

# iChrist

Revealing the Man in Christ

**CHIDI JACOB**

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This book is written that you may

*“Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator  
and become like him.”*

Colossians 3:10 (NLT)

## MY PERSONAL LETTER TO YOU:

Dearly beloved,

I am very excited to meet with you through this medium, and even more excited that we can share in the knowledge of Him who has perfected the love of God in us. He did so that the world might have a taste of Him in and through us. I wrote this book for you to know and embrace your capacity. As you do, you will take your rightful place so that the world can be impacted through your rising.

First, you must realize that there is only one source to the problems you are fighting so hard to solve, whether it is personal or communal; the absence of precise, accurate, and intimate knowledge of Christ. For if we really do know Him, our lives, our homes, and communities would be very much better.

In this increasing darkness, the world needs light, and in this heightened sense of hopelessness around us, the world needs a release of fresh hope. With the high rate of all manners of addictions plaguing our communities, the people do not need the theory of a God who is angry with them, they need to feel His love and presence right in the middle of their mess. We do not need more religion or more people with religious titles, we need Christ's men and women who will manifest Him in their everyday life and living.

Given that the best way to experience the power, wisdom, and ingenuity of a creator is through His finished product, we, the finished work of God in Christ must let the world have a taste of Him through us. The world cannot know Him except they experience His power, His love, and His grace through you.

Your key responsibility is to accept the reality of who you are in Christ as highlighted in this book and be determined to see yourself in it, and your transformation and testimony are guaranteed to be amazing. In a short while, you will see what God will do through you.

Please, do remember to write me through my email below so I too will celebrate the testimony of your rising, for together, we have been united in Him as one.

With Love,

Pastor CJ

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**Note:** At the back of the book, you will also see a few suggestions on how you can be a blessing.

## *Dedication*

This book is fully dedicated to the One who loved me and gave Himself as me. This is a 100% product of your grace.

## *Acknowledgment*

To my first family at Gracelife Family Church Abuja, you guys are truly a blessing and thanks for always standing with your unusual pastor.

To my friends, family, and all who supported this work, too many to mention, I am deeply grateful,

To you the iChrist man, I cannot wait to read testimonies of your exploits.

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# The First Words

**W**hether you believe in the subject of this book or not, one thing is certain. The sum of your life as it is now, your actions and reactions and your general outlook on life are greatly molded by elemental principles and forces which are beyond you. These are active through religion, culture, experience, education, and your environment. No matter who you are, whether you agree with it or not, the truth is that you have been greatly shaped by these forces. You must know that while there are elements of good in some, in reality, these forces have lied to you about who you really are and have placed several limitations on the road to your rising.

From the story of the first Adam in the Garden to the last Adam, this book seeks to show who you truly are and to remove the limitations and struggles placed on you so that you may live, enjoy, and manifest the fullness of life as the Creator intended. If you believe God created you, then you should not have a problem believing that you are created with a design in mind. If you also believe God created the heavens and the earth, I should also think you wouldn't have a problem believing that there must be some sort of plan, purpose or agenda in all of it. By understanding this purpose and the 'whys,' the real person you are will emerge without any form of doubt.

By revelation, we can say conclusively that there was no other purpose of God for heaven and the earth and the man created in between if not to unite all created things together in Christ. This

singular purpose is God's dream of all ages. This purpose was set even before the heavens and the earth was created. Every problem we have today, with and against man is because he is running his life outside the purpose for which he was created. Anything a man does outside of this unity, he is operating outside of God's intended purpose for his very being.

Now, we are beginning to understand that the role of the church is so much important in bringing humanity back to its purpose. When people, situations, or systems lie to you about you, when they place limitations on you, the real church of Christ that has been purged of religion will stand in the gap to wage consistent warfare to return you to the path of truth and life. And for this, Christ is doing a new work in His church – raising new voices, removing religion, and superficial man-made traditions that have limited the church for so long. The outstanding difference in this is that Christ is being revealed. When Christ is revealed, then the reality of the man in Christ emerges. And when the man in Christ embraces his reality, like the Apostles of old, he becomes a force that transforms his world. The truth is, if we know Him, our life, our homes, and our communities cannot remain as they are right now.

