

# RECALIBRATION FOUND IN SCRIPTURE AND CHRUCH HISTORY

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## **Creation of Heaven and Earth (Genesis 1–2)**

When God created the heavens and the earth, He calibrated the world. He set in motion the order of the universe and the laws that govern the natural world. He made man in His own image, blessing humanity and issuing what I call the first commission: “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it” (Genesis 1:28). This idyllic, perfect reality expresses the default settings for man’s relationship to both creation and Creator.

## **The Garden (Genesis 3)**

When Adam and Eve sinned, they threw all relationships, both natural and divine, into chaos. God then recalibrated the trajectory of all humanity by offering redemption to His fallen children. God promised that He would set humanity back on course, using Adam and Eve. He set the basic rules for a recalibrated reality: God covers sin; sacrifice atones for failure; man cannot redeem himself, but needs forgiveness from God.

## **The Flood (Genesis 5–9)**

Man's corruption and sin reached the point where God regretted creating humanity. God literally recalibrated humanity by destroying the earth through a worldwide flood. Afterwards, God established a covenant with humanity in which He promised He would never again destroy created life. He returned humanity to the first commission, saying to Noah and his three sons, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth."

## **The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)**

The people wanted to settle down and build a tower, apparently hoping to become like God and reach Him on their own terms. Their efforts represented a defiance of God's plan for redemption and demonstrated the temptation toward self-reliance. God confused their language and recalibrated the people by forcing them to disperse all over the earth. As a result of this recalibration, humanity is scattered "over the face of the whole earth."

## **The Patriarchs (Genesis 12–50)**

After God's recalibration of humanity at the tower of Babel, the human race continued to spiral downward in selfishness, pride, and despair. As a result, God created a new covenant with humankind, making an elderly and childless couple the launch pad of His whole mission of redemption. God used Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph as the early patriarchs to recalibrate humanity and ultimately form the nation of Israel.

## **The Promised Land (Exodus–Joshua)**

After four hundred years of Egyptian oppression, Israel had lost its sacred identity. Through Moses, God recalibrated His people and reminded them of their place in His plan and their destiny to be a

light of God's grace to the nations. By giving God's law to a lost and conquered people, Moses returned Israel to its true identity.

Because of the Israelites' stubbornness and continual complaining, and because of Moses' disobedience, God established new leadership. Everyone who had left Egypt, except for Caleb and Joshua, died outside of the Promised Land. God recalibrated his people once again under the leadership of Joshua, who led them into Canaan and commanded their march to claim their sacred homeland (and reclaim God's promises).

## **Judges and Kings**

For three hundred years, Israel had no king. Instead, God appointed judges to lead His people. These judges were holy men (and one woman), all of them called by God. They led the Israelites in battle and delivered them from foreign oppressors. They helped the people to serve God. And after their leadership successes, they modeled true servant leadership by returning to their homes and fields, often openly rejecting praise or the opportunity to rule.

As Israel transitioned to a monarchy, God gave the nation Saul, who failed as a leader and reminded Israel of her need for righteousness. Through Samuel, God appointed David to be king, creating the ideal ruler for Israel and a prototype of the rule of Christ.

## **Poets and Prophets**

God raised up poets and prophets to recalibrate the people's passion and love for Him. Isaiah spoke of a Suffering Servant who would redeem God's people from their sin (Isaiah 53). Jeremiah envisioned a time when the law would not be written on stone, but rather on the hearts of humanity (Jeremiah 31). Malachi proclaimed that the Sun of Righteous would rise with healing in His wings (Malachi 4). Throughout these prophetic books, God consistently called His people to recalibrate their perspective and look forward to the coming Messiah.

## The Life of Jesus

Jesus recalibrated humanity and the religious culture of the day. In His landmark Sermon on the Mount, Jesus recalibrated ethics, morality, and spirituality. By preaching to the

heart of issues, He took the commands of God off the books and placed them into hearts.

When Jesus died, He declared, “It is finished.” Humanity could now have an unfettered relationship with God. In one sense, Jesus brought humanity back to the garden, where we can now approach God the Father with boldness and full assurance. The death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ recalibrated all humanity by bringing the eternal reality of direct access to God into everyday life, providing that free access to any and all who believe.

## The Early Church (Acts)

Throughout the book of Acts, we see the church recalibrated again and again:

**Acts 2.** The Holy Spirit recalibrated the people of God and empowered them to take the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.

**Acts 6.** God recalibrated the early church leadership. As the church grew, no longer could the ministry be contained to the twelve apostles. So they recalibrated and empowered others in the church to do ministry—and so the church grew again.

**Acts 10.** Peter himself faced a recalibration of huge significance. This is perhaps the most radical recalibration in Scripture: God speaks to Peter and shows him that the ethnic and cultural barriers to faith have been cast down. Gentiles now have unhindered access to the grace of God.

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**Acts 11 and 13.** The church recalibrated because of the martyrdom of Stephen and the persecution of the early church. The church scattered throughout the region, a few of them taking the gospel to the Gentiles in Antioch. At this time, the followers of Jesus became a movement known as the “the way.” At Antioch, the name of the movement got recalibrated to “Christians.” New leadership emerged, especially through Barnabas and Saul. The church at Antioch sent out the church’s first missionaries to the entire Roman Empire.

**Acts 15.** The church experienced a theological recalibration in what is perhaps the most critical recalibration moment for the first-century church. At the Jerusalem Council, Peter and James recalibrated the Jewish custom of circumcision. The Jerusalem Council’s central issue focused on whether converted Gentiles could be truly redeemed if they remained uncircumcised and did not keep the Mosaic Law. Peter and James clearly recalibrated the church’s view of soteriology and the role of grace in the life of all believers.

## **Paul the Apostle**

God used Paul to help bring the gospel to the “uttermost parts of the world” (Acts 1:8). Paul recalibrated the church’s view of Gentile mission and facilitated the spread of the gospel to the entire Gentile world.

Paul wrote thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, and in his epistles, he repeatedly recalibrated the life of the church. Despite his pride in his Jewish heritage, Paul understood that redemption belongs to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews, so he traveled tirelessly throughout the ancient world, taking the message of salvation to the Gentiles.

## **Council of Nicaea, 325 A.D.**

The Council of Nicaea recalibrated our understanding of Christ by defining a clear theology about the unique place of Jesus in the universe.

## **Protestant Reformation, 1517**

Fueled by Martin Luther's personal journey of studying the book of Romans, which caused him to question the nature of European Christianity, the Reformation recalibrated our understanding of grace.

## **William Tyndale, 1525**

Driven by a conviction that people should be able to read the Bible in their own language, Tyndale created the first English translation of the New Testament, thus recalibrating our access to Scripture.

## **Wesleyan Methodism, 1738**

Rejecting a purely intellectual spirituality, John Wesley, through prayer and devotion, famously felt his "heart strangely warmed" and recalibrated our need for genuine spiritual experience.

## **Pentecostal Revival, 1901–1904**

Inspired by a need to reach the world for Jesus Christ, church leaders sought the power of the Holy Spirit and recalibrated our empowerment for mission.

## **Creation of a New Heaven and Earth**

One final day is coming when God will again recalibrate humanity. When He creates a new heaven and a new earth, every knee will bow at the name of Jesus.