



epic
story





What kind of Story

Ever feel like an actor without a script?

From the day you entered the world
with a cry, you sensed that you're
part of something bigger . . .
an epic story of sorts.

But what kind of story am I in?
A comedy or a tragedy?
A meandering Indie flick?
Or a sweeping drama
like Tolkien's Lord of the Rings,
with a battle to fight,
and where love wins . . . ?

How to tell? Stories abound -
I'm a cosmic accident;
I'm just an animal;
I'm a reincarnated lost soul;
I'm the experiment
of a disinterested deity . . .

Which, if any,
is the true story?

What if there is a story that just fit?

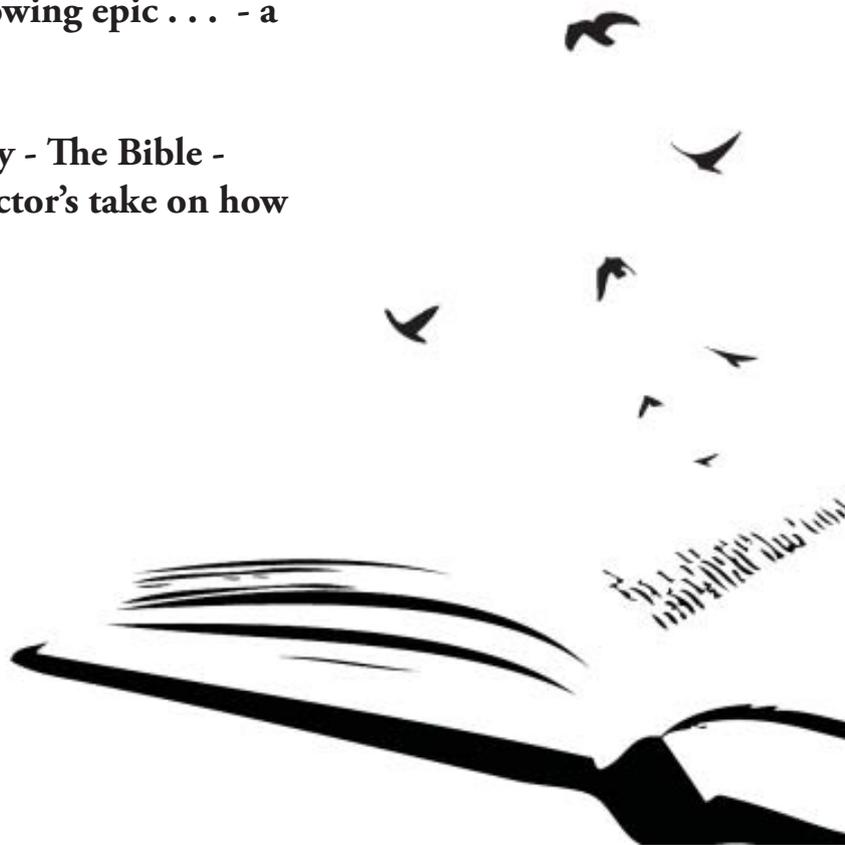
A story that embraces your own story, and everyday experience? A bigger story that makes sense of how we got here, of life's meaning, the heart of our problem, and the solution to it all?

What if there is a Director who isn't silent, who has told us stuff we could never work out for ourselves, even about what happens when you shut your eyes for the last time?

We all live according to the story we think we're in. So take a chance and step into the following epic . . . - a story with five scenes.

It's a basic summary of another story - The Bible - which Christians believe is the Director's take on how all our stories hang together.

Let's start in the present though . . .





Look around.

Describe the world.

What do you see?

**Good stuff? . . . friends, footy, flowers, mountains, concerts, travel,
Thai food, and so on. Is there another planet where you'd rather be ?!**

. . . But is that all? Flick on the news.

**Not so good stuff? . . . addiction, depression, divorce, death,
rape, corruption, war, global warming, poverty, pollution . . .**

Do you ever get the sense that something's gone wrong?

- That this is not the way it's supposed to be?

But why?

We're thirsty for a perfect world, but what can satisfy?

Maybe it was good, or will be good, but right now it's messed up.

**Enter the Director's Epic story, right at the beginning,
and it'll start to make sense . . .**



Scene #1

Designed for good.

The epic starts with God.

Drop the images of a distant deity wielding lightning bolts. This story's Director is passionate and relational, an artist who paints an Oasis and plants us there.

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth.

But what for?

He made us to love God, love each other, and cultivate the world as a good gardener should. -- Imagine connection with your Creator, society in harmony without selfishness, and work which you enjoy that helps the world thrive . . .

This is the form in which we find freedom.

But just as love is only real when it isn't forced, the Director gives us all a choice. Clearly we're not in Eden anymore . . .



designed for good

Genesis 1-2

Deuteronomy 32:4

Psalms 90:2 + 139:1-18

Isaiah 40:28 + 45:18

Job 7:17-18

Psalms 8:3-9

Psalms 19

Psalms 144:3-4

Matthew 22:37-40

John 1:1-18

Revelation 4:11



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Scene #2

Damaged by evil.

