

The Grand Narrative



creation

The biblical story tells us that God created and sustains all things. God gave us life and controls all things. He made mankind to have a special relationship with Him and gave us his creation mandate, which directs our life. The creation is good, and this not only refers to the physical and biological creation, but also to the cultural strands that God has woven into its fabric. Here the focus is on what God intended things to be like, the way it ought to have been.



fall

The biblical story tells us that we have fallen as a result of sin, and because of sin, we can see that evil exists in many places. The consequence is pain and suffering, brokenness, and worship of idols such as material possessions. Therefore, human life and culture have become distorted and shaped by such idols. Despite the widespread effects of sin, God is still faithful and promises that those who believe in him can be free from the bondage of sin.



redemption

The biblical story tells us that although mankind fell, God had a plan of redemption through the sacrifice of His Son. Christ came to earth to restore creation from the distorting influence of sin and to redeem mankind so that we could get back on track with God's original design and purpose for His children. Through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the power of sin has been overcome. Now, as redeemed people, we look forward to, and participate in, the restoration of creation, including people and the environment.



restoration

The biblical story tells us that we are called to live in the light of this coming renewal as faithful servants responding to God's invitation to work towards ongoing redemption. We are to work on fulfilling our original mandate to care for His creation. God is sovereign in His ongoing work of redemption and calls us to join Him as agents of renewal. In response to Christ's sacrificial gift of redemption, and with the presence of the Holy Spirit, we can live a life of service. We are partners with Christ moving toward complete restoration, which will be fulfilled when He returns. Until then, our purpose is to point others, through word and deed, to the coming kingdom.