

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE



What's the Big Story?

Luke 24:25-27

WHERE'S THIS STORY
GOING?



“We are here because one odd group of fishes had a peculiar fin anatomy that could transform into legs for terrestrial creatures; because the earth never froze entirely during an ice age; because a small and tenuous species, arising in Africa a quarter of a million years ago, has managed, so far, to survive by hook and by crook.

Stephen Jay Gould

**American Paleontologist, Harvard
Professor**



We may yearn for a ‘higher answer’— but none exists. This explanation, though superficially troubling, if not terrifying, is ultimately liberating and exhilarating. We cannot read the meaning of life passively in the facts of nature. We must construct these answers ourselves — from our own wisdom and ethical sense. There is no other way.

Stephen Jay Gould
American Paleontologist, Harvard
Professor



WHERE IS THIS STORY GOING?

“But in the end, science does not provide the answers most of us require. Its story of our origins and of our end is, to say the least, unsatisfactory. To the question, "How did it all begin?", science answers, "Probably by an accident." To the question, "How will it all end?", science answers, "Probably by an accident.”

Neil Postman

Science and the Story We Need



WHERE IS THIS STORY GOING?

And to many people, the accidental life is not worth living.”

Neil Postman

Science and the Story We Need



WHERE IS THIS STORY GOING?

Somebody once asked me if I have anything like faith, and I said I have faith in the narrative. I have a belief in a narrative that is bigger than me, that is alive and I trust will work itself out. [*Buffy* star] Sarah Michelle Gellar once said, “I’m not sure where we’re going with this [story line],” and I said, “You don’t have to trust me, trust the narrative, we’ll find our way back.”

Joss Whedon
Film Producer



THERE'S AN AUTHOR AND
A PURPOSE...



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

I had always felt life first as a story: and if there is a story there is a story-teller.

—G. K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Luke 24.25-27

²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

A Person

Build A People

Fill the world with His Glory



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Genesis 1.27-28

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Genesis 12

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Exodus 19.4-6

⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Isaiah 49.6

he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

2 Samuel 7

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Jesus

John 8:58 Jesus said to them,
“Truly, truly, I say to
you, before Abraham was, I am.”



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Jesus

Galatians 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Jesus

Hebrews 3.3

For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—



AUTHOR AND PURPOSE...

Jesus

Matthew 1.1

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.



THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL
ENDING...



BEAUTIFUL ENDING...

Revelation 7.9-12

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”



BEAUTIFUL ENDING...

Revelation 21

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.



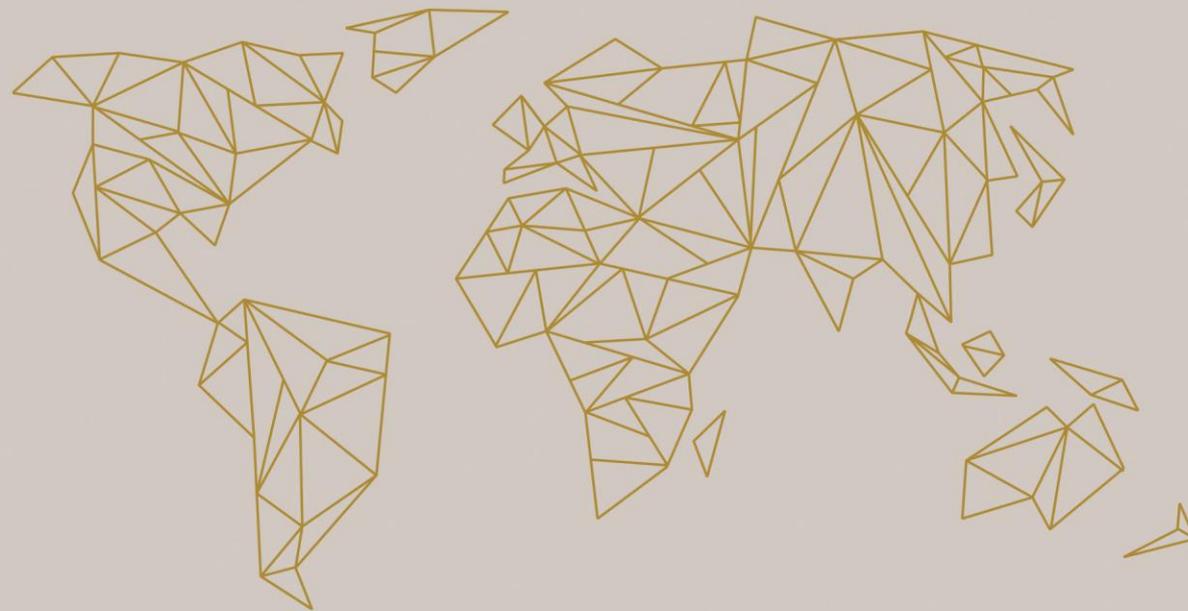
BEAUTIFUL ENDING...

Revelation 21

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”



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