

**EPIC**  
*The Story*

## I. Prologue/Introduction

### Life is a story

*“I wonder what sort of tale we’ve fallen into, Mr. Frodo?”* -Samwise, from Lord of the Rings

- Each day has a beginning and an end
- Each year is like a chapter from a novel
- Nothing makes sense without a story

### Story is how we figure things out

- Humans have this craving for a meaning to their life - (*why are they here, what is their purpose, where are they going*) – a deep seated need to know the rest of the story
- Story is the language of the heart
- More than facts – stories nourish us, shed light on our lives
- To truly get to know someone you need to know their story
- In an attempt to understand our own lives, many of us have gone to someone else with our stories
- All humans share the same questions – Who am I? Why am I here? What is life all about?

### We have lost our story

- For many people, life feels like a movie that we’ve arrived at 45 minutes late
- It’s like we are holding in our hands some pages torn out of a book

*“With every step of our lives, we enter into the middle of some story which we are certain to misunderstand.”* - Chesterton

- The world has lost its story
- Science has determined that everything began by accident and will end the same way

### There is a larger Story

- Malls, amusement parks, museum all have maps with the “YOU ARE HERE” spot
  - This is the big picture and where you are in it
- Every good story has the same ingredients
  - Love. Adventure. Danger. Heroism. Romance. Sacrifice. Good vs. Evil.
- Every great story follows the same story line
  - Things were once good; something awful happens; and now a great battle must be fought or a journey taken; a hero appears and makes everything right again
- There is a Story written on the human heart

*“He has planted eternity in the human heart” Ecclesiastes 3:11*

- The Story helps us find the secret to our lives, the secret to the universe

### The Epic

- The Bible [Christianity] tells us that there is an Author
- Here is a Hero...and there is also a Villain
- Could it be that all the great stories are telling you something about the one **true Story**?
- When you were born, you were born into an Epic that has already been under way for quite some time.

*Once upon a time...*