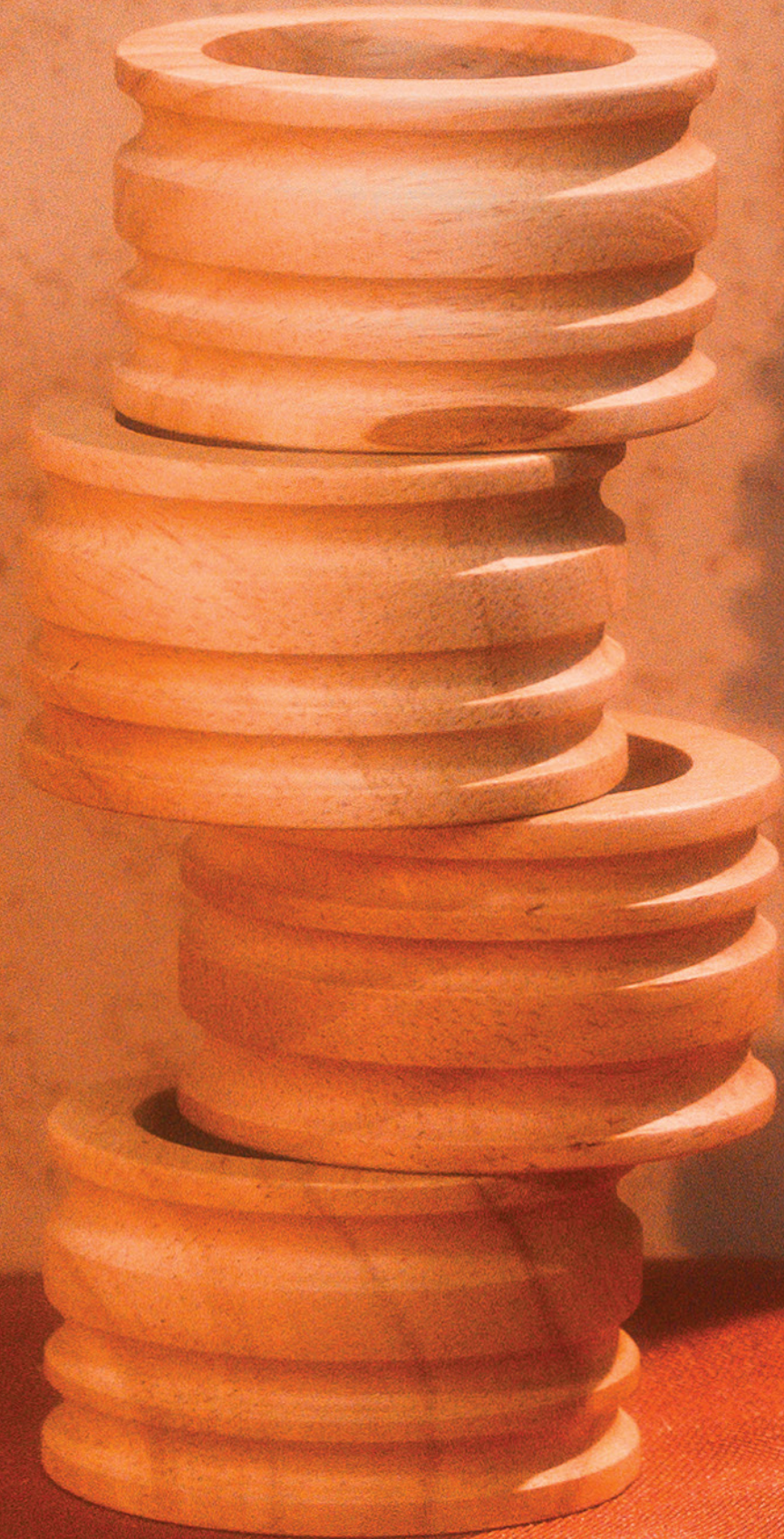
*Father, thank You for calling me not only into a relationship with You, but through Jesus, with my brothers and sisters in Your family. Move by Your Spirit to help me fight the urge to isolate each day and to instead turn to love and be loved by others.*



