

The Rest of the Story

One of the giants of the radio industry was Paul Harvey. Spanning four decades on the airwaves, Paul Harvey spoke in a smooth, velvety voice. He told stories that captured listeners' attention. Paul Harvey presented the backstory of people and events, holding back a key piece of information until the end of the story. Harvey was a master at connecting yesterday to the present or the future, making each story relevant to his listeners. The missing piece of information tied everything all together. After revealing the absent key fact, Harvey would conclude with the line, "And now you know the rest of the story." Then, everything made sense, and the story provided a valuable history lesson. He would sign off with the signature, "Paul Harvey. Good Day!"



The Bible provides many sensational stories about God's power. Hearing stories of Moses parting the Red Sea so that the Israelites could flee Pharaoh's wrath is beyond belief. It is hard to imagine young David defeating the giant Goliath with just a slingshot. Could you imagine what it was like for Mary, a virgin, to learn from the angel Gabriel that she would bear a son? (prophesied in Isaiah 7:14). And the fishermen, who spent an entire night without catching a single fish, lowering their nets at the request from Jesus, instantly catching so many fish that their nets were breaking. As individual stories, none of this made sense. All these stories contradict what the world would think is believable. Yet, they are the backstory of what is to come.

To a person who was not yet a believer, all of these events seemed impossible. There has to be an explanation. As Christians, we know a simple explanation: *With God, nothing is impossible* (Luke 1:37). That broad statement doesn't satisfy the unbeliever. People need proof. A skillful magician can fool us into imagining we saw things that didn't happen as they appeared. A sleight of hand was all it took. There is nothing sleight about what God does.

God doesn't do magic tricks. He changes lives. As Christians, we know the miraculous events recorded in the Bible aren't isolated stories but are part of God's plan. They all point to the Messiah's coming and to His teachings. The stories demonstrate God's power and commitment to accomplish everything He promises, even things that seem impossible. But the "rest of the story" is still to come.



God's story continues with the Good News, that Jesus Christ is the long-awaited Messiah. In life, He taught about the Kingdom of God, and about the resurrection to come. Then, Jesus overcame death. Need witnesses? The Bible records that the resurrected Jesus was seen by over 500 people. The final key piece of information is that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead. Jesus substituted Himself for us, taking our flesh to the cross. He taught us to forgive, so that we would be forgiven and be in a right relationship with God. Then we, too, will be resurrected to an eternal home, if we accept that the resurrection is for us. That is the rest of the story. It ties everything together – from the time of creation to the revelation.

Share God's story with others. Jesus instructs us to do that in The Great Commission: *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:19-20). Only people who know the rest of the story have the understanding needed to believe. Plant the seeds of faith when you share the Good News. On Easter Sunday, we can say, "Jesus has risen today." Because He lives, we can, too. And that is the rest of the story. Good day!