

Christmas Eve 2021
The Story Behind the Story
12/24/2021

- The Story behind the Story

Scene 1 - It All Started **GOOD**.

Genesis 2:4 (MSG) "This is the story of how it all started, of Heaven and Earth, and when they were created."

- In the beginning
- A long time ago in a Galaxy far away...

Gen. 1:10 (MSG) God saw that it was good.

3 Thoughts on God:

God is **CARING**.

Eph. 1:4 (MSG) "Long before he laid down earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of his love. To be made whole and holy by his lovE"

Psalms 89:2 (MSG) "I'll never quit telling the story of your love—how you built the cosmos and everything in it. Your love has always been our lives' foundation, your faithfulness has been the roof over our world."

God is **CREATIVE**.

God is **COMFORTING**.

2 Cor. 1:3 (TLB) What a wonderful God we have—he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials.

Psalms 145:9 (NLT) "The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.

- If you want to know what God is like, simply look at Jesus
- God shows how much He loves you by giving you the capacity to enjoy pleasure
- God doesn't want you to just endure life. He wants you to enjoy it.

Scene 2) Things go **BAD**.

Isaiah 53:6 (MSG) "We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, and gone our own way."

- Just leave that one alone!
- “It gives you the choice to not love Me.”

Gen. 3:1-3 (MSG) The serpent was clever, more clever than any wild animal God had made. He spoke to the Woman: “Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?” 2-3 The Woman said to the serpent, “Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. It’s only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘Don’t eat from it; don’t even touch it or you’ll die.’”

I call this the Path Out Of Paradise

P – **PRESUMPTION**

A – **ARROGANCE**

T – **TEMPTATION**

H – **HOSTILITY**

Scene 3 - Jesus comes to **RESCUE**.

- Christmas is all about Jesus coming to the rescue
- God sent Jesus to restore that relationship
- To take us from spiritual death to spiritual life

Eph. 2:4-5 (NIV) But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

- God wants you back

Luke 19:10 (GNT) The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

1 John 4:9 (NCV) “This is how God showed His love for us. He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through Him.”

Scene 4 - We get the **CHOICE**.

- Life is about choices
- “Today I’m giving you the choice between blessing and curse.”
- You get to know Jesus

John 10:10 (NIV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 17:3 (NIV) Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

- You get to become a part of God's family.

Eph. 1:5 (NLT) God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

- You get to spend eternity with God.

1 Cor. 2:9 (NET) "Things that no eye has seen, or ear heard, or mind imagined, are the things God has prepared for those who love him."