

A WORLD FULL OF STORIES

We are surrounded by narratives. You have a story for how you understand your life and the world around you. Furthermore, you are being sold stories constantly that aim to shape your dreams and desires.

Here are some worldview-shaping stories:

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| 1. The story of progress .
<i>ONWARD & UPWARD</i> | 5. The story of consumerism .
<i>HAPPINESS CAN BE BOUGHT</i> |
| 2. The story of insignificance .
<i>LIFE IS MEANINGLESS</i> | 6. The story of authenticity .
<i>BE TRUE TO YOURSELF</i> |
| 3. The story of romance .
<i>FIND "THE ONE"</i> | 7. The story of legacy .
<i>BE REMEMBERED</i> |
| 4. The story of achievement .
<i>YOU ARE WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISH</i> | 8. The story of belonging .
<i>FIND YOUR TRIBE</i> |

Some of these sound good, but there's **a better story** to live by.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is a **library** of over 60 ancient Jewish books and letters that span 1500-2000 years of history. There's a large cultural gap when we come to the Bible, which has led to three common misconceptions about how it should be understood:

- 1. It's a divine rule book.**
Purpose: to produce moral behavior in my life
- 2. It's a theological answer book or dictionary.**
Purpose: to teach me what to believe about God
- 3. It's God's love letter to me.**
Purpose: to encourage me and help me grow spiritually

While the Bible does function in some way as each of these things, these models train me to **use** the Bible rather than **read** it.

At its core, **the Bible is a story.**

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Exodus 17:14 - The first time the writing of the Bible is mentioned. The Bible, like this story, is a record of God's acts to save His people.

The fullest revelation of this is found in Jesus.

IS THE BIBLE TRUSTWORTHY?

Three arguments for the reliability of Scripture:

1. Historicity

The Bible's historical preservation is unmatched. The copies are remarkably accurate and the documents are incredibly widespread in number.

2. Messiness

The early church leaders are flawed, the people of faith are doubters, the resurrection news comes to women. If this book were religious propaganda, it wouldn't look like this.

3. Changed Lives

Could a group of Jewish writers compile a library of books across millennia that transcend time and culture that is as unified and compelling as this without any divine inspiration?

LIVING WATER

People search for meaning in all sorts of different narratives, but maybe the story we've been chasing after has been here all along. Maybe the story of Jesus fulfills our deepest desires.

Instead of running to things that can't satisfy your thirst, come to Jesus, **the Living Water** (John 4:9-14).

Be hydrated by a story that can actually quench your thirst.

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst." (John 4:13)

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