



# REFLECTIONS

November 29, 2020

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.**

*John 1:1-2*

## The Opera—The Opening

Think about it. God envisioned the heavens and the earth, foresaw The Opera, created the theater, and designed the set for the performance. He drafted the script, composed the music, wrote the lyrics, created the characters, and assigned roles matched to fit their talents. Then, God previewed the production with enough prophetic intrigue to draw inquisitive audiences to the theater. There, all those complex pieces performed the operatic story in perfect harmony to spellbound audiences whose transformed lives became integral parts of the cast.

We call God's opera *The Holy Bible*. In it He explains his presence at the beginning, how the earth was empty, formless, and dark and the *Spirit of God* hovered over the waters. Whatever He asked, it happened. He also planted clues to reveal his nature. "*Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...*" (Genesis 1:26) [Emphasis added.] But He left no doubt about his unity: "*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*" (Deuteronomy 6:4)

To the east in Eden, God designed the most beautiful garden in all creation all for the man he had made in his image. *In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."* (Genesis 2:9, 16-17)

But God discovered, "*It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.*" Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of [Adam], and he brought her to him. [Adam] said, "*This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.*" For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. [Adam and Eve] were both naked, and they felt no shame. (Genesis 2:18, 22-25)

Finding Eve alone in the garden, a wily serpent said, "*God knows that when you eat [from the tree] your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*" So, when the woman saw that the fruit of the tree..., she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband... Then their eyes were opened, and they realized they were naked... (Genesis 3:4-7)

They hid themselves when they heard God walking in the garden. But God called out to them, "*Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?*" After hearing their feeble excuses, to Eve God pronounced punishment for all women, and to Adam, punishment for all men. (Genesis 3:14-24 for a full account of God's punishment)

Now we all need a Savior!

*You are the light of the world,*

*Richard +*

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