

# THE GREATEST 'STORY' EVER TOLD...

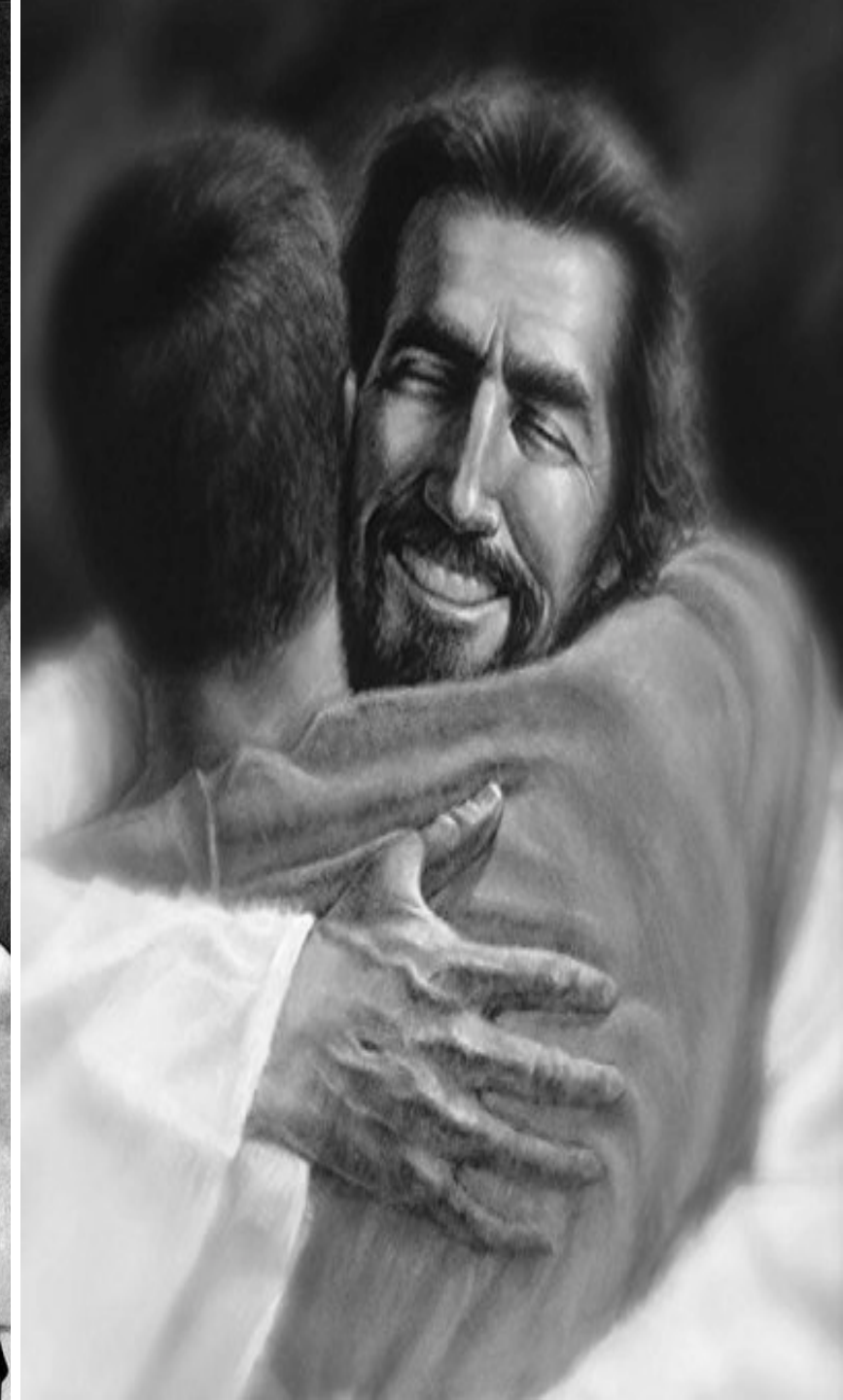
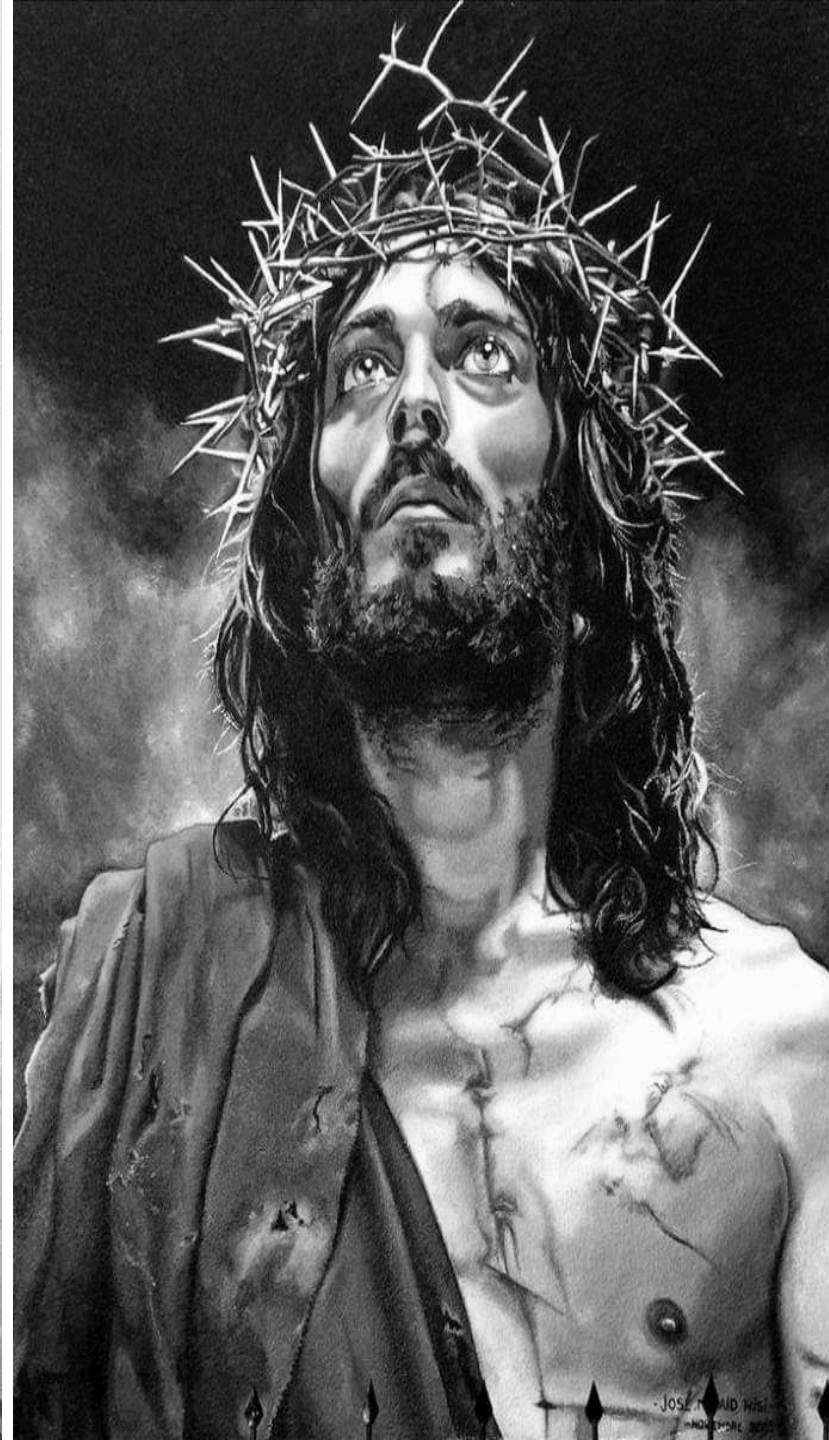
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**YOU MAY BE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER  
THAT MOST OF OUR FAVORITE STORIES  
FOLLOW A 'THREE ACT STRUCTURE'.**

