

# PILLARS OF CREATION



<sup>14</sup> Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; <sup>15</sup> and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so.

<sup>16</sup> Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made* the stars also. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,

[The New King James Version](#) Ge 1:14–17.

It is estimated that there are between 200 billion ( $2 \times 10^{11}$ ) to 2 trillion galaxies in the observable universe.

The Sun belongs to a galaxy called the Milky Way. Astronomers estimate there are about 100 thousand million stars in the Milky Way alone.

If we estimate that every galaxy has about as many stars as our Milky Way, we end up with a total estimate of 200 billion trillion stars in the observable universe.

<sup>4</sup> He counts the number of the stars;  
He calls them all by name.

[The New King James Version](#) Ps 147:4.

# “The Fruits of Repentance.”

March 3, 2024



In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the LORD;  
Make His paths straight.’ ”*

<sup>4</sup> Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him <sup>6</sup> and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

<sup>9</sup> and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup> And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

*The New King James Version* Mt 3:1–11.

# What is repentance?

A change of one's mind and heart about a thing which is observable by one's actions.

<sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. <sup>11</sup> For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing *of yourselves*, *what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication!

II Corinthians 7:11-12 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.



<sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ <sup>13</sup> And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

[The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Lk 18:10–14.

Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus

## II. What are the benefits of Confession and Repentance?

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), 1 Jn 1:8–9.

**BENEFIT:**

**1. FORGIVENESS**

**2. CLEANSING**

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

*The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ac 3:19.

## BENEFIT:

3. Qualification for Conversion,  
Sins blotted out, as in #2 – Blotter
4. Spiritual Refreshing from the Lord  
experienced



18 “Come now, and let us reason together,”  
Says the LORD,  
“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
They shall be as white as snow;  
Though they are red like crimson,  
They shall be as wool.

<sup>16</sup> “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;  
Put away the evil of your doings from before My  
eyes.

Cease to do evil,

<sup>17</sup> Learn to do good;  
Seek justice,  
Rebuke the oppressor;  
Defend the fatherless,  
Plead for the widow.

18 “Come now, and let us reason together,”  
Says the LORD,  
“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
They shall be as white as snow;  
Though they are red like crimson,  
They shall be as wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient,  
You shall eat the good of the land;

*The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas  
Nelson, 1982), Is 1:16–19.

## ONE MORE BENEFIT

<sup>8</sup> Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

<sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house,

BENEFIT:

5. SALVATION

# Two things necessary for Salvation:

1. Repentance

2. Welcome Jesus into your life.

<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

[The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Re 3:20.