

## INTRODUCTION

We profoundly believe that the Bible is a “book” that has one single story.

Yes, the Bible contains 66 individual books, and was written over the span of 1,500 years by 40 different writers. These writers came from a broad cross-section of occupations: from scholars, kings, prophets, and farmers. They wrote in three different languages and lived on three different continents. Some were well-educated, and some were not.

It could be argued that because of this incredible diversity, the Bible couldn't possibly have one single coherent story running through it from beginning to end.

However, the Bible makes the startling claim that although there were many writers, there was only ever one author: God. The Bible says holy men spoke, as they were moved on by the Holy Spirit (2 Pe 1:21), and "all scripture is inspired by God or God-breathed," says Paul (2 Ti 3:16).

The Bible therefore is but one story, and that one story is all about God, the world he created and his quest to bring his “creation project” to completion. For although God's world was made perfect, which we see in Genesis 1 and 2, it was not made complete. Completion was always going to be a journey, and the story of the Bible is all about this journey – this journey of all journies being completed!

God's story begins in Genesis and concludes in Revelation. In that sense, the Bible is like any other book. It has a beginning, and it has an end, and there is a story line. There are plots and subplots, themes and sub-themes, principal characters. There are heroes and villains, mystery and perplexity, triumph and tragedy, and finally, there is a happy ending! Yes, the Bible story does conclude with a "happy ever after" ending, and on a scale that few would have anticipated or ever dared hope for or imagine.

I would like to suggest that going to heaven to be with Jesus forever is not that “happy ever after” ending. It is part of the story, for sure, but it is most definitely not the glorious conclusion that God planned for, nor will he settle for. The devil's cunning and Adam's sin did not force God into some inferior Plan B: a plan that would see God cut his losses and, with a handful of saints, hatch an escape plan to heaven to hide away forever. That is hardly the climax of a story worthy of the God revealed in the pages of the Bible.

Instead, God's story is stunning in its scope and breathtaking in its ambition. God's story outshines, outclasses and upstages the most inspiring movie you have ever watched, the most intriguing play you have ever seen, or the most captivating book you have ever read!

The Story of the Bible, I have subtitled, "A Vision Worth Living For." For God's Story, when properly understood, will compel every person, made in his amazing likeness and image, to fully embrace this story as their own, and develop a strong desire to see God's story becomes their story.

Would you like to find out how your story is woven into the grandest story ever told? How has God called you to participate in His epic adventure, and wouldn't you like to find out how it ends?

The final chapter, although already written, awaits its full and dramatic realization.

*Note: Our series on The Story of the Bible will consist of bite-sized chapters, one posted every week. They can also be accessed in an audio or video session, each between 7-12 minutes in duration. Please sign up to get a notification for every new posting, and feel free to leave a comment.*