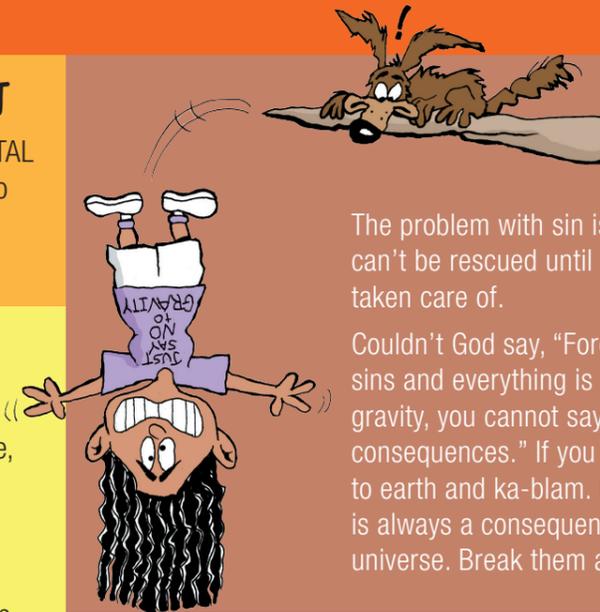


The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus

Welcome to
HEAVEN
Perfect
A Nice Place to Live

JESUS' HOMETOWN

Jesus is the Son of God (see FUN-da-MENTAL #4). He lived in heaven, the perfect place to live. It had been His hometown forever and ever, before our world was created.



RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS

The problem with sin is that it is breaking God's law. We can't be rescued until the punishment for sin has been taken care of.

Couldn't God say, "Forget about it; I'll just overlook those sins and everything is fine"? No. If you break the law of gravity, you cannot say, "Forget about it. Let's skip the consequences." If you break the law of gravity, you plummet to earth and ka-blam. If you break any of God's laws, there is always a consequence. The laws are the structure of the universe. Break them and die.

HELP!

Adam and Eve sinned, and the human race had a deadly problem with no way out of it. Doomed!

Satan had a grip on power in this world, and he claimed to control all the people, since they were trapped in sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Without help, we are all hostages in Satan's horrible world and we'll die forever.

But the Godhead (see FUN-da-MENTAL #2) saw the problem before it was a problem. They had made a plan ahead of time.



Jesus could become a human being while still being God. He would live on earth without sinning. He'd die for all the sins of all the people, and that would pay the "wages." It was a perfect but very expensive plan.

STRANGEST MOVE EVER

One day about 3 BC, Jesus said goodbye to His Father in heaven. Father said, "Next time You wake up, You'll be a baby in Mary's arms." And that's what happened in Bethlehem. Jesus became one of us.

SATAN GETS TECHNICAL

Adam and Eve's sin created another problem. God cannot be around sin, because He's completely pure and holy. So He could no longer be around His people. God stayed in close touch, but He couldn't come visit anymore.

Satan thought, Aha, these human beings, they are all mine! Mine, mine, mine! God has no right to them, because they disobeyed Him.

"Not so fast," God said. "I am love, and I will send my Son Jesus to the people as a human being, and He will ask them to follow Me. We have to let the people choose who they want to believe and follow. And Jesus will die for them so that their sins can be forgiven."

"No fair!" Satan said. But God can do that.

Satan had no plan left except to cause as much trouble as possible. And that's what he's been doing.



Yes, But . . . Is it fair for God to allow Jesus to lay down His life and take our punishment for sin? Doesn't that mean justice is not served?

Fact is, we can never meet the demands of justice. We can't obey all of God's law by ourselves. The only way out is for God to give us a gift.

So that's what God did. He gave us Jesus, Who willingly left heaven to live on earth.

PARDON ME

After we accept Jesus' payment for our rescue, and we stop sinning, we are pardoned. That means we have no criminal record anymore.

"Let the wicked forsake their ways. . . . Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, . . . for he will freely pardon" (Isaiah 55:7, NIV).

THE PRICE OF THE PLAN

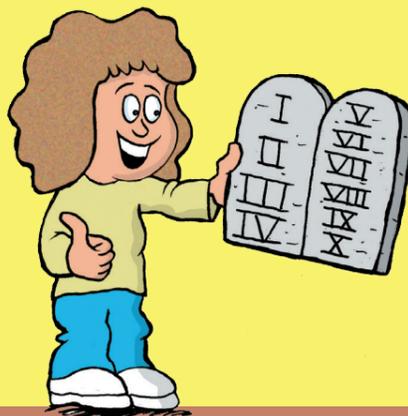
When something gets broken, someone has to pay for the damages. Jesus paid the price of sin. He gave up His perfect eternal existence in heaven to hang out with hopeless lepers and snarky hypocrites on planet Earth and die for them.



The cost was huge. We can't imagine it. Jesus placed Himself in Satan's territory and said to him, "I will live as a human being without sin. You won't be able to accuse Me of anything. And I'll take the sin of all human beings on Myself."

Jesus had to allow Himself to be killed by evil people under the influence of Satan. That was the price.

WHAT ABOUT THE "STOP SINNING" PART?



To be rescued from sin, the only thing you do is to accept the gift of Jesus' death for you. That is all.

After you've been rescued, you obey God's laws. It's the logical thing to do. You don't want to be sinful anymore. You want to obey God.

And don't obey God's laws just as a thank-you. Do it because they're God's rules for life.

SECRET SERVICE

God gave us even more under His plan:

- He knew we could not stop sinning by our own effort.
- We allow the Spirit to work in us.
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give us the power to stop sinning.
- We give up our urge to do wrong.
- He takes care of the rest.

GRACE

WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

The word you're looking for is *grace*. Dictionary says: "A showing of favor, especially by a superior."

The Godhead looked at us, the sad, lost people, and felt good about us. Even though we were in rebellion against Them, They loved us all. The Father

and the Son and the Spirit wanted to rescue every one of us from Satan.

Here's the miracle: God loves us so much that He lets us choose whether to be rescued or not. Because of that, you can see what God's amazing love is like.

IT'S A SURE THING

After His death, Jesus was resurrected! "Unless Christ was raised to life, your faith is useless, and you are still living in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). We know that God's plan worked. We are good to go (to heaven).



HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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