

## THE STORY OF THE BIBLE:

### SESSION #1

#### THE INDIVIDUAL RULE OF MAN

##### The Story of the Bible

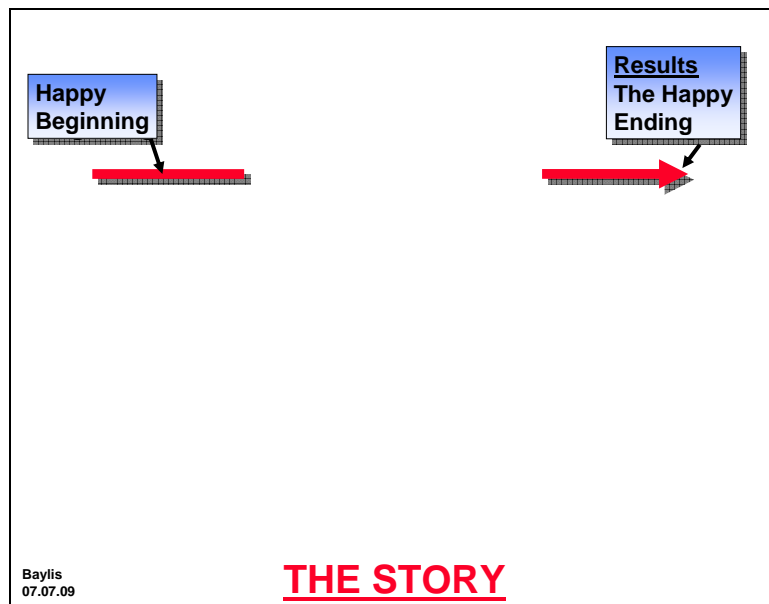
The Bible is a story. It is the story of God and His dealings with His creation. When one studies the Bible one can see that it fits a “plot”, that is, like most stories, it has a beginning, moves through changes until it comes to an end.

##### Story

Probably the most used story is that which begins with a happy beginning and ends with a happy ending. But stories would be quite dull if they began happy and ended happy. Not much would really happen.

##### **The happy beginning and the happy ending**

If one goes to the beginning of the story, what they will find is a happy beginning. If they go to the end of this type of story they will find a happy ending. If that was all there was, then that would not be an exciting story.



##### Example

In a typical story from a television series of long ago, one would sit down at the beginning of the story and would observe a mom and pop and two sons sitting around the breakfast table. It was all joy, “Hi mom, Hi, pop, Hi boys! They would all wish each other well. All was happy in the happy beginning.

Now if one went out for popcorn and returned at the end of the 30 minute story, they might find the same scene, but at dinner. It was all joy, “Hi mom, Hi, pop, Hi boys! They would all wish each other well. All was happy in the happy ending.

One might think that this was a pretty boring story. Nothing ever happens. It was always happy. But they would be wrong. For what they missed was the middle section called the plot. And plot changes.

### **The Happy Beginning**

So, in order to see the plot, one must return to that happy beginning. It won't be but a few minutes before things change.

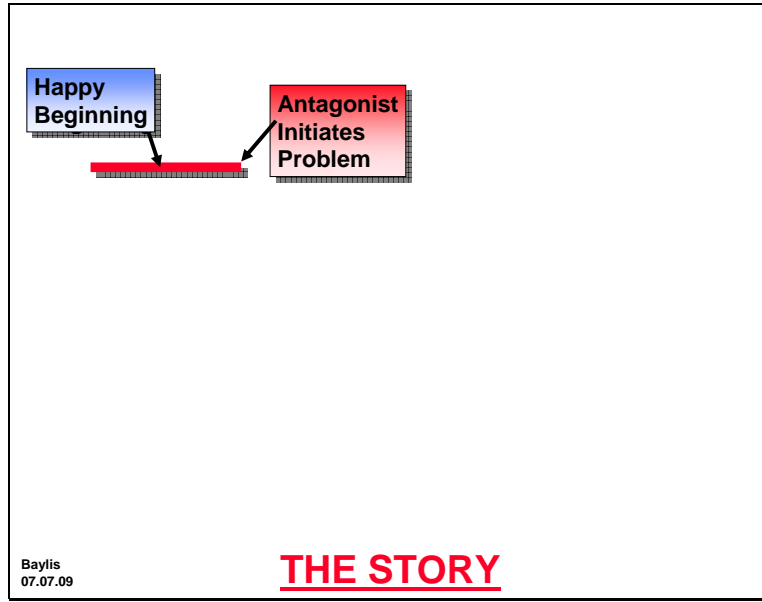


### **Example:**

The beginning of the story is where everyone was happy, but things would soon change for the four people around the table. For within a few minutes they would all get up and leave for their respective duties; the boys to school, dad to work, and mom would begin to clean.

### **The Antagonist (the evil character) initiates the problem**

Very quickly after the “happy beginning”, something happens to destroy the happiness. This is called the “conflict.” It is a problem introduced which interrupts the happiness or the goals of the main character(s). It is usually interrupted by an evil character called the “antagonist.” He will enter the story and create the problem.

