**Title: The Great Story of God**

**Speaker: Shane Gage**

<Lord of the Rings video here >

**The Christian faith is an unfolding DRAMA.**This story … not only richly informs our mind; It captivates the heart and the imagination, animating and motivating our action in the world.[ Michael Horton ]

The son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.  He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

[ Colossians 1:15,17 ]

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

[ Colossians 1:18 ]

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

[ Colossians 1:19-20 ]

**Act One – Creation**

God is the Creator

Everything was good

We are made in His image

We were made for perfect fellowship

And God saw everything that he made, and behold,

***it was very good.***

[ Genesis 1:31 ]

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

[ Psalm 100:3 ]

**Act Two – The Fall**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . .

[Romans 3:23 ]

**What was broken in the Fall?**

Peace with **God**

**What was broken in the Fall?**

Peace with **God**

Peace with **one another**

**What was broken in the Fall?**

Peace with **God**

Peace with **one another**

Peace **within ourselves**

**What was broken in the Fall?**

Peace with **God**

Peace with **one another**

Peace **within ourselves**

Peace with **our world**

**Wholeness is brokenness
fully owned and thereby healed**

**Act Three – Redemption**

**All have sinned**

**and fall short of the glory of God**

**. . . and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**       [ Romans 3:23 ]

The essence of sin is **man** substituting himself for **God**.

The essence of salvation is **God** substituting HIMSELF for **man**.

[ John Stott ]

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of

our sins, according to the riches of his grace.

[ Ephesians 1:7 ]

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

Now if we died with Christ,

We believe that we will

also live with him.

[ Romans 6:4,5,8 ]

**Act Four – New Creation**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,

he is a new creation.

The old has passed away;

Behold, the new has come!

[ 2 Corinthians 5:17 ]

All this is from God,

who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation …

[ 2 Corinthians 5:18 ]

We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

[ 2 Corinthians 5:20 ]

What happens when we forget the story?

What happens when we forget our place

in the story?

What happens when we live a faulty,

false narrative?

**Where are *YOU*  in the story … ?**