

WHERE IS GOD?



- ✓ Do **you** have the desperate feeling that **you** are far away from God?
- ✓ Does it seem impossible for **you** to approach God?
- ✓ Do **you** feel helpless concerning the question how and where to find God?
- ✓ Do **you** try over and over to gain God's favor but realize that **you** fail?
- ✓ Do **you** struggle with being accepted by God?

If so, I can assure **you**: There is good news! Please take a few minutes to read the following pages – it's about the greatest message **you** will ever receive in **your** life!

Have **you** ever heard the gospel of Jesus, which means translated "good news"? Maybe **you** have heard something about it, but never understood what it has to do with **you**.

Well: everything. It's all about **you personally**. The next few pages will explain.

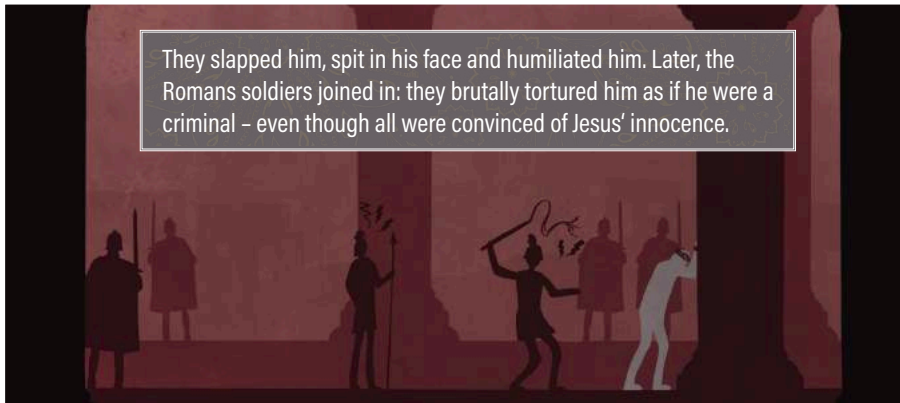


2000 years ago a child called Jesus was born. His name means "God saves". He preached to the people about God, healed those that were sick, and even gave life to dead people. By doing this, He gave proof of His divine power – Jesus was the Son of God.





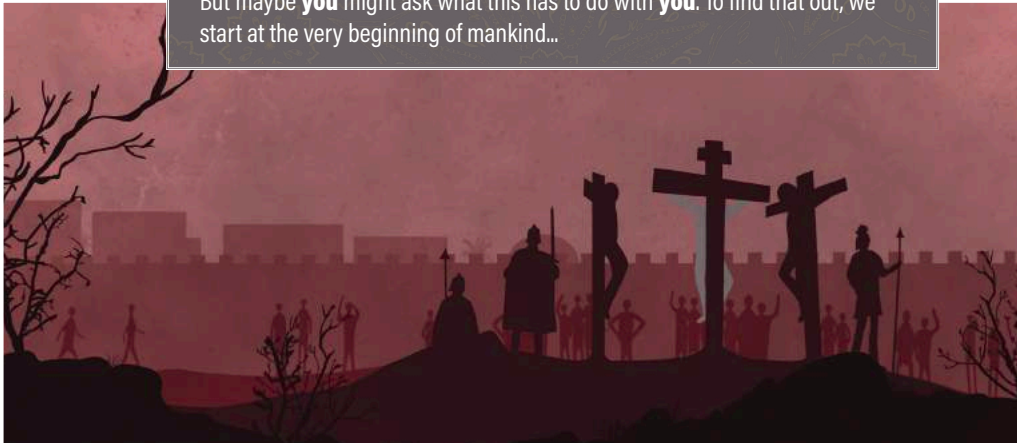
But the religious people in Israel hated Jesus and desired to see Him dead. He was arrested and falsely accused.




They slapped him, spit in his face and humiliated him. Later, the Romans soldiers joined in: they brutally tortured him as if he were a criminal – even though all were convinced of Jesus' innocence.

After a cruel whipping, they nailed Him on a wooden cross, the most shameful execution method. In pain, hated and despised by all, Jesus was hanging there, as if He were the worst criminal who ever lived on this earth. Six hours later, He died. Terrible, isn't it?

But maybe **you** might ask what this has to do with **you**. To find that out, we start at the very beginning of mankind...






Adam and Eve, the first human beings, enjoyed a harmonious relationship with with God, their Creator. Yet, they decided to live their own way, independently from Him, by disobeying His commandments. That's called a sin.

In this way, their relationship with God was destroyed and they became separated from Him.