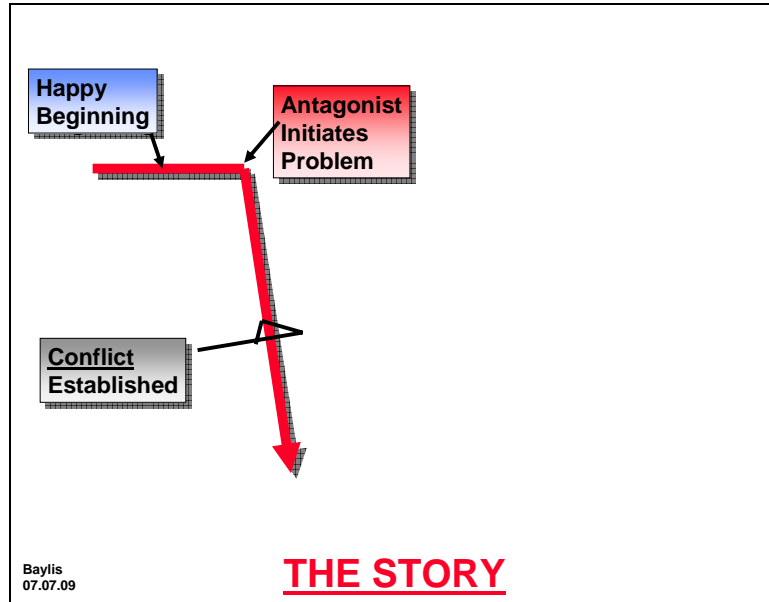


### **Example:**

In the story of the happy family, it won't be long before the two boys head off for high school. When they get there, they are confronted by their "friend" called Wally. Now Wally has a plan. He wants them to borrow their father's car and take a drive together and enjoy things. But the good boys express that their father has left for the day and so they can't ask him. But Wally influences them for evil. He suggests that they will borrow the car and put it back before their father returns home. He says, the evil influence that he is, that no one will ever know. Wally, then, is the "antagonist of the story." He is the one that opposes the "good" boys' intentions and is the one who is going to cause the "conflict", or the problem, of the story.

### **The problem (the conflict)**

Thus, one sees the plot developing. From the happy beginning, things have changed because of an evil character. Now the good characters have a problem which they must overcome. This is the rest of the story; getting a solution to the problem.

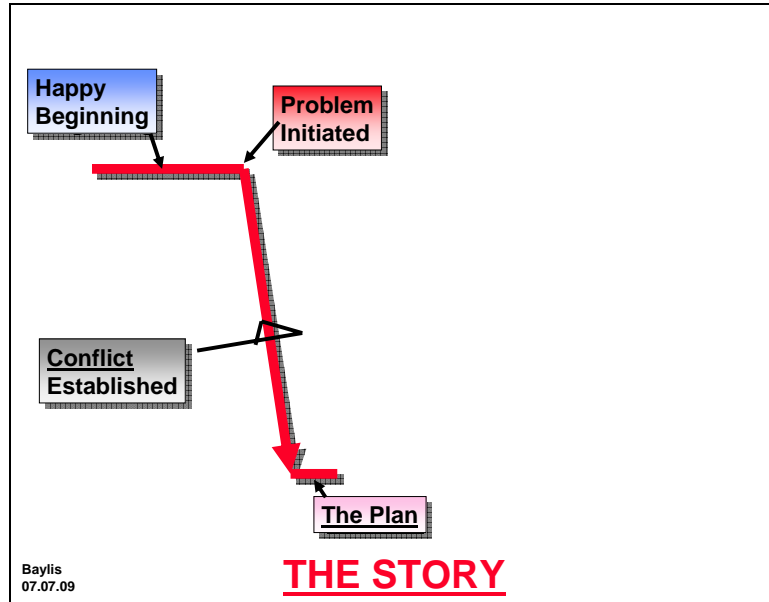


### **Example**

One can probably guess what happens next. The boys listen to Wally and proceed to take their father's car. They then accidentally dent the fender. Now they have a problem, or the "conflict". How will they ever get back to the dinner table with the happiness that they once had at that breakfast table? That will be the rest of the story; how to get back to the dinner table and have everyone happy.

### **The Plan**

The main character will respond to the problem or conflict with a "plan." Whether it is a blatant plan or simply the way the main character naturally responds, nevertheless there is a determination by the main character that he/she will pursue to restore happiness. "How" they will restore their happy situation is the "plan."



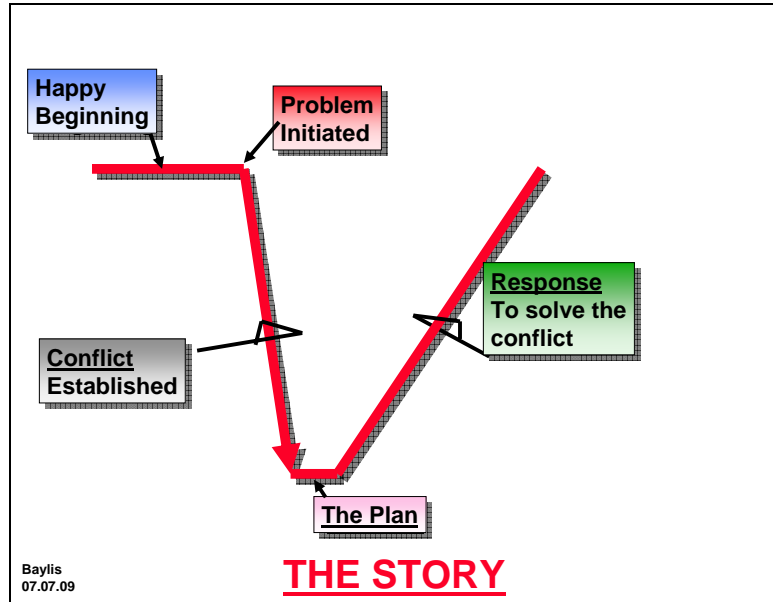
### Example

The next scene following the denting of the car, finds the boys sitting in a café somewhere trying to figure out a way to get back to that dinner table and have their dad respect them once more. They want to restore the happiness to the dinner table that they had at the breakfast table.

They will ponder different alternatives and in doing so will reveal what kind of people they really are. Wally will suggest that they just somehow deceive their dad into thinking that he, himself, may have done it. But the boys object and decide that they must simply ask their father's forgiveness and pay for the damage by working weekends around the house.

### **The Implementation of the plan (the rest of the story)**

The rest of the story consists of the main character(s) attempt to overcome the problem (conflict) by operating according to his plan until he is victorious and regains the happiness that he had in the first place (the happy ending).

