

O Listen to the Wondrous Story; Hebrews 2:5-8

- I. Stories
 - a. From the very beginning, we learned by telling stories.
 - i. Moses is the author of Genesis, and its accepted date of writing is around 1440 BC
 - ii. All the events in Genesis were handed down verbally until Moses picked up a pen to write it all down for us (through the Holy Spirit)
 - iii. We still use stories to entertain us (some verbal, some written, some pictures)
 - b. There is only one story that offers us hope (a confident expectation) of eternal life
 - c. "O listen to the wondrous story counted once among the lost"
- II. Lost
 - a. This story has been around since (literally) before the beginning of time
 - i. John 17:24 (ESV) ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
 - ii. Ephesians 1:3–4 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love
 - iii. 1 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV) ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
 - iv. Before creation, Jesus was with God (and was God, John 1:1)
 - v. Through God's love for us (His creation), Jesus walked this earth with us
 - vi. John 1:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - b. It is a wondrous story about the love that the Creator has for His creation
 - i. Jesus' mission was to save the lost
 - ii. Luke 19:9–10 (ESV) ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
 - iii. That is the depth of God's sacrificial love for us
 - iv. Jesus, the atoning sacrifice, the propitiation, whose blood cleanses us of our sins
 - v. No other religion in the world has a God who sacrifices Himself to save His creation
 - c. "Yet, one came down from heaven's glory saving us at awful cost"
- III. Saved

- a. “No angel could His place have taken. Highest of the high though He; the love one on the cross forsaken was one of the Godhead, three”
- b. There was no other sacrifice that could have taken away our sins
 - i. Hebrews 2:5–8 (ESV) ⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶ It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.
 - ii. The angels are (were) at His command
 - iii. He could have called 12 legions (10,000) angels to rescue Him from the cross
 - iv. Hebrews 10:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
 - v. Hebrews 9:13–14 (ESV) ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
 - vi. For 1300 plus years, the Israelites lived under the Law of Moses, sacrificing animals to God for atonement
 - vii. These animals were a foreshadowing of Jesus’ sacrifice, and only through Jesus’ blood did anyone receive salvation
- c. Our salvation comes through the blood of Jesus
 - i. 1 John 1:7–9 (ESV) ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - ii. The way this is written in Greek means that Jesus’ sacrifice cleansed us of our past sins and continues to cleanse us current and future sins
 - iii. If we are walking in the light (a clean conscience before God)
 - iv. 1 Peter 3:21 (ESV) ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
 - v. Immersion in water is where we contact the blood of Jesus
 - vi. Romans 6:3–7 (ESV) ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing,

so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.

- vii. We cry out to God in our immersion
- viii. Colossians 2:11–13 (ESV) ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the **powerful working** of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

d. Only Jesus' sacrifice could provide this salvation

IV. Surrender

- a. "Will you surrender to this Savior? To His scepter humbly bow?"
- b. Peter presented this decision (worded a bit differently) to the people in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost
 - i. Acts 2:36 (ESV) ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."
 - ii. The people who listened to him were convinced that Jesus was the Messiah and that they had crucified Him
 - iii. Acts 2:37 (ESV) ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
 - iv. Peter responded to them; cut off the dead flesh of your earthly bodies, cry out for the powerful working of God, answer God with a clean conscience; be united in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection!
 - v. Acts 2:38–39 (ESV) ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."
- c. This same decision is presented to you today
- d. "Will you surrender to this Savior? To His scepter humbly bow?"
- e. "Who saved us from eternal loss? Who, but God's son upon the cross. What did He do? He died for you. Where is He now? Believe it thou, in heaven interceding"