



One God, One Story

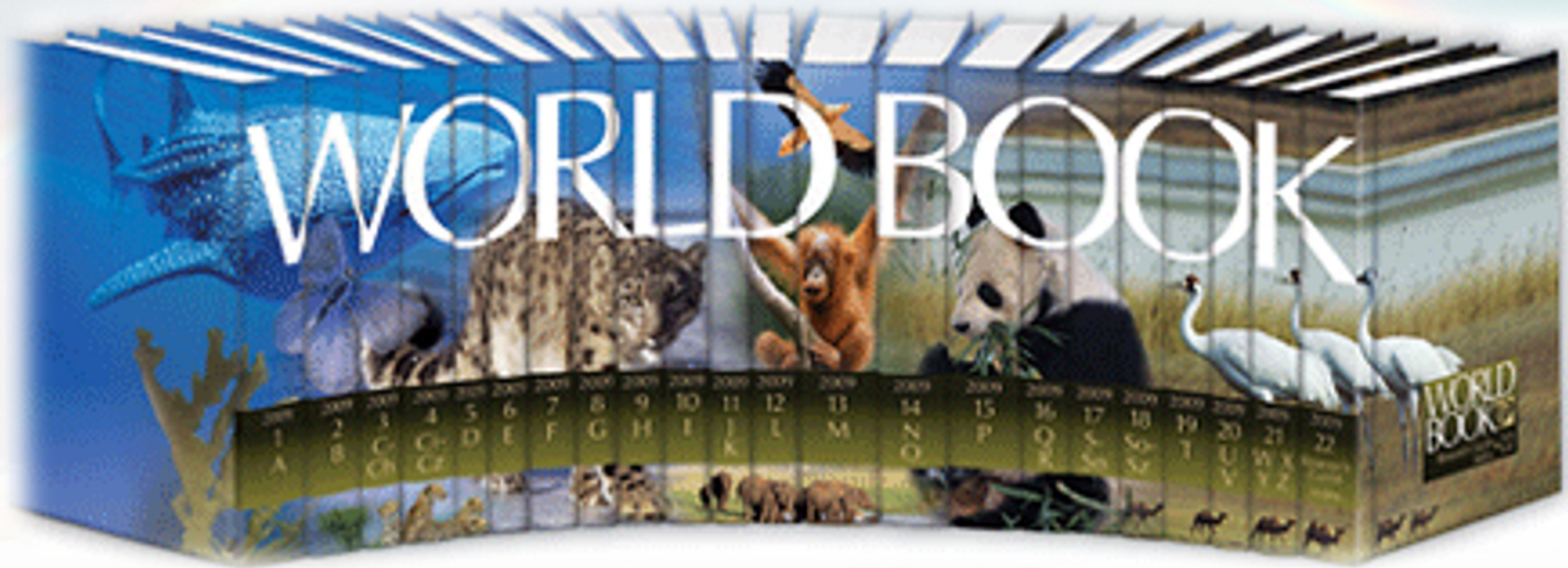
FINDING OUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY



One God, One Story

SESSION TWO

Snapshot of the Biblical Story



The **Story** of Scripture

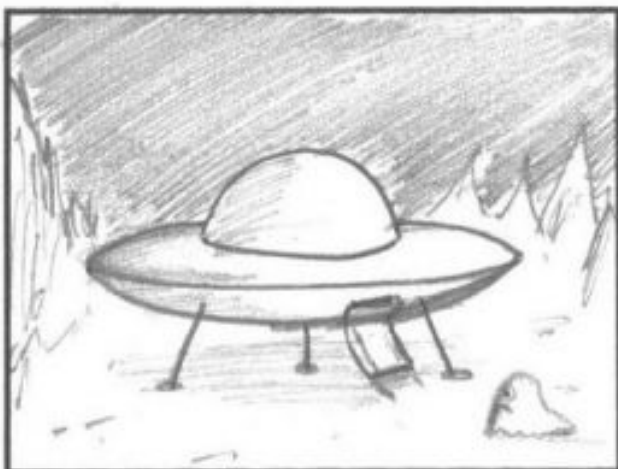


- Not all articulations of the “Story” are created equal.
- The essential element of story is the development of a plotline.