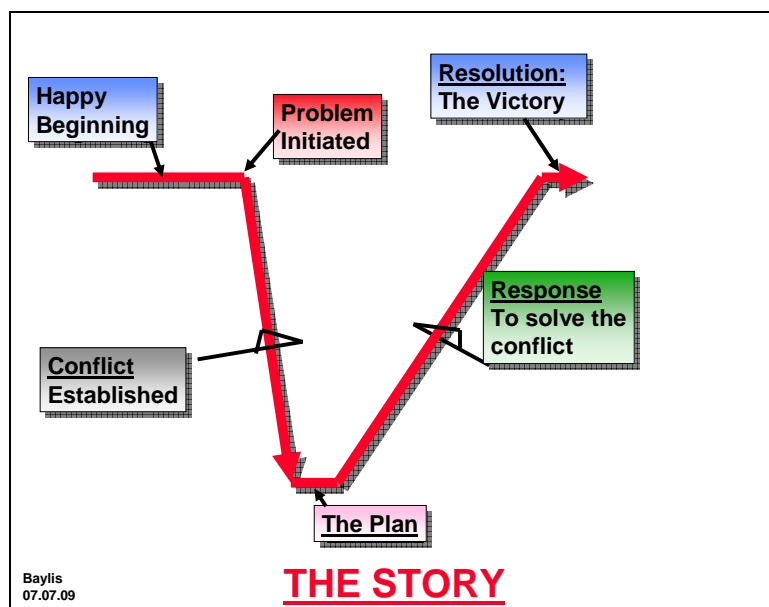


### Example

So, the boys begin their plan to approach their dad with their apology. Of course, all the while they are walking home Wally is trying to get them to change their mind. But ultimately, they get home, tell their mom, and get ready for their father's arrival. He arrives and they repent.

### **The Resolution (the victory)**

The evil problem will continue and the main character will continue to fight evil with his plan. Eventually, the right behavior will be rewarded when the main character achieves victory over the evil antagonist and has happiness restored.

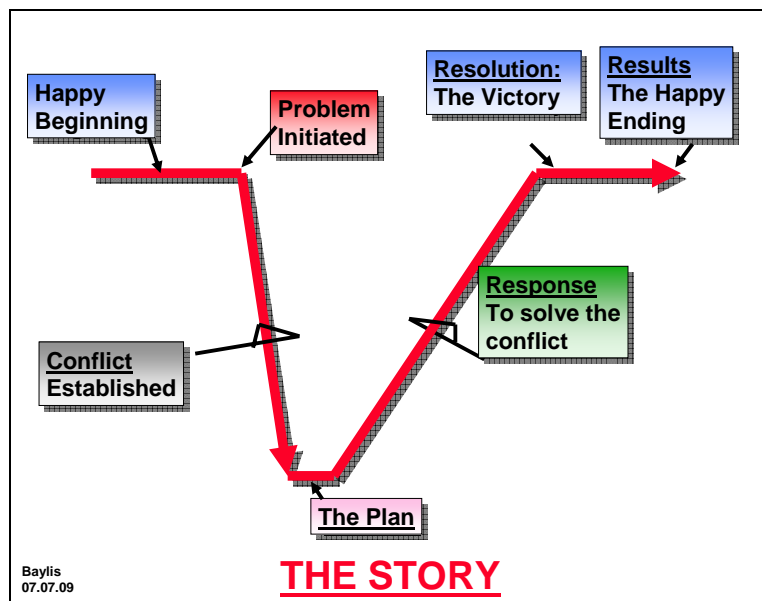


### Example

In the story, as the father listens to their tale and their acquiescence, he looks at them and admirably forgives them. He then says, "Let's go eat dinner." So, the boys' plan has worked! The father has acknowledged their success. They have "resolved" their problem. The boys' plan is victorious.

### **The Happy Ending (the results)**

Of course, everyone knows the "happy ending" words, "and they lived happily ever after." Not only has happiness been restored, it is greatly improved from the beginning.

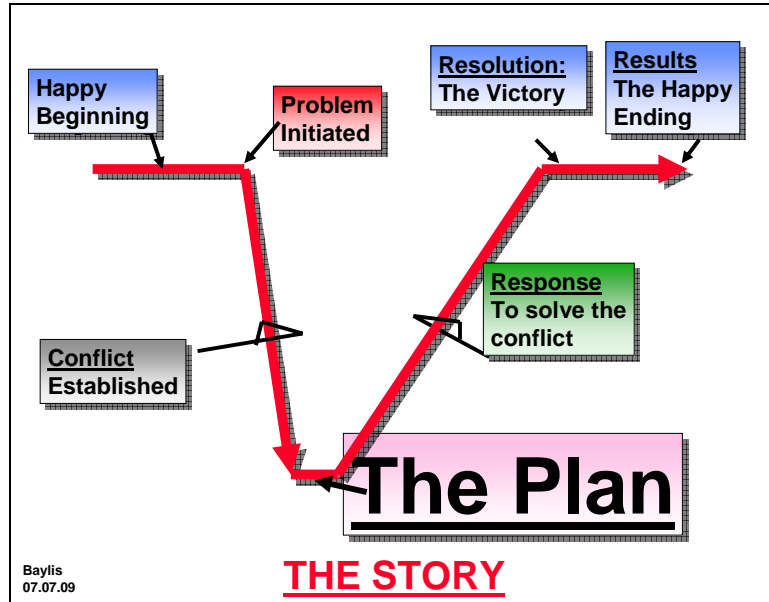


### Example

As the boys and the father join the mother at the table, they begin to greet one another, enjoying the dinner. Had the boys taken the route of deceit, all would not have been well. They would be lying to their father. There would be a tension in the air. But now they are enjoying the fact that they have resolved their problem as they greet one another peaceably.

### **The Message of the Author ("the moral")**

It is through the "plot", the change in the story that the reader can determine what the author wants to communicate as his message to the reader. In other words, the "plan" of the main character is victorious as is demonstrated through the "plot."



### Example

The moral or message of the story that the author wanted to portray is clear to the reader of the tale, even though he may not be in the same circumstances. By relating to the main character, the boys in the story, the reader recognizes that if he wants to be successful in his own life he needs to, like the boys' plan, apologize and repay any damage that he has done.



## The Biblical Story

The story of the Bible is the story of God. As such, it is a true story. In fact, it is the only true description of what is going on in history. Thus, man must understand this story to understand God, to understand what part man will play in this unfolding drama.

