

Epic: Prologue

So briefly, what did watching this stir in you? (Excitement? Intrigue? A new thought? A question about your understanding of God or Christianity?)

In what kind of Story have you found yourself? Is it a drama, epic, romance, adventure, or all of them?

Do you have all the information to understand your story or is it a pretty confusing mess?

What do you think the plot of your story is?

What are the stories you love?

Act One: Eternal Love

In the beginning..... Something about those words eludes our imaginations. How has your past religious experience helped you understand the “Fellowship of the Trinity,”? Describe how you have always understood the trinity.

John shares his story about being invited into his grandfather’s world in Eastern Oregon. Have you been chosen or invited into something like that—a great story or an adventure already in motion? If so, what? If not, into what would you have liked to be invited?

Most of our best memories involve others. Our greatest joys, hopes, and dreams for life often involve others (loved ones, family, friends, children, grandchildren). Share a good memory that comes to mind involving others. (The memories shared may be vastly different, don’t let someone else’s memory determine yours).

One of the realities of a larger Story is that Life is not all about you. You’re precious, important, and valuable; you have a crucial role to play. But this story is something bigger than you. Does that disturb, comfort, discourage, anger, or bring clarity to you?

Act Two: The Entrance of Evil

How does it change the perspective of our story if we begin the epic tale at the beginning, at Satan's rebellion instead of the story of creation?

So, why does every story have a villain? Does yours? Say more about your awareness of a villain in your life.

John points out how many stories turn upon a betrayal, many kingdoms fall to a bloody coup. Why does Lucifer turn on God?

In the past, who have you blamed for the pain and sorrows of life? Do you understand now that there is another character in this story (our Adversary)? Have you lived as if you have an enemy?

Act Three: The Battle for the Heart

What's your picture of Eden? Where'd you learn it?

Lingering in Creation (versus jumping to the Fall), what does Eden tell you about God, His desire for man, and the life we were meant to live?

Why does life not come anywhere near the desires we have in our heart? Our longings for beauty, intimacy, adventure rarely match how life unfolds . . . why?

Why does every story include a rescue of some sort? How has God come looking for you?

Act Four: The Kingdom Restored

Happily ever after. ... Could it be true? Sit for a while and let these words sink in. In what areas of your life would it be great for happily ever after to be true?

The blind see, the deaf hear, the crippled dance. In your story what happens when all things are made new?

How have you pictured your story ending? Have you assumed that your story ends with death, that everything is just lost as life disappears? Or have you seen it as the church service in the sky?

As John describes the Kingdom Restored, what about that description makes you long for heaven in ways you may never have before?

How does having such a hope for the life to come affect your day-to-day living?

Epilogue: The Road Before Us

To play your part well, you must know your role. As a young boy or girl, what did you dream of your role being?

And so, which of the following thoughts has been most provoking for you:

Things are not what they seem.

We are at war.

You have a crucial role to play.

Who do you want to share this with?