ATTACK FROM MARS

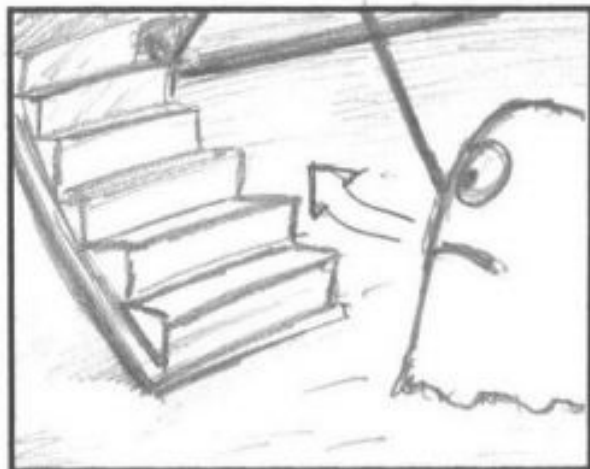
TITLE SCREEN
FADE IN FROM BLACK

6 seconds



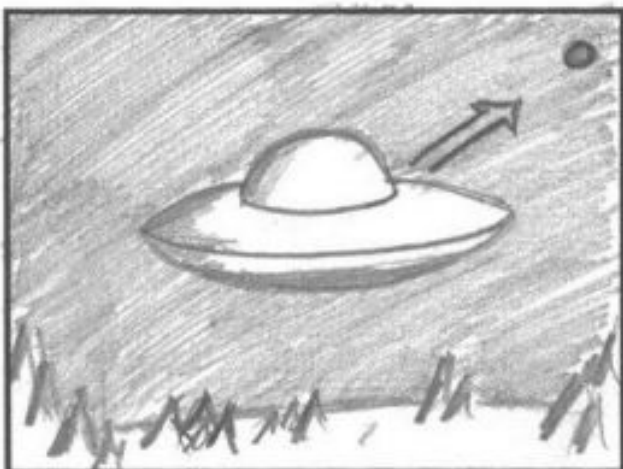
SPACE SHIP ON SURFACE
OF MARS

4 seconds



ALIEN ENTERS INTO
SPACE SHIP

4 seconds



SPACE SHIP HOVERS FOR
A MOMENT AND THEN FLIES
TOWARDS A DISTANT EARTH

5 seconds



SPACE SHIP FLIES OVER
CITYSCAPE

5 seconds



PERSON ON GROUND
SPOTS SPACE SHIP

6 seconds

Independent or Inter-Dependent?



- **Episodic Narrative:** Constructed as narrative by a succession of loosely connected incidents rather than by an integrated plot.

Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms. Edited by Chris Baldick, 2008.

Independent or Inter-Dependent?



- **Episodic Narrative:** Constructed as narrative by a succession of loosely connected incidents rather than by an integrated plot.

Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms. Edited by Chris Baldick, 2008.

- **(Dramatic) Plot:** The pattern of events and situations in a narrative or dramatic work, as selected and arranged both to emphasize relationships—usually cause and effect—between incidents and to elicit a particular kind of interest in the reader... Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms. Edited by Chris Baldick, 2008.





Jisoos



Thesis: The Bible presents one overarching story that reveals God's plan to have a world filled with people who worship Him as God.

Understanding Narrative



- Setting
- Initial Conflict
- Rising Action
- Climax
- Resolution
- Epilogue/Dénouement

Understanding Narrative: Setting



- The setting introduces the hero and informs the reader of the ideal.
- It provides the lens through which the rest of the story must be understood.



Understanding Narrative: Initial Conflict



- The initial conflict brings tension into the narrative by introducing the antagonist and his/her plan.
- It may inform the reader of the protagonist's plan for dealing with the antagonist.



Understanding Narrative: Rising Action



- **Rising Action:** The narrative traces the plot development as it moves toward a resolution.

The Setting – Genesis 1 & 2

- The LORD God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them.
- Mankind ruled over God's creation from the paradise of God as God's representative.
- Mankind lived in perfect harmony with God, under His blessing.
- No death, no fear, no pain.
- Tree of life present and a river that watered the earth.