### The happy beginning

The story of the Bible also has a happy beginning. In that story, God is the main character.

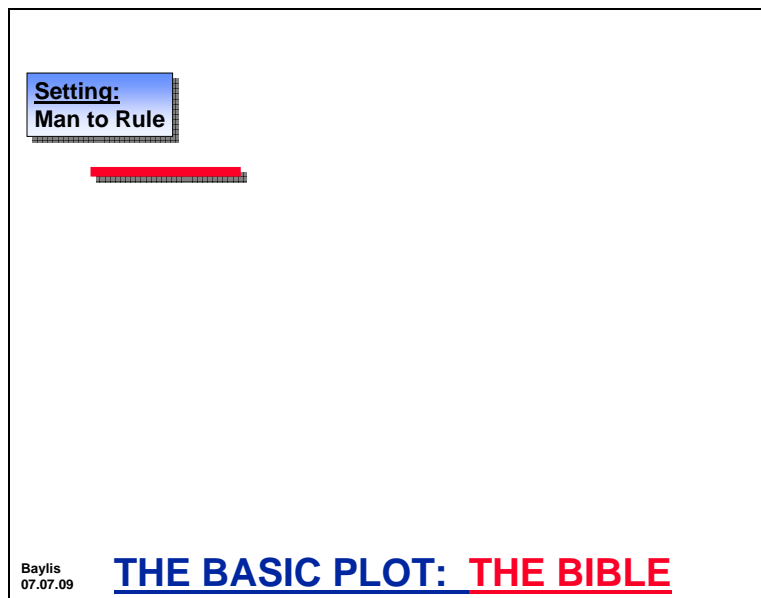
"In the beginning, GOD . . ." (Genesis 1:1)

God then creates the world and places man in it. It is in Genesis 1:26, 28, that God reveals His purpose, His desires, His goals, for this creation.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." . . .

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it; and rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God's desire for man is that he rules over God's creation. It is very simple and clear.

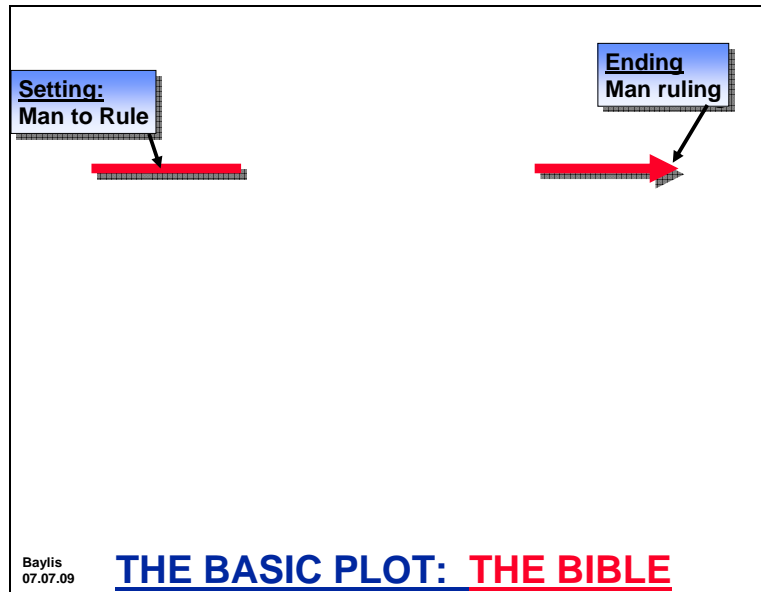


### The happy ending

If one goes to the other end of the story, to Revelation 22:5, one would find that God has achieved what He desired to do in Genesis 1:26, 28.

“ . . . and they shall reign (rule) forever and ever.”

Thus, it is clear that the end fulfills God's desires at the beginning. But if this is all the story, then it would seem not to be the most exciting story, since nothing has changed nor developed.



### **Back to the Beginning: The Setting**

“In the beginning, God . . . “ introduces the Main Character of the story. From the beginning pages of this story to the end, the story will reveal God's character, His desires, His passions. It is a creation that is a reflection of His character; a magnificent physical universe in which He is represented by a man and a woman.

### **The Main Character's Desires**

This is very simple. For in addition to the fact that the Main Character has desired to make a creation, He states that it has an order, a purpose.

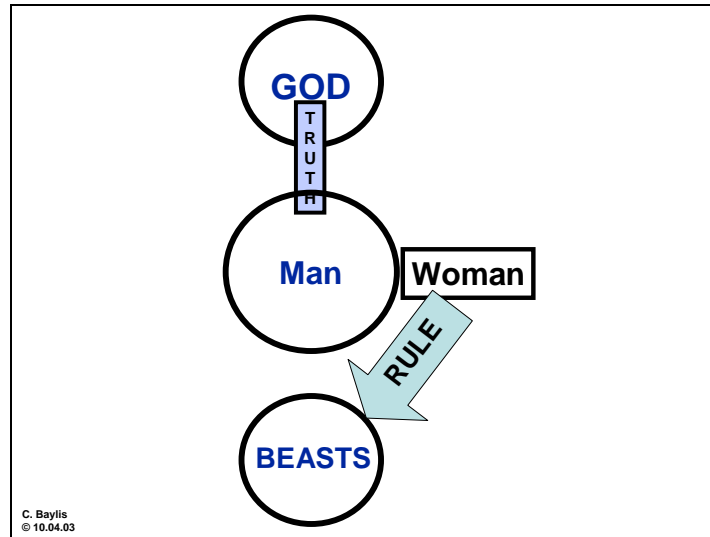
### **Man to Rule**

That purpose is that man **rule** over God's universe (Genesis 1:26, 28).

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man **in Our image**, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it; and rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:26,28



### In God's "Image" (Represent)

God desired that man would "rule" over this creation. However, he would rule by "representing" God. "In Our Image" means to be God's **representative** on earth. "Image" means "representation". The phrase "I am raising my son to be in my image" means that one is raising his son to represent his desires and is training him thusly. Thus man is to "rule" for God, "representing" (imaging) God's desires.