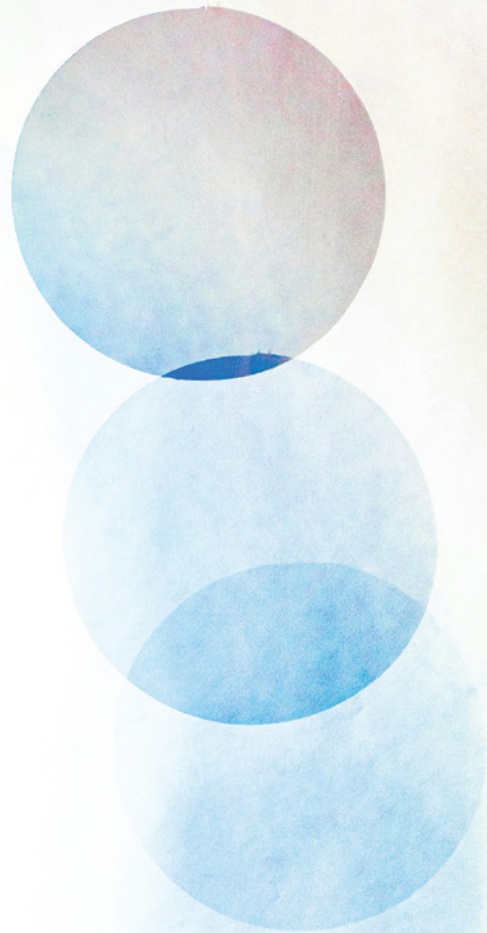
# *Scraping the Sky*

TOWER OF BABEL AND UNITY IN CHRIST

Genesis 9-11 and Galatians 3







### ■ A DIVINE COVENANT AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

In the aftermath of the global flood, as Noah and his family descended from the Ark onto the surface of Mt. Ararat, God established a profound covenant between Himself and humanity. This sacred pact, marked by the beautiful hues of the rainbow, bore witness to God's promise to never again destroy all living things with a world-wide flood. Beyond this majestic symbol, the divine covenant introduced new concepts of climate, seasons, and weather (seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter) and a new relationship between man and animals.

God also entrusted Noah and his descendants with a weighty responsibility: "Be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it" (Genesis 9:7). This directive, an echo of the divine call at the dawn of creation, set the stage for a flourishing post-flood world. As the years unfolded, Noah's kin faithfully adhered to this charge, and for a considerable span, they nurtured a collective unity and understanding, sharing a common language and customs.



### ■ THE COLLECTIVE AMBITION OF BABEL

Yet, amid the cohesive tapestry of shared language and customs, an ambitious collective spirit began to stir. The descendants of Noah, settling in the fertile plains of Shinar, began brick making and sought to build not only a city but a tower that would reach the heavens. This audacious endeavor was not just an architectural marvel but a manifestation of a collective human spirit yearning for self-sufficiency and autonomy. In defiance of God's command to scatter across the earth, they desired to make a name for themselves.

The Tower of Babel narrative unveils a profound rupture in the relationship between God and humanity. It illustrates the inherent human tendency toward pride and disobedience, echoing the ancient sins of the Garden. Out of distrust in God, the builders also sought to construct this high place to find refuge should God send another flood. As they toiled on their tower, the people exhibited a belief that they could ascend to the heavens independently, disregarding God's directive and doubting His promise to sustain the earth.





# REIMAGINATION

## ■ DIVERSE CULTURES AND LANGUAGES

God's response to this societal arrogance was to mercifully disperse the people by confusing their language. Despite the disarray, new cultures emerged and the deep-seated human longing for unification persisted.

The desire for families, friends, tribes, and nations to transcend linguistic and cultural barriers remains a profound hope. Yet, the Tower of Babel narrative reveals the consequences of trusting in sin-laden human endeavors rather than God's sovereignty and His promises. Thankfully, God in His mercy planned a way to ultimately unify people under an eternal, spiritual banner in the coming Messiah.



# RESTORATION

## ■ UNITY IN CHRIST ALONE

The ultimate solution that transcends the brokenness and divisions of this world lies at the foot of the cross. There, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ offers redemption and cleansing. This reality was powerfully displayed at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given and people from all parts of the known world heard and understood each other speaking in their own native language. The curse of Babel was finally reversed, and new believers were powerfully, gloriously, and undeniably brought together by the outpouring of the Spirit of Christ Jesus.

In Christ and in Him alone, the broken tiles of Babel find their place in a new mosaic of redemption and unity. As believers, we are called to embrace this unity, recognizing our citizenship in heaven and our oneness in Christ. Divisions are erased and “He alone is our peace, who has made the two groups into one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14). Praise be to God for His indescribable gift! ■





## ■ REFLECTION

1. How do our endeavors align with God's plan for our lives?
2. In what ways might we be veering towards a humanistic pride that mirrors the audacity of the Tower of Babel builders?
3. How can we seek unity and peace with other Christ-followers whose opinions and lifestyles may differ from our own?

*Father, humble me by the inner-working power of Your Spirit to trust that I am reconciled to You and to my brothers and sisters only by the redemptive power of Christ. Call me to unity even when my circumstances call me away from it.*





*Curtains*

THE TABERNACLE AND THE TORN VEIL

Exodus 25 and Matthew 27



## ■ THE SACRED BLUEPRINT

In the grand design of God's plan, He instructed the Israelites to build a portable sanctuary as a tangible representation of His desire to dwell among them on their journey to the promised land. Within this Tabernacle's sacred confines, the people could worship and commune with their Creator while the appointed priests offered animal sacrifices on behalf of the community.