The Initial Conflict – Genesis 3



- Genesis 3:1-24
 - The antagonist
 - The reversal
 - The judgment pronounced
 - God's plan to restore His created order

The Plot Line



- The plotline is determined by the setting and the initial conflict.
- Will God have a kingdom on earth in which the world is filled with people who know and worship Him?
- Will Satan's counter-kingdom prevail?
- Who will win?

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Antagonist's move: wicked Cain killed righteous Abel.
- God's move: delivered the righteous through Noah; judged the world of unbelievers.
- The story of Noah must be understood in light of the larger story of God and His purposes.

Creation Mandate

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

(La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Ge 1:26-28.

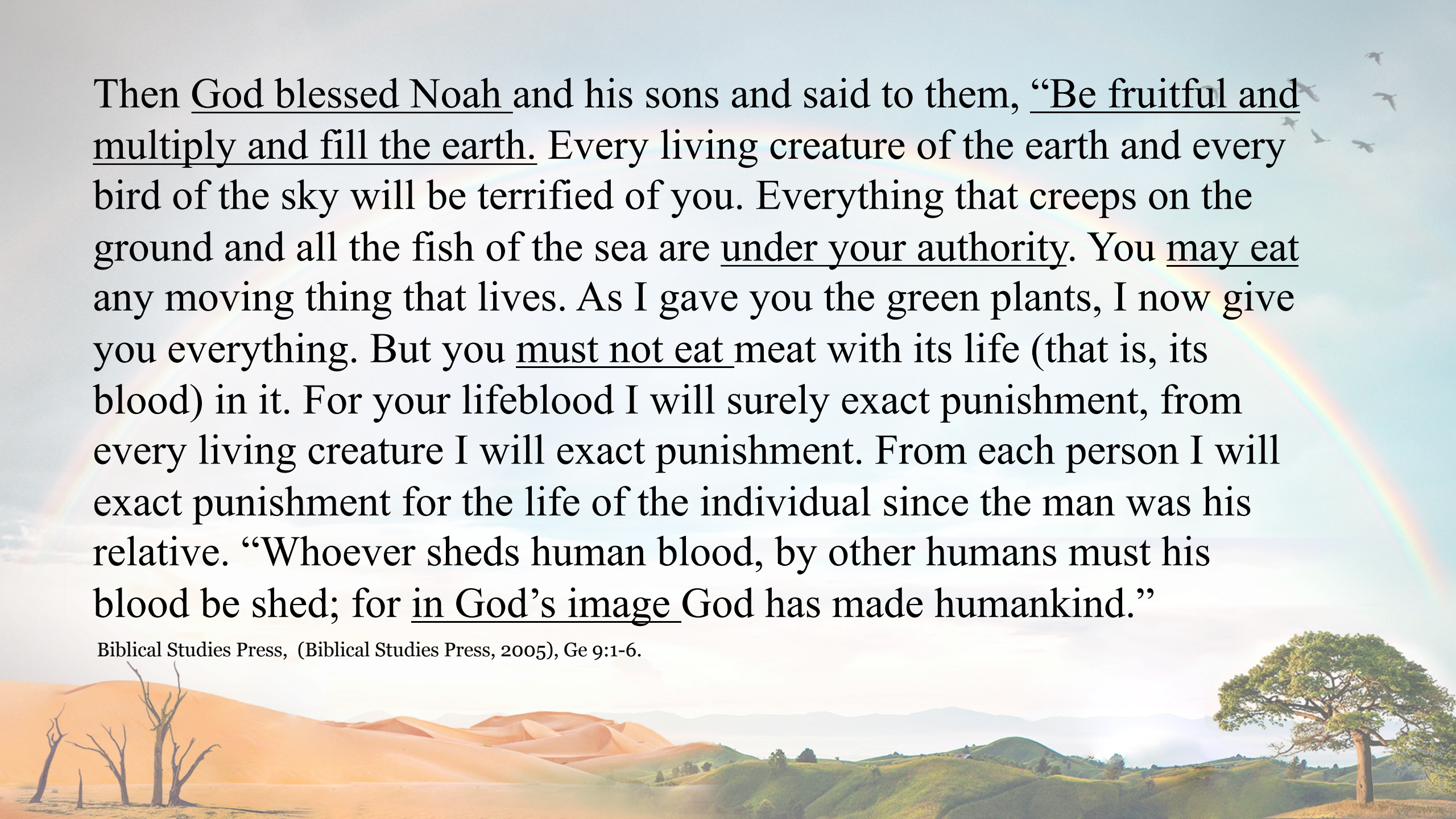
The Nuts and Bolts of the Creation Mandate