### How Man would "Represent" God

It is in Genesis 2:16-17 that He reveals the specific implementation of His desire.

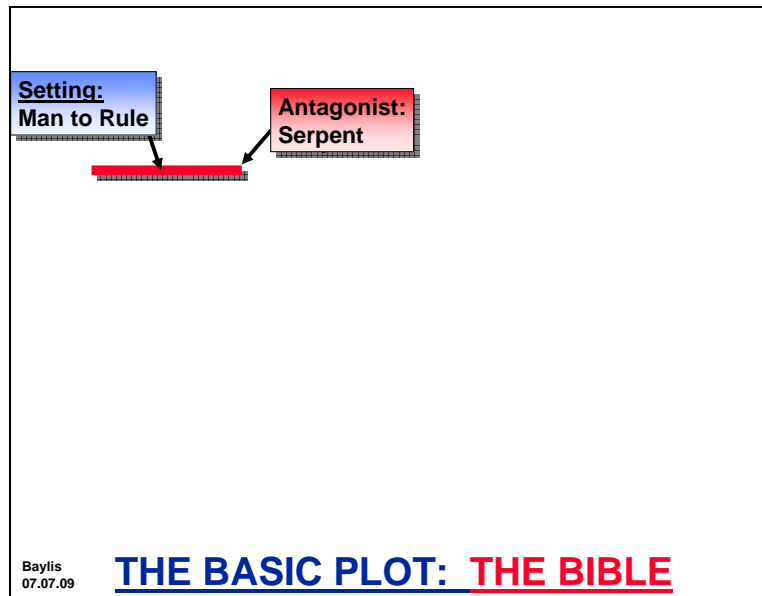
"From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; <sup>17</sup> but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

Thus, while man has been placed to rule over this creation, God's **revealed** desire of how man should "**represent**" Him is that he till the ground and keep the garden and that that he not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Man will not know this by observing as it is not revealed that it looked any different than the other fruits. Only by listening to God will man know he should not eat. To eat from it will make an end to his ability to **represent** God, ruling over this creation.

As the setting closes, all is well in God's creation. He has exercised His desires and they have come to pass. Man is ruling, representing God throughout His creation.

### **The Antagonist: Satan as a serpent Genesis 3:1**

Satan (the one behind the serpent) is the antagonist and he will choose to indwell a serpent precisely because a serpent is a **beast**. According to Genesis 1:26, 28, the command of God to man was that he **rule over the beasts**. If a **serpent** could get man to obey him rather than vice-versa, then the rule would be reversed. Thus shrewdly Satan enters the body of a serpent and begins the deception of man. This serpent (with Satan in charge) will oppose the Main Character, God, and His desire to have man rule on His behalf.



The serpent first questions the truth of God's desires (philosophy).

"Indeed, has God said . . . ? (Genesis 4:1)

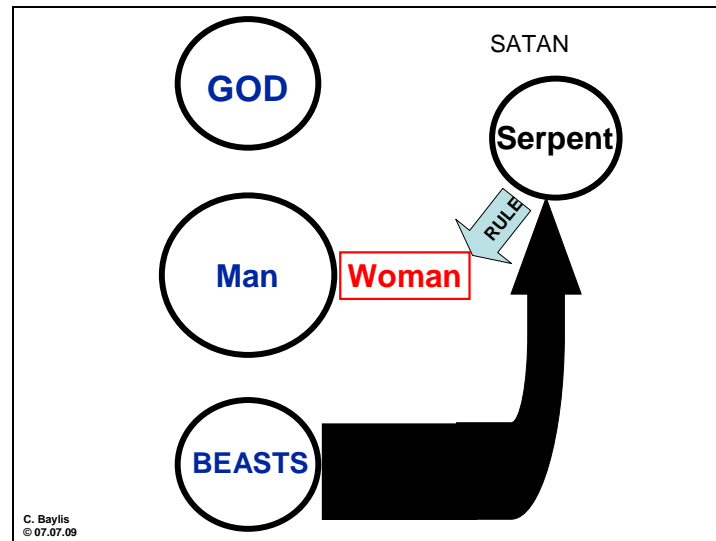
Then, the serpent directly contradicts God's revelation (philosophy).

"You shall not surely die . . . " (Genesis 4:\$)

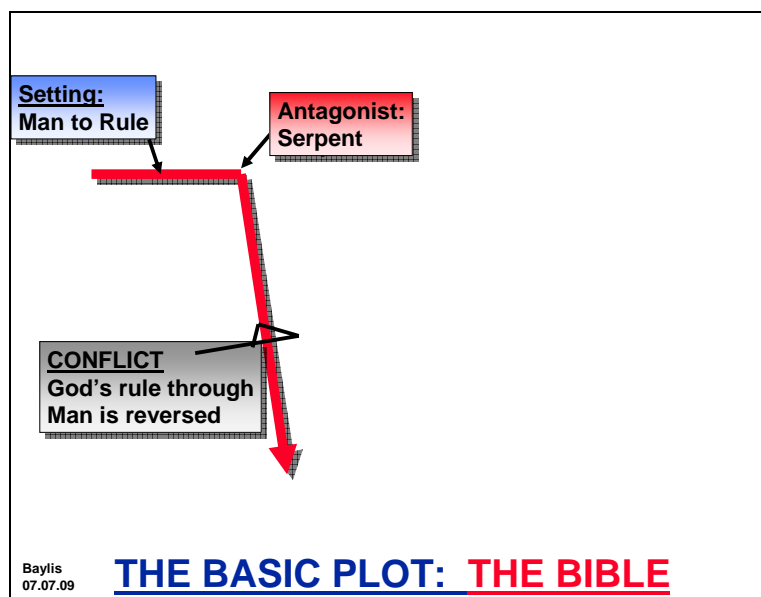
If the Serpent gets the woman to follow him, then he will be the ruler, not God. Man and woman will be reflecting the desires of Satan, not God. Man and woman will still rule, but it will be for their new leader; the god of the lie; Satan.

