



## *Fall*

HUMANS CHOSE TO REBEL AGAINST GOD, SEVERING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND WITH EACH OTHER. HUMANS NOW LIVE AS SLAVES TO DISTORTED, SINFUL PASSIONS WHICH WILL NEVER SATISFY. OUR GREATEST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FAVOR WITH GOD FALL SHORT. WE ARE LIKE "SHEEP" WHO HAVE "GONE ASTRAY," (ISAIAH 53:6) AND ARE DESERVING OF BOTH PHYSICAL AND ETERNAL DEATH, TRAGICALLY SEPARATED FROM OUR CREATOR.



## *Redemption —*

THOUGH OUR SINS HAVE CONDEMNED US AS WORTHY OF DEATH, GOD STILL LOVED US. "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE" (JOHN 3:16). IN HIS GREAT MERCY, THE FATHER ENACTED THE GREATEST RESCUE PLAN OF ALL TIME — HE SENT CHRIST TO EARTH TO LIVE A SINLESS LIFE AND TO DIE AS A SACRIFICIAL ATONEMENT FOR OUR SINS. HUMANS CANNOT EARN THEIR WAY BACK TO GOD, BUT WHEN WE PLACE OUR FAITH IN CHRIST AND IN WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED FOR US ON THE CROSS, WE CAN BE FORGIVEN AND MADE NEW. "BY HIS CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION [HE] MADE POSSIBLE OUR BEING RESTORED TO THE IMAGE OF GOD...AND THROUGH THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT BECAME PRESENT WITH US IN CONSTANT FELLOWSHIP."(8)



## *Restoration*

THIS FINAL CHAPTER OF THE STORY HAS YET TO BE LIVED. ONE DAY CHRIST WILL RETURN TO TAKE HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS KING OF THE UNIVERSE. HE WILL CREATE A NEW HEAVEN, AND A NEW EARTH, ABOLISHING DEATH AND PAIN AND SIN FOREVER. HUMANS WILL ENJOY PERFECT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH EACH OTHER FOR ALL ETERNITY.

# METANARRATIVE TIMELINE

