



reflecting Jesus

BETA

the Bible tells a cosmic story that teaches us
how to understand our lives

06

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did you know...

the Bible was written by over 40 different authors across 1500 years

These authors included kings, shepherds, fishermen, doctors, peasants and many others.

these authors wrote from palaces, prisons, and deserts

who were scattered across the continents of Asia, Europe, and Africa

the Bible consists of over 773,000 words

And is written in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic,

**Together they all tell
ONE story...**



photo: sxc Lusi

knowing this story gives us glasses to wear

By looking through these glasses, this great story of a cosmic battle enables us to understand everything about why life is the way it is.

The story helps us see what God has, is, and will be doing...

...and helps us see how our own lives fit into his story...



the facts of his story

The “big story” of God’s work in our world hangs on the seven mini-stories explained below. They explain why reflecting the character of Jesus is so important.

1

Fall of Satan and his angels from Heaven

Satan wanted to be like God. Because of this pride, Satan started a war in Heaven against God and His government. As a result, Satan and one third of the angels were expelled from Heaven. Satan’s pride and anger increased as he later began trying to destroy the people God made in His own character. As a fallen angel, Satan and his angels work invisibly to human eyes.

Isaiah 14:12-15
Ezekiel 28:14-17
Revelation 12:7-9
Ephesians 6:10-12

2

Creation

God created us in his image—his character. Everything God made was beautiful and caused great joy for Him and all in the Universe.

Genesis 1:26-27
Genesis 1:31
Job 38:4-7

3

Fall of Man

Soon after creation, Eve went to the tree of good and evil—the very place God told her not to go. It was there that Satan was able to tempt her. Once she and Adam disobeyed God, they suddenly realised that they were without clothes. Their sin had broken God’s character within them. It appears that bright glory had clothed them, and this represented God’s glorious character in them. But now that His character in them was broken, the glory around them vanished. But more than that, they were beginning to experience the consequences of their disobedience. They were beginning to die.

How could they, and all their children who would follow, be rescued from the consequences of their sin?

Genesis 3:1-12



thinking it through

1. What new things did you learn about the Bible’s story?

2. Why do you think it is important to understand the Bible as a single story?

**"I've read the last page of the Bible.
It's all going to turn out all right."**

Billy Graham

4

Salvation

Sin always leads to death. As sinners we are condemned to die eternally. But Jesus came and died in our place. He took the punishment for sin that we should have taken. So when I put my trust God that Jesus has died in for me, God considers that I am saved from the consequence of my sins—eternal death. But most importantly, I am now free to work with God as He restores His own character back into me—the character that Adam and Eve lost in Eden. This salvation was symbolised for Adam and Eve when God re-clothed them with skins—representing the glorious righteousness of Jesus wrapped around again.

Isaiah 53:4-6
Romans 6:23
Romans 3:21-24

5

Judgement

Who can tell who is truly saved? Only God can. But as Satan has accused God of being unfair and unjust since the very beginning, God holds an open judgement, where the whole Universe can see that the decisions God has made are right, good, and fair. We are saved by our trust in Jesus. However, Jesus also makes it very clear that we are judged according to whether we have responded to His Salvation by partnering the Holy Spirit to reflect the character of Jesus in our lives.

Romans 14:10-12
Daniel 7:9-10
Matthew 25:31-46

6

Second Coming

Jesus promised that He would return to earth, and would do so physically—just as when He came the first time. This will not be a secret event but will be visible for all to see. At this time, in "the twinkling of an eye" our bodies will be clothed with the same glory that Adam and Eve wore in Eden.

John 14:1-3
Acts 1:9-10
Matthew 24:24-27
1 Corinthians 15:35-55

7

Destruction of Satan and the wicked and the re-creation of the Earth

After 1000 years with Jesus in Heaven, we will judge Satan, his angels, and the wicked. After this judgement has been announced, God will destroy the world by fire and recreate it as He intended at the beginning. We will then live on the earth, growing more and more in the character of Jesus for the rest of eternity.

1 Corinthians 6:3
Revelation 20:7-15
Revelation 21:1-5
2 Corinthians 3:18



habits for reflecting the mind of Jesus ~ God's glasses

If you wear blue tinted glasses, everything you see through them is coloured slightly blue. We all look at life through different coloured glasses. These glasses are coloured by the things we believe.

If we look at life through biblical glasses coloured by the story we have been looking at, we will interpret life through Heaven's eyes. These glasses are God's glasses—the same glasses that God uses when He looks at us and our world.



Our challenge is to live life while wearing God's glasses. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, we can look through God's glasses to see how God looks the situation. When you wear God's glasses, what would you say to someone who says:

1. They can't believe in God because of all the suffering in the world
2. That he saw a UFO or a ghost

3. That all we have to do to go to Heaven is say, "I believe in Jesus"
4. That God doesn't mind the way I live my life

To help you answer accurately, relate each answer to one or more parts of the cosmic story.



putting the pieces together

In "the facts of his story" we saw how 7 events explain the great story that has been unfolding from the beginning of time as we know it. If we want to understand the Bible clearly, we have to know these 7 events well. These 7 events not only explain the rest of the Bible, but they help us understand what is happening in our lives too.

In "thinking it through" you were challenged in your own understanding of this great story, for when you can explain this, you will be able to more understand many of the things that God is doing in your own life.

In "habits for reflecting the mind of Jesus" we practised applying the story in the Bible to understanding things that happen in our own lives.



my time with God

Imagine you have a close friend who is struggling to understand a number of things. In your Journal, write a short letter to them explaining the following: (Remember to relate each answer to Bible texts in the 7 part cosmic story.)

1. Why God doesn't take away the cancer that the doctor's have found in their best friend.
2. Why they may be experiencing a lot of discouragement recently and don't know why life should be worth living.
3. Why they always seem to do the wrong thing, when they want to do what is right.
4. How it can be possible to be restored into the character of Jesus, even though we are sinners.
5. What happens at the second coming of Jesus.
6. What God's plan is for our broken world.



pass it on!

Can you teach someone else how to wear God's glasses?



extra help

If you want to develop a deeper understanding of the Bible as a single story, read the five book set covering all parts of the cosmic story, by Ellen White. These are, Patriarchs and Prophets—from the fall of Satan to David; Prophets and Kings—from Solomon to the end of the Old Testament; Desire of Ages—the life and teaching of Jesus; Acts of the Apostles—the story of the early church after the resurrection; The Great Controversy—from the Fall of Jerusalem to the re-creation of the earth.