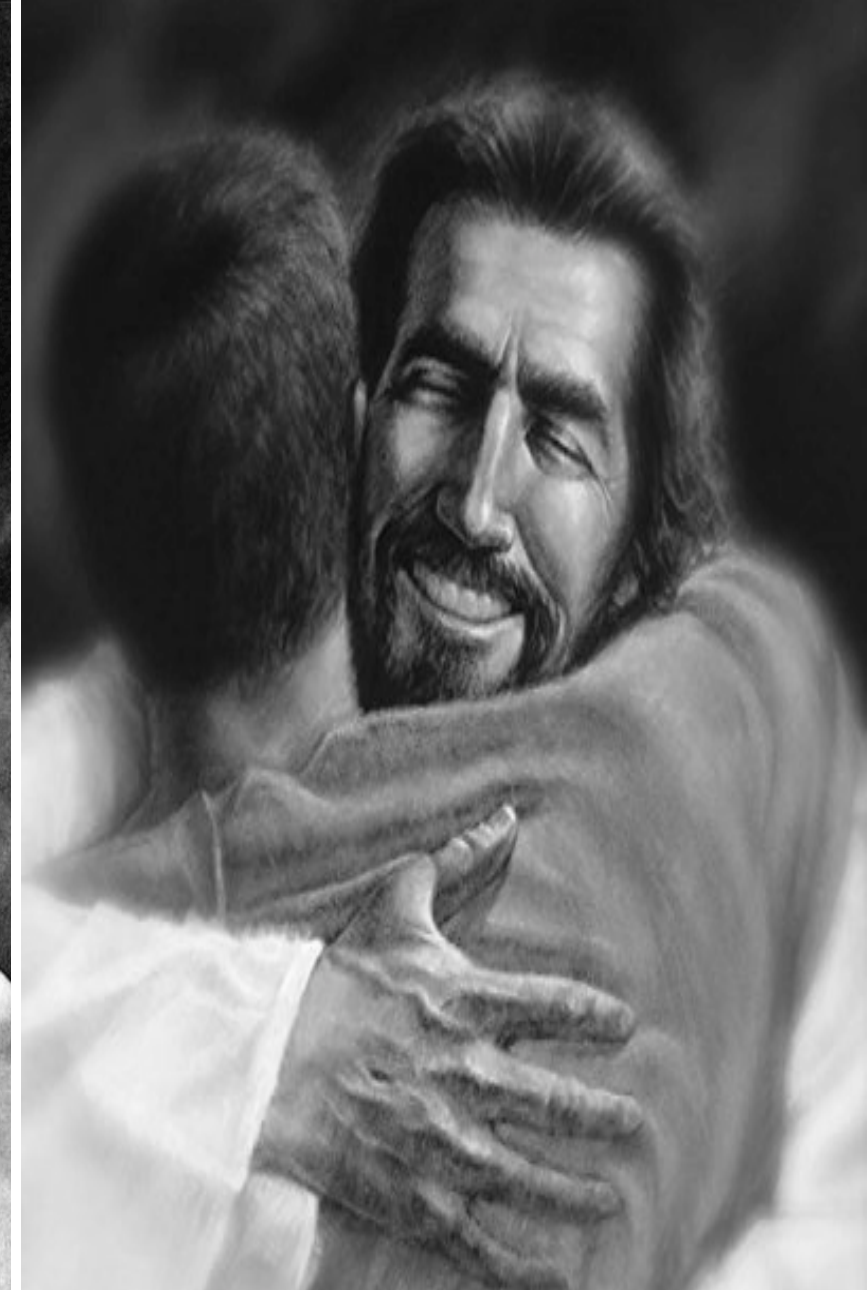
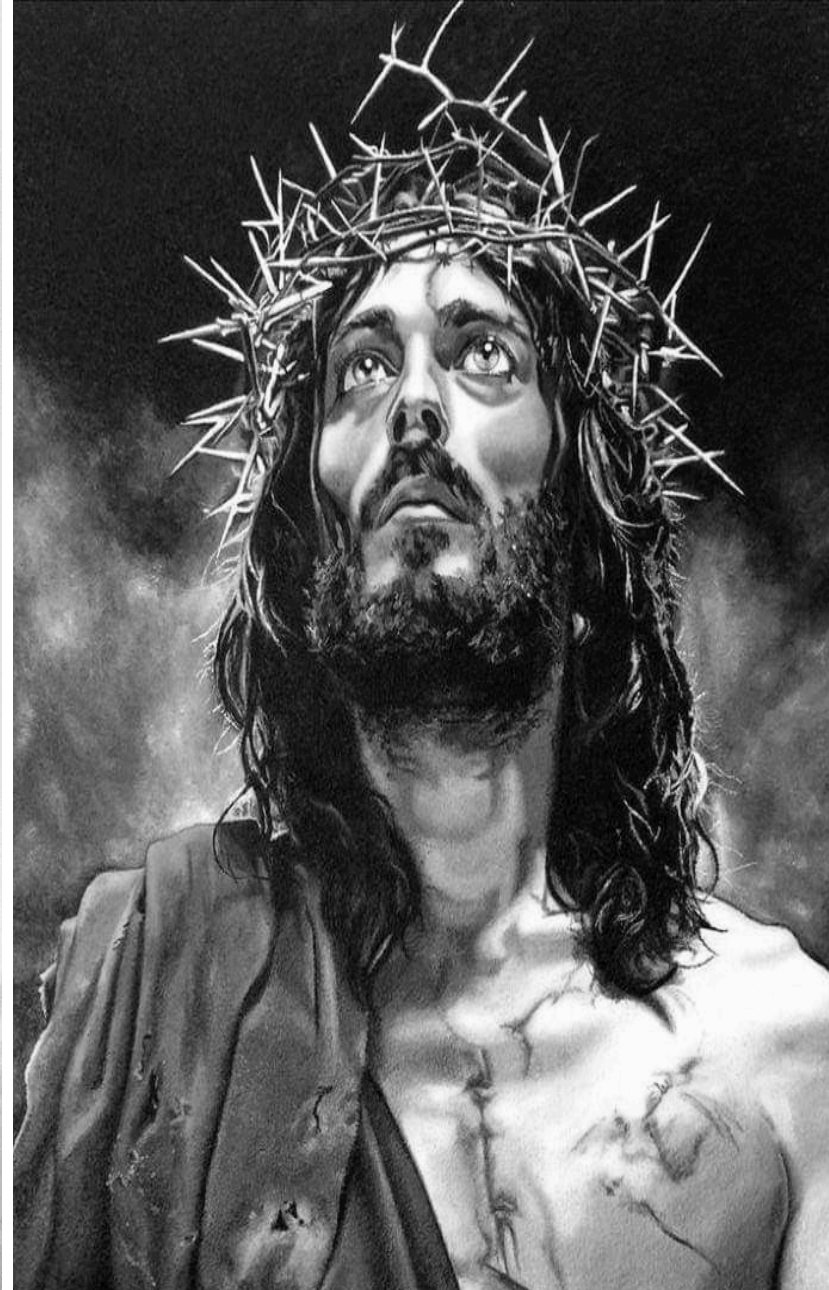
**YOU MAY BE SURPRISED  
TO DISCOVER THAT THE GOSPEL  
FOLLOWS A THREE ACT STRUCTURE.**