No chance anymore to approach God; from that moment on, He was far beyond reach due to sin. This now also applies to every other human being who has ever lived, including **you** and me.

We all are born into a state of separation from God; we're all on one side of the barrier while God is on the other. The Bible, the Word of God, says:

 *"Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you"*
(Isaiah 59:2).



That's the state of every single one of us. And why? Because all humans have committed sin through sin, such as cursing, mockery, lying, violence, hating others, jealousy, pride, slander, murder, stealing, deceit, sexual immorality... They were harming themselves, but even worse: (next page)





Every sin primarily is an affront to God Himself as sinners basically deny His existence and authority over them! The Bible, the Word of God, says:



 *"God was grieved in His heart"* when humans sinned (*Gen 6:6*).

God hates evil – and sin by sin, His anger has grown greater and greater.

Now, everyone would agree that evil should be punished. If it weren't so, murderers or thieves could be acquitted which would be unfair.





This is exactly true of how God acts: Every single human being has become guilty before God. His verdict is: *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* ( *Romans 3:23*). Thus, He can by no means clear the guilty, for this would make Him an unjust God. What then is God's judgement? *"The wages of sin is death"* ( *Romans 6:23*). In one sense, this refers to physical death.

However, the main meaning is eternal death, which does not mean annihilation, but being separated from God forever. Remember? Adam and Eve became separated from God. They as well as every other human being would therefore have to experience the consequences of God's wrath upon sin which means physical death, but primarily a destroyed relation with Him. Eventually, they would have to suffer this in a place called hell from which there is no escape.



2 Thes 1:9

"These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."



Lk 16:26

"Between heaven and hell there is a great gulf fixed, so that those from hell can not pass to those in heaven."



But now God did something. Even though He withheld His wrath upon sin for thousands of years, there was a moment when He completely poured it out, uncompromisingly and without reserve.

Was that the end for mankind?

No, just look where His wrath was poured out!

When Jesus was hanging on that cross, He was punished by God and endured His wrath. But not because He had done something evil, but because He took on Himself our sins, allowing God to treat Him as if He had committed them Himself. Jesus placed Himself between us and God and thus received the judgement that our sins warranted. Then He died and came back to life after three days.






Why is that death important? God is too holy and perfect to ignore sins and sweep them under the carpet. He must punish them! Now, as Jesus took this punishment, God's wrath has already been poured out. He doesn't have to punish sins twice. Sin and the penalty of sin have been dealt with fully. The debt is paid.

This makes it possible for human beings to come back to God. Jesus bridged the divide between God and human beings. The Bible explains this as follows: *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, **that He might bring us to God.**"* (📖 1 Peter 3:18)

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (📖 Romans 5:8)



This is the gospel which means "Good news" in Greek. The good news here is: **You**, dear reader, can get right with God. How? **You** have to accept Jesus, the Son of God, as **your** Savior by believing that **you** are a sinner completely incapable of saving yourself and that **you** need Jesus to bridge the separation between **you** and God. **You** have to believe that Jesus incurred the judgement of God in **your** stead and therefore repent and confess **your** sins to Him in prayer. If **you** earnestly and sincerely do this, God will clear **you** of **your** guilt.

The gospel is summarized in the following Bible verse: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* ( John 3:16).

Now, that **you** have heard the gospel, **you** know everything **you** need to know about the question of how to get saved from **your** sins. But what happens if **you** refuse?




The consequence of refusal is: to perish. God lovingly offers salvation and reconciliation to **you** because His Son, Jesus Christ, already endured His wrath. But His warning is clear and solemn that if **you** refuse Jesus, His wrath will remain on **you**. Jesus endured God's anger because He wanted to do this on **your** behalf – as a substitute so to speak –, but only if you accept Him as **your** savior. If not, **you** will have to experience God's wrath yourself.















The possibility to repent and to receive Jesus as Savior ends at **your** death or at His coming, when He will finally judge this whole earth and send those who have rejected Him to hell, the place of weeping, desperate remorse and torment, far apart from God, from which there is no escape: the lake of fire. God requires payment for the wages of sin – either **you** put **your** trust in Jesus as **your** substitute, or **you**’ll have to pay the penalty yourself in hell forever. Every one who does not repent will remain in a state of separation from God now and for eternity, and will endure His judgment for their sins.