So, the supreme challenge confronting man today is lack of truth concerning his real identity. And because he has no knowledge of himself even though he is free, he still lives daily in bondage. Though full of light, he dwells in darkness. Though full of love, he lives in hate. Though full of power, he roams around looking for deliverance. Though the man is irreversibly blessed, he lives like a cursed man. Therefore, the core purpose of this book you are holding is to show the man who he is in Christ. If you dare to believe what you are about to read, you will not need me to tell

you what to do. If you dare believe the truth in this book, you will be transformed into a new man or woman. But remember, a cup cannot be filled unless it is empty. The only reason you will not be blessed by this book is to reject the reality it presents. If you dare to believe, you will begin to enjoy the everyday reality of the iChrist man – the man who is in Christ.

First, we begin this journey by a revelation of who Christ really is since you cannot know who you are in Christ unless you know who He is. If you know and believe who Christ is, then you can believe who you are in Him. The iChrist© man refers to the man in Christ or the in Christ man. I will use these terms interchangeably throughout this book to point to the man who has been united with Christ. I must also point out that the term man as used throughout this book refers to both male and female.

Relax, have fun, and watch the better you emerge.

Pastor Chidi Jacob

Abuja, Nigeria



## CHAPTER 1



### Why did God Create the Heavens and the Earth?

**T**here are several answers and beliefs that pertain to this question, and the most significant is that God was in Heaven but desired to have a colony on earth where He will rule over man and all of His creation. As a result, He made the earth and gave man dominion which he lost. Notwithstanding man's flaws, He restored man's lost dominion through Christ. The major problem with this idea is that it makes Christ seem as though an afterthought and not the intended plan for creation. It seems to suggest that if man did not sin in the garden, there would have not been any need for Christ as a vessel of redemption. Please permit me to tell you from this very

The purpose why the Heavens and the earth were created was to unite the invisible God and a visible human in Christ; and the finished product would be a *man-like-God man*.

beginning that the purpose why the Heavens and the earth were created was to unite the invisible God and a visible human in Christ; and the finished product would be a *man-like-God man*. That is, to create unity, a consummation, an amalgamation, a marriage between divinity and humanity. And most importantly, to have God in human bodies, and to bring to being the physical reality of what existed only in God. The purpose of the entire creation was to make the divinity-humanity consummation take place in Christ.

First, consider this;

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him, nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-3*

No matter your denomination or church affiliation, I don’t think you should have any doubt that the above passage of scripture referred to Christ. He was in the beginning and everything was made through Him. Note also that this passage of scripture did point out that ‘life was in Christ.’

Then consider this also;

*”Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” Ephesians 1:3-4*

The scripture above makes it clear in no uncertain terms that God chose us in Christ **before the foundation of the world**. In other words, before the world and everything in it was created, God chose to bring us to Himself through our union with Christ for the good of mankind. Another scripture that should make this

clearer is verses 8 – 10 of the same Ephesians 1:

*“having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”*

Therefore, we can now understand why when Jesus completed His work and rose from the dead, He announced to His disciples *saying*, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*” And this is what God had always wanted – to unite all things in Heaven and earth in Christ. This makes it very clear that the plan of God had always been to unite or bring together everything in Heaven and earth together in Christ Jesus for His glory. Therefore, Christ couldn’t have been an emergency option or a repair alternative put in motion by God after Adam sinned. No, Christ had always been ***the plan from the onset.***

And we will see in subsequent chapters that trouble for mankind began when Adam rejected this plan in the Garden.

The following is another scripture that shows us the original intention of God in Christ and what happened when He completed His work.