Like an expert artisan, God meticulously planned every detail of the Tabernacle, from the outer court to the sacred Holy of Holies. This tile, with its intricate details and veiled mysteries, set the stage for the divine drama of redemption. Every element in the Tabernacle—from the wash basin to the bread, from the lampstand to the solemn altar of sacrifice—beautifully pointed to Jesus. In Him, we would ultimately find cleansing, sustenance through His Word, light to our path, intercession on our behalf, and justification through His precious blood. At the appointed time, He would become our ultimate sacrifice and our eternal mediator.



# BREAK

## ■ THE TENSION OF SEPARATION

Because God's justice could not simply overlook our sins, He provided a temporary means of atonement through the sacrificial blood of animals. Though these rituals and sacrifices never pleased Him (Hebrews 10:6), they served as a poignant reminder of the cost of our rebellion. Guarding the sacred space where the High Priest did his holiest work was a thick veil, emphasizing the separation between a holy God and sinful humanity.

The Tabernacle blueprint carried over into the grandeur of Solomon's Temple and eventually Herod's Temple, which stood during Jesus' day. Although the Shekinah cloud of God's glory and the Ark were no longer present, sacrifices continued. The Jews still revered the Holy of Holies and feared approaching it. Hence, the veil was extremely thick—nearly 60 feet long, 30 feet wide, and as thick as a man's palm. It served as an ominous reminder of the chasm between God and sinful humanity.





# REIMAGINATION

## ■ THE PROPHETIC TEAR

In the grand tapestry of God's redemptive narrative, a moment of breathtaking reimagination occurs. The sacrificial system, a temporary remedy for sin, finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ. On the Friday of Passover, as sacrificial lambs were being offered in the temple, Jesus, the Lamb of God, surrendered His life on a wooden cross.

In that climactic moment, the massive temple veil was torn in two, from top to bottom, by the hand of God Himself. In this profound and breathtaking act, the Lord destroyed the barrier between Himself and humanity that had existed for more than 1,500 years. The Holy Place stood wide open for the first time ever!



# RESTORATION

## ■ A NEW REALITY

This tearing of the veil marks an opportunity for glorious restoration. Jesus, our true High Priest, has forged a new and living way for us to approach the Father through the shedding of His own perfect blood. All who put their trust in Him can now find complete forgiveness of their sins—past, present, future—fully atoned for before the throne of God.

No longer bound by the constraints of rituals, sacrifices or earthly mediators, believers now have unrestricted access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ. The torn veil symbolizes the end of the Old Covenant and the dawn of a new reality—God’s presence residing within His people.

As living temples of the Holy Spirit, believers now embody the fulfillment of the Tabernacle’s purpose. Through the indwelling Spirit, we possess something even more holy than the Ark of the Covenant—God Himself within us.

Through Christ, we live in freedom and forgiveness, no longer separated by veils or barriers but invited into intimate communion with our Creator.

God transformed the brokenness of the sacrificial system into a beautiful and very costly mosaic through the sacrifice of His Son. The veil, once a barrier, has now become a gateway, inviting us into our Father’s presence.

Perhaps in some way, you have erected a veil between you and God. He stands ready to tear away the veil of separation, beckoning you to come confidently into His presence. There, through Christ, you can find mercy and grace, your deepest purpose, and your eternal home. ■







■ **REFLECTION**

1. In what ways do you create sacred spaces or moments in your life to encounter God's presence?
2. Are there areas of sin, doubt, or distraction that act as a thick veil, hindering your intimacy with God? How can you surrender these barriers to Jesus, allowing Him to tear them down and restore your relationship with Him?
3. How can you embrace the reality of God's presence within you through Christ and allow it to transform your interactions with others and your perspective on life?

*Father, quiet the chaos of my life by reminding me that You are literally with me now and always.*



# *Voices*

## 400 YEARS OF SILENCE AND THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Intertestamental Period and Mark 1





## ■ THE RESONANCE OF GOD'S VOICE THROUGHOUT HISTORY

The first words of Scripture reveal one of the most profound attributes of our God—He is a God who speaks. His spoken Word orchestrates the cosmos into existence, bringing forth galaxies and supernovas, gravity and thermodynamics, lions and daisies. With the pinnacle of His creation, humanity, God chooses to walk in the cool of the day, engaging in communion, and speaking directly to His cherished creation.

Despite the rupture caused by the Fall, God's communication persists. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob receive divine messages through dreams, commands, prophecies, and blessings. Centuries later, at the foot of Mount Sinai, the intensity and power of God's voice leaves Israel trembling. They beg that He would speak solely to Moses as a mouthpiece to His people.

Generations would come and go, and God would speak to the nation through judges and prophets, always raising up one to declare "the Word of the Lord." Through conquests and kingdoms, obedience and apostasy, God spoke to His people again, and again, and again.