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation." ( Hebrews 2:3)

My dear friend, take notice of the following: If you accept Jesus Christ as **your** substitute, **you** don't only get saved even though that's already wonderful enough. But rather, **you** will come into a wonderful and everlasting relation to God. And there's more: on top of that, the following (incomplete) list shows what God grants **you** when **you** accept His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ:


- ✓ **You** will spend **your** future in Heaven with God – a wonderful, marvelous place that's called: *"the Father's House". „In My Father's house are many mansions... And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"* ( John 14:2, 3).
- ✓ God will be **your** loving, caring, all-providing father – and **you** His beloved child: *"God has predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself"* ( Ephesians 1:5). *"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things"* ( Matthew 6:31, 32b).
- ✓ All **your** sins will be forgiven: *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins [a]nd their lawless deeds I will remember no more"* (Hebrews 8:12).
- ✓ **You** will have assurance of salvation – this means that **you** will be saved forever and won't have to incur the punishment for **your** sins: *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* ( Romans 5:1). *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus"* ( Romans 8:1).

- ✓ **You** will have God's favor and therefore be made acceptable and fit for His presence: *"By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all"* ( Hebrews 10:10).
- ✓ **You** will have unfathomable joy: *"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice"* ( Phil 4:4).
- ✓ **You** will enjoy fellowship with other believers who are also saved: *"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common"* ( Acts 2:44).
- ✓ **You** will abide in God's love forever: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* ( Romans 8:35, 38, 39).
- ✓ **You** will experience that God will always be on **your** side: *"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"* ( Romans 8:31, 32).

Don't **you** also want to receive these wonderful gifts from God?





God has done everything in order to clear your path to Him. Though many people believe that amassing a lifetime of good deeds will somehow earn God's favor and forgiveness, to the contrary, the Bible says that we can only acquire them through Jesus' death. **You** don't have to try to please God by **your** own actions, such as good deeds, going to church/temple, baptism, confirmation, praying, giving to charity, bringing sacrifices, living a respectable life. Why? Because **you** can't. **You** can compare it to a scale: Sins won't get evened out by good deeds, only by Jesus' death. By the way: There is no alternative, no plan B, no other savior, no other God. No religion offers a substitute that brings **you** to God. That's why Jesus once said: „No one comes to the Father (to God) except through me“ ( John 14,6).

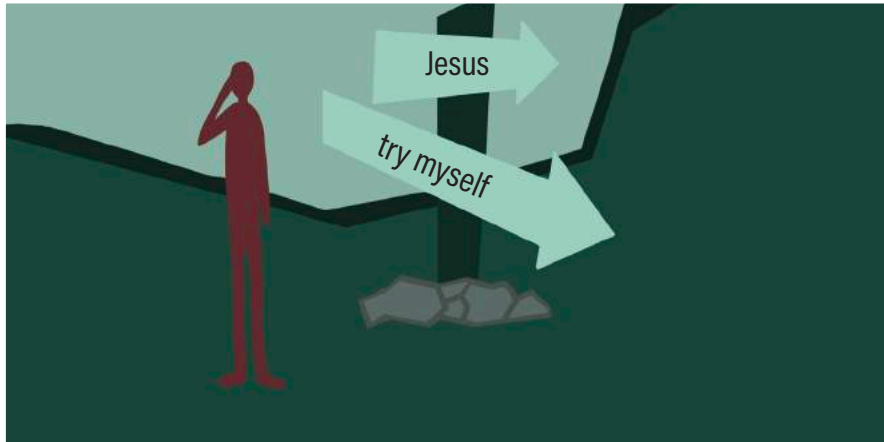


He is the only way to approach God. Without Jesus, God will remain far beyond anyone's reach – but with Jesus, God will become **your** father. But that depends on **your personal** decision. How will **you** decide?

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name [Jesus] under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." 📖 Acts 4:12

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." 📖 Acts 16:31

How will **you** decide?



What should you do after you get saved?

Having received the Lord Jesus as your Savior, your wonderful life together with God has just begun. I recommend you to go the next steps in faith:

- ✓ Read the Bible regularly since it's God main means to communicate with us.
- ✓ Pray to God - that's how you communicate with Him.
- ✓ Get baptized as a sign to your surroundings that you belong to Jesus Christ now.
- ✓ Find a Christian meeting that submits to the full authority of the Bible as the Word of God
- ✓ Have fellowship with other believers.
- ✓ Live for Christ!

Contact

Do **you** have any questions or would like to talk about what **you** have read? Please feel free to contact me at any time.

If geographically possible, we can also get together for tea or coffee.

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Also visit my website www.approachinggod.com
to find out more about the gospel!