**THE GOSPEL WILL BEST BE TOLD IF IT IS  
TOLD IN IT'S THREE ACT STRUCTURE.**



**THREE ACT STORY TELLING**

# ACT 1 - SET UP

**BEGINNING**

**INCITING  
INCIDENT**

**SECOND  
THOUGHTS**

**CLIMAX 1**

**THE  
POINT  
OF NO  
RETURN**



# ACT 2 - CONFLICT

**OBSTACLE 1**

**OBSTACLE 2**

**MID POINT**

**MAJOR  
PLOT  
TWIST**

# ACT 2 - CONFLICT

**OBSTACLE 3**

**DISASTER**

**CRISIS**

**CLIMAX 2**

**ALL  
HOPE  
IS LOST**

# ACT 3 - RESOLUTION

**SUSPENSE**

**CLIMAX 3**

**WRAP UP**

**ALL  
IS WELL**



# ACT 2 - CONFLICT



# ACT 2 - CONFLICT

**OBSTACLE 1**

**OBSTACLE 2**

**MID POINT**

**MAJOR  
PLOT  
TWIST**

# ACT 2 - CONFLICT

**OBSTACLE 3**

**DISASTER**

**CRISIS**

**CLIMAX 2**

**ALL  
HOPE  
IS LOST**



# OBSTACLE 1



IF THE AUDIENCE IS TO STAY  
INTERESTED, ANY GOOD STORY NEEDS  
A SERIES OF NEARLY, IF NOT ENTIRELY  
IMPOSSIBLE **OBSTACLES** FOR OUR  
PROTAGONIST TO **OVERCOME**.

THE FIRST MAJOR OBSTACLE OF OUR  
STORY **OCCURS** WHEN GOD REVEALS  
TO MAN THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO  
**OBEY** HIM CLOSELY ENOUGH TO BE  
CONSIDERED RIGHT AGAIN.



For whoever keeps the whole law  
and yet stumbles at just one point  
is guilty of breaking all of it.

James 20:10

Therefore no one will be declared  
righteous in God's sight by the works  
of the law; rather, through the law we  
become conscious of our sin.

Romans 3:20

For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. Romans 3:20

...know that a person is not justified by the works of the law...because by the works of the law no one will be made right before God. Galatians 2:16

# OBSTACLE 2



THE SECOND MAJOR OBSTACLE OF OUR  
STORY OCCURS WHEN GOD REVEALS  
TO MAN THAT ANIMAL **SACRIFICES** ARE  
INSUFFICIENT TO MAKE ETERNAL  
AMENDS FOR THEIR **SIN**.



...never can those who draw near to worship  
be made perfect by the same sacrifices  
repeated endlessly year after year, . If so, they  
would have stopped being offered! For the  
worshipers would have been cleansed once  
for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for  
their sins.

Hebrews 10:1-2

It is impossible for the blood of bulls  
and goats to take away sins. Instead,  
those sacrifices are an annual  
reminder of sins.