# BREAK



## ■ THE DEAFENING SILENCE

Then suddenly, in a surprising turn—silence. The era of Ezra, Nehemiah, and the prophet Malachi concludes as the exiled Israelites resettle their lands, leaving behind an unsettling void. With the departure of these leaders comes a famine of God's voice.

Months, years, decades, centuries pass, raising questions about God's enduring silence. Did His people's refusal to heed His voice cause Him to stop speaking at all? Has God been finally pushed to a point of rejecting His people forever? If the voice of the Lord means creation and life, what could His silence mean but destruction and death?



# REIMAGINATION

## ■ THE STIRRINGS OF PROMISE

Yet, after 400 long years, faint echoes of long-forgotten prophecies begin to reverberate. Though God's voice remains unheard, His messengers emerge to announce the forthcoming births of John and Jesus. John, as a prophet, proclaims the imminent arrival of the Lord.

As Jesus comes to be baptized by John, the prophet declares, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." As our Savior comes out of the water, the heavens open and God's voice thunders, shattering the long drought: "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." Those witnessing this pivotal moment could have no doubt that the wait was over.





# RESTORATION

## ■ GOD'S TRIUMPHANT VOICE IN CHRIST

God's voice had returned with a fury. Moving beyond pronouncements from heaven and prophetic declarations, God now takes on human form in Jesus Christ. The eternal Word, present and active in creation, now walks among us, embodying God's presence and voice through His teachings. Echoing back to the garden, man walks alongside his Creator once again, communing with Him, and ultimately being redeemed by Him.

Simultaneously, the Spirit, revealed at Jesus' baptism and later descending at Pentecost, becomes the active, indwelling presence of God. In the new covenant, the Spirit speaks through apostles, empowers believers, and resides within each follower of Jesus. God's voice, no longer distant or silent, resonates within, with believers now privileged to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd dwelling within their hearts.

This transformative narrative emphasizes the ebb and flow of God's voice throughout history—its resonance, occasional silence, the stirring of promises, and the triumphant restoration of God's voice within the hearts of believers. ■



## ■ REFLECTION

1. Have you ever experienced a season where God's voice seemed silent in your life? How did you navigate through that period?
2. Reflect on moments when you felt a renewed sense of God's presence and voice, akin to the anticipation before Jesus' arrival.
3. Consider the significance of the indwelling Spirit in your life. How does recognizing God's voice within you impact your faith journey?

*Father, help me take time today to ask what You are up to in my life and to truly listen to Your answer. Through the voice of Your Spirit, draw me nearer so that You might do a work in me that only You can do.*







*Roosters*

PETER'S DENIAL OF JESUS AND RESTORATION

John 18 and 21





# TILE

## ■ PETER'S JOURNEY—WALKING WITH THE MASTER

As a Galilean fisherman, Peter was adventurous, impulsive, and courageous. So, when Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men,” Peter was all in and “*immediately* followed Him.” He was not only one of Jesus’ twelve disciples but became a significant leader of the group.

Repeatedly, the Gospel writers highlighted Peter’s boldness and loyalty, depicting him as a disciple who stood out among his peers. It was Peter who was invited to a mountaintop and watched in awe as Jesus’ appearance changed to radiate intense white. When Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” it was Peter who boldly professed, “You are the Christ.” As the wind swirled around him, Peter courageously stepped out of a boat and walked on water to meet Jesus. Peter passionately pledged his unyielding allegiance to Jesus and lived daily life with Him, amazed by His life and teaching.



