

THE MOST TERRIBLE
SEPARATION
OF ALL

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR
Luke 22:41–44

For our sake he made him to be sin
who knew no sin, so that in him we might become
the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21



**LIND CHAOS FELL
LIKE AN UNEXPECTED DARKNESS
on the events of Jesus' life.**

Suddenly angry men grabbed Jesus,
whipped his body,
beat his head,
nailed his hands and feet
to a hastily assembled cross.

We were alarmed and confused.
God had never abandoned any of his children,
no matter how dark life became.
There we stood at God's command,
legions and legions of angels
longing to spring to the aid
of their Creator,
who was now fastened helplessly
to a pair of wooden beams.
But God did not send us to save his Son.



Jesus looked up to heaven for help,
but the sun had hidden its face
because God had hidden His.

“My God, my God,
Why have you
forsaken me?”

We had never heard the Creator wail.
But Jesus cried for the loss of something
none of us—human or angel—could comprehend.
Jesus, who had walked closer with God than any man
was being exiled farther from God than any man.
The most terrible separation of all.
Something grave had come between them.

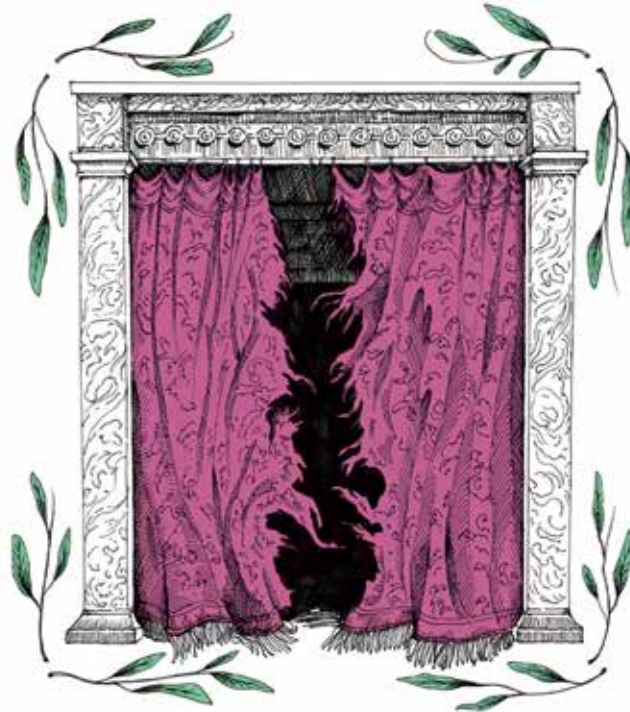
Sin.

But it was not Jesus' sin.
You'll pardon us for saying so, but we must.
The sin was yours.
And yet the curse was his.
The curse of sin is death,
and death came for Jesus.



As he slumped silently down,
a sound split the air
from the temple not far away.
The curtain that had separated the holy God
from sinful people
was torn from top to bottom.

That frayed curtain
was Jesus' parting message
that he had been forsaken
so that you could be welcomed.







A NEW ADAM
**AND A NEW
PEOPLE**

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

John 20:1–23
and Romans 5:15–17

But you are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
a people for his own possession.

1 Peter 2:9



**E STOOD AT THE EDGE
OF ETERNITY THAT THIRD DAY.
Life was exploding around us
at the sound of God's words.**

Even our bright eyes
had never seen anything like it.
Somehow the fierce colors of heaven
had erupted in the eternal darkness of hell.
Death was torn open
because a sinless man cannot stay dead.

Jesus was alive.

Eternity awoke in a hillside cave.
Jesus was no longer a lifeless corpse.
He was a breathing man.
God had retrieved his Son
to bring him back,
to bring him near.