“Who’s God to tell me what to do?”

So we, the actors, rebelled against the Director and tried writing our own script, in a form we preferred. We’ve eaten the forbidden fruit, and tried to play God. Meaning? We’ve ignored and despised God, abused each other, and vandalized the planet.

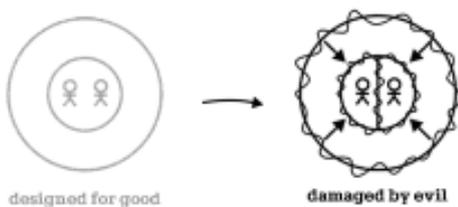
That’s sin - missing the mark we were made for.

We’ve turned inward, and act like the universe revolves around me. And we’ve built our lives around good stuff that can never satisfy like God - relationships, sex, status, sport . . . our symptoms differ, but the syndrome’s the same.

The result? The world’s damaged, our relationships are divided, and our identity (our heart) is a mess.

We’re broken, and we break. Worse, we’re to blame.

God is loving and just, so what’s a passionate Director to do?





Genesis 3
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 51
Isaiah 59
John 8:34
Romans 1:18-32
Romans 3:9-20 + 6:23
Galatians 5:19-21

Scene #3

Restored for better.

The Director could have fired the cast for a do-over. But instead, He entered the story through His Son.

When? The Roman Empire, Israel, when BC became AD.
How? Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus uniquely claimed to be God in the flesh, the long awaited and predicted Saviour (Messiah/Christ) of the world. He gave us a model of how life was meant to be lived, under his Father's rule in a Kingdom of peace and love. He called us to switch scripts, and align with God's form to be forgiven and free.

As the perfect character, he stood in for our failures. He took the blame, and absorbed evil in love, crucified to cover our sin. He took the worst the world could throw at him, but after it all, rose from the dead - a real historical event worth checking out. This demonstrated that death was defeated, and the story would go on.



Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Matthew 5-7

Luke 4:16-21

John 3:1-21 + 8:31-36

John 10:10 + 14:6

Acts 2:22-39 + 4:12

Romans 3:21-26 + 5:1-21

1 Corinthians 15:1-28

Colossians 1:12-20 + 2:13-15

Hebrews 2:14-15

1 John 5:11-13



Scene #4

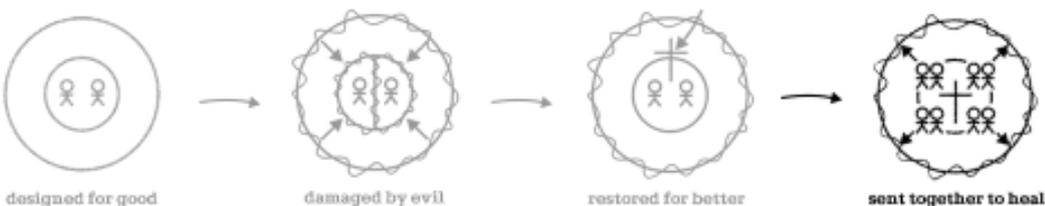
Sent together to heal.

The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart. When we admit our failure to God, turning from our way to trust the Director's solution in Jesus, then a new act begins.

God starts the process of healing us from the inside out – revealing the part only I can play - so we can go together in the power of His Spirit to help heal a hurting world.

We partner with God to restore relationships and a broken planet. No waiting until the story's happy ending, we have a mission right now to give the world a preview of the play's final scene.

Until we exit the stage, our role is to follow Jesus by absorbing evil in love, and reconnecting everyone with a good God who designed us to be free.



Matthew 20:25-28

Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 12:31-37

John 13:34-35

John 15:5-27

John 20:19-23



Acts 1:8

Acts 2:42-47

Ephesians 2:8-10

Galatians 2:20

Galatians 3:28 + 5:22-25

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Scene #5

Set everything right.

For all our best efforts, we're still broken. By ourselves, the world will never fully heal. The Director is patient, and wants everyone to freely choose the role we were made for. But, the day is coming when Jesus will return, judge the world, and set everything right. We've all fallen short, so we need God's mercy.

As the curtain closes, every actor is brought back to give account for their actions. If you've accepted God's forgiveness, your real story is just starting: a restored earth with no hate, pollution, poverty, or war. God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - will be the centre of it all, and we'll be free in this love.

But what should God do with those of us who reject Him? Everything good, true, and beautiful comes from God, so apart from Him, all that's left is Hell. Hell is when we exclude ourselves from the Director's plans for a do-over.