- Man bearing the image of God
- Placed in authority over God's creation
- Under God's blessing
- Commanded to fill the earth
- Given instructions regarding what he could and could not eat



Restatement of the Creation Mandate



Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Every living creature of the earth and every bird of the sky will be terrified of you. Everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea are under your authority. You may eat any moving thing that lives. As I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. But you must not eat meat with its life (that is, its blood) in it. For your lifeblood I will surely exact punishment, from every living creature I will exact punishment. From each person I will exact punishment for the life of the individual since the man was his relative. “Whoever sheds human blood, by other humans must his blood be shed; for in God’s image God has made humankind.”

Biblical Studies Press, (Biblical Studies Press, 2005), Ge 9:1-6.

The Nuts and Bolts of the Creation Mandate



- Man bearing the image of God
- Placed in authority over God's Creation
- Under God's blessing
- Commanded to fill the earth
- Given instructions regarding what he could and could not eat

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Note that Noah is set forth as a second Adam.
- Note the continual hope for the Promised One kept being deferred.

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline





New beginning with Noah*	New beginning with Abraham
Genesis 8:15-9:9	Genesis 12:1-7
Then God said to Noah (8:15)	The LORD had said to Abram (12:1)
Come out from the ark (8:16)	Leave your country (12:1)
Noah came out of the ark (8:18)	Abram left (12:4)
Then Noah built an altar to the LORD (8:20)	So [Abram] built an altar there to the LORD (12:7)
Then God blessed Noah (9:1)	And I [God] will bless you (12:2)
“Be fruitful and increase” (9:1)	“I will make you into a great nation” (12:2)
“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants: (9:9)	“To your offspring I will give this land” (12:7)

*John H. Sailhamer, ed. Frank Gaebelin. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary Vol. II.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990), 91.

Genesis 1	Genesis 9	Genesis 12*
Adam – God’s man to carry out God’s plan on earth	Noah – God’s man to carry out God’s plan on earth	Abraham – God’s man to carry out God’s plan on earth
Blessed	Blessed	Bless
Fruitful and multiply/fill the earth	Fruitful and multiply/fill the earth	Descendants as numerous as the stars
Given the garden of Eden		Given the land of Canaan
Walked with God	Walked with God (6:9)	Walked before God (17)

*1 Gordon J. Wenham. *Story as Torah: Reading the Old Testament Ethically* (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2000), 37.

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- God's move: God's intent to bless the world through Abram's seed.
 - Antagonist's move? Egypt... Lot's escapades... Abimelech...
 - Other threats: Sarai's barrenness, Ishmael, etc.
- God's movement: The Promised Seed through Isaac (Gen. 21), to defeat His enemies (Gen. 22), through Jacob (Gen. 28), through Judah (Gen. 49).

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Antagonist's move: bondage in Egypt; attempted execution of all Hebrew male infants (Exod 1:22).
- God's move...

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Antagonist's move: bondage in Egypt; attempted execution of all Hebrew male infants (Exod 1:22).
- God's move: Moses.
- Impasse?
- Plagues in Egypt.
- God brought Israel through the Red Sea, delivered them from bondage and judged their enemies.

Rising Action



- Covenant at Mount Sinai
- Israel to be kingdom of priests.
- Rule the nations from the land God placed them in.
- Cling to God's word; don't be deceived!



Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Moses was not the Promised Seed.
- Joshua was not the Promised Seed.
- The period of the judges created a sense of longing for the promised ruler.
- Saul was not a righteous ruler.
- David – a man after God’s own heart!

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7). David to have an enduring;
 - House (Dynasty)
 - Throne
 - Kingdom
 - King (cf. Jer. 33; Psalm 89)

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- David was not the Promised Seed.
- Solomon turned aside after other gods.
- Idolatry resulted in judgement, which found its ultimate expression in exile.



Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Amos 9:11 – fall and promised restoration of Davidic Kingdom.
- Hosea 3:4-5 – Israel to be many days without a ruler but promised ultimate restoration.
- Daniel 2:44 – Following a succession of Gentile kingdoms, the God of heaven would establish His kingdom.
- Jeremiah 31 – The future Kingdom would be Davidic.

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline



- God's move: The Incarnation (John 1:1-14).
 - A descendant of Abraham, Judah and David.
 - Luke 1:32-33.
- Satan's move: King Herod attempts to kill the Christ.
- God's move: Divine intervention...move to Egypt.
- God's declaration: "This is My Beloved Son."

Rising Action – Tracing the Plotline

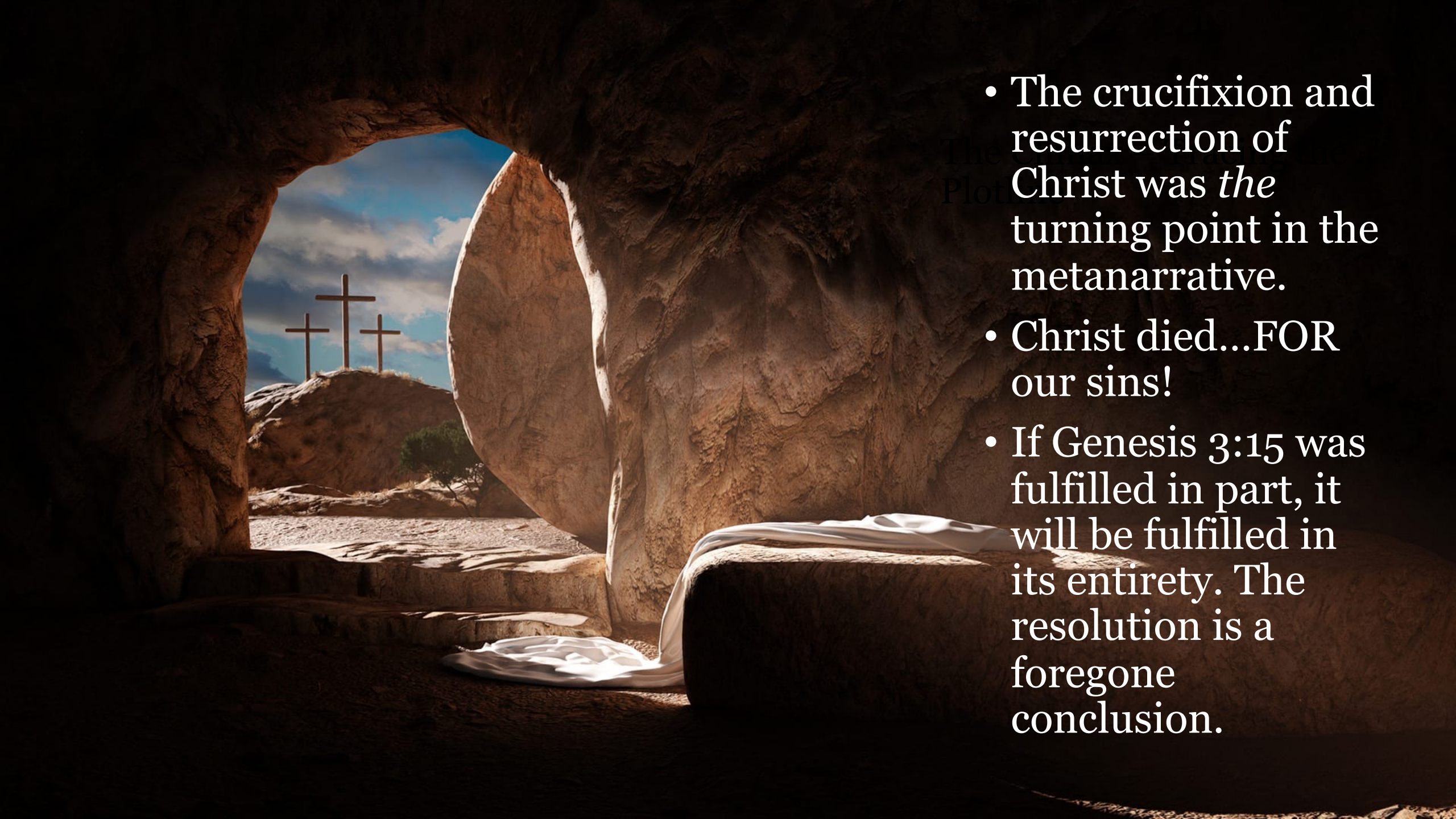


- Satan's move: Judas Iscariot.
- Jesus' response: No one took His life from Him!
 - John 18:3, 6; 19:11; Matt 26:53, 63-64.
- Satan's pleasure: bruising a heel—Christ died.

Understanding Narrative: Climax



- The rising action reaches a climax and is then resolved when someone wins a decisive victory.
- *The* major turning point in the narrative. The rising action reaches a tipping point.
- From this point onward, the resolution of the conflict has become a foregone conclusion.



- The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ was *the* turning point in the metanarrative.
- Christ died...FOR our sins!
- If Genesis 3:15 was fulfilled in part, it will be fulfilled in its entirety. The resolution is a foregone conclusion.

Falling Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Up from the grave He arose!
- Revelation 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Heb. 2:14.
- The Great Commission
- The Ascension
- The ongoing enmity; the absolute confidence in final victory!

Falling Action – Tracing the Plotline



- Up from the grave He arose!
- Revelation 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Heb. 2:14.
- **The Great Commission**
 - Blessing of the Gospel to the Nations
 - Filling the earth with people who know Him
 - Waiting for His return to make all things new

Understanding Narrative: Resolution



- The tension in the narrative breaks.
- It is at this point that the plans of the protagonist and antagonist are either vindicated or disproven.

Resolution



- Revelation 19:11ff
- Rule the nations
- Judge God's enemies (Rev. 20:1-3)
- Establish God's Kingdom on earth (Rev. 20:4-6)
- Satan's final move: Rev. 20:7-10
- Final judgment: Rev. 20:11-15

Understanding Narrative: Epilogue



