

AT WHAT POINT ARE YOU SAVED AND WHAT TAKES PLACE AT THAT TIME?

(ALL SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS ARE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

A POINT OF BEGINNING

God has always been specific about beginnings. He had a **time of beginning** for the creation of the world. It didn't evolve from a cloud of gas that somehow solidified; He created it! The Hebrew word *bārā'* is used for created and in this context, it means "created out of nothing!" Nothing was here before God spoke into existence the world we live in, **Genesis 1:1**. Each thing God brought into existence had a point of origin, the heavens and the earth, plants, trees, man, woman, etc. There was a **point** when God created the world and each thing in it. Before this point, there was nothing.

There is a **point** of beginning for Israel, God's Chosen People. This was when God chose them as His people among all the nations of the earth, **Deuteronomy 7:6**. From this **point** on they were known as God's Chosen People. He chose only Israel to be His people and made a covenant with them, the Old Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments and the ordinances. "He declares His words to *Jacob*, His statutes and His ordinances to *Israel*. He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!" (**Psalm 147:19-20**). Only Israel was under the Law with its Ten Commandments and ordinances because God made His covenant with them and them alone. Jacob and Israel refer to God's chosen. Jacob's name was changed to Israel by God in **Genesis 32:28**. Jacob had twelve sons who were known as the children of Israel. Both Jacob and Israel are mentioned as one in **Psalm 78:5**, "For He established a testimony in *Jacob* And appointed a law in *Israel*, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children,"

A POINT OF SEPARATION AND CLEANSING

The cleansing of the earth from sin took place with the flood. Those who were in sin were destroyed; that was the purpose of the flood. When the bible speaks of the flood there is a **point** in time when this took place. The people who were saved were in the ark, all others were destroyed because of their sin.

The time of a new beginning after the flood began when Noah and his family set foot on the cleansed earth. This was the **point** when this new era began.

The freedom of the Israelites from slavery took place at a specific **point** in time when they, at the command of God crossed the Red Sea, which God had parted. When they set foot on the ground on the other side God closed the Sea and destroyed the Egyptian army, who had kept them from freedom. Their freedom was at a specific **point** in time.

A POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAW GOD GAVE TO MOSES TO PRESENT TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

Receiving the Law at Mt. Sinai was the **point** when the Israelites made a covenant with God. Moses presented what God had him say to the people and the people agreed to the covenant (**Exodus 24:3**). At that **point** they were under the Law which included the Ten Commandments and all the Ordinances (**Exodus 19:1 through chapter 24**).

A POINT OF DYING AND BEING BORN AGAIN

Natural death takes place at the **point** when the spirit of man leaves the body (**James 2:22**). Until this happens one is alive.

Spiritual death happens when man sins and God separates Himself from man, **Ezekiel 18:4, 20**. Paul explains this spiritual death in **Ephesians 2:1-3**, "And **you were dead in your**

trespasses and sins, in which you ***formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience***. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ***even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)***.” Spiritual death takes place at the ***point*** when one sins.

Spiritual birth takes place when we are born again. When we are born of water and the Spirit, we are **reborn by God**. After a person sins they are dead in sin until they are born again. Jesus explains this in **John 3:3-8**, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?’ Jesus answered, ‘**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again.**’ The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Peter also explains this in **1 Peter 1:1-3**, “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, ***To those*** who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ***who are*** ***chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.*** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who ***according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.***” Titus further explains the new birth in **Titus 3:3-6**, “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. **But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.**” The ***point*** of new birth is the point when we submit to God, repenting of our sins (**Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10**), confessing that we have taken Him as our Lord (Master, Savior), and are by faith baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27; 4:6-7**), at which time our sins are washed away by the blood Christ shed on the cross (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**), as He took on our sins and gave us His righteousness. “He made Him who knew no sin ***to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him***”. At this ***point*** God washes us, renews us by giving us a new spirit, the Holy Spirit (**Titus 3:5-6** above; Those saved from their sins are those who have obeyed the gospel as seen in **Acts 2:36-38**, at which time they receive the forgiveness of their sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Receiving the Holy Spirit is the ***point*** when, after having our sins removed in baptism (**Acts 2:38**), we are made alive spiritually. This is clearly seen in **Colossians 2:11-13** “and ***in Him*** you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the **removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.** When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, ***He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.***” This is the ***point*** when God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit come into our lives as Paul explains in **Romans 8:9-11**, “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, ***if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 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 is given only to those who have been made sons of God, **Galatians 3:26-27** “***For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.***” Paul then states “***Because you are sons,*** God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God” **Galatians 4:6-7.**

WHAT TAKES PLACE AT THE TIME (POINT) OF NEW BIRTH?

We put off the old man and put on the new “...in reference to your former manner of life, you ***lay aside the old self***, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you ***be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth***” (Ephesians 4:20-24).

“Therefore ***if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore ***consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.*** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, put them all aside: ***anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth***” **Colossians 3:1-8.** (Read all of Colossians chapter three).

A new life must follow the new birth. This new life is a day to day decision on the part of the Christian. “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me”(**Galatians 2:20**). “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (**Galatians 5:24**).

A change of state (from spiritual death to spiritual life) brings about a change of mind which brings about a change of behavior. We are saved at the ***point*** when we trust in and obey God’s teaching (obey the gospel **Romans 1:16-17; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-38**), and because of what Christ did for us on the cross our state changes from being dead in sin to being alive in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). At this ***point*** we are to change our conduct to agree with that which God determined for man in **Ephesians 1:3-4**, “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ***just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him...***” It is only through the grace of God that we can be holy and blameless, not by our practice, but by what God did for us on Calvary (**Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21**). We are then to ***walk in the light as He is in the light*** (1 John 1:6-10).