

Trouble in God's Story

Scripture Reading — Genesis 3:1-19

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
—John 16:33—

Something needs to happen in a story, or it's not a story. Something needs to take place that hasn't already happened at the beginning. But getting a story from the beginning to the end isn't as easy as we might think. The characters in the story need to set out on a new adventure, or they need to deal with new problems or needs that arise and need fixing. We call that the plot of the story.

Ultimately a good story usually involves some kind of trouble: some problem to be fixed or a situation to be resolved. Without some kind of trouble you end up with a boring story.

For example, if the Three Little Pigs had never encountered the Big Bad Wolf, they would have simply lived in their houses of straw, sticks, and bricks. It's the trouble in the story that draws us to the edge of our seats, wondering, "What's going to happen next?"

The story of the Bible charges directly into the worst trouble imaginable: by chapter 3 the entire creation has been ruined by the main characters. As a perfect world crashes into its curse, we discover that somebody needs to do something—but what?

We still often feel that way. Every time I face trouble, I want to cry out for somebody to do something.

But this is God's story. The world is broken, but he will fix it! Praise be to God!

Prayer

Lord, in this world we face trouble. Draw us close to you as we follow you through our stories. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

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Printed on August 19, 2019

