



two ways to live



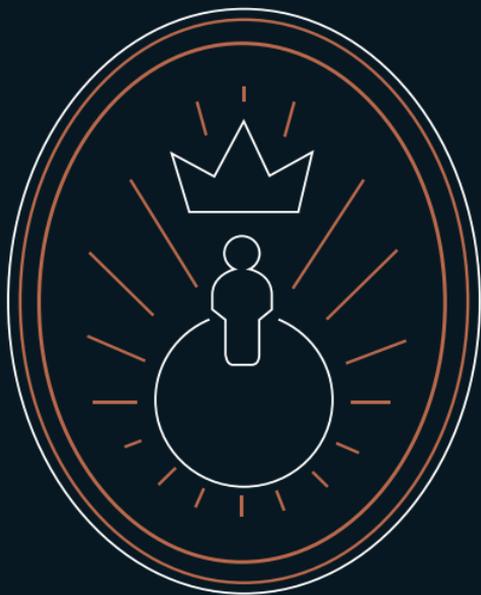
The Christian gospel is simple enough to be explained in a short presentation like this. And yet it is a message that has changed the lives of millions, and been studied by many of the greatest minds of the last two thousand years.

It's a message from the Bible about God and his world and the choices we make in our lives. At its heart is the life and work of a particular man, Jesus Christ.

But before we say anything about Jesus, we need to go back to the very beginning, and to God as the creator of the world...

1

GOD, THE GOOD RULER AND CREATOR



HOW THE BIBLE PUTS IT:

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. **(Revelation 4:11)**

The foundation of the Christian message is that God is the one true and living ruler of all things. He is the lord and king of everything that exists. Unlike many human rulers, God is not corrupt or self-serving. He is a thoroughly good and loving ruler, who continues to provide for his world generously, and to rule it with justice.

God is the ruler of everything because he created everything. God is the source and maker of all that exists, including the good and beautiful world that we live in. This is his world. He made it, and he is in charge of it.

He also made us.

God created humanity, and gave us a unique place in his good world. He commissioned us to rule over the world, to care for it, and to be responsible for it—all the while honoring and obeying him as our ruler, and thanking him for his generosity.



SUMMARY

- God is the ruler of the world.
- He made the world.
- He made us to rule his good world, giving thanks and honor to him.

This is how God created things to be. But it's fairly obvious that this is not our experience of the world now. What happened?

OUR REBELLION AGAINST GOD



HOW THE BIBLE PUTS IT:

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way... **(Isaiah 53:6a)**

Everything that is wrong in our lives and in the world stems from the fateful choice humanity has made. From the very beginning, we didn't want God to be our ruler. We rejected him as God by deciding to live our own way, in defiance of him.

We all do this in our lives.

Most of the time, we simply ignore God or keep him at a distance, and get on with living our own lives. We don't thank him as we should for being our generous creator and provider. We don't honor and obey him as our ruler. We follow our own desires and priorities, and live by the values we decide are best (whether religious, secular, or a mix of both).

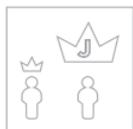
The common Bible word for this rebellious stance towards God is "sin," and we all do it—whether we follow a particular religion or not.

We find ourselves in a world full of little "gods," each of us doing things our own way, each of us selfishly trying to bend the world and other people to our own will.

It's hardly surprising it doesn't work. Our self-rule fails and we suffer the consequences, including the damage we do to ourselves, to the people around us, and to the world we live in.

SUMMARY

- We all reject God as our ruler by running our own lives our own way.
- By rebelling against God's way, we damage ourselves, each other, and the world.



The question is: what will God do about our rebellion against him?