Psalms 96 + 98

Isaiah 2:2-4 + 65:17-25

Matthew 13:24-51

Matthew 24:14 + 25:1-46

John 3:36 + 5:24-29

Acts 17:22-31

Romans 2:1-16 + 8:18-25

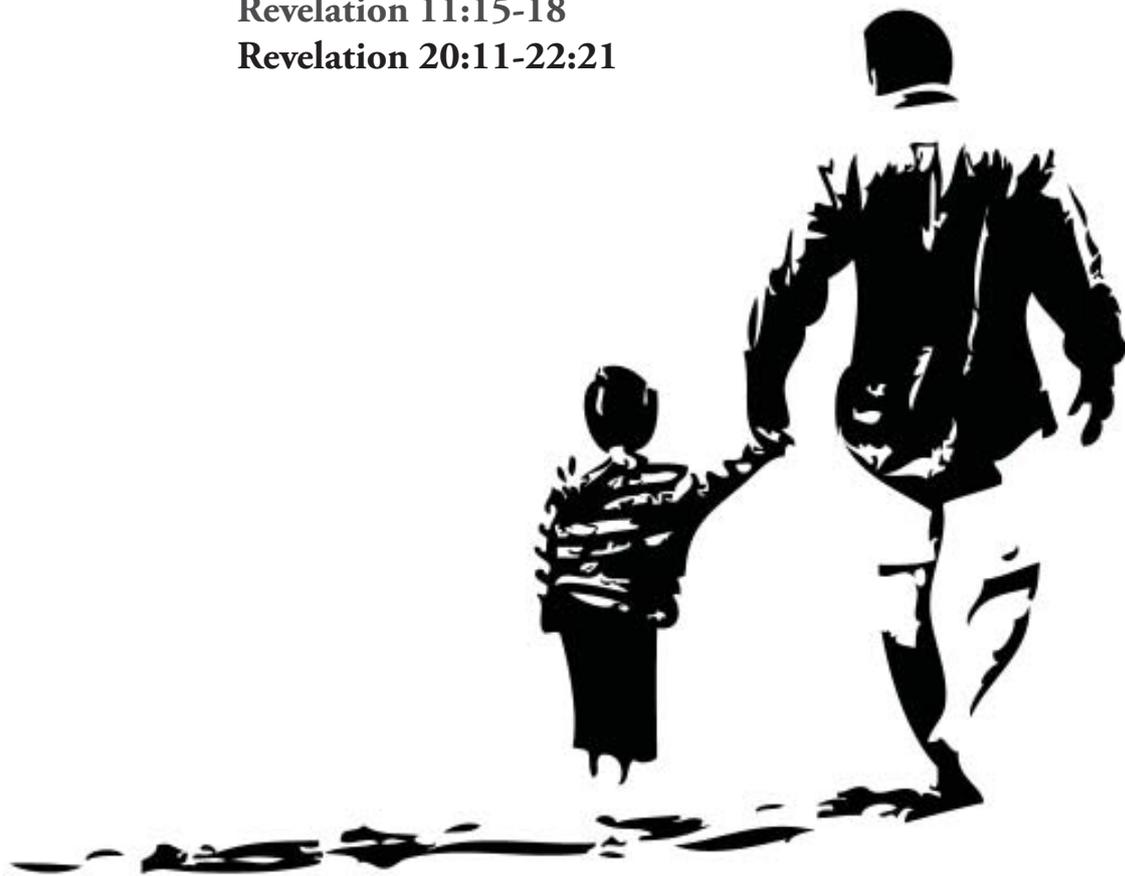
1 Corinthians 15:21-58

Philippians 2:1-11

2 Peter 3:1-13

Revelation 11:15-18

Revelation 20:11-22:21



Choosing your lines

You are an actor in an epic story. But the Director has given you unprecedented freedom to choose your own adventure. All our stories hinge on the lead role.

So, how will you respond to Jesus?

If you see your story in this script, and God has grabbed your heart, then tell Him. Life can begin again right now . . .

“God, you designed me for good, but I’ve made my own way. I’ve rejected you, hurt others, and damaged your world. I’m sorry. Thanks for entering the story in Jesus, to restore me for better. Forgive me for my sins, and fill me with your Spirit. I want to follow you now, bringing healing where there’s hurt. Help me love like you do, as a preview of how the whole world will be when you set everything right. In Jesus’ name.”

**Want some more details? Check it out at
www.twowaystolive.com**

Where to now?

If this story has got you thinking, then keep searching it out. Check out Tim Keller's book "The Reason for God," or Lee Strobel's "The Case for Christ." Read the Bible (starting with Luke's gospel of Jesus), and see for yourself if this story is true. Speak to God and live His form - see if you're more free.

Maybe you've already heard the Director's call and responded. If so, then you need support to live like Jesus: join a good church, engage the world's hurts, read the Bible to faithfully act in God's story, and spend time with God each day so you find freedom and life to the full (John 8:31-32 + 10:10).

And if you want to talk more, contact whoever gave you this, or email church@kbc.org.au.



**“The Gospels contain a story of a larger kind which embraces
all the essence of other stories. But this story has entered
history and the primary world. This story is supreme.
This story is true.”**

- J. R. R. Tolkien, Lord of the Rings