*“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God*

*has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.”*  
Ephesians 1:19-23 (NLT)

Having established thus far that Jesus was the reason for all things, let us take a closer look at the account of creation to make it clearer for our understanding.

### **WAS ADAM LIKE GOD?**

*Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* Gen 1:26

I think this scripture is one of the least studied because we have often approached it from a pre-indoctrination standpoint. So, it is important that we clearly understand what God said here by taking a closer look at the words of the statement. First, “let us make man **IN OUR IMAGE**”. My image is not the same thing as me, it is something that looks like me but not me. In **OUR LIKENESS**, it speaks of similitude – I strongly believe this is more than an image and more like character, behavior or attribute. It seems to suggest here that God was saying, let us make mankind that looks like us and let them also have our attributes. God was saying in essence, let us make a *man-like-God man*.

The miss-reading of this very important statement gave birth to the age-old assumption that Adam was the man God referred to in the above scripture. But the man referred to in this passage is in the plural sense because the next line says, and “let **THEM** have dominion”. This man here was not a specific man, rather it referred to mankind or human beings. In other words, let us create

a race of mankind or human beings that will look like us and act like us. That is, let us make a race of the *man-like-God creature*. It was in this visible man that the invisible God would be revealed and made visible.

This fact is crucial to understanding the entire purpose of creation. The miss-reading is profound in that we have long assumed that Adam was the perfect man and had all the image and likeness God intended in Genesis 1:26. But one thing is sure and certain; if Adam was like God, his response to Satan and the aftermath of what happened in Genesis 3 would be different. If Adam was already like God before the fall in Genesis 3, death would not be an option. God told Adam, if you eat of this tree you shall die. Certainly, Adam had some attributes of God in him but at this point in creation, he was not like God yet. I believe he had the image but not the likeness of God. The fact in all of these is that Adam was supposed to make a choice in the garden and that choice would have made him become like God but he failed. In other words, Adam was supposed to use his volition to make a choice to become like God. That is having the likeness of God. Let us investigate this further.

## **WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF EDEN?**

*“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”* Genesis 2:7-9 (NASB)

Have you ever wondered why God created the Garden of Eden?

Or if you are of the school of thought that it was not a physical Garden. Have you ever wondered why the narrative was set in the garden? Why did God put the man He created inside this Garden? God created the

God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden because it was a place of choice.

entire universe, and He could have allowed man to roam freely and to choose a place of abode. The answer is, God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden because it was a place of choice. Recall also that at the beginning and at the end of Jesus' (the Last Adam) earthly ministry, He too was also put in two places where He had to make a choice. The first was depicted as wilderness while the second was a garden. They are both similar because they served the same purpose; a place of temptation and choice.

First, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil (note that it was the Holy Spirit that led him into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil). In fact, as we can see in the scriptures, this appeared to be the very first act of the Holy Spirit upon the life of Jesus. In this wilderness, He was tempted to prove His identity by performing miracles. Second, just before Jesus went to the cross, we saw Him in another Garden of choice called Gethsemane – where He had to choose His will or God's will. *Not my will but yours*, He said.

Remember, there would be no choice if there is no more than one option. If there was nothing for man to choose from, he wouldn't be a free moral agent. The major distinguishing factor between man and every other creature is the freedom of choice. For Adam, it was in this Garden that 2 trees (life and death) were placed in the center for him to choose one. The entire purpose and plan of Eden was for Adam to choose the tree of life instead of

the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was this free choice that would have made Adam to become LIKE GOD. That is an eternal being that lives forever. The other choice would make him a dying mortal. We can now understand why the very first instruction God gave Adam was to eat of the trees of the Garden. Why? Because that was what he was there for. In fact, we can now also suggest that the devil knew he was there to make a choice, hence the reason he came forthwith temptation. Why was Jesus tempted to perform miraculous signs? Everyone knew that the expected Messiah would be a miracle worker.

