



Christmas: The Epic Adventure Begins!

Life is a story! Life unfolds like a drama. We **CAN** discover *the* Story! There is a Story that we just can't seem to escape. There is a Story written on the human heart.

"He has planted eternity in the human heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT).

Christianity, in its true form, tells us there is an Author and that he is good, the essence of all that is good and beautiful and true, for he is the source of all things. It tells us that he has set our hearts' longings within us, for he has made us to live in an Epic Adventure.

What IF? – What IF all the great stories that have ever moved you were telling you something about the true Story into which you were born? You need to discover this Epic Adventure for yourself! This study will help you do just that!

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

CHRISTMAS – WAR!

We need to understand the story of Christmas as the beginning of a Larger Story—an Epic Adventure—and how you have a crucial role to play.

DEC 07, 2023

Scripture: John 1:12-14; Ephesians 1:15-19; Acts 1:1-5; John 17:24-26
Music: Five For Fighting/Jim Brickman - Christmas Where You Are - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsvK1aGp8xo>
Video: Saving Private Ryan - See You On The Beach <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICEFOx5Hc2Y>
Resources - EPIC – The Story God is Telling by John Eldredge

THE LARGER STORY – The Entrance of Evil. - Genesis 3:14, 15 and Revelation 12:7-12.

1. _____ → Every great story has the BAD GUY! Every story has a villain because *yours* does. REALITY tells us that evil is cast around us—war, famine, betrayal, murder, etc.! Something happened before our moment on the stage.
2. _____ → We are not alone. This universe is inhabited by other beings; we share the stage with other players (Daniel 10:4-8). Real angels are mighty, glorious, dreadful beings, more powerful than you can imagine. God sets the stage for a GREATER REALITY – A LARGER STORY!
3. _____ → The Bible has warned us about all these years; we live in two worlds—or in one world with two halves, part that we can see and part that we cannot. We are urged, for our own welfare, to act as though the unseen world (the rest of reality) is, in fact, more weighty and more real and more dangerous than the part of reality we can see.

BETRAYAL & MUTINY – Ezekiel 28:11-19.

1. _____ → The excellent captain came to believe he was being cheated somehow. He didn't merely want to play a noble role in the Story; he wanted the Story to be about him. He coveted the throne; he wanted to be the star. He wanted the worship and adoration for himself (Ezekiel 28:17).
2. _____ → The Story acknowledges EVIL. Many people are naive regarding evil. They don't take it seriously. Life is very confusing if you do not take into account that there is a Villain. You have an Enemy! Quote by C. S. Lewis.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Tell your story – Have you done things you are ashamed of?
2. Tell your story – Have things been done to you that bring hurt and shame to you?
3. Tell your story – Do you feel like you are being hunted and opposed?



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SCRIPTURE

John 1:12-14 - [12](#) Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—[13](#) children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.[14](#) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Ephesians 1:15-19 - [15](#) For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,[16](#) I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.[17](#) I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.[18](#) I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,[19](#) and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength

Acts 1:1-5 - [1](#) In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach[2](#) until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. [3](#) After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.[4](#) On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."[5](#) For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

John 17:24-26 - [24](#) "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.[25](#) "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.[26](#) I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Five For Fighting/Jim Brickman - Christmas Where You Are

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| <p>There are stockings full and waiting From sea to shining sea Jingle bells a-ringing In keys of liberty Children celebrating Santa and his sleigh Of reindeer who found their way again Across the home, home of the brave Tis the 25th day of December In a season best to remember That blessings and bows and mistletoes Are not without tolls, guardian souls A soldier has a soldier's duty That takes no holiday So because you're far from home this winter There's one thing I'd like to say Thank you for the gift of freedom That lights these holy stars Thank you for each and every Christmas tree Across this sacred land of ours May angels fly beside you May Heaven steel your hearts May God remind you in his grace</p> | <p>Though tonight I cannot touch your face It doesn't matter if you're near or far It's Christmas where you are Your chair is empty at the table Still I take your hand As we pray for peace in this small world On our knees we stand Of this body of this nation You are the heart and spine So to each great generation Of heroes down the line Thank you for the gift of freedom That lights these holy stars Thank you for each and every Christmas tree Across this sacred land of ours May angels fly beside you May Heaven steel your hearts May God remind you in his grace Though tonight I cannot touch your face It doesn't matter if you're near or far It's Christmas where you are</p> | <p>Everyday is memorial day Every day the 4th of July Let all religions celebrate The freedom that you provide For if we stand together We will never fall Merry Christmas to the one I love Merry Christmas to one and all Thank you for the gift of freedom That lights these holy stars Thank you for each and every Christmas tree Across this sacred land of ours May angels fly beside you May Heaven steel your hearts May God remind you in his grace Though tonight I cannot touch your face When home seems a hundred million miles away Just close your eyes and you will see his sleigh It's doesn't matter if you're near or far It's Christmas where you are</p> |
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