

God's Story *Artist: David Arms | Author: Scotty Smith*



Life

*Creation
Dignity*

Loss

*Fall
Depravity*

Love

*Redemption
Deliverance*

Life

*Consummation
Delight*

God's Story is *the story*; *the meta-narrative* from which all human stories originate and within which all our stories are contained. All stories are explicitly linked to the larger Story that is being told by God in the *Story of Redemption* with Jesus Christ the central character. We are part of that narrative, and we are beckoned by God himself to respond to the *Story of Redemption* by believing in Jesus as our Savior (Romans 10:8-13). Sharing the gospel then is: connecting our smaller story to that Great Story that has been and is being written in all times and places with all people (Revelation 5:9; 7:9). This is the gospel story:

Dignity [*Creation*] -

We are created in the image of God. Our original design was good, it was declared "good" by God (Genesis 1:26-31). God was pleased with what he had created, having made humankind in his own image, he declared that they rule over all creation, to subdue it, to multiply and cover the earth. God was in close relationship with man and woman, and had set only one rule for them to obey, to not eat of the tree in the middle of the garden (Genesis 2:15-17).

Depravity [*Fall*] -

In their desire to be like God—knowing "good" from "evil"—Adam and Eve chose to eat of this tree and disobey the Word of God. This disobedience plunged humankind into a condition of sin, separation from God and from one another, and subject to the punishment for sin: death (Romans 6:23). Because of sin, communion with God was broken. Adam and Eve's sin would pass to all people, so that all are born into a dead condition (Ephesians 2:13-14), in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23). The dignity of humankind—the image of God—still remains, but is marred and broken (Genesis 9:6). This brokenness in the world defines our struggle in work, relationships, personal purity. It explains why peoples war against one another. It explains our longing for redemption—for us and the world to be made right again.

Deliverance [*Redemption*] -

But in that moment of sin, in the moment of disobedience, God in his great love and providence provided a way of salvation (Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:8), his one Son would paid the debt of our disobedience against God, which is death. Only Jesus the Christ, the Atonement for this debt is able to appease the wrath of God against sin and death. It is only through faith—which is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9)—in this precious work of Christ on the cross that man is saved. Through Jesus, and the testimony of the Holy Spirit, we are able to call God, *Father, Abba* (Romans 8: 15-17).

Delight [*Consummation*]-

Our longing will one day be brought to completion, to fulfillment, to perfection (Romans 8:18-25). Christ will return (Acts 1:11). God will make all things new and even now is preparing a place of rest where there is no death, no disease, and no separation from God (Revelation 21:3-5). There will be a new heaven and a new earth that God will make (Isaiah 66:22). We are a bride adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2); and we, the pure bride, will worship him (Psalm 95:6).

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