- The epilogue is a glorified version of the setting. Things are restored to their rightful place, and all is well.

Epilogue



- Mankind ruling over God's creation from the paradise of God as God's representative.
- Mankind lived in perfect harmony with God, under His blessing.
- No death, no fear, no pain.
- Tree of life present and a river that watered the earth.

Principles and Application



- God is sovereign and in control of history.
- God will do exactly what He said He will do.

Principles and Application



- Every worldview seeks answers to questions such as, “What is reality? Who are we? Why are we here? What’s wrong? What’s the remedy?” (Walsh and Middleton, *The Transforming Vision*, 35).
- The worldviews that answer those questions are shaped by stories.
- We take our identity and sense of meaning and purpose from our worldview.

Principles and Application



- The biblical story is the one true metanarrative that stands in authority over all other rival narratives.

Michael Matthews. *Is There a Reader of This Text* (Unpublished Dissertation, Canterbury Christ Church University & Trinity Theological Seminary, 2016), 85-86.

Principles and Application



- In a world that is not what it was and not what it will be—while the majority of mankind is in rebellion against God—we are privileged to ascribe honor and glory to Him by believing and obeying His word.
- While we desperately long for the coming of Christ, we do so with absolute confidence!

Principles and Application



- Those who hear the biblical story are left with a choice as to whether they will embrace the promises of God concerning the promised Savior and ultimately reign with Him or reject God's Word and face the judgment that has already been pronounced.

The Message?

- Though God's authority and His plan for His creation was challenged by Satan, God's plan will prevail. The Promised Seed of the woman came and won a decisive victory through His death and resurrection. He will bring final deliverance when He brings judgment on Satan and those who believe his lies.
- People must realize that they are under God's wrath, that Christ died and rose again to deliver them from God's wrath. If they want to be a part of the victory and experience God's design for His creation, they must put their faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and thus be delivered to reign with Him in the new creation.



Big Idea: The Bible presents one overarching story that reveals God's plan to have a world filled with people who worship Him as God.