



**DISCOVERING THE  
"WE" IN "WHY DO WE  
EXIST?"**

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**WHY DO WE **EXIST**?**

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## ISAIAH 43:1-7

“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’ When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.”

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## ISAIAH 43:1-7

“Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

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## CREATED, FORMED, MADE

“But now thus says the Lord, he who **created** you, O Jacob, he who **formed** you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine...everyone who is called by my name, whom I **created** for my glory, whom I **formed** and **made**’”  
(Isa 43:1, 7).

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## CREATED, FORMED, MADE

“**Create**” (Hebrew: *bara*) — refer to divine creation that is often, but not always, *ex nihilo*, that is, “out of nothing.”

“**Form**” (Hebrew: *yatzar*) — refers to the act of giving something its its function.

“**Make**” (Hebrew: *asah*) — refers to making something into its final form, often out of existing components.

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# CREATED, FORMED, MADE

- “For thus says the Lord, who **created** the heavens (he is God!), who **formed** the earth and **made** it (he established it; he did not **create** it empty, he **formed** it to be inhabited!): “I am the Lord, and there is no other” (Isa 45:18).
  - “And God said, Let us **make** man in our image. . . . So God **created** man in His own image. . . . And the LORD God **formed** man of the dust of the ground” (Gen 1:26, 27; 2:7).
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## CREATED, FORMED, MADE

“But now thus says the Lord, he who **created** you, O Jacob, he who **formed** you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine...everyone who is called by my name, whom I **created** for my glory, whom I **formed** and **made**’”  
(Isa 43:1, 7).

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# THE PROBLEM OF SIN

How does God restore us to a place where we can glorify God?

1. **Regeneration**—being “born again”
  2. **Reconciliation**—being reconciled to God
  3. **Justification**—being declared righteous
  4. **Sanctification**—being made holy by the Spirit of God
  5. **Glorification**—being made new at the End of Days, to reflect (as much as humanly possible) Jesus Christ himself
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# GOD'S REDEMPTION OF HIS PEOPLE

**Redemption** is language associated with slavery. To be redeemed is “to be bought out of slavery with a price, called a ‘ransom.’”

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“Fear not, for I have **redeemed** you.... For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your **ransom**, Cush and Seba in exchange for you” (Isa 43:1, 3).

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# GOD'S REDEMPTION OF HIS PEOPLE

We have been redeemed from...

- 1. Sin:** “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph 1:7).
  - 2. Death:** “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 6:23); “I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death” (Hosea 13:14).
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## WHAT IS OUR REDEMPTION PRICE (I.E., RANSOM)?

The price paid to free us from slavery to sin was the **blood**—that is, the very life—of Jesus Christ:

“In him we have redemption through his **blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight” (Eph 1:7-8a).

“For the life of the flesh is in the **blood**, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the **blood** that makes atonement by the life” (Lev 17:11).

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# WHAT IS “ATONEMENT”?

**“Atonement”** is not “at-one-ment” or “being reconciled to God.”

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**“Atonement”** means “to cover,” not in the sense of “hiding,” but “to pay for, so that no debt remains.”

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**Where there is no sin, there is no slavery to sin.**

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SINCE WE NOW HAVE  
**REDEMPTION** THROUGH  
CHRIST, WE ARE FREE TO  
WALK IN THE LIGHT OF  
TRUTH AND  
RIGHTEOUSNESS, SET  
FREE TO SEE AND  
CELEBRATE GOD'S GLORY,  
NOT SIMPLY AS SLAVES  
BUT AS **CHILDREN**.

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## GOD'S ADOPTION OF HIS PEOPLE

“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; **I have called you by name, you are mine....everyone who is called by my name,** whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made’” (Isa 43:1, 7).

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# GOD'S ADOPTION OF ISRAEL

If a man wanted to adopt a child in the Ancient Near East or in the Greco-Roman world, he had to...

- 1. Find a child who needed adoption; and,**
- 2. Name that child.**

For example, when adopted by Gaius Julius Caesar, **Gaius Octavius Thurinus** had his name changed to **Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus**.

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# GOD'S ADOPTION OF ISRAEL

- 1. Language of Sonship and Adoption:** Israel's sonship is not biological, of course, but covenantal, rooted in divine adoption (cf. Ex 4:22; 6:7; Deut 14:1; Rom 9:4).
  - 2. Changing of a Name:** Jacob → Israel, signifying a new identity and a new covenant relationship with God, akin to spiritual adoption (Isa 43:1).
  - 3. Receiving the Father's Name:** Israel is called by Yahweh's name (Isa 43:7).
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# GOD'S ADOPTION OF ISRAEL

- “Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son” (Ex 4:22).
- “I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God” (Ex 6:7)
- “You are the sons of the LORD your God” (Deut 14:1).
- “They are Israelites, and to them belong the **adoption**, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises” (Rom 9:4).

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# GOD'S ADOPTION OF CHRIST-FOLLOWERS

- 1. Language of Sonship and Adoption:** All have the right to become children of God through faith in Jesus (cf. Jn 1:12; Rom 8:14-16; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:5).
  - 2. Changing of a Name:** We are promised a new name at the return of Jesus Christ (Rev 2:17).
  - 3. Receiving the Father's Name:** We are baptized in the name that the Triune God shares—Yahweh—becoming both image-bearers and name-bearers (Mt 28:19-20).
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# GOD'S ADOPTION OF CHRIST-FOLLOWERS

- “To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God**” (Jn 1:12)
- “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God... You have received the Spirit of **adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" (Rom 8:14-16).