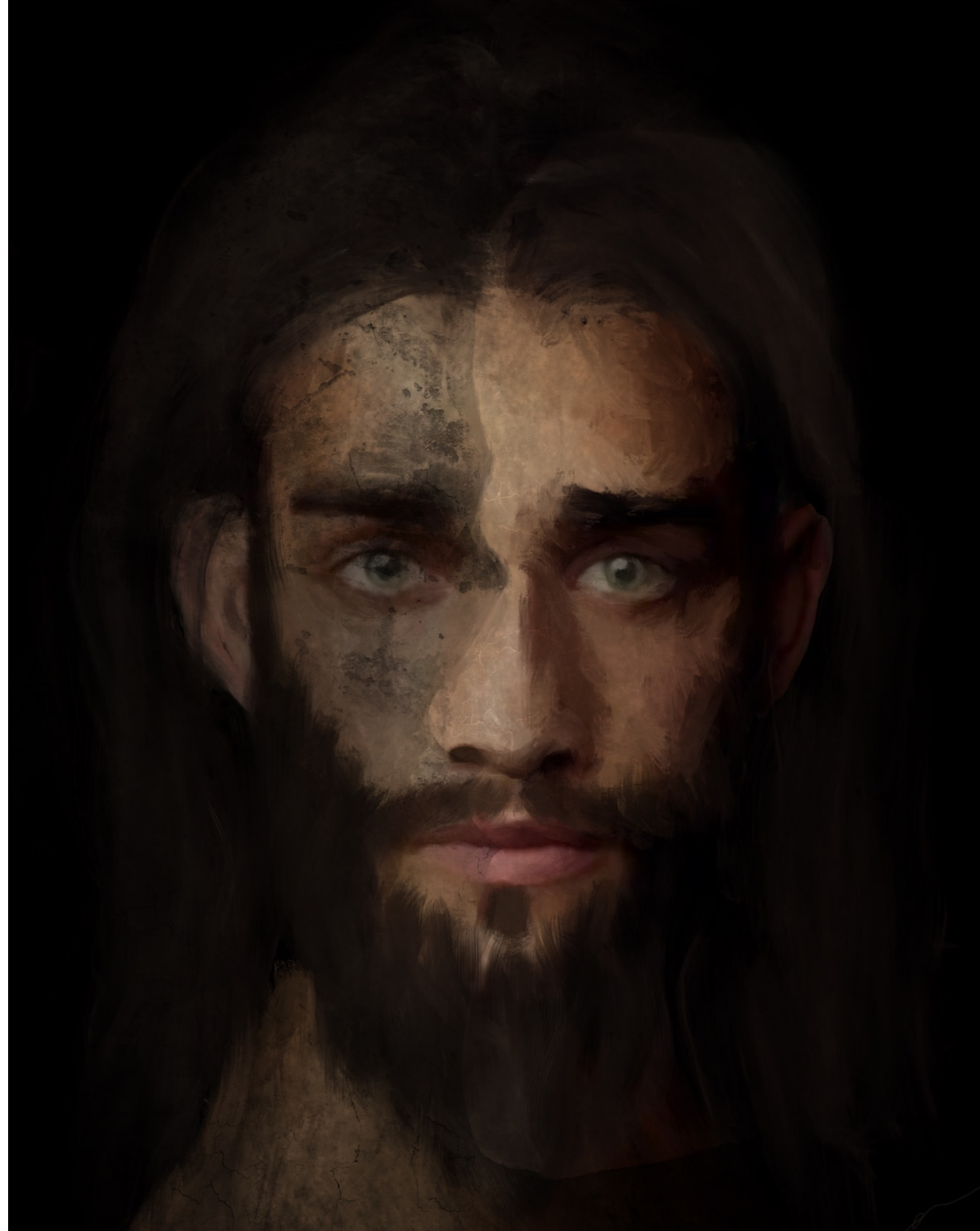


## ■ PETER'S UNFORESEEN DENIAL

In Jesus' final days, events took an unexpected turn. After their last Passover meal, the conversation turned grim and Jesus revealed, "You will all fall away because of Me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter wasn't having it. "Though they all fall away because of You," he said, "I will never fall away." Yet Jesus said, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Indignant, Peter repeated his resolve never to fall away. No doubt he meant every single word.

Peter's proclamation of allegiance had barely left his lips when we find him in the courtyard of the high priest. Jesus had been arrested at Gethsemane and Peter had tried his best to stop it, even slicing off an arrester's ear. But later, he was yards away from the trial of Jesus and hiding among the crowd when someone recognized him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the Galilean." Peter denied it. A second time someone connected him with Jesus; but with an oath, Peter denied knowing Him. A third time he was identified because his accent gave him away. But this time he cursed and swore, "I do not know this man." Suddenly, a common sound turned sinister—a rooster's crow. That sound. That reminder. Those haunting words, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." And Peter went out and wept bitterly.

The weight of Peter's failure was crushing, his soul marred by the realization that he had miserably failed his Master. Now Jesus was dead, and Peter was wrecked with guilt and despair.





# REIMAGINATION

## ■ RESTORATION THROUGH UNFATHOMABLE FORGIVENESS

In the aftermath of Peter's devastating denial, a scene unfolded at the tomb that defied his expectations. As women arrived to anoint Jesus' body, they discovered the stone rolled away and an angelic figure proclaiming: "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. Go, tell His disciples *and Peter* that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you." Despite Peter's denial, Jesus, in an act of unfathomable forgiveness, singled him out with a personalized message of redemption: "He is alive, and He'll be waiting to see you!"





# RESTORATION

## ■ LOVE, REDEMPTION, AND PURPOSE

In a poignant encounter by the shores of the sea, Jesus sought out Peter, who, grappling with the weight of his failure, had returned to fishing. The familiarity of the sea held a magnetic pull, perhaps fueled by self-doubt and the fear of disqualification from serving God. Jesus, however, had other plans.

After a fruitless night of fishing, Peter heard Jesus was on the shore and dove into the sea to reach Him. As Jesus fed the disciples breakfast, He thrice questioned Peter's love, mirroring the threefold denial. But with each affirmation, Jesus charged Peter with a commission: "Feed my lambs," "Shepherd my sheep," "Feed my sheep." Then, He repeated an invitation given Peter three years prior—welcoming words Peter thought he'd lost the privilege to hear: "Follow Me." Jesus was calling Peter back to leadership and service!

