

PART ONE (March 11, 2025): Story of the People of God JIM

Sign of the Cross: triple/triple blessing (up and down, left to right)

Trinity Song

Prayer: Story of the People of God

The Big Picture:

- Before time began: loving family Gn 1:26; RSV 59 **p7**
- Sharing love: the angels (intellect and free will) Col 1:15-17 **p309**
- Refusing love: Bad angels; hell on earth; evil, temptation Matt 25:41 **p57**; Rev 12:9 **p398**; Rom 3:12 **p226**; James 1: 13-15 **p357**
- Sharing love: creation (13.7 billion years), goodness, mankind, 300,000 years (intellect and free will): Gn 1:1-31 **p6**; Gn 2:7 **p8**
- Refusing love: the fall, temptation, evil, chaos: Gn 3:1-24 **p9**;
- The promise: Gn:3:15 **p9** see note
- Broken record: Cain, Noah, Babel, Abraham, Sodom, Isaac-Jacob-Joseph, Egypt, Moses, Golden Calf, Law, Bronze Serpent, Joshua, Judges, Kings, Israel, Judah, Exiles, Nehemiah 8-Ezra, [Esther & Ahasuerus](#), Maccabees
- The promise kept: Jesus Christ: life, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension; Holy Spirit
- The contrast: Judas/Peter: Matt 27:3 **p61** /Luke 22:54 **p138**, John 21:15-25 **p178**
- The choice: Deut 30:15-20 **p222**; Luke 9:23-26 **p115**
- The judgment: Matt 25:31 **p57**
- The final family: Trinity, Angels, Saints, no evil, no temptation, eternal bliss, perfect sons and daughters; glorified body; 8 billion possible now; 117 billion possible since Adam and Eve.
- The other choice: Satan and the fallen angels, fallen humanity, evil, eternal damnation

Discuss: Does the Big Picture make sense to me? What part of the Big Picture impresses me the most? How is my own life like the Big picture? Do I have favorite related scriptures or related Bible stories?

Break: (Sign of the Cross) Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

PART TWO (March 11, 2025): Salvation and Redemption

The Light of Christ

Salvation / Redemption Prayer

Questions and Answers from [Catholic Answers](#)

Question: Karl Keating stated in his book *Catholicism and Fundamentalism* that we are all “redeemed” but we are not all “saved.” What is the difference between the two?

Answer: Basically, redemption is collective, while salvation is individual. Christ redeemed humanity collectively from slavery to sin and from the debt of punishment that mankind, as a whole, owed due to sin. Every person, Christian or non-Christian, is redeemed because he is a member of the human race. Salvation is the application of redemption to individuals. A person can choose to reject the graces won for him by Christ even though he has been redeemed.

Question: I heard a radio preacher talk about the "biblical plan of salvation"--which, of course, he said the Catholic Church didn't obey. How does our Church understand the biblical plan of salvation?

Answer: The Church understands that we are all sinners in need of a savior (Rom 5:12-21 **p229**). We are inheritors of original sin and all its consequences, and by actual sin we distance ourselves from God. We can't save ourselves, but we don't need to: Jesus Christ has paid the price for our sins. The Catholic Church teaches that salvation comes through Jesus alone (Acts 4:12 **p185**), since he is the "one mediator between God and man" (1 Tm 2:5-6 **p323**).

The saving won by Jesus is offered as a free gift to us, accessible through repentance, faith, and baptism. We turn away from our sins, we are sorry for them, and we believe in Jesus Christ and the gospel. Repentance shows our willingness to turn from things that keep us from God, and baptism renews us, filling us with the grace necessary to have faith and to live it. This belief is more than just "head knowledge." Even the demons have that (Jas 2:19 **p359**). It's more than just believing you're saved. Even the Pharisees had that (Jn 5:39). True, saving faith is one lived and exhibited daily: It is "faith working through love" (Gal 5:6, cf. Jas 2:1-26). Sometimes the Church is accused of teaching "salvation by works", but this is an empty accusation. This idea has been consistently condemned by the Church. Good works are required by God because he requires obedience to his commands (Mt 6:1-21 **p18**, 1 Cor 3:8 **p246**, 13-15 **p246**) and promises to reward us with eternal life if we obey (Mt 25:34-40 **p57**, Rom 2:6-7 **p225**, Gal 6:6-10 **p291**, Jas 1:12 **p357**). But even our obedience is impossible without God's grace; even our good works are God's gift (Rom 5:5 **p228**, Phil 2:13 **p304**). This is the real biblical plan of salvation.

Discuss: Do I believe this view of Salvation? Do I believe this view of redemption. Do I know any special stories of repentance, faith, baptism? Do I have any favorite saints or fellow Catholics whose faith journeys were especially remarkable?

Some possibles: [Blessed Virgin Mary](#), [Joseph](#), [Peter & Paul](#), [Mother Teresa of Calcutta](#), [Father Damien](#), [Augustine](#), [Ignatius Loyola](#), [Francis of Assisi](#), [Juan Diego](#), [Camillus de Lellis](#), [St. Faustina](#), [Ignatius of Antioch](#), [John Bosco](#), [Katharine Drexel](#), [Mother Seton](#), [Josephine Bakhita](#), [Kateri Tekakwitha](#), [Isaac Jogues](#), [Maria Goretti](#), [Paul Chong Hasang](#), [Rose Philippine Duchesne](#), [Edith Stein](#), [Therese of the Child Jesus](#), [Thomas More](#), [Pier Giorgio Frassati](#), [Maximilian Kolbe](#), [Martin de Porres](#), [Monica](#), [Mary Magdalene](#), [Michael the Archangel](#)

[Amazing Grace](#)

Closing prayer and blessing.

[Saint of the Day](#)

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