### **The Conflict: Genesis 3:1-6**

But, of course, shortly after God has determined His desires that man rule and places him in this beautiful creation, a problem will occur that will "conflict" with God's desires. An antagonist (the one who opposes the main character, here it is Satan) appears and deceives the man (and woman) into ruling for him instead of God. So now the purpose of God has been ruined with this man and woman since now they serve the enemy. The woman listens to the serpent and the man listens to the woman; making both of them subject to the rule of the serpent.



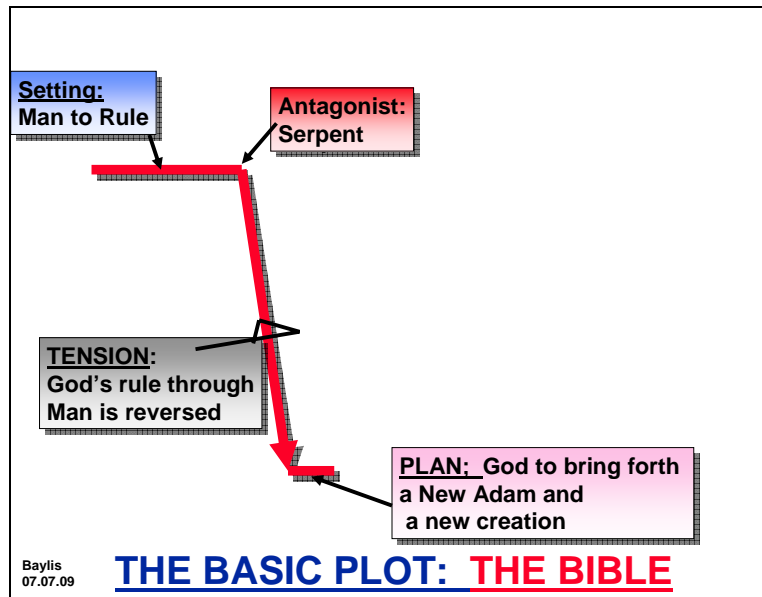
Thus, so to speak, God (the Main Character) has a problem or the conflict. His perfect creation has now been stolen by His antagonist, Satan. The story now waits for God to act. What will He do to restore His creation back to His rule?



### The Plan: Genesis 3:15

Now that God has had His plan attacked, He comes on the scene and, in Genesis 3:15, states that He will bring forth a New Adam, who will be totally obedient to Him and will judge the old serpent, Satan and all who follow him. This totally obedient New Adam will then do something that will not only solve the problem, but will save people from the old

creation who are going to be destroyed. He will die unjustly and substitute for their sins so they can live in the new earth with Him. All they must do is to put their trust in Him and they, who were enemies, can be delivered into the new creation.



In Genesis 3:15, God adds some additional information to His plan of Genesis 1:26, 28.

- **A New Adam would obediently rule:** This rule over the created earth will not be accomplished by the Adam who had just been condemned to death, but by a new Man, a new Adam; called the “Seed of the Woman”. He would fully obey God.

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you (*the serpent*) and the woman (*Eve*), And between your seed and her seed; He (*the Seed of the woman*) shall strike you on the head, And you (*the serpent*) shall strike him (*the Seed of the woman*) on the heel.”

- **This New Adam would kill the Serpent (Satan):** God, speaking to the serpent, assures him of his ultimate death through this new Man as He states

“He (the Seed of the Woman, the new Adam) shall strike you on the head.”

By striking the serpent, God will put an end to this antagonist and his newly assumed rule over man and creation.

- **This New Adam would unjustly die and pay for man's sins:** But while that might seem to be enough to restore this desired kingdom to its rightful owner, God adds another statement to His plan.

“you (*the serpent*) shall strike him (*the Seed of the woman*) on the heel.”

God will soon explain in an illustration why this Messiah, this Christ, this Seed of the Woman must die. As Adam is on his way to banishment from the garden, God takes an animal, and removes its skin to cover Adam (Genesis 3:21). This

symbolizes the death of the innocent Messiah to substitute for the guilty Adam and Eve. This new Adam, this Christ, who has the perfect right to rule, who is perfectly obedient, will substitute himself in death so that this hateful, rebellious Adam can be forgiven and live in the kingdom of the New Adam. This is why He will be unjustly struck on the “heel” by this Satan.

And so the plan of this God is now known. His original desires of Genesis 1:26, 28; that man would represent Him over all of creation will now be accomplished through a new Adam, the Christ. But it would be at the cost of His own life.

The plan of God, His desires, are that His Christ (the “Seed of the Woman”) rule this earth, destroy Satan, and yet love His enemies so much that He will die for them. This One will implement the desires of God, the love of God. This is the One that God loves fully. Those who embrace this Christ of God and His forgiveness of sins will live forever. Those who do not will be opposing the desires of this God and His Son whom He loves.

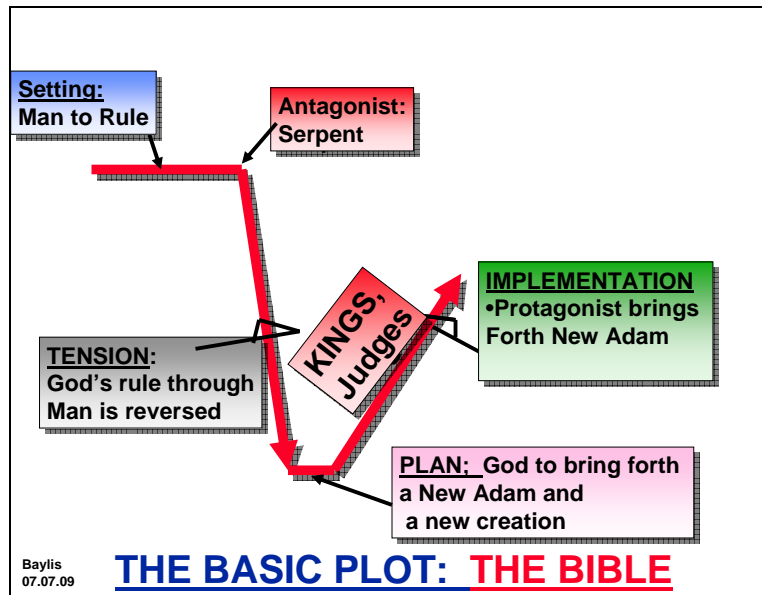
### **The Implementation of the Plan (the rest of the story)**

Then following Genesis 3, God moves to implement His plan to install a New Adam on the throne of His creation. He will ultimately destroy the old creation and make a new one over which this New Adam will rule.

