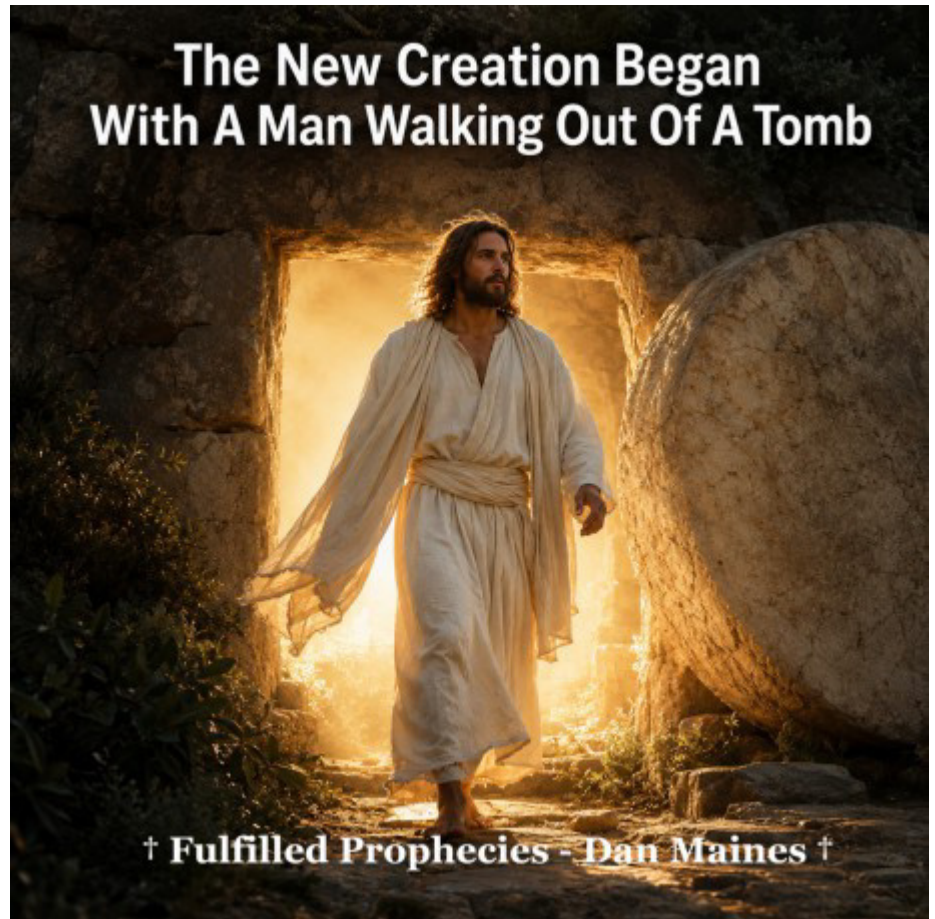


Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#) > [N](#) > [Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

The New Creation Began With A Man Walking Out Of A Tomb



By Dan Maines

The New Creation Began With A Man Walking Out Of A Tomb

Introduction

† The Bible's story of creation doesn't end in Genesis. The same God who commanded light to shine out of darkness began His New Creation through Jesus Christ, the One who entered the darkness of death and walked out of the tomb alive.

† The resurrection wasn't merely proof that Jesus survived death. It was the beginning of something new. Christ is called the firstfruits, the beginning, and the firstborn from the dead

because His resurrection opened the New Creation order that would be shared by His covenant people (1 Corinthians 15:20; Colossians 1:18).

† This is why the New Testament repeatedly connects resurrection with creation, light, life, the Spirit, and new creation. These aren't unrelated doctrines. They're different parts of one redemptive story.

† Genesis began with darkness and God's command for light. The Gospel reaches its great turning point when Jesus rises from the darkness of the grave on the first day of the week. Paul then takes creation language and applies it directly to the light of Christ shining into His people (Genesis 1:3; John 20:1; 2 Corinthians 4:6).

† The New Creation began with the risen Christ and expanded through a Spirit-filled people until the Old Covenant world passed away and the New Covenant creation stood revealed in its fullness (Hebrews 8:13; Revelation 21:1-5).

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

† The first creation begins with darkness, the Spirit moving, and God bringing light where darkness had ruled.

† These themes become foundational New Testament images for God's redemptive work. Light, Spirit, life, and creation language appear again when the apostles explain what God accomplished through Christ (John 1:4-5; Romans 8:11; 2 Corinthians 4:6).

