

# Reconnecting With Our Religious & National Roots

## *The First Story in Genesis*

By Jim Myers

### Vocabulary Words

**ADAM** (*ah-dahm*)

### Primary Guideline

*My belief system will be large enough to include all facts, open enough to be questioned and examined, flexible enough to change if errors or new facts are discovered.*

### Linguistic Model

*A word consists of symbols or sounds with an attached bundle of associations that provides meanings. The associations were acquired through the source's life experiences, beginning with culture.*

### First Goal

*Discover the Source's (writer or speaker) meanings of words first.*

**“Salvation”** is a **“defining belief”** of people with *Christian Biblical Heritages*. Christian beliefs about salvation emerged from Jewish beliefs about **“redemption.”** Jewish beliefs about redemption are about the redemption of a human collective – usually **the people of Israel.** We find these same ideas in the teachings of the Jewish Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46):

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the **nations will be gathered before him,** and he will separate them one from another . . . And the **nations** that did not do **acts of TOV** will go away into **everlasting punishment,** but the **nations** that did **acts of TOV** go into **eternal life.**”*

Christian beliefs about **salvation** are about **“how to be saved from everlasting punishment.”** In order to understand what Jesus said, you must understand the *“Blessing of the Creator”* in the first story in Genesis.

- 1. Humans are equal in the eyes of the Creator.*
- 2. Humans have an earth-soul, which gives them appetites, desires, and longings like those of the animals.*
- 3. The presence of the Creator is with every human all of the time.*
- 4. Humans have the power to reflect the image of the Creator in their lives by doing acts that measure TOV.*
- 5. Humans have the capacity to exercise impulse control and self-discipline over their earth-soul appetites, desires, and longings – and help others do it.*
- 6. Humans function as male or female in the procreation of new human lives.*
- 7. Humans function as parents of their children by guarding, protecting, providing basic requirements of life, teaching, instructing, and mentoring them to successfully fulfill roles for being **ADAM.***
- 8. Humans have collective roles as the Creator's Co-Representatives and Co-Shepherds over all life on earth.*

9. *Every Seventh Day of the week, the Kingdom of the Creator is to gather in the Creator's Temple and share the wisdom of the Creator by retelling and talking about these wisdom stories. The Temple of the Creator is the entire space inside the dome-like structure on Day Seven.*

In the parable of Jesus in Matthew 25, the **nations** that will go into **eternal life** “reflect the image of the Creator through acts that measure TOV.” This message is repeated throughout the *Jewish Scriptures (Old Testament)* and in the teachings of the Jewish Jesus in *Matthew, Mark and Luke*.

The message of the *Jewish Jesus* to his *Jewish audience* was this:

*“The Kingdom of God will be redeemed.  
Do acts of TOV and be part of it.”*

What would happen if people with belief systems in which Jesus and the Bible are very important incorporated the **Bible's Wisdom of the Beginnings** and the **TOV Standard** into their daily lives?

1. Their belief systems and the teachings of Jesus would be much more in sync.
2. Christian beliefs and groups would become much more open and inclusive.
3. People who view all humans as equals and are committed to protecting lives, preserving lives, making lives more functional and increasing the quality of life would be less likely to be engaged in destroying lives, harming lives, making lives less functional and decreasing the quality of life.

As Americans, it would bring us much closer to core ideas upon which our nation was founded. They are recorded in the *Declaration of Independence*:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that **they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights**, that among these are **Life . . . . with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.**”*

The unanimous pledges of the founders to each other made the *Declaration's* words a reality! *Building Values-Based Relationships that reflect the ideas of the TOV Standard could make 21<sup>st</sup> century lives much better and safer!*