

THE STORYCHANGER

PSALM 66

THE ENDORSEMENTS



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

What makes us buy a book? Marketers tell us that the most influential factors are the author, the title, the cover, and the endorsements. I think we can all understand the appeal of a specific author, an interesting title, and an appealing cover design. But endorsements? What are they and why are they important? Endorsements are the recommendations of the book by well-known experts in the same field. The approval of someone we know or respect can tip us from hesitation to transformation.

That's why we want to look at endorsements for the StoryChanger. I've been trying to persuade you to trust the StoryChanger, Jesus Christ, to trust him to change your story with his Story. But does his Story have any endorsements? Can we find people who would recommend the StoryChanger? Can we find people whose stories have been changed for the better with the StoryChanger's story? Yes, millions of them, and we're going to hear from some of them. **Use endorsements to move from hesitation to transformation.**

BACKGROUND

The StoryChanger series so far:

- **Our Messy Stories**
- **The First Perfect Story**
- **The Villain of the Story**
- **The Failed Authors**
- **The StoryChanger**
- **The Endorsements**

We'll hear from a number of endorsers today, but we begin with David's endorsement in Psalm 66.



**Why did David commend God's story?
First, because God has done great things in world history.**



1. THE STORYCHANGER CHANGED WORLD HISTORY (1-12)

The Greatest Old Testament Event

David called choirs to praise God loudly and joyfully (1-4), because God redeemed Israel from Egyptian slavery, from the Red Sea, and into the Promised Land (5-12). **Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him** (5-6). He reminded the singers of the harsh times Israel endured in Egypt, but also of how God brought them into the Promised Land. **For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance** (10-12).

David reminded Israel of how God massively changed their national story and, therefore, commends this God as the one who can also change their present and future stories. But has God ever done anything greater than this?

The Greatest New Testament Event

Whenever we read a Psalm, we should always ask ourselves, 'How was this Psalm fulfilled in the New Testament?' a practice Jesus himself engaged in (Luke 24:44). It was fulfilled in Christ's even greater redemption on the cross. There, he led captivity captive; defeated sin, death, Satan, and hell; and opened up the Promised Land of heaven to his people. At the foot of the cross, we celebrate the Exodus redemption that Christ accomplished. **Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man** (5). He turned condemnation and death into damnation and life. There we rejoice in him!

Christ's story changed world history. He defeated hell, he atoned for sin, he rose from the dead, and was rewarded with universal authority (Matt. 28:18). However great the Old Testament story of redemption was, the New Testament one is even greater. Jesus changed the story of the world.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Praise God for his great history-changing acts in both Testaments. As we do so, we endorse Christ and commend him to others.

Does history commend Christ to you? God gave us both Testaments to recommend Christ to us. Is your response "Meh" or "Wow"?

THE EMPTY TOMB IS
THE FULLEST ENDORSEMENT.



Jesus changed the world's story.
But can he change my story?



2. THE STORYCHANGER CHANGED MY HISTORY (13-20)

A Personal Endorsement

After praising in verses 1-4, David returns to praise in verses 13-15. This time though, it's not corporate praise but personal praise. It's not plural but singular with five I's and one 'my' in these three verses. His personal praise climaxes in a personal testimony. **Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul** (16). He brought God's story into his own story and saw his own story changed.

A Christ Endorsement

What fueled his endorsement? He mentions sacrifice five times in verses 13-15. Sacrifice was the way Old Testament believers expressed their faith in the coming Savior from sin. Sacrifices did not cleanse from sin but helped cultivate faith in someone who would. As David's eyes saw the sacrifice bleeding, dying, and burning, his heart saw Christ offering himself as a sacrifice for sin. Christ's future story changed David's story a thousand years before it was written! No wonder he burst with **Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul** (16).

An Unexpected Endorsement

When trying to get endorsements for a book, authors and publishers try to get influential and successful people. However, that's not how the StoryChanger works. He generally picks the weak, the unknown, and the failures! For example, remember adulterous, broken, abused, messed up Mrs Samaria whom we heard from a few weeks back. Jesus changed her story and she endorsed him as the StoryChanger, "**Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?**" (John 4:29). David was far from perfect, but that made him a perfect endorser for the StoryChanger.



