

May 3, 2026

Once upon a time...

Characters:

- God is the Source of everything, the sovereign King, and a good and loving Father.
- Human beings are the crown of God's creation made in the image of God to be his representatives in the world.

Setting:

- The garden is full of God's glory, and everything is very good.
- The pattern of the kingdom is established. The kingdom of God exists perfectly as God's people in God's place under God's rule.

But then an evil serpent...

The Fall:

- The crafty serpent introduces doubt concerning who God is.
- Adam and Eve sin through their disobedience, and the sovereign King rightfully issues a curse that affects humanity's relationship with God, man, and the earth.
- Adam stands as our representative, which means we are born as sinners and bear the consequences of the curse.

The Promise:

- The sovereign King acts in sovereign grace by promising to send a Savior who will crush the serpent's head.

The heart of our King...

The Heart of the King—Love:

- Sin makes us guilty before God, and God's holiness does not allow him to overlook our sin.
- God's love compelled him to fix the problem of our sin and his holy need for justice.

The Way of the King–Covenant:

- The Noahic covenant gives us a foretaste of both coming judgment and coming salvation.
- The Abrahamic covenant gives us a foretaste of the gospel in that it highlights righteousness through faith, salvation through substitution, circumcision of the heart, and a longing for the heavenly city.

A kingdom of priests...

A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation:

- God's people are to intercede on behalf of others and actively proclaim the excellencies of the Lord so that others may come to know him.
- God's people are to walk in a manner worthy of their calling.
- God's people are to represent their heavenly home by reflecting the holiness of God.

The Floor and the Ceiling of the Law:

- God's law gives us a firm foundation on which to stand and a high ceiling upon which to cast our eyes.

A dwelling place for the king...

Tabernacle, Temple, Jesus, Hearts of Believers, New Heaven and Earth

The hero arrives...

Jesus the Second Adam: We are either in Adam or in Christ, the second Adam. Because we are all born in Adam, we must be born again to be in Christ.

Jesus the Reconciler: We are born enemies of God. Only by the death of Christ can we be reconciled to God and have peace with God.

Jesus the Redeemer: Jesus gave his life as a ransom for us, setting us free from the penalty and power of sin.

Jesus the Perfect Sacrifice: Sin deserves death, and Jesus made the once-for-all sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus the Conqueror: Jesus has won the victory over death, and one day he will make all things right.

The 50 Most Important Days in the History of the World...

Questions: When you look over the course of your whole life, what is a day or a moment that stands out to you as one of your favorites? What is a day or moment that stands out as one of the most important or influential?

CRUCIFIXION

"The cross describes where the work of salvation was accomplished" (183).

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51).

"And taking the twelve, he said to them, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him'" (Luke 18:31-33).

"No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:18).

"The cross of Christ, the place of so much suffering, is also the place of so much victory. It's the paradox of the gospel—life comes through death. The cross, that which was intended to shame and kill, became that which removes shame and gives life" (185).

RESURRECTION

"...and on the third day he will rise" (Luke 18:33).

Question: Why wasn't Jesus's death enough? Why was the resurrection necessary?

"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor 15:14, 17-19).

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor 15:20-22).

ASCENSION

"He is not just the crucified Savior; he is the risen Savior. And he is not just the risen Savior; he is the ascended Lord. At the ascension, we see Jesus continuing back up, all the way to full restoration" (191).

"He said to them, 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven'" (Acts 1:8-10).

The ascension was Jesus's re-entry into heaven. He had won the victory over death, and he earned the right to sit at the right hand of the Father. The ascension is why we can boldly approach the throne of grace (Heb 4:16).

SESSION

"Jesus is on his throne, reigning, ruling, and praying for you right now. We have a good, righteous, powerful, and loving King who rules and reigns for our good. And his court is in session" (194).

PENTECOST

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).