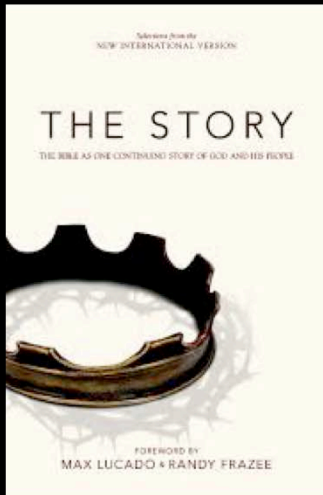




The Bible, as we have it today, is powerful and meaningful for everyone to read and know for themselves.

What's the STORY?



The Story (which is a new chronological arrangement of the Bible) is a narrative form of God's Story. This fresh presentation aims to do what Luther's Bible did in his day. Luther, believing that God's Word should be accessible and understandable by all people, translated the Bible from Hebrew, Greek, and Latin into the everyday German language. The Story Bible weaves an Upper (heavenly) and Lower (earthly) story together so that we can appreciate the story of our lives in the context of God's overarching plan for us.



Ethiopians are examples in recent modern times of people who did not have the Bible in their native language and who travelled through dangerous war-zones and jungles to seek out God's Word where it was translated and presented in their language. For many, this hunger and recognition of the Bible's powerful and life-changing message was worth the risk. Today, through the spread of God's Word in an understandable form, the Ethiopian church is one of the world's largest Lutheran denominations.

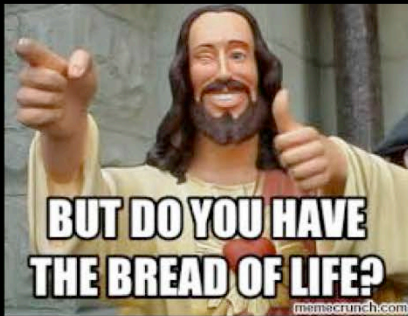


Unfortunately, the power of the Bible has also been misused. Throughout world history and even in recent times, the Bible has been weaponized (i.e., used as a weapon against others). A very recent example includes Hungary's Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, who stated that refugees from the Middle East and Africa should not be allowed to enter into Europe for fear that accepting large numbers of Muslims would endanger its traditional Christian values. Early in the history of the United States, similar weaponizing of the Bible was used to justify slavery and press down women's rights. The Bible's Upper story is one of God's inclusive love for all people.

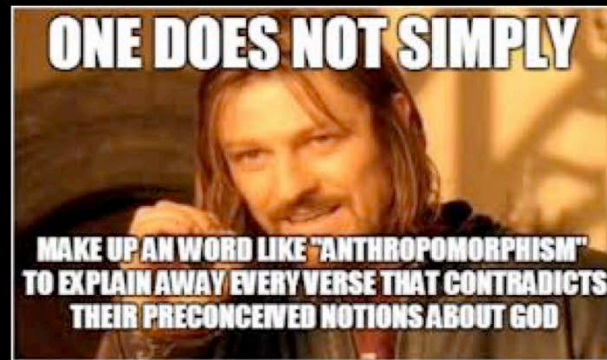
“In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through him,
and without him was not any thing
made that was made.
In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.” – John 1:1-4

From the beginning, God’s plan included His Word embodied in Jesus Christ. In Him was life, hope, and the power to overcome all darkness.

NEUTERED



**CREATION
MUSEUM**
Prepare to believe.



Another way the Bible can be misused is when neutered (deprive of vigor or power). Preaching, teaching, and studying only the soft and acceptable parts of the scriptures and avoiding the difficult and controversial portions removes context that makes it so powerful. On the other end of the spectrum, using grandiose and complicated concepts to make the Bible difficult to understand also neuters the power. Likewise, expecting the Bible to explain every detail of modern scientific study is to miss the big picture of God's love for his creation.

“I did not come to bring
peace,
but a sword.”
- Matthew 10:34

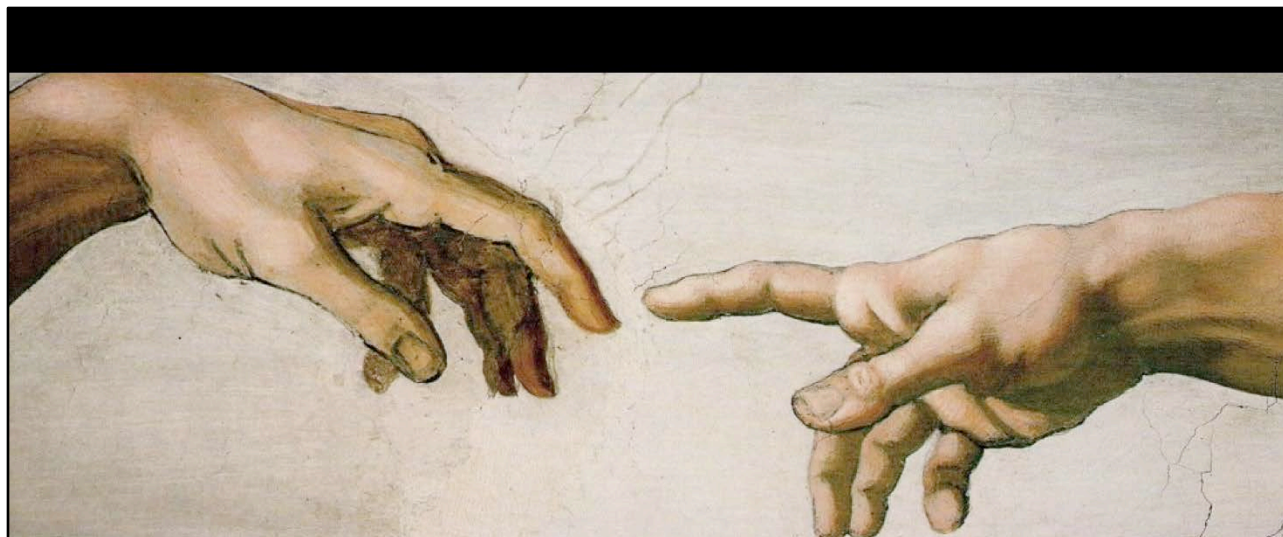
The Bible is a story of God’s redeeming love. It is not easily accepted and it can be divisive, but it is worthy of our study and understanding.

That you might KNOW the BIBLE
That KNOWING would be your
HEAD and your HEART
That KNOWING leads you to JESUS
With your HEAD and your HEART

Some overarching goals for Messiah's engaging in The Story version of the Bible is that you might come to KNOW the BIBLE better. That KNOWING would be your HEAD and your HEART. That KNOWING leads you to JESUS with your HEAD and your HEART



The opening lines of God's Story depicts a beginning where His Spirit moved over the earth to form it and all the universe. It was a miraculous and masterful plan.



God Desires Relationship

It was a plan that was not about creating an environment, but about developing a relationship. God desires a relationship with us.



Human beings are Jealous

Human beings, on the other hand, have a thread of jealousy and comparative conceit which always seeks to satisfy itself.



The Upper Story of the Bible is God's unending love and redemptive plan for all people.



Lower Story: Our Jealousy and Conceit

The Lower Story is humanity's wandering way amid jealousy and conceit.



End of Chapter One: Noah

Even as creation was once done, and then restarted after God's flood in Noah's time, there is continued proof that God's plan extends...and humans require guidance and re-creation even today. We welcome that instruction as we look forward to better understanding our personal story within God's great story in the weeks ahead.