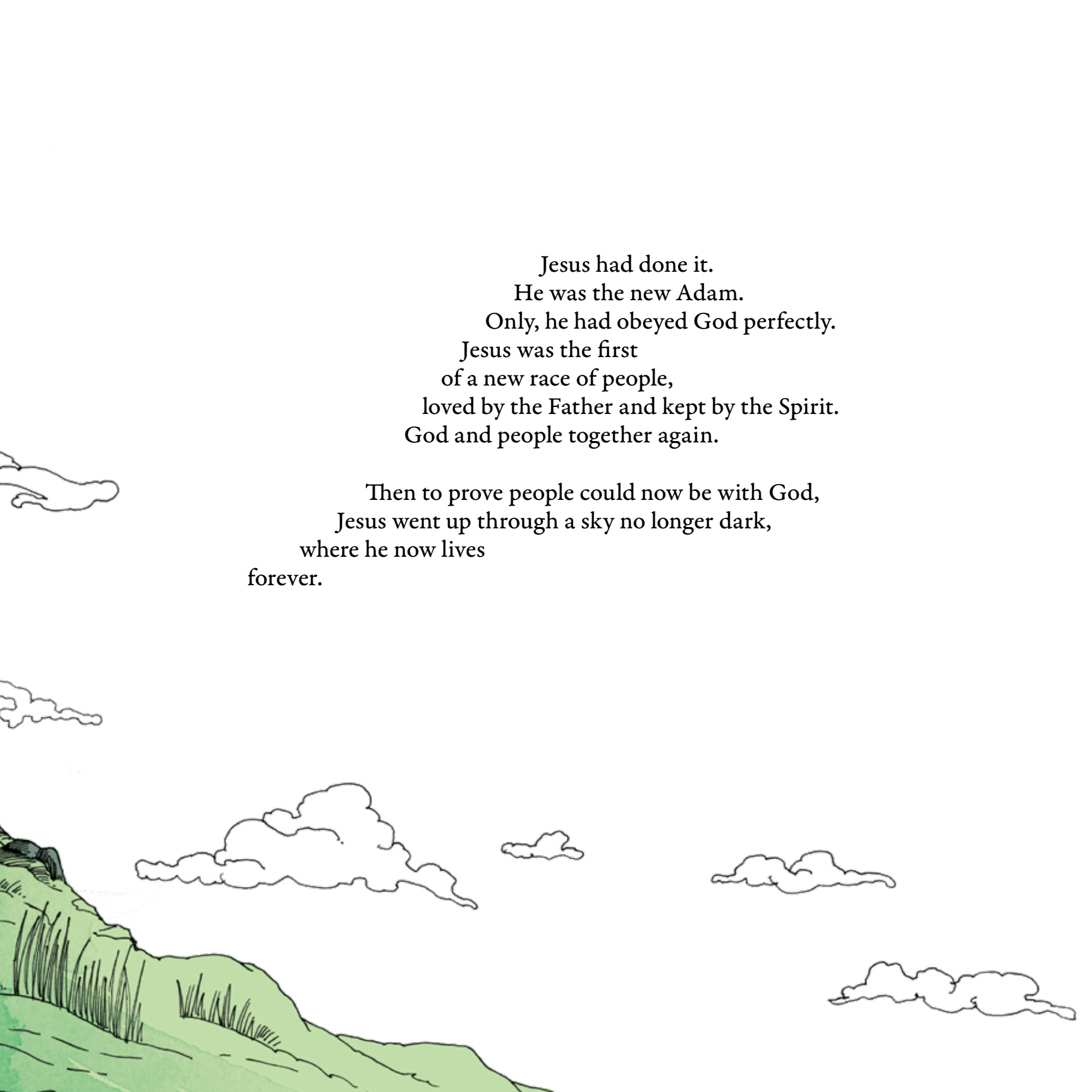
Now Jesus wanted to be near his people too.
He spoke the name of Mary as she wept,
and woke the women from their sorrow,
and walked with his disciples on the road,
and their hearts burned with wonder,
burned with hope.

Grief melted to joy.
Fear melted to courage.
Doubt melted to faith.

“Do not be afraid.
You are now my brothers and sisters.
I’m sending you out of here, but not alone.
The Holy Spirit will go with you.
I will go with you.
The Father will go with you.”





A simple line drawing of a landscape. In the foreground, there are green hills with some grass. In the sky, there are several white, fluffy clouds. The drawing is minimalist and serves as a background for the text.

Jesus had done it.
He was the new Adam.
Only, he had obeyed God perfectly.
Jesus was the first
of a new race of people,
loved by the Father and kept by the Spirit.
God and people together again.

Then to prove people could now be with God,
Jesus went up through a sky no longer dark,
where he now lives
forever.