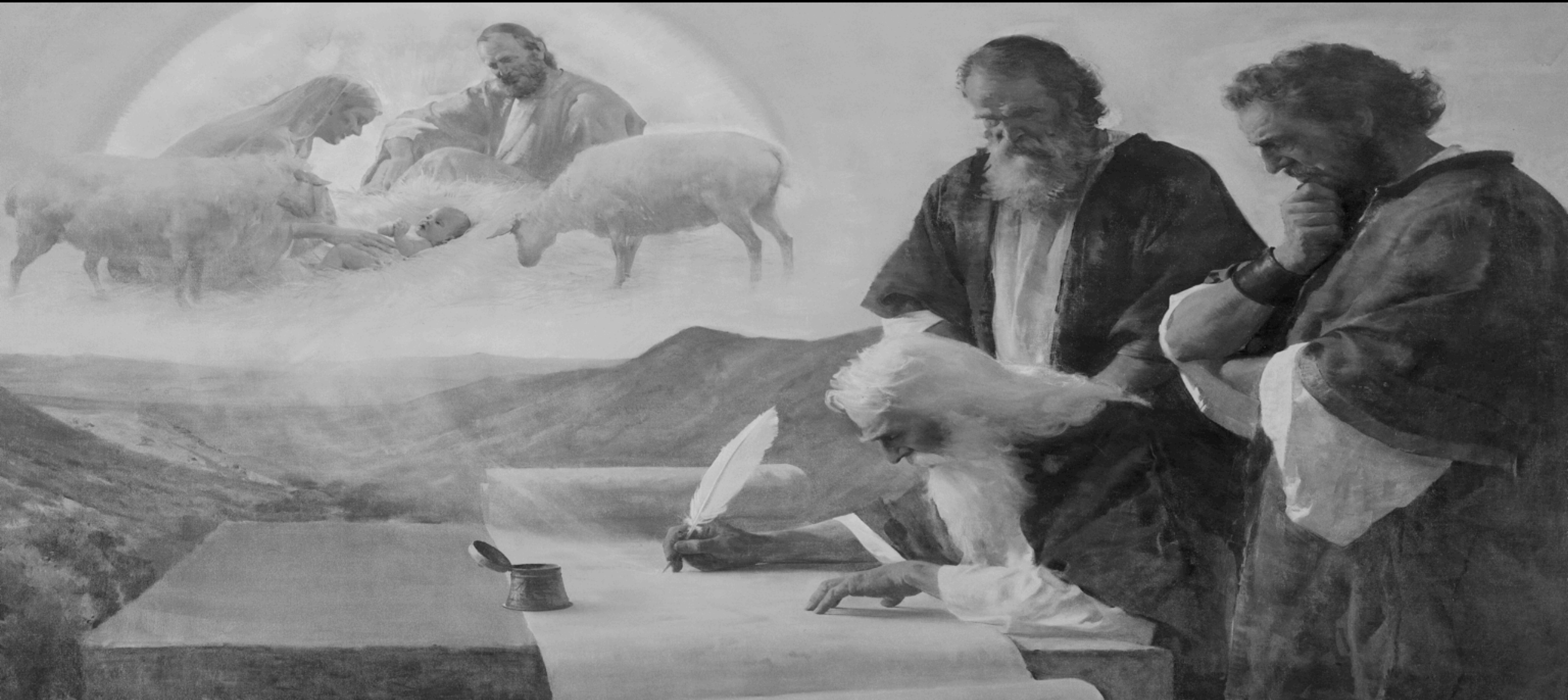
Hebrews 10:3-4

**THROUGH THESE TWO  
INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES  
THE POINT OF NO RETURN HAS  
BEEN WELL ESTABLISHED...**

...THE AUDIENCE NO LONGER **FEARS**  
FOR THE FATE OF OUR PROTAGONISTS,  
AS THEIR DOOM HAS BEEN SECURED.  
THEY NOW WONDER WHEN THE **FINAL**  
BLOW WILL COME AND HOW PAINFUL  
IT WILL BE, IN ORDER TO LOOK AWAY.

**THANKFULLY, LIKE IN ANY GOOD STORY,  
THERE IS A GLIMMER OF HOPE JUST  
AROUND THE CORNER...**

# MID POINT





IF THE AUDIENCE IS TO STAY  
INTERESTED, ANY GOOD STORY NEEDS  
A GLIMMER OF HOPE. THE AUDIENCE  
NEEDS TO BELIEVE THAT **HELP** IS ON  
THE WAY AND NOT ALL IS LOST.

THIS TYPICALLY HAPPENS THROUGH  
FORESHADOWING AND OTHER SUBTLE  
**HINTS** WHICH GIVE THE AUDIENCE  
HOPE...WITHOUT GIVING AWAY TOO  
MUCH OF THE ENDING!

THE MID POINT OF OUR STORY OCCURS  
WHEN GOD REVEALS  
THROUGH HIS PROPHETS THAT THERE  
IS ONE WHO IS COMING WHO WILL SAVE  
**HIS** PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS!

The scepter will not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler's staff from between  
his feet, until he to whom it belongs  
shall come and the obedience of the  
nations  
shall be his. Genesis 49:10

Surely he took up our pain and bore  
our suffering... But he was pierced for  
our transgressions, he was crushed for  
our iniquities; the punishment that  
brought us peace was on him, and by  
his wounds we are healed. Isaiah

53:4-5

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him  
and cause him to suffer, and though  
the LORD makes his life an offering for  
sin...the will of the LORD will prosper in  
his hand. my righteous servant will  
justify many, and he will bear their  
iniquities. Isaiah 53:10-11



