

The Story of Hope

A Word about the Author

Phil de Martimprey

09.03.17

Do you remember the funniest story you ever heard? The scariest? The saddest? Stories are incredibly powerful things. They can make us laugh, cry and imagine things that are beyond the reach of reality. We all love a great story! As we begin this new series, we will be hearing, reading and studying “Story of Hope”. This is God’s story to all mankind for all of human history, yet despite its vast scope, this story contains an incredible unity of message and purpose. As we will see, it is a story that begins perfectly, goes terribly wrong, yet ends better than anyone could Hope. The best part of all, it’s a true story! This story traces **8 key themes** through the 66 books of the Bible: **God, Man, Sin, Death, Christ, Cross, Faith, Life**. Many of us have read the bible cover to cover, some many times, some never. What we trust and pray this series will do, is give us all a deep and clear understanding of God’s BIG story as it moves through the many smaller stories contained in the Bible. Our first order of business is to take a quick look at the Author of this beautiful story. God. As we look at God, the author, we will focus in on two specific topics:

His Qualifications and His Motivations.

When we hear or read a story that claims to be true, particularly an incredible one, it is natural for us to wonder about the qualifications of the author. What things make him/her credible and trustworthy? Why is he/she the one who gets to tell the story instead of someone else? These are questions leveled at the scriptures regularly, and many people reject the answers provided, choosing to view the Bible as a bunch of fairy tales or “motivating myths”. Let us look at God’s qualifications to see why He is the one who gets to tell this story.

Simply put, He is the only one who knows the whole story! He was there before the story began, and he is outside time so he is able to see just how the story ends. He is the only being that is uncreated, uncaused and eternal. He is the source of all life and completely self-sufficient. Take a minute to read that a few more times and reflect on the majesty of God! What a list! Here are some of the ways the writers of the Bible were inspired to describe this aspect of God.

Psalm 90:2 *“Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God”*

Isaiah 57:15 *“For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy”*

1 Timothy 1:17 *“Now to the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever.*

Clearly God is the One who should be telling the story, and he is the only One able to tell the story! Not only is He able and qualified to tell the story, but He IS telling the story, and He has been telling it since the very beginning.

That brings us to His motivation for telling this “Story of Hope”. Why would he tell it? Clearly God is much greater and far more important than any of us, so why bother with the story at all? First and foremost the Story of Hope reveals God to us. It is ultimately a story about God, who He is and what He has done. He knows this true story is powerful and life changing unlike any other, and He knows that we need to hear it. It is called the “Story of Hope”, because our hearts cry out for hope, and God, the author and main character, has communicated that Hope to us through His story. He knows our exact situations, our precise needs, our triumphs and failures. He wants to tell us, because we need to hear it, and He wants us to know it because it is the Truth. God desires that we, his most precious creation, would hear and understand His story in a life transforming way. To put it as simply yet profoundly as possible: He tells us because He loves us more than we can ever comprehend. This story contains the most powerful truths our world can ever hear, answers the biggest questions and meets the greatest of our needs. So let’s dive into “The Story of Hope”.

The “Story of Hope” begins as many great stories do, at the very beginning. The true VERY beginning.

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God...”

Before any action, event, word or movement, we have God. The Author, the main Character, the source of all things. And so the “Story of Hope” begins. With nothing...but God.