

# **EPIC – Week 2**

## **September 30, 2009 Teaching Outline**

by Mark Howard

### **RECAP:**

#### **Life is all about stories**

- How you tell about your vacation, or your weekend, or your day at school
- How you get to know each other...“So what did you do over the summer?”
- It’s why we love movies...they tell us a story that inspires us or entertains

#### **Ever wished you could be a part of a great story? Like a movie?**

*What if you found yourself in an epic story like that? Like last weeks **TAKEN VIDEO***

- We all WANT to be a part of a bigger story, bigger than ourselves
- “I was there when...” or cheering on your team when they win the super bowl

#### **There is one great story that involves the whole world**

- And one great Author writing that story
- And the story is true and real
- And it includes the most important events of all time

#### **Ever thought of the Bible as an epic story involving the whole world, creation to now?**

- Ever considered that God knew this story all along? In the OT and NT he was writing one bigger story that continues today?
- The Bible is more than ancient saying or rules for life
- A story still being played out...that YOU are a part of

**It’s the most beautiful story ever told, and you are a part of it.**

#### **Why does all this matter? Why learn all about this story concept?**

- Understanding the story shows us who God is and who we are
- Understanding the story shows us what God has done for us
- Understanding the story shows us the kind of life Jesus has made available for us

**But when we really understand it...it changes who we are and how we live.**

- It is so powerful that you will give your whole life to it

**Rich** – *“So, let’s get started. Let’s start at the beginning and opening our Bible’s to Genesis 1:1. In the beginning, God created...”*

**Mark Interrupts** – *“Wait a second, Rich, that’s not the beginning!”*

**VIDEO** – *“Lord of the Rings”*

## **THIS WEEK: The Story Behind the Story**

### **The Story doesn't begin in Genesis 1:1 – There's a Story before our human story**

- All the great movies are like that: movie examples
- Star Wars, Harry Potter, Etc. "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

### **Where we really start is BEFORE the world was created:**

#### **John 1:1-2**

*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God.*

- Before the dawn of time on our planet, God already existed
- Notice, he wasn't alone! The "Word" is Jesus. The Trinity – Father, Son, and Spirit

### **Before time, God is existed in RELATIONSHIP, a FELLOWSHIP of three**

- Ever picture God as big, powerful, and ALONE?
- Why do you think we want so badly to be with people? To BELONG?
- Why does being lonely hurt so much? Why does it hurt when our best friend moves?
- We were created in the image of God, and God has always existed in relationship

### **What did they do all day? I have no idea. Make planets? We do know they LOVED each other:**

#### **John 17:24**

*Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

### **So, beginning the Story before our story, we meet the characters in the story.**

#### **First, before our time, we meet God. So what is God like?**

- We know He is three in one – the trinity
- We also find out a lot more from the pages of the Bible. Let me summarize:
  - Wise, infinite, sovereign, omniscient, omnipresent, faithful, love, self-existing, just, unchanging, merciful, eternal, good, gracious, holy
- Stop and think about this...God is ALL of these things. INCREDIBLE!

**ILLUSTRATION - 3 shirts / lamp – God is not just the purest on our scale. He is in a completely different category of holiness. Not just the whitest t-shirt...but more like pure light.**

#### **So, we've met God, but there is more. The ANGELS...**

- We are not alone. There is the seen world, and there is the unseen.
- At some point, God created angels and other heavenly beings – they are CREATED
- But why do we usually think of angels as cute little, chubby, winged guys?
- The angels of the Bible were so frightening & powerful, everyone was scared to death

#### **Daniel 10:5-8**

*I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen...his body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches...and his voice like the sound of a multitude.*

*I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.*

**(background graphics of cherub, warrior angel, and sky full of angels)**

- So there are millions of angels and other angelic beings with God, worshipping God, because He is so worthy of worship
- Lucifer the angel – the highest, most powerful, beautiful angel – captain of angels

**Ezekiel 28:12-15**

*You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty. I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic guardian. You had access to the holy mountain of God and walked among the stones of fire.*

**But something happened. Lucifer the beautiful wanted God's worship.**

**Ezekiel 28:17**

*Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. Your wisdom was corrupted by your love of splendor.*

**God is betrayed. Lucifer takes 1/3 of all the angels and heaven goes to war. Epic war.**

**(Battle images)**

**Satan loses, and is banished to hell**

- Satan's choice to want God's glory is the birth of evil.
- This evil is the evil that has corrupted our world. The evil in Satan is the same evil in us that makes us sin. Jealousy. Pride. Anger. Violence. And Satan is the king of it all.

**(Images of evil –911, terrorists, school shootings, etc.)**

**Why do we live as if there is no evil in the world?**

- There is evil in this world. There is a king of this evil – Satan.
- Every move we make to become like Christ, and to know God more, it fiercely resisted by Satan.
- He is the villain of our Story! Satan HATES God.
- You are created in God's image, therefore Satan will always be against you.
- Satan doesn't want you to believe God. He doesn't want you to realize the eternal joy and life God has for you in Christ.
- Satan wants you to just keep living as if life is meaningless and boring.
- Satan wants the worship that God deserves.
- Satan doesn't want you to know the REAL story. He blinds us with business and doubt of who God is.

**This is the state of the world that we enter into at Genesis 1:1**

- Not the lame opening we think of normally
- When man is created, we are at war

**Next week, we will be ready to jump into the next chapter of the story - God's perfect creation and his true intention for mankind. This is where the Bible begins in Genesis.**

**COME BACK next week to keep hearing the rest of the story.**