**THESE PROPHECIES AND HINTS  
OF HOPE SET US UP PERFECTLY FOR  
THE MAJOR PLOT TWIST THAT IS  
ABOUT TO COME...**

# MAJOR PLOT TWIST



**THE ONLY WAY OUR DEVASTATING  
STORY CAN TAKE A TURN FOR THE  
BETTER IS IF A MAJOR PLOT TWIST  
OCCURS AROUND THE MIDWAY POINT.**

**THIS PLOT TWIST TYPICALLY  
IS THE CATALYST BY WHICH  
'THE FEEL GOOD-ENDING'  
IS SET INTO MOTION.**

**THE SECOND HALF OF ACT 2 AND ALL  
OF ACTS 3 TYPICALLY DEPEND HEAVILY  
ON OR HINGES UPON ON THE MAJOR  
PLOT TWIST AT THE MIDPOINT.**

TYPICAL PLOT TWISTS INCLUDE THE  
INTRODUCTION OF A MAJOR NEW  
**CHARACTER**/HERO OR A SIGNIFICANT  
EVENT/**CHANGE** INVOLVING OUR  
PROTAGONIST.



THE MAJOR PLOT TWIST OF OUR STORY  
OCCURS WHEN THE SECOND-MEMBER  
OF THE DIVINE TRINITY **COMES** TO  
EARTH AS A MAN IN HUMAN FORM.

IT IS HERE AT THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH  
OF JESUS THAT WE ARE INTRODUCED  
TO THE HERO OF OUR STORY AND  
THE PLOT TAKES A SIGNIFICANT  
**CHANGE OF COURSE.**

# OBSTACLE 3



IF THE AUDIENCE IS TO REMAIN  
INTERESTED, ANY GOOD AUTHOR  
KNOWS THAT OUR HERO CAN'T WALK  
A STRAIGHT AND **SIMPLE** LINE TO  
ULTIMATE VICTORY...

TYPICALLY OUR HERO WILL NAVIGATE  
THROUGH A ***SERIES*** OF DIFFICULTIES IN  
THE FORM OF A MAJOR OBSTACLE, A  
DISASTER AND ULTIMATELY A CRISIS.

**OUR HERO, THE SON OF GOD, JESUS...  
ENCOUNTERS MANY SUCH DIFFICULTIES  
BUT SPECIFIC ONES DRIVE THE PLOT  
TOWARDS THE CLIMAX OF ACT 2.**

THE FIRST MAJOR OBSTACLE FOR  
THE HERO IN OUR STORY OCCURS  
WHEN THE KING OF THAT DAY,  
UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE  
ARCH-ENEMY (SATAN)...



**...ISSUES A DECREE TO KILL ALL THE  
BABIES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA OF  
THE BIRTH OF OUR HERO.**

**THIS IS A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER  
TO OUR HERO AND PUTS THE FATE OF  
HUMANITY IN THE BALANCE, WHILE  
ALSO FORESHADOWING THE CLIMAX OF  
ACTS 2... THE DEATH OF OUR HERO.**

**THIS OBSTACLE IS A CLEAR  
DEMONSTRATION OF THE WAR  
BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, OUR HERO  
AND OUR ARCH-ENEMY.**

**IT ALSO SHOWS THE AUDIENCE  
THAT OUR HERO IS IN FOR A LIFE OF  
TROUBLE WITH MANY AGAINST  
HIM...YET HE WILL ULTIMATELY PREVAIL.**

# DISASTER



**THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF  
ACT 2 IS ALWAYS USHERED IN WITH  
A MAJOR DISASTER IN THE LIFE OF OUR  
HERO OR PROTAGONIST.**

THE DISASTER IN OUR STORY  
OCCURS WHEN THE RELIGIOUS  
LEADERS BECOME SO JEALOUS OF  
JESUS THAT THEY PLOT TO BRING HIM  
TO **RUIN** BY KILLING HIM.

THIS DISASTER BEGINS WITH AN  
INCREDIBLY PROPHETIC EVENT WHEN  
JESUS **RAISES** LAZARUS FROM THE  
DEAD, FORESHADOWING HIS OWN  
DEATH-BURIAL-RESURRECTION.



