Sunday, 7th June 2026

The Celestial Family of God

A Covenant Sermon on God's Eternal Purpose in Christ

My Dearest Christian Family,
Let us this Sunday be reminded by scriptures that we are part of our beloved Triune God's celestial family.

"For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth He is called.
Isaiah 54:5

And I will betroth you to Me forever. I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.
Hosea 2:19

“The word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown…”
Jeremiah 2:2

“Whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye.'"
Zechariah 2:8

“I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine."
Song of Solomon 6:3

“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him."
2 Corinthians 11:2

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory."
Romans 8:17

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39

"For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."
Ephesians 2:10

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your

hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"
Galatians 4:6

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready."
Revelations 19:7

Revelation 22:17 closes the New Testament with the bride and the Spirit calling out for the return of our beloved Lord Jesus:
“The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'
And let the one who hears say, 'Come!'"

How blessed we are indeed to be part of God’s Celestial Family through the love

and the wise councel of our beloved Triune God.

From eternity past, God purposed to have a people for Himself — a holy, redeemed, heavenly family. The story of Scripture is not random history, but the unfolding of God's eternal covenant purpose to gather a celestial family in Christ.

The Bible is the story of:

- A sovereign God,
- Choosing a people,
- Through covenant promises,
- Accomplished through Christ,
- For His eternal glory.

The Church is not an afterthought. Redemption was not God's emergency plan after Adam's fall. Before the foundation of the world, God purposed to create a people who would belong to Him forever.

The Apostle Paul declares:
"According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world…"
— Ephesians 1:4

The Institutes of the Christian Religion John Calvin wrote:
"The covenant made with all the fathers is so far from differing from ours in reality and substance, that it is altogether one and the same."

The covenant story of Scripture moves toward one glorious end:
A celestial family united to our beloved Jesus Christ.

I. God Covenanted to Preserve the World for His Redemptive Purpose

Noah and the Preservation of Creation

After the flood judgment, God covenanted with Noah:
“Neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done… While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest… shall not cease.”
— Genesis 8:21–22

God preserved the earth because redemption history was not finished. His covenant was displayed through a rainbow our sky, a bow with arrow that points upwards to Heaven and not at humanity; the sinful, stiff necked rebels against God.

The flood demonstrated both:

- God's hatred of sin,
- and His commitment to His covenant purpose.

The preservation of creation serves redemption.

The earth continues because God is gathering His elect.

Herman Bavinck said:
“Grace restores nature and leads it to its highest destiny.”

The covenant with Noah guarantees that history will continue until every chosen member of Christ’s family is gathered.

Lord Jesus said:
“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me.”
— John 6:37

Not one member of the celestial family will be lost.

II. God Chose Abraham to Build a Covenant Family

The Abrahamic Covenant

God then narrowed His redemptive purpose through one man — Abraham.
“I will make of thee a great nation… and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”
— Genesis 12:2–3

God’s purpose was not merely ethnic Israel.
It was global redemption through covenant grace.

Abraham was chosen so that through his seed would come:

- a covenant people,
- a covenant kingdom,
- and ultimately Christ Himself.

Paul explains:
“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made… and to thy seed, which is Christ.”
— Galatians 3:16

The covenant with Abraham points ultimately to our beloved Lord Jesus Christ.

John Owen wrote:
“The whole mystery of the covenant of grace was treasured up in the promise made unto Abraham.”

The celestial family begins to emerge visibly in history through covenant election.

God calls a people out of the world unto Himself.

III. The Covenant Kingdom Culminates in the King of Kings

From Abraham to David to Christ

God’s covenant advances further through David.

“I will establish the throne of His Kingdom for ever.”
— 2 Samuel 7:13

David’s kingdom pointed beyond Solomon to the eternal King — Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings.

The genealogy of Scripture is covenant history moving toward Christ.

Matthew opens with:
“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” — Matthew 1:1

Christ is:

- the true Seed of Abraham,
- the greater David,
- the eternal King.

Geerhardus Vos said:
“The Kingdom of God is the supreme end of God in history.”

Lord Jesus did not merely come to save isolated individuals.
He came to gather a Kingdom family.

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.”— Luke 12:32

IV. Christ Gathers His Celestial Family

The Elect Drawn to Christ

God's eternal family is gathered through sovereign grace.

Lord Jesus declared:
"No man can come to me Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him."
— John 6:44

The celestial family is not formed by human will, but by divine election.
"As many as were ordained to eternal life believed."
— Acts 13:48

The Father chose them.
The Son redeemed them.
The Spirit draws them.

Charles Spurgeon declared:
“I believe the doctrine of election because I am quite certain that if God had not chosen me, I should never have chosen Him.”

Those drawn to Christ become:

- sons and daughters of God,
- members of Christ’s body,
- and the Bride of Christ.

V. The Church is the Bride of Christ

The Final Glory of the Celestial Family

The covenant story ends in a wedding.

“The marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.”
— Revelation 19:7

Christ is not merely redeeming individuals.
He is preparing a Bride.

The Church is the heavenly family of God.
“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”
— 1 John 3:1

The celestial family will dwell eternally with Christ in glory.

“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men.”
— Revelation 21:3

Jonathan Edwards wrote:
“The end of God’s creating the world was the communication of His glory.”

God’s glory shines most brightly in the redemption of His covenant family through Christ.

VI. Applications

1. Salvation Belongs Entirely to God

You were not saved by chance.

You were chosen in Christ before the world began.

This humbles pride and exalts grace.

“By grace are ye saved through faith… it is the gift of God.”
— Ephesians 2:8

2. The Church is a Covenant Family

Believers are not spiritual strangers.

We are:

- heirs together,
- citizens of heaven,

- children of the Father,
- and the Bride of Christ.

3. Christ Will Lose None of His Family

The covenant cannot fail.

“Of all which He hath given Me I should lose nothing.”
— John 6:39

Every elect child of God will safely arrive home.

4. The Mission of the Gospel Continues

God is still gathering His celestial family from every tribe and nation.

The Gospel call goes forth because Christ has sheep yet to gather.

“Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring.”
— John 10:16

Conclusion

The entire Bible tells one grand story: The story of God building His celestial family through covenant grace.

- Preserved through Noah,
- Promised through Abraham,
- Established through David,
- Fulfilled in Christ,
- Gathered by the Spirit,
- Perfected as the Bride of the Lamb.

And one day the celestial family shall stand complete before the throne.

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number… stood before the throne, and before the Lamb.”
— Revelation 7:9

What a glorious day it shall be when every chosen child of God is finally home in the eternal kingdom of Christ.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Much love,
Francis