Furthermore, how else do we know that the purpose of the garden was for Adam to eat the tree of life? After Adam and Eve made the wrong choice, they were driven out of the garden to prevent them from having access to the tree of life. To make sure they didn't, God placed cherubim with a flaming sword that turned every way to guard access to the tree of life.

*“Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man, and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”*  
Gen 3:22-24.

Now, look closely at this passage of the scripture and you will notice a key truth that has been ignored for long. Actually, by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve became like God in one aspect – just like God, they possessed the knowledge of good and evil. In this aspect, the Serpent did not lie to them. He told them that if they ate of this tree, they will become like God knowing good and evil. God did confirm that in the

above passage where He said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.” The deception was deeper because the serpent did not tell Adam and Eve the **consequence of this knowledge**. It is apparent now that God did not want them to have this knowledge and the responsibility or consequence that came with it.

If you have the knowledge of good and evil, it also brings with it the capacity to do both as well as the responsibility to choose which to do. In addition, it also brings the greater responsibility of self-dependence and self-awareness to where you are constantly judged by the opposing forces of good and evil.

This force of *conscience* within man brings guilt, shame, embarrassment, and condemnation.

This force of *conscience* within man brings guilt, shame, embarrassment, and condemnation. And this condemnation further leads to death. In living, the bigger consequence is that it makes man self-dependent rather than God-dependent. In other words, it separated man from God. Instead of the *man-like-God man* God had intended for man he became a mere mortal subject to the devil, environment, and elemental forces. Rather than derive his life and sustenance from his unity with God, man became independent and separated from God. So, in place of a spirit-centered living, he lives by his flesh.

It is now clear that God wanted a *man-like-God man* who had no knowledge of good and evil. How can anyone do evil without having the knowledge of it? Have you watched the movie titled the *Invention of Lying*? It is a 2009 American movie of a town where nobody knew they could lie until one person discovered it. God wanted Adam and Eve to eat of the tree of life so that just like

God (the likeness of God), they would live forever. Just to be clear, let us once again look at the commandment God gave to Adam and Eve.

*“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:16-17*

Firstly, we can now understand why one of the first instructions God gave to Adam and Eve was to eat out of every tree in the garden. You know why? They were there to eat of the tree of life. Here is what God said to them;

*And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you, **it shall be for food.** Genesis 1:29*

Again, look closely at the instruction in verse 16, you may freely eat of every tree (and that includes the tree of life) which if they did, they would be like God living forever. But if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (conscience), then they would die. So Adam was neither mortal nor immortal but the choice of life and death was put before him. If he had chosen the tree of life, he would become an eternal being like God, while the other choice would make him a dying mortal. Then the big question is, “Isn’t this the same choice God has given humanity today”? Well, hold your thought on this big question because the answer will become very obvious shortly.

## **WHAT MADE THE FALL SUCH A SIGNIFICANT EVENT?**

In Christian religious knowledge, we were taught that Adam sinned against God and God became so angry that He banished

them from the garden. We were also told that God could not stand their sin and so He punished them because of their disobedience. But when you look closely now, you can clearly see that it was much more than that. It was not just an act of disobedience, but for creation to be completed, it was requisite for man to make that choice. Otherwise, he would not be a free moral agent. All God did was to put man in the place for him to make that choice.

The fall of Adam after the deception of the serpent was so significant that it changed the entire creation because it was the major event in all of creation. Heaven and earth were created so that when man eats of the tree of life out of his own choice and volition, he will become like God. And by eating of the fruit of the tree of life, the final act of creation would have been perfectly consummated. The man God created out of the dust would have become *the man-like-God* man with eternal life and having no sense of evil in him.