† God didn't randomly borrow creation terminology to describe salvation. Redemption is presented as God's creative work, bringing life out of death and light out of darkness (Ephesians 5:8; Colossians 1:13).

John 20:1

Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone *already* removed from the tomb.

† Notice John's language. It's the first day, it's still dark, and something extraordinary has happened at a tomb. The stone has been moved, and death hasn't been able to hold Jesus.

† The first day of the original creation was associated with light coming into darkness. John's resurrection account places us again on the first day while it's still dark, but now the Light of the world has conquered the grave (Genesis 1:3; John 8:12).

† We shouldn't build the doctrine on the phrase "first day" alone, but when John's language is read alongside Paul's explicit New Creation language, the connection becomes powerful. God's New Creation begins in the resurrection of His Son (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 1:18).

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

But the fact is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man death came, by a Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

† Paul doesn't present Christ's resurrection as an isolated miracle. He calls Christ the firstfruits. Firstfruits means the beginning and guarantee of the harvest that follows.

† Adam stands at the head of the old humanity characterized by sin and death. Christ stands at the head of the new humanity characterized by righteousness and life (Romans 5:17-19).

† Jesus walked out of the tomb as the firstfruits of resurrection life. The resurrection story therefore moves from Christ to those who belong to Christ. The Head rises first, then His body participates in His resurrection life (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:5-6).

† This is why resurrection and New Creation can't be separated. The New Creation isn't humanity improving Adam's world. It's

humanity receiving life in the risen Christ.

Colossians 1:15-18

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities-all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

† Paul deliberately places creation and resurrection together. Christ is the firstborn of all creation, and He is also the beginning and the firstborn from the dead.

† The One through whom creation came into existence is also the One through whom God's redemptive New Creation comes into existence.

† Paul calls Jesus "the beginning." That language matters. The resurrection of Christ isn't an appendix added to God's story. It's the beginning of the new order centered in the risen Son.

† Christ is also identified as the Head of the church. The New Creation therefore doesn't stop with Jesus walking out of the tomb. His resurrection life extends to His covenant body, His people (Ephesians 2:5-6).

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

† Paul explicitly reaches back to creation. The God who commanded light to shine out of darkness in Genesis is the God who shines spiritual light into human hearts through Jesus Christ.

† This isn't a connection we're forcing onto the text. Paul himself connects God's original creative command with God's redemptive work in Christ.

† Creation language has become salvation language. Darkness

gives way to light, death gives way to life, blindness gives way to revelation, and the old gives way to the new.

† This prepares Paul's readers for the New Creation declaration that follows shortly afterward (2 Corinthians 5:17).

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

† Here Paul says it plainly. The person who is in Christ participates in New Creation.

† Notice where New Creation is found. Paul doesn't say it comes by entering a future physical universe. He says it exists "in Christ."

† Christ is the sphere and source of the New Creation. Because He rose, those joined to Him share His life and become part of the new humanity (Romans 6:4-5; Ephesians 2:10).

† The New Creation therefore began with Christ and incorporated His people. What happened to the Head became the defining reality of His body.

Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

† Paul speaks to living Christians and tells them that God had already made them alive, raised them with Christ, and seated them with Him.

† This is resurrection language applied to God's covenant people. Christ's resurrection life had become their resurrection life.

† They were physically walking on earth, yet covenantally they had been raised and seated with Christ in the heavenly places. That tells us the apostles could use resurrection language for a present spiritual and covenantal reality.

† The New Creation people were already being formed before

the Old Covenant age completely disappeared (Hebrews 8:13).

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

† The Holy Spirit connects the resurrection of Jesus with the life of His people. The Spirit who raised Christ was dwelling in them.

† Genesis introduced the Spirit moving over the darkness before God's creative word brought light. The New Testament reveals the Spirit bringing the resurrection life of Christ into God's people (Genesis 1:2; Titus 3:5-6).

† New Creation is therefore Trinitarian. The Father raises the Son, the Son becomes the beginning and firstfruits, and the Spirit communicates that resurrection life to the covenant community.

Galatians 6:14-15

But far be it from me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

† Paul connects New Creation directly with the passing significance of the old covenantal distinctions represented by circumcision.

† The controlling issue is no longer circumcision or uncircumcision. The controlling reality is New Creation.

† This is covenant language. God's people aren't defined by the fleshly boundary markers of the Mosaic world but by their relationship to Christ (Galatians 3:26-29; Philippians 3:3).

† The cross judged the old world, the resurrection inaugurated the new, and the Spirit formed a people whose identity was found in Christ.

