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Introduction to Christianity The Christian Story

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Agenda

- What is a Story?
- What is the Christian Story?
- Answers to the Essential Questions (next lecture)

What is a Story?

- A Narrative which ties together various facts, events, and people
- The metadata which helps to make sense of facts, events, and people

Examples of Narratives in Popular Culture

- “The Matrix”
 - People are enslaved in a false reality and must achieve knowledge which allows them to escape it
- “True Grit”
 - Mattie Ross wants vengeance on her father’s killer and will pursue it at all costs
- “The Lord of the Rings”
 - Evil is intruding into a good world and corrupting it, the one ring of power must be destroyed and the king return in order to restore the world to its goodness

The Christian Story - Highlights

- God created the world “very good”
- Humanity sinned and tainted the world
- Christ came as the promised Savior to deal with this sin
- Christ is returning on the Last Day to fully restore creation

The Christian Story - More Detail

- God created the world “very good”
- He gave Adam and Eve a way to respond to His grace in worship (i.e. “Don’t eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”)
- Adam and Eve disobeyed His will and sought to be their own gods
- This disobedience is sin and it brought decay and death into the world (i.e. “the Fall”)
- God promised a Savior who would undo the effects of the Fall and restore God’s creation to being “very good” again
- Jesus Christ is the promised Savior, he atoned for all sin on the cross and rose from the dead to defeat death
- Christ is coming again to complete the restoration at the resurrection on the Last Day
- The world we live in is still good, because God created it, but it is fallen and corrupted
- We await the return of Christ to complete the restoration of creation so that sin, decay, death, and evil will be completely removed and creation is cleansed

The Christian Story

- Ties together the facts, events, and people of the Bible into a larger narrative which is centered on Jesus Christ
- Provides a framework for understanding the Bible