The problem with man today is not just that he has the knowledge and capacity to do evil, he also has an internal force of conscience that condemns and judges him whenever he does. Not only does he judge and condemn himself, he equally does so to others. When we look at the nature of Adam and Eve before they partook of the knowledge of good and evil, it is clear what God wanted. Look at their nature before they made the awful choice:

*“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed” Gen 2:25*

In other words, having no knowledge of good and evil, they were unashamed and unaware of their nakedness and vulnerability. In this state, there was no shame, no guilt, no blame, and therefore no condemnation. Remember, it is condemnation that kills man

from within. And the epistles now confirm to us that this was exactly what God had intended from the beginning; that we should be blameless in His sight.

*“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him” Ephesians 1:3-4*

But look at their nature after they received a *conscience* – the result of eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

*“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” Genesis 3:6-7*

Before the fruit, they were naked, unaware, unashamed; no guilt, no condemnation, no fear, at all. Immediately they received the knowledge of good and evil, they became self-aware. Suddenly, a sense of shame, guilt, and fear came over them. And what was their reaction? They ran away from God. Note that God did not run away from them neither did He chase them away, but on their own, out of their own sense of shame, guilt, fear, and condemnation, they ran away from God. When God called out to Adam, he responded as follows-

*“Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Genesis 3:9-10*

Now, God could not allow man to live forever in his fallen state and this is why He not only drove them out of Eden, He also made sure they had no access to the tree of life. If man partook of the tree of life after eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it will mean that man having possessed the ability

to know and do both good and evil will live forever. Just think about that for a minute. What kind of world would exist where evil men lived forever with evil in them? On the other side, it would also mean that man with his deteriorated mind and physical body would not be able to die. He could live in pain, agony, and with mind and body totally ravaged by disease and still won't die. Can you just imagine what men will do today if there was no death facing them? Please don't imagine- it is nothing short of unimaginable evil. Death was therefore not a punishment from God for eating the fruit, rather it was a result of man's choice. Man had it within him to make the right choice, and so it is today that eternal damnation is not a punishment from God, rather it is a consequence of man's choice. Though we have a free choice, we must know that the consequence of every choice is predetermined. You can choose to smoke but the consequence could be damaged lungs. This damage is not a punishment from God, it is the consequence of your choice.

### **WHAT WAS IN THE TREE OF LIFE?**

Now that we have established that the fullness of creation would have been consummated if Adam and Eve on behalf of humanity ate the tree of life. It is then very important we investigate what was in that tree or better still, who was that tree. There is, therefore, no doubt that the type of *man-like-God* man that God intended would have come to be if Adam and Eve partook of the tree of life. There have been long arguments on whether the trees were physical, metaphorical or mythical. I do not want to engage in that argument, and just as the Old Testament is a mystery, so it needs to be unveiled by revelation. Also, as a book of mystery, therefore, it contains a mixture of actual events and objects as well as metaphors, parables, and hidden truths. Whatever was used was

designed to communicate a spiritual message to natural men. Take note also that Jesus spoke to natural men mostly in parables. And it is only in the New Testament that the mystery of the Old Testament is unveiled. In the context of our discourse, what I do know is what should have happened if they had partaken of the tree – it was supposed to give them eternal life.

Note also that a book of mystery does not mean it is mysterious, instead it means that the key message or portions of it are hidden. So what was hidden in the Old Testament was revealed in the New Testament. That is, Jesus – the message of the Bible was concealed in prophecies, types, shadows, rituals, ceremonies, names, objects, and events in the Old

Jesus – the message of the Bible was concealed in prophecies, types, shadows, rituals, ceremonies, names, objects, and events in the Old but revealed in the New.

but revealed in the New. Consider the following: Jesus' work of salvation was first typified by the story of Noah in the same manner the people were called to salvation in the Ark and those who entered were saved from death. So it is today, as we call people to enter into Jesus for eternal salvation. Just as the white dove settled on the ark after it emerged from the waters of death, so also the Holy Spirit settled upon Jesus in the form of a dove after He emerged from the waters of baptism (typifying death and resurrection).

