



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSSIANS

NO PART OF HUMAN EXISTENCE REMAINS UNTOUCHED BY THE LOVING & LIBERATING RULE OF JESUS.

WE'RE INVITED TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT AS IF THE **NEW CREATION** ARRIVED WHEN JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

1:1-23 THE EXALTED MESSIAH

WE THANK GOD FOR YOUR **FAITH**, **LOVE**, and **HOPE**. (1:3-5)

WE PRAY FOR GREATER **WISDOM** and *Spiritual Understanding*. (1:9-10)

1:15-20 THE MESSIAH POEM

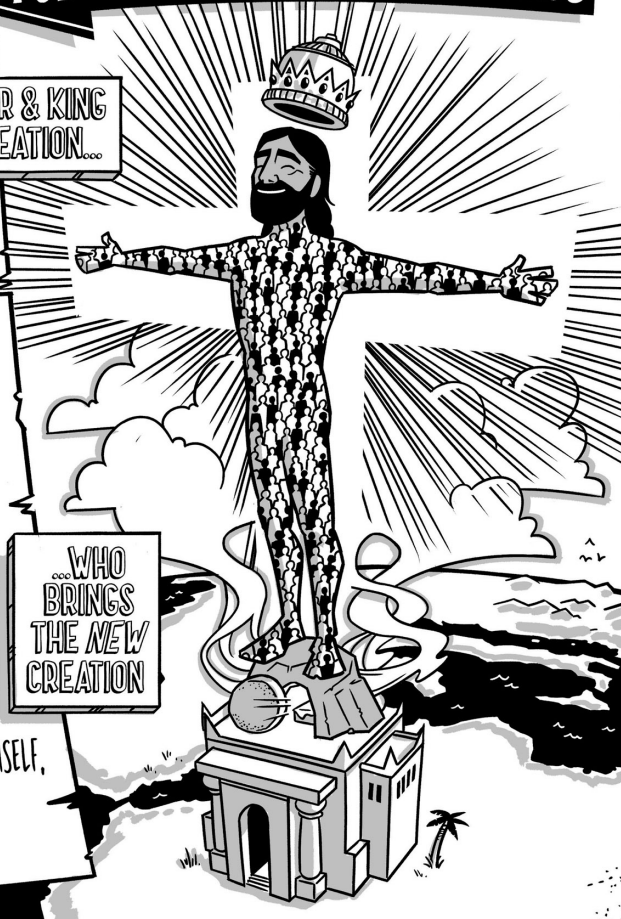
HE IS THE **IMAGE** OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, **FIRSTBORN** OVER ALL CREATION, FOR IN HIM ALL THINGS WERE **CREATED**, IN THE HEAVENS & ON EARTH, THINGS VISIBLE & INVISIBLE, THRONES OR KINGDOMS, POWERS OR AUTHORITIES. ALL THINGS WERE **CREATED** THROUGH HIM & FOR HIM, AND HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM ALL THINGS COHERE.

AND HE IS THE **HEAD** OF THE **BODY**, THE CHURCH. HE IS THE BEGINNING, **FIRSTBORN** FROM AMONG THE DEAD, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS HE WOULD HOLD THE HIGHEST ROLE. FOR GOD WAS PLEASED FOR HIS FULL PRESENCE TO **DWELL** IN HIM, AND THROUGH HIM TO **RECONCILE** ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF, WHETHER IN THE HEAVENS OR ON EARTH, MAKING PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS.

FULL of ECHOES of: - GENESIS 1 - PSALMS 2, 8, 68 - EXODUS 40 - PROVERBS 8

AUTHOR & KING OF CREATION...

SHARES THE IDENTITY OF THE ONE CREATOR GOD

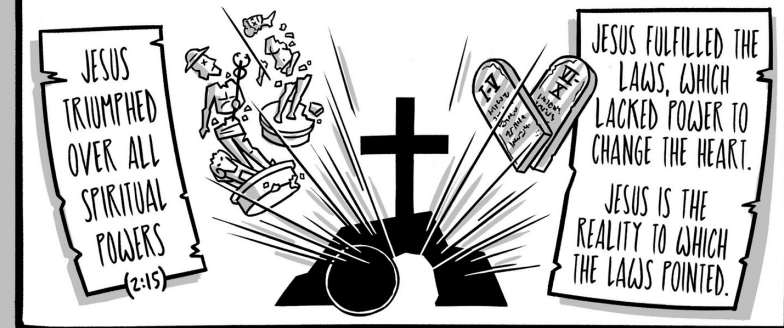


...WHO BRINGS THE NEW CREATION

1:24-2:5 THE SUFFERING APOSTLE



2:6-23 THE PRESSURE TO TURN AWAY



3-4 THE RESURRECTION LIFE

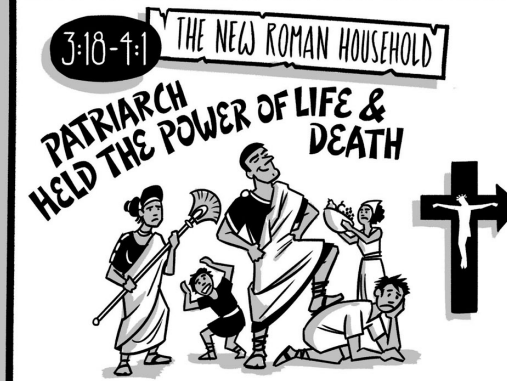


CHALLENGE: LIVE IN THE PRESENT AS THE KIND OF HUMAN YOU WILL BECOME

OLD HUMANITY DISTORTED SEXUALITY & DESTRUCTIVE SPEECH

NEW HUMANITY MERCY! GENEROSITY! FORGIVENESS! LOVE!

"HERE NO ONE'S GREEK OR JEWISH, CIRCUMCISED OR UNCIRCUMCISED, SLAVE OR FREE: THE MESSIAH IS ALL & IS IN ALL PEOPLE." (3:11)



PAUL RESHAPES THE ROMAN HOUSEHOLD AROUND JESUS, WHO RULES WITH SELF-GIVING LOVE