### **The Old Testament: A record of potential Deliverers who fail**

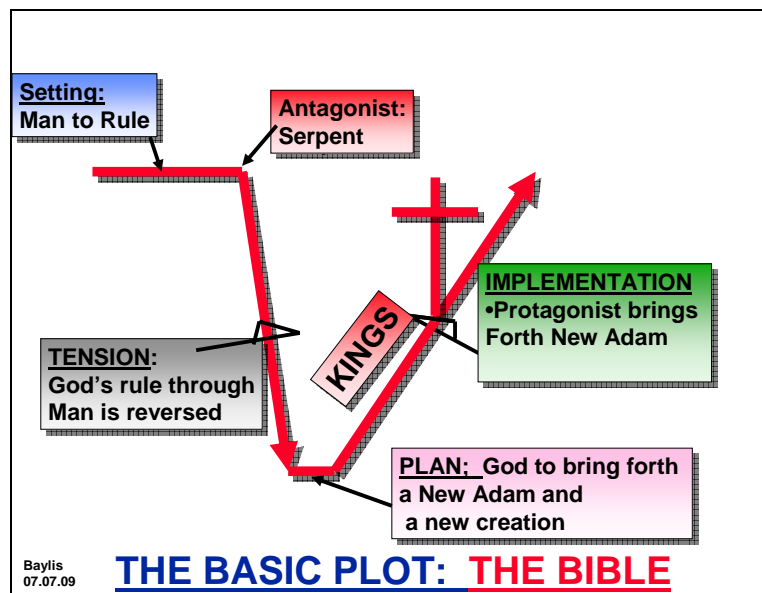
The Old Testament is the record of God bringing His New Adam (His Christ) to the throne of the universe.

The Old Testament the record of God’s potential anointed ones who rule for Him (Judges and Kings). One after one He will set them up as Judges and Kings, and one after one they will fall to the deceit of Satan. In other words, God will bring more potential new Adam’s to rule as He prophesied and Satan will repeat His attacks on them.



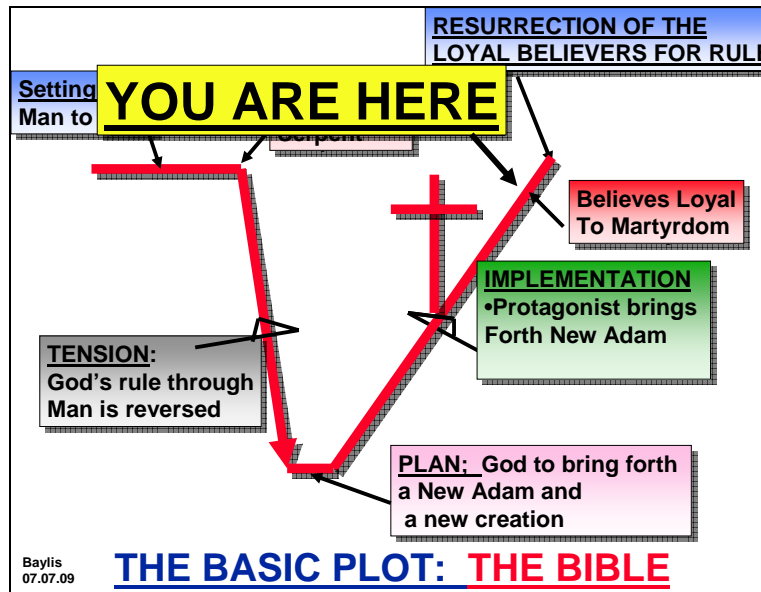
The New Testament is the record of the appearance of the New Adam. Satan will also attempt to deceive Him, but He alone will stand firm for God. So Satan will then go to his Plan "B" and kill the King to avoid God's establishment of His rule.

- His death to substitute for the sins of the Old Creation
- His resurrection so that He can return to rule and resurrect those who follow Him
- His return to conquer the serpent (Satan), judge the old earth, and rule over a new earth.



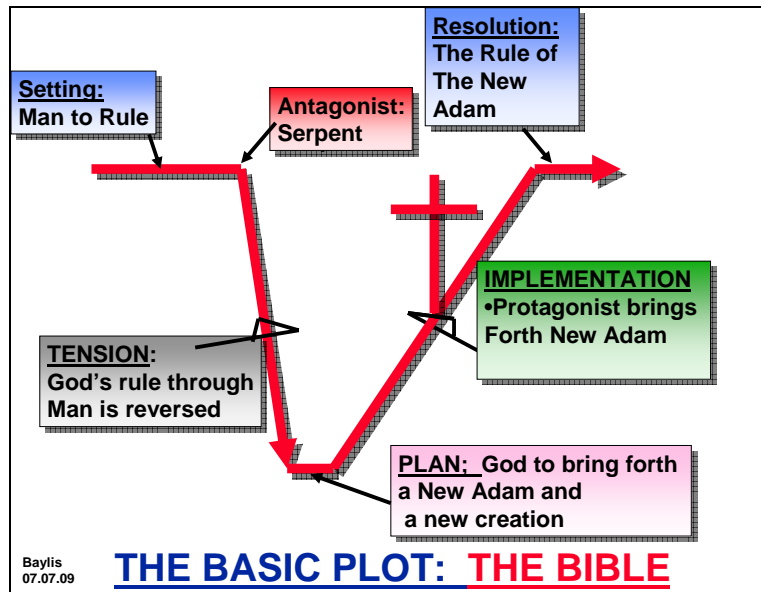


During this New Testament Period, the resurrected Christ ascends to the Father to wait until it is time for His return to conquer the world. In the meantime, His followers will live under the rule of Satan and his followers. The followers of the Christ and their loyalty unto death will be rewarded at His return when He resurrects them and takes vengeance on all those who opposed Him (and them as they testified for Him).