Jesus was the rock that stood in the wilderness to give water to the children of Israel. In the same manner, Moses struck the rock and water rushed out to satisfy the taste of the people, Jesus was struck with the judgment of sin and life and righteousness rushed out for everyone.

The story of Joseph was the life story of Jesus. Sold by his own brothers into the hands of foreigners, Jesus was betrayed to the foreign Romans by His own brothers – the Jews. Joseph was accused falsely, Jesus was also falsely accused. Joseph was put in prison from false accusation, Jesus was put to death from false accusation. Joseph came out of prison to become the savior of the world, Jesus rose from the dead to become the savior of the world. All authority over the land was given to Joseph, so all authority in heaven and earth was given to Jesus. Joseph concealed himself before his brothers so they did not recognize him at first but he revealed himself on the second time and they recognized him. So also, the Jewish brothers of Jesus did not recognize Him in His first coming, but in the last one when He reveals Himself they will certainly recognize and worship Him. Joseph married a gentile bride, and today, Jesus is married to the Gentile church. You can now see that everything has always been about Christ. So, if we teach moral virtues from these stories and characters, we'll miss the intended purpose of the message which is to reveal Christ.

Melchizedek that met Abraham was a type of the priesthood of Jesus. The bronze serpent God instructed Moses to put on the pole was the death of Jesus on the Cross. As many that looked up to the serpent on the cross and got saved, so also anyone who looks unto Jesus today is saved from sin. The Ark of the Covenant itself, the materials, and design typified Christ. The Jews were instructed to use a spotless lamb to make sacrifices for their sins, and the lamb typified the sinless Jesus who will die for the sins of the world. That was why when John the Baptist saw Him approaching, he cried out – behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.

Today, people are slow to believe in the word because we

have not really taught them the scriptures for them to understand. We have used these characters and the ceremonies to learn rituals

Today, people are slow to believe in the word because we have not really taught them the scriptures for them to understand.

and to teach morality, and principles of faith rather than bring out Jesus in them. As a result, we have embraced religion and missed the life the scripture was designed to reveal. The entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation is about Jesus. Therefore,

anyone who teaches something else from the Bible apart from revealing Jesus is guilty of misuse to say the least. The Bible is not a book to be used for swearing oaths. It is not a book to be used to condemn or threaten or manipulate; it is written that whoever reads it may have a precise, accurate, and intimate knowledge of Christ. If you are a Bible teacher or preacher, you must realize that your hot or passionate sermon means absolutely nothing if it fails to show forth the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that followed suit. Jesus Himself gave us this example the very evening He rose from the dead as recorded in Luke 24, when He appeared to two of His disciples who were heartbroken and confused about His death

*“And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.” Luke 24:25-27*

How did Jesus cure their foolishness, faithlessness, and unbelief? He made reference to the first five books of the Bible, and showed them things concerning Himself. And that is exactly what is going on through this book. I'll take you back to Moses

and the Prophets that you might understand that Jesus was never an after-thought but rather the very essence of creation. And in this portion, you will get to understand that Jesus was the tree of life that stood before Adam and Eve in the Garden. It will also become very evident that the sin which got them out of Eden was their rejection of Christ. When they chose the other tree, they rejected Christ. Let's continue:

## **THE BEGINNING AND THE END**

It is very important to note that the opening message of the Bible began with the tree of life at the center of the garden, and the concluding message of the Bible on the very last chapter also has the tree of life at the center. Before we read the verse in the book of Revelation chapter 22:14, lets us look at the preceding two verses -12 and 13.

*“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

Here, we see Jesus describe Himself as the Alpha (first word) and Omega (last word), as the first and last, and as the beginning and the end. After this remarkable description of Himself, then He said,

*“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to **the tree of life**, and may enter by the gates into the city.”*

## **THE SEED OF THE WOMAN**

Following the temptation of Adam and Eve and their fall, the first promise God made was this: Genesis 3:15

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him*

*on the beel.”*

It is a known fact that the seed refers to the offspring of the woman. Later on, Isaiah the prophet made this clearer when he prophesied that, “a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a child.” Why did God not say the seed of the man? It would mean that the coming Christ would be a product of man. Note also that it did not say seeds, it said “Seed” in the singular sense implying a single person. Just like in Galatians 3:16.

*Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.*

Here, Christ is revealed to be the seed of Abraham meaning that the Messiah would come from his lineage. Again, it did not say seeds as in many but seed in the singular sense and it referred to Christ.

While the crushing of the head of Satan might refer to the physical act as that which a man could do to a physical snake, I believe this refers to permanently destroy the authority of Satan, and Christ is the only one who could and did crush the authority of Satan with his principalities and powers. He made us understand that He came to destroy the works of the devil. And the epistle did confirm that Christ triumphed over them and even made an open show of them.

## **THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

As already mentioned, we know through the referenced scriptures that eternal life should have been the result of eating from the tree of life. Today, we know by the scriptures also that there is only one way for a man to receive eternal life and that way is Christ. He described His mission boldly as follows: *I came that they may have*

*life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10b.*

He proclaimed in John 14:6 “*I am the way, and the truth, and the **life**; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*”

Here are more scriptures to drive home the truth that Jesus is not the way, the access or the source of eternal life but He Himself is eternal life:

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have **eternal life**.” John 3:16*

*“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see **life**, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:36*

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has **eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” John 5:24*

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has **eternal life**.” John 6:47*

In concluding this section, it is evident that whether the tree of the life which was in the center of the Garden of Eden was metaphorical, physical or just pictorial, we now know that the foundation was Christ. The tree of life which is the essence of life and the completion of creation that stood in the middle of the Eden was Christ. If they ate Him, the result would have been eternal life which included physical immortality. And to reject Him was death. Dear reader, is this not the same choice before all humanity today? Yes, it is. Can you see now that God does not change and does not alter His plan? The first choice He gave to man still remains the final choice. Choose Christ now and live forever, reject Him and eternal death will be the result.

We know that we cannot achieve physical immortality with this present body, but we know that any man who eats Christ today (believes – takes Christ as himself) has eternal life and will receive new bodies with which we shall live forever. This is an evidence that Jesus was that tree of life as pictured in the Garden of Eden. Finally, you can see that Christ is the essence of creation because it is only in Christ that man and God can unite as one. Therefore, Christ was not an afterthought or some emergency arrangement that God decided to make after the fall of man. But as the scriptures point out:

Christ is the essence of creation because it is only in Christ that man and God can unite as one.

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will. Ephesians 1:3-5*

In other words, the blessings we have in Christ today is just like the one God intended before He created the world – that we should be blameless and perfect before Him in Christ. So, the plan that was not consummated in Eden as a result of man’s choice was made possible when God offered us the tree of life again in Christ the man. What does this reveal about the love of God for us? He never gave up on us. He never changed His mind even though man rejected His plan in the Garden of Eden. Today, whoever eats the tree of life (Christ) has life. We will push this further in the next chapter by showing that Christ is the beginning of the new creation. Before that, let us look at the reason for your own life.

## WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE?

To find purpose, we must begin with the right question - what was man created to **be**? His *being* comes first before his *doing*. It is in his *being* that he discovers and walks in his *doing*.

In recent times, a lot has been said and written about everyone finding and fulfilling their purpose. I have also written a book on the subject matter. But I believe that all along, we have confused a man's work with the purpose for his existence. We have held the belief that every man was created to do something

and that doing fulfills his purpose. But when you look closer now as revealed throughout the scriptures, we can clearly see that it is more of a question of *being* than *doing*. To find purpose, we must begin with the right question - what was man created to **be**? His *being* comes first before his *doing*. It is in his *being* that he discovers and walks in his *doing*. A man can be passionate about music, dedicate his life mastering music, and become extremely successful at it, but that does not mean he has fulfilled the purpose for his life. Present history has shown us that many of the most successful artists are hardly the most fulfilled people. They made good records, made a lot of money, made others happy, but a good number of them live miserably while some died unfulfilled.