This encounter transformed Peter, who, despite his earlier failure, emerged as a central figure in the establishment and building of the early church. Acts chapters 1-12 showcase Peter's pivotal role—he preached a sermon that birthed the first church with 3,000 converts, performed miracles, defended Jesus before religious leaders, and authored two books of the Bible. Peter experienced grace firsthand. It was the glue that put his broken pieces back together again! ■





A still life photograph of a broken rock on a wooden surface. The rock is split into several pieces, with one large piece on the left and several smaller fragments on the right. The rock is light brown and textured. To the left of the rock, there are two white flowers with yellow centers, one in full bloom and one partially open. The flowers are on thin green stems. In the background, a book with a light-colored cover is visible. The entire scene is set on a dark wooden surface, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

## ■ REFLECTION

1. Have you ever made promises to God or others, only to find yourself falling short?
2. Can you relate to Peter's fervent commitment to Jesus and subsequent moments of denial and regret?
3. In times of personal failure, how do you perceive the possibility of redemption and restoration through divine forgiveness?

*Father, I confess that in my brokenness, whether in word or deed, my life sometimes denies my relationship to You in Christ. Please forgive me and restore me to live-giving communion with You.*

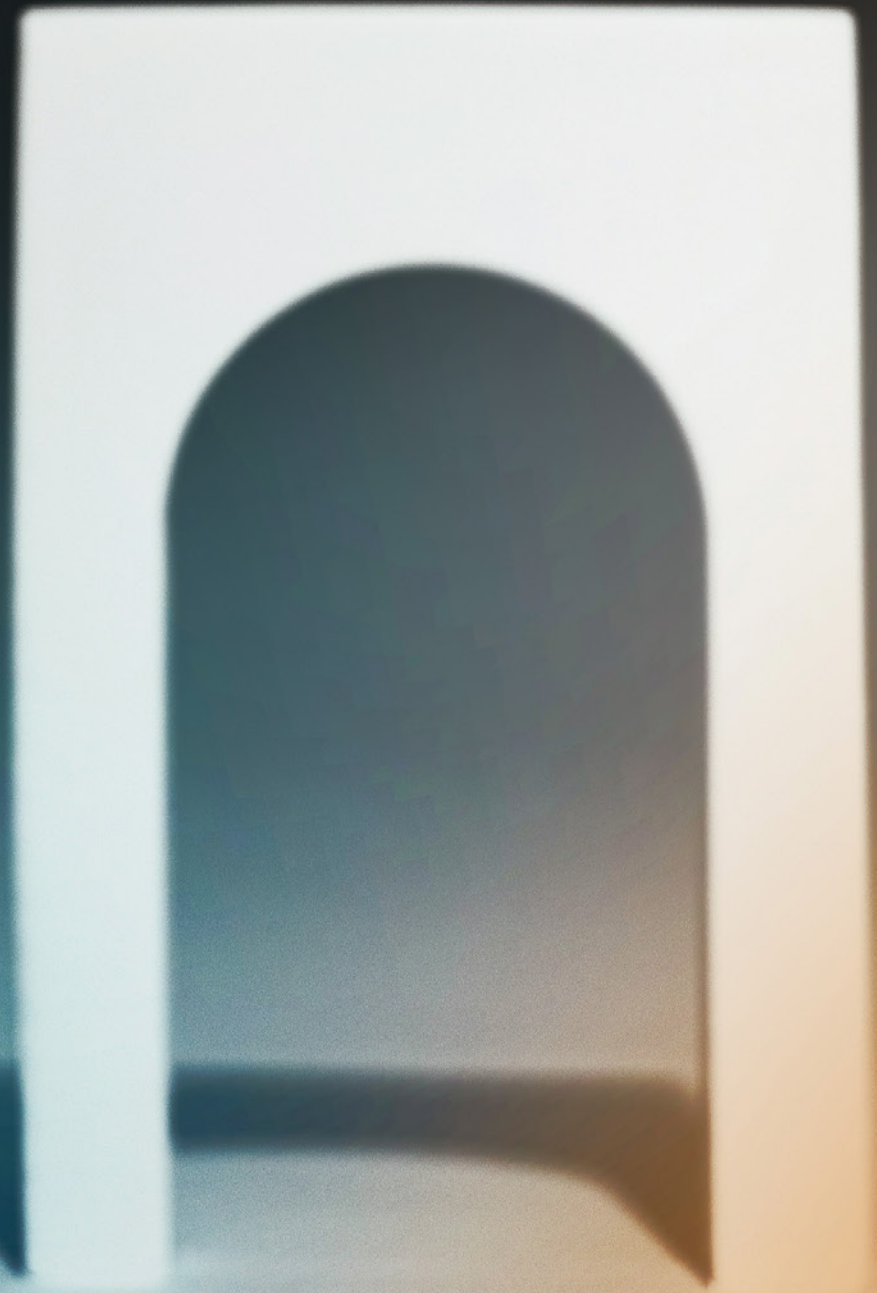
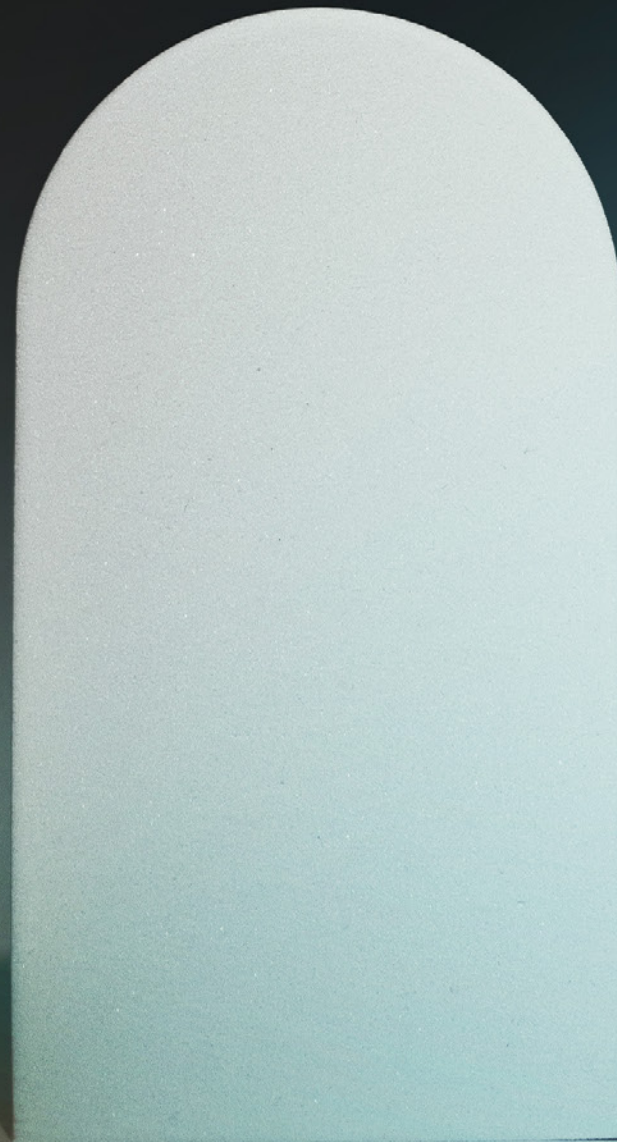
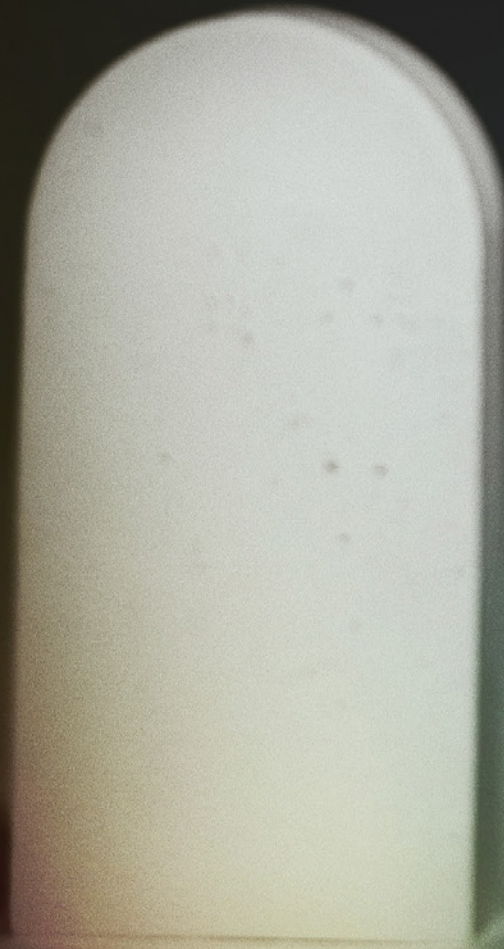




*Messiah*

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

*Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23-24, John 19-20*





## TILE

**■ HOPE-FILLED EXPECTATIONS**

In the great unfolding story of redemption, the long-awaited moment arrives as Jesus, the prophesied Messiah, God the Son, steps into a moment of human history in bodily form. The disciples and followers anticipate a conquering king, a political powerhouse who will liberate them from earthly oppression and establish an everlasting reign. Little do they know, the true unveiling of Jesus as the Messiah will challenge their expectations and redefine the very essence of His kingship.