### The Resolution (the victory)

The resolution is when the victory over Satan is visibly won. This occurs in Revelation 19:11-16 where Jesus returns to conquer the old earth and all His enemies. He will by then have resurrected all the dead who have believed in Him so that they can have their bodies back to live on this earth and the new earth later.



<sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. . . . <sup>14</sup> And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and **He will rule them** with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Then Satan, the serpent of old, is bound for a thousand years (20:2). After that he is placed in the Lake of Fire forever (20:10).

<sup>2</sup> And he laid hold of the dragon, **the serpent of old**, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

<sup>10</sup> And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

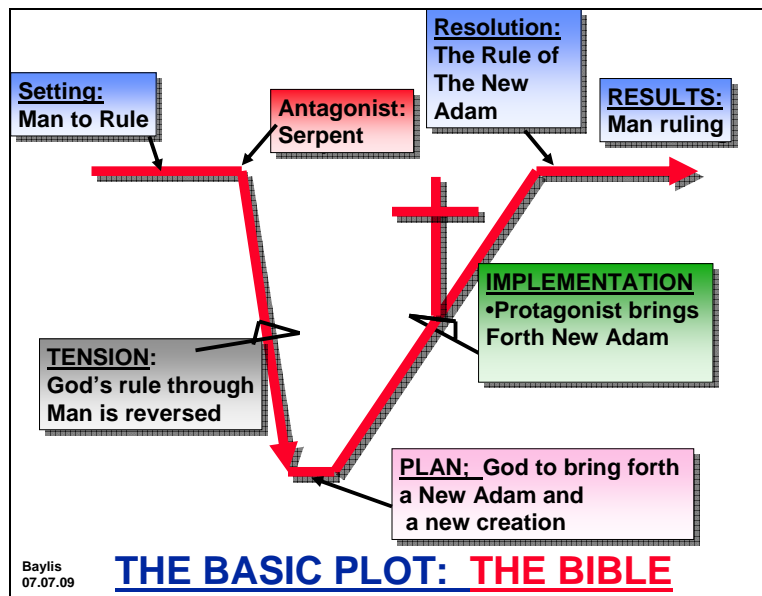
Finally, Jesus will judge the whole of the old creation and destroy it and those who have not believed in Him for salvation.

<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

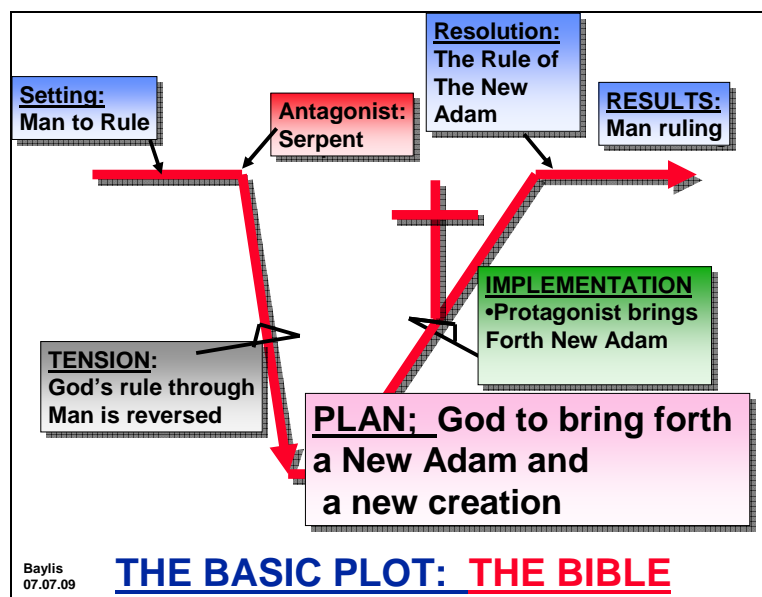
## The Happy Ending

Following the great return in victory, a new skies and earth will be recreated and believers, who have been resurrected, will live in it for ever and ever as the bride of the King (22:5)

”and they shall reign forever and ever.”



The Message of the Author (the “moral”)



Since it is clear that God will win through the death of His Christ and His subsequent conquering of the old creation, man will want to be part of that great plan. In other words, man would realize that he is part of the condemned (to death) old creation. Then he would realize that the New Adam, not only would make a new creation, but would die so that condemned men of the old creation could be with Him in the new creation.

Thus, if they want to be part of the victory, they would put their trust in the Messiah of God for the forgiveness of their sins and allow Him to deliver them into the new creation.

- **Thus, in the Old Testament a man would have believed in the coming New Adam**
- **In the New Testament, following His appearance, a man should trust in Jesus**, the revealed New Adam. Believing in this Christ, this Son of God, this New Adam, should bring ultimate faithfulness and loyalty in representing Him, even to the point of death.

<sup>11</sup> "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

Rev 12:11

Of course, ultimately these believers will have their residence in the ultimate City of Jerusalem on the new earth forever with the King of Kings as His Bride.

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes (*in the blood of the Lamb*), that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city (*Jerusalem on the new earth*).

Revelation 22:14 (*Italics mine*)

And then comes the ultimate happy ending. God, the Main Character, has finally established man as the ruler over creation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

“and they shall reign forever and ever. “

Revelation 22:5

## **Assignment #1**

### **The Individual Rule of Man**

#### **Reading:**

Genesis 1—3

Revelation 19:1--22:5

#### **Study Questions:** Give answers from the Notes

1. Who is the Main Character of the Bible story?

2. Explain the following:

- a. the purpose of God for creation (i.e., for man)?

- b. the meaning of "image" (of God)?

3. Who is the one who attacked God's purpose (the Antagonist)?

4. What problem arose that conflicted with the Main Character's purpose?

5. In what Scripture is God's plan found which describes how He will respond to the conflict and bring about His original purpose?

6. Name four things the New Adam would do to restore God's original plan?

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

7. What event is the resolution (or the victory point for the Main Character) of the story?

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8. What is the message that the author wants the reader to know from the story?

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