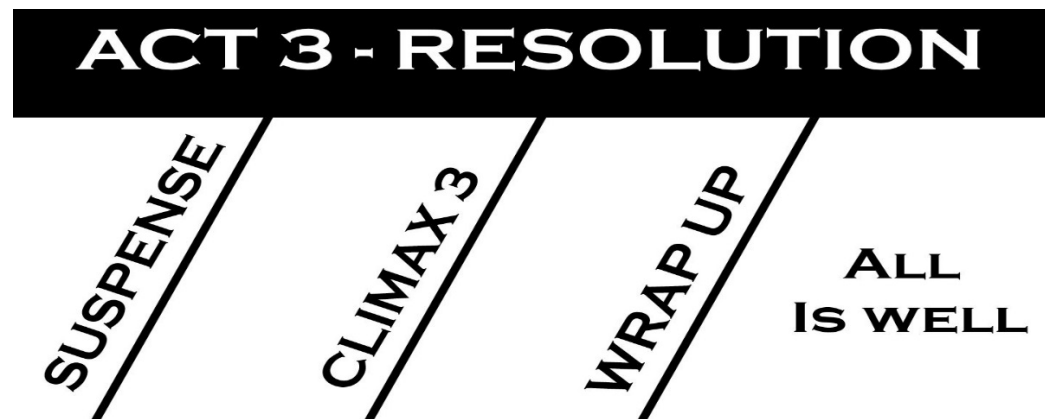


## The Greatest 'Story' Ever Told: Three Act Story Telling



### Suspense

If the audience is to stay interested, any good story needs a suspenseful delay before the ultimate conclusion of the story! The Act 3 suspenseful delay of our story occurs when God's Son remains in the tomb for 3 days. See: [John 19:38, 40-42](#)

Imagine the dismay and the fear of those who had believed that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah! This delay must have felt like an eternity ...especially since they didn't know a happy ending was soon on its way! See: [John 20:19, Mark 16:10](#)

The disciples were found huddled together in fear for their lives...trying to make sense of everything that had just happened. We can't imagine their disappointment during this time. **Remember they are living in the 'All Hope is Lost' stage...**

This stage of the story 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 apparently failed, evil has won, the enemy is beginning to celebrate...the protagonist has nowhere to run and hide.

**Thankfully, that's not where this story ends....**

### Climax Act 3

*Up until this point in human history there had been only 6 accounts of someone being raised from the dead...*

*3 of those occurred during the time of Elijah and Elisha, some 850 years before Christ. The other 3 were performed by Jesus during His ministry. In the 4,000 some years before Christ, God had only raised someone from the dead 3 times. Meaning, a resurrection occurred on average once every 1,333 years... and the prophets who performed those were now with God...The only other person to raise someone from the dead was now dead Himself, buried behind a large stone, guarded by soldiers. Needless to say, the disciples were not anticipating Jesus being raised from the dead...although He had told them that He would. (Matt 16:21, Mark 8:31)*

**The climax of Act 3 of our story occurs when God raises His Son from the dead!**

**See: Matt 28:2-4, Mrk 16:1-14**

What an incredible turn of events! Herod & Pilate did not win, death did not win & Satan did not win...Our hero defeated death and came back to life, prepared to make His enemies His footstool! (Heb 10:13)

Jesus then appeared to the disciples and 500 other followers. (1 Cor 15:6) During this time He began to explain to them the meaning of all that had happened.

## **Wrap Up**

The more complex a story the more important that the author provides a wrap up in the form of clarifying flashbacks or statements explaining the meaning of it all.

Our story is one of the more complex and the most important ever told...therefore the wrap up is critical. Over the period of 40 days after his resurrection Jesus began explaining the meaning of all that had happened. This explanation would be continued further by Peter & Paul. **See: Luke 24:27, Acts 1:3**

**During this wrap up we learn many important truths... Some of the most important are...**

- (1) Jesus is God's one & only Son and is The Promised Deliverer. He came to earth to save all those who are willing to believe in Him, from the punishment of their sins.
- (2) Jesus was perfect, fulfilling the law in every way, living the life which we should have lived, yet could never live.
- (3) Jesus died the death we should have died and He took the punishment which we deserved, for our sins, upon Himself on the cross.
- (4) By His blood, He made a permanent payment for our sins.
- (5) This payment for sin is applied to our account before God by believing what God has said concerning His Son & His work on the cross.
- (6) For those who believe; God promises to forgive them of their sins, cancels their death-debt and considers them righteous in His sight, by giving them the righteousness of His Son.
- (7) For those who believe; God sends His Holy Spirit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> member of the divine-trinity to indwell, empower & guide the believer. The Spirit also serves as a display of God's guarantee of our future inheritance as His own children.

(8) By raising His Son from the dead, God approved the payment made on our behalf and by that He also promises to raise unto eternal life all those who believe - either from the dead or when Christ returns.