Jesus comes to us bringing the greatest ministry of healing and reconciliation the world has ever known. He shatters expectations and reframes the entire history of redemption when He informs us in His *Sermon on the Mount* that He came not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17). Watching His ministry, the disciples think they have it figured out, and as much as Jesus tries to tell them that His time with them is short, they just can't understand.

How often do we wrestle with the same reality—focusing on our own expectations of who Jesus is and how *we want Him* to serve *our felt needs*? God has His own sovereign plan and it will not be subverted—confusing or scary as it may seem to us.



# BREAK

## ■ THE WEIGHT OF UNEXPECTED LOSS

As Jesus takes center stage, the narrative takes an unexpected turn. The Messiah, whom the disciples envision as a triumphant ruler, becomes the sacrificial Lamb led to slaughter. The cross, a symbol of shame and defeat in the eyes of the world, becomes the stage for the cosmic drama of redemption. In the brokenness of the crucifixion, the expectations and desires of the disciples are shattered, leaving them bewildered, afraid, and despairing.

The Messiah, once expected to bring political revolution, is now hanging on a criminal's cross. His followers, who dreamt of an earthly kingdom, witness their hopes crucified alongside Jesus. The crushing weight of disillusionment settles in as they grapple with the inconceivable reality that their anticipated conquering king is breathing His last breath before them.





# REIMAGINATION



## ■ THE RISEN SAVIOR'S ETERNAL KINGDOM

Yet, amidst the debris of shattered expectations, a new imagination is unfolding. With the hindsight of history, we know the Glory that would come. But to His followers at the time, it was only in witnessing this beautiful reimagination in the explosive birth of the Church that His words began to make sense. Through His death, Jesus reveals a Messiah whose kingship transcends the confines of earthly kingdoms. His sacrifice, far from a defeat, is the climax of a divine plan to reconcile humanity to God. The resurrection, the glorious sequel to the crucifixion, becomes the cornerstone of a new reality.

The disciples now reimagine Jesus as a Messiah whose kingdom is not of this world, but one that extends far beyond the visible realms and spans eternity. The earthly constraints of their original expectations are obliterated, making way for a kingdom where sin and death are defeated and believers are co-heirs in the eternal reign of the resurrected Messiah. The crucifixion, once a stumbling block, becomes the gateway to an unimaginable reality where Jesus reigns as the eternal Sovereign, defeating the powers of darkness and ushering in a kingdom of eternal significance.



# RESTORATION

## ■ RISEN HOPE AND JOYOUS VICTORY

In the ultimate act of restoration, the Messiah, who embraced the cross, triumphs over the grave. The resurrection unveils Jesus as the victor over sin and death. The once-broken disciples, who witnessed the crucifixion in despair, now encounter the risen Lord in all His glory.

The resurrection becomes the cornerstone of the disciples' faith, transforming their grief into joy, doubt into certainty, and despair into hope. Jesus, the Messiah, stands before them alive, displaying the wounds of the cross as tokens of a love that conquered the darkest forces. The restoration not only mends the broken expectations but elevates the disciples into bearers of a message that will resonate through the ages.

So it is for us! In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul reminds us of what is core to the gospel (and indeed to our very salvation): Jesus is not dead and therefore *WE ARE NOT DEAD*. In Christ, our broken pieces have been reimagined and restored. In Christ, the Great Craftsman has made glorious that which had been torn apart.

May we never lose sight of the mysterious and ever-unfolding glory of God's redemptive plan for those in Christ. Created and given glorious purpose, we fell away and broke apart under the weight of our sin. But God was good to redeem and to reimagine, and now we see that His redemptive plan will not be thwarted. In the resurrection of Christ, we see the ultimate restoration of the Artist's perfect and eternal work—our souls—*YOUR SOUL*—saved from the brink of destruction and uselessness, alive again to live out and be a part of His redemptive plan.

Go now, glorious mosaic that you have been created to be. Embrace the weakness and imperfection that *we bring* and take confidence in the beautiful restoration *He brings* when we accept our brokenness and turn in our need to the One Who Saves. ■





## ■ REFLECTION

1. In what ways has the resurrection of Jesus transformed your perspective on His kingship and the nature of His eternal kingdom?
2. Consider moments of despair or disillusionment in your life. How might the resurrection of Jesus bring hope and restoration to those areas?



Father,

As I reflect on the mosaic of my life, I see the broken places and the ways I've dropped the tiles of Your perfect design. Yet, Your grace is greater than my failures. You never give up on me, and You continually create beauty in the midst of my brokenness.

Forgive me for the times I've distorted Your purposes and created chaos. Thank You for Your relentless grace, restoring what I've broken and making me new in Christ.

Please open my eyes to Your handiwork in my life. May I embrace Your restoration and reflect Your glory more fully. Make something beautiful out of my brokenness and guide me into deeper intimacy with You.

In Jesus' name, Amen



## ■ THANK YOU

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