**THIS EVENT IS THE EPITOME OF JESUS'S  
MIRACLES AND LEADS THE RELIGIOUS  
LEADERS TO SET IN MOTION THE PLOT  
TO KILL JESUS.**

...some of them went to the Pharisees  
and told them what Jesus had done...  
So from that day on they plotted to take  
his life. John 11:46 & 53

The height of this disaster occurs when  
the High Priest unknowingly  
prophesizes the purpose and ending of  
the story...

...it is better for you that one man  
die for the people than that the  
whole nation perish. John 11:50

**THIS DISASTER SETS IN MOTION A  
SERIES OF UNSTOPPABLE EVENTS  
WHICH LEAD TO THE CLIMAX OF NOT  
ONLY ACT 2 BUT THE ENTIRE STORY.**

# CRISIS



**THE CRISIS IN OUR STORY OCCURS  
WHEN JESUS IS BETRAYED BY HIS OWN  
DISCIPLE, JUDAS, AND IS LED AWAY AT  
NIGHT FOR A PRIVATE TRIAL.**

# CLIMAX ACT 2





THE BEGINNING OF THE CLIMAX OF  
ACT 2 OCCURS WHEN JESUS IS FOUND  
INNOCENT OF ANY **CRIMES** WORTHY OF  
DEATH, YET IS UNJUSTLY **CONDEMNED**  
TO PHYSICAL DEATH.

THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE JUXTAPOSITION  
**CONTRASTING** THAT THIS EVENT WILL  
END IN THE JUST RELEASE OF  
SPIRITUAL **CRIMINALS** UNTO  
ETERNAL LIFE.

**ANOTHER INCREDIBLE  
FORESHADOWING EVENT OCCURS  
DURING OUR CLIMAX WHEN THEN  
CRIMINAL BARABBAS IS SET FREE ON  
ACCOUNT OF JESUS. THIS FORETELLS  
THE SALVATION OF OUR PROTAGONIST  
(MANKIND) ON ACCOUNT OF JESUS.**

**THE CLIMAX OF ACT 2 OCCURS WHEN  
JESUS IS NAILED TO A CRIMINALS  
CROSS AND BREATHES HIS LAST.**

# ALL HOPE IS LOST



**IN ANY GOOD THREE ACT STORY,  
THE CLIMAX OF ACT 2 SHOULD RESULT  
IN SUCH A MAJOR EVENT THAT THE  
AUDIENCE FEELS AS THOUGH ALL HOPE  
IS LOST, EVIL HAS PREVAILED AND OUR  
PROTAGONIST IS DOOMED.**

‘THE ALL HOPE IS LOST’ MOMENT IN  
OUR STORY OCCURS WHEN JESUS IS  
LAID TO **REST** IN A TOMB, WITH A LARGE  
STONE ROLLED ACROSS THE ENTRANCE  
AND A **REGIMENT** OF SOLDIERS PLACED  
IN FRONT OF IT.

**A GENUINE 'ALL HOPE IS LOST'  
MOMENT MEANS THAT THE FATE OF  
THE PROTAGONIST IS TRULY IN THE  
BALANCE, AND THE ODDS ARE  
GREATLY AGAINST THEM OF SURVIVING  
THIS ORDEAL.**



**THE HERO HAS FAILED, EVIL HAS WON,  
THE ENEMY IS BEGINNING TO  
CELEBRATE...THE PROTAGONIST HAS  
NO WHERE TO RUN AND HIDE.**

**NEXT WEEK, IN ACT 3 WE WILL SEE  
THAT GOD UNDERSTANDS THE POWER  
OF A TIMELY SUSPENSEFUL DELAY,  
IN THE FORM OF THREE DAYS.**

**WE WILL ALSO LEARN ABOUT THE  
CLIMAX OF CLIMAXES OF ALL STORIES  
TOLD IN THE FORM OF AN EARTH  
SHATTERING RESURRECTION.**

**WE WILL ALSO GET A BRIEF WRAP UP  
IN THE FORM OF CLARIFYING  
FLASHBACKS EXPLAINING THE  
MEANING OF IT ALL.**