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven

and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, Write, for these words are faithful and true."

† Revelation brings the creation story to its covenantal conclusion. The Bible begins with heavens and earth, light, life, and God's presence, and it closes with New Heavens and New Earth, New Jerusalem, life, and God's presence with His people.

† John isn't describing God abandoning His creation project. He's showing God's redemptive purpose reaching its covenantal goal, "Behold, I make all things new."

† The New Creation that began in the risen Christ and was already experienced by believers reaches its covenantal fullness with the passing of the old order and the establishment of the New Covenant world (2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 8:13).

† The Bible's New Creation story therefore has a beautiful progression. Christ rises as firstfruits, His people are made alive with Him, the Spirit dwells within them, they become New Creation in Christ, and the old covenantal world finally passes away.

Historical References

† Irenaeus, writing in *Against Heresies*, emphasized Christ as the One who restores humanity by becoming the Head of a renewed humanity. His recapitulation theme recognized that Christ reverses Adam's work and brings humanity into a new order through Himself.

† Justin Martyr repeatedly connected Christian hope with

Christ's resurrection and the new life produced through Him. Early Christian proclamation centered on the risen Christ as the foundation of the life believers possessed in Him.

† Eusebius, in Ecclesiastical History, recorded the dramatic transition from the apostolic church to the judgment that came upon Jerusalem. His historical account preserves the first-century setting in which the church grew while the old Jerusalem order approached its catastrophic end.

† These historical writers aren't our authority. Scripture is our authority. Their writings are useful witnesses showing how strongly resurrection, Christ's new humanity, the church, and Jerusalem's historical judgment remained connected in early Christian thought.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not waiting for God to begin the New Creation. We're living in the reality that began when Jesus Christ walked out of the tomb.

† We're in Christ, and if anyone is in Christ, there is New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

† We don't belong to Adam's condemned covenantal world. Our identity is found in the risen Christ, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, and the Head of His body (Colossians 1:18).

† We don't need another temple, another earthly priesthood, another sacrificial system, or another covenant. God's dwelling is with His covenant people through Christ (Ephesians 2:19-22; Revelation 21:3).

† The same God who once said, "Let there be light," has shined the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ into His people (2 Corinthians 4:6).

† The empty tomb wasn't merely the place where Jesus returned to life. It was the doorway through which God's New Creation entered history.

† One Man walked out of a tomb, and everything changed.

† The firstfruits appeared.

† The beginning had come.

- † The Light had conquered the darkness.
- † The Spirit would fill God's people.
- † The New Creation had begun.

Q & A Appendix

Q: When did God's New Creation begin?

A: Its foundation and beginning are found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ is called the firstfruits, the beginning, and the firstborn from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:20; Colossians 1:18).

Q: Does New Creation require the physical universe to be destroyed?

A: No. Paul said believers were already New Creation while they were physically living in the same world around them (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15).

Q: Why does resurrection belong to the New Creation theme?

A: Because Jesus is the firstfruits and firstborn from the dead, and believers are described as being made alive and raised with Him (1 Corinthians 15:20; Ephesians 2:5-6).

Q: What does light have to do with New Creation?

A: Paul directly uses God's creation command concerning light to explain God's work through Christ. The God who brought light from darkness shines His light into our hearts through Jesus Christ (Genesis 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:6).

Q: What role does the Holy Spirit have in New Creation?

A: The Spirit who raised Jesus gives life to God's people and dwells within them. The New Creation isn't merely a changed covenantal status, it's life in Christ through the Spirit (Romans 8:11).

Q: Were Christians already participating in resurrection life before AD 70?

A: Yes. Paul told living believers that God had already made

them alive with Christ, raised them with Him, and seated them with Him in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:5-6).

Q: What happened when the Old Covenant age finally passed away?

A: The transitional period ended, and the New Covenant creation stood established without the competing Old Covenant temple system that had been growing old and ready to disappear (Hebrews 8:13; Revelation 21:1-5).

Q: What does New Creation mean for believers today?

A: It means we aren't waiting for God's promised kingdom world to begin. In Christ we're members of His New Covenant people, living in the accomplished reality produced by His death, resurrection, reign, and completed covenantal work (2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 12:22-24).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Genesis 1:1-3; John 20:1; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Colossians 1:15-18; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4-6; Romans 8:11; Galatians 6:14-15; Revelation 21:1-5

† Historical writers: Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Justin Martyr; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

[Facebook Link](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/2129579347930195/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.