God's purpose for every man is one and it is universal. His purpose for you is not different from mine. God's purpose for every human being is that we become one family with Him. We were created for this very reason and Christ –the man, is the only door and way to this divine purpose. Until a man is united with God in Christ, he has not discovered his purpose for living. We were created to be one with God in Christ – that is the purpose of creation. First, the purpose is not what we do, it is who we are

created to be. If you are born again, that is being united with God in Christ, His purpose for you has been fulfilled. There is no other purpose on earth greater than this. For whatever a man achieves outside of this purpose, he has failed in his core reason for being here, and at the end, he will be separated forever from God. The problem with our definitions of life today comes from the fact that we have lost our bearing on the truth that this existence is only but one part of a man's life.

*“we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them”* Ephesians 2:10

First, this workmanship speaks of us as His masterpiece. Masterpiece refers to the highest and most prized work of a creator. In other words, we (includes you holding this book) are the highest

When a man discovers his real identity in Christ, his work becomes more obvious to him.

and most prized work of God. If you ever want to wonder how mighty and how excellent the works of God are, think not about the mountains, the stars, and the seas, stand in front of your mirror and whoever you see standing there reveals the wondrous works of God. There is nothing else created that is greater than you. We are created in Christ for us to do good works which God has ordained for us to walk in. When a man discovers his real identity in Christ, his work becomes more obvious to him. Remember that in this union, he becomes one spirit with the Lord and therefore, if he walks in his spirit identity, his desires and wants will begin to align with that of his creator. If he has a singing ability, his desire on how to use it will not be different from that of his creator having become one spirit with Him. Today, many are searching to find their purpose for living, but remember that who

you are comes before what you do. What you do now outside of who you are in Christ is not really who you are. And there is the school of thought also trying to help people merge who they are with what they do. But really, it has been a constant battle for a lot of people trying to reconcile with who they are with what they do.

Yes, we were created to walk in the works which God has long planned for us – so it is true that everyone is created to do something but that work is in your union with Christ – that is what the scripture above means. Our union with God in Christ which is offered now through salvation in Christ is God’s singular purpose for all humanity. The goal is that everyone becomes one family with God –sharing one nature, one spirit, and one desire. Everything in Heaven and earth was created for this singular purpose. Whether you sing, dance, be a lawyer, businessman, homemaker, an inventor or a secretary and regardless of how successful you become, if you are not in the family of God, you are still functioning outside of His divine purpose for your life.

Purpose comes first before work. A man’s work does not reveal his purpose, for his purpose is found in his identity.

A man’s work does not reveal his purpose, for his purpose is found in his identity.

Question: Why are you here? Answer: You are here on earth to be one family with God through Christ. When you discover the reality of this union, the works God has ordained you to do will become more obvious.

To end this, always remember that no amount of successful work will make you fulfilled if that work is done outside of who you were created to be. You were created to be one family with God through Christ and there is no other purpose you can fulfill in life that is greater than this.

## CHAPTER 2



# Christ – The Beginning of the New Creation

**A**dam, the man whom God created in Genesis when he partook of the tree of knowledge of good and evil became corrupted and so did all who came through him. As we can see, what happened to one happened to all. In Adam – the man, all sinned, in Adam – the man, all died. Therefore, the way to salvation was to bring in a new creation not according to the nature of corrupted Adam, but according to the nature of incorruptible God Himself. For so long we have thought of salvation as making old things new or simply restoring what was lost, but now we know that there is more to it than first perceived. In essence, salvation in Christ is the divine termination of the old man creature with the

In essence, salvation in Christ is the divine termination of the old man creature with the coming of the new Creature.