Diverse Endorsements

Publishers ask authors to get endorsements from a range of people to appeal to a range of readers: men and woman, old and young, pastors and missionaries, specialists and generalists. Each book of the Bible commends Jesus in different ways.

Genesis endorses Jesus as the **Creator**
Exodus endorses Jesus as the **Liberator**
Leviticus endorses Jesus as the **Sacrifice**
Numbers endorses Jesus as the **Guide**
Deuteronomy endorses Jesus as **Covenanter**
Joshua endorses Jesus as the **Conqueror**
Judges endorses Jesus as the **General**
Ruth endorses Jesus as the **Redeemer**
1/2 Samuel endorse Jesus as the **Son of David**
1/2 Kings endorse Jesus as the **King of Israel**
1/2 Chronicles endorse Jesus as **History-maker**
Ezra endorses Jesus as the **Reviver**
Nehemiah endorses Jesus as **Church-builder**
Esther endorses Jesus as the **Protector**
Job endorses Jesus as the **Innocent Sufferer**
Psalms endorses Jesus as our **Song**
Proverbs endorses Jesus as **Wisdom**
Ecclesiastes endorses Jesus as **Satisfier**

Matthew endorses Jesus as the **Promise-Keeper**
Mark endorses Jesus as the **Miracle Worker**
Luke endorses Jesus as the **Great Physician**
John endorses Jesus as the **Son of God**
Acts endorses Jesus as the **Church's Power**
Romans endorses Jesus as the **Justifier**
1 Corinthians endorses Jesus as the **Uniter**
2 Corinthians endorses Jesus as the **Encourager**
Galatians endorses Jesus as the **Freedom Fighter**
Ephesians endorses Jesus as the **Bridegroom**
Philippians endorses Jesus as our **Greatest Joy**
Colossians endorses Jesus as our **Completer**
1 Thessalonians endorses Jesus as our **Hope in Death**
2 Thessalonians endorses Jesus as the **Devil-Crusher**

Song of Solomon endorses Jesus as **Lover**
Isaiah endorses Jesus as the **Suffering Servant**
Jeremiah endorses Jesus as the **New Covenanter**
Lamentations endorses Jesus as the **Faithful One**
Ezekiel endorses Jesus as the **Glory Restorer**
Daniel endorses Jesus as the **King of kings**
Hosea endorses Jesus as the **Backslider's Friend**
Joel endorses Jesus as the **Spirit Sender**
Amos endorses Jesus as the **Roaring Lion**
Obadiah endorses Jesus as the **Vengeance of God**
Jonah endorses Jesus as **Missionary to Gentiles**
Micah endorses Jesus as the **Babe of Bethlehem**
Nahum endorses Jesus as **Slow-but-Sure to Anger**
Habakkuk endorses Jesus as **Mercy-Rememberer**
Zephaniah endorses Jesus as the **Lord of the Day**
Haggai endorses Jesus as the **Desire of all Nations**
Zechariah endorses Jesus as the **Fountain for Sin**
Malachi endorses Jesus as **Angel of the Covenant**

1 Timothy endorses Jesus as the **Church's Mediator**
2 Timothy endorses Jesus as the **Church's Guard**
Titus endorses Jesus as the **Church's Organizer**
Philemon endorses Jesus as the **Slave's Friend**
Hebrews endorses Jesus as the **Great High Priest**
James endorses Jesus as the **Work Producer**
1 Peter endorses Jesus as the **Spotless Lamb**
2 Peter endorses Jesus as the **Judge**
1 John endorses Jesus as the **Advocate**
2 John endorses Jesus as **Come-in-the-Flesh**
3 John endorses Jesus as the **Proud Parent**
Jude endorses Jesus as our **Fall-Preventer**
Revelation endorses Jesus as the **Ultimate Winner**



My Endorsement

I endorse Jesus as my forgiver, my joy, my teacher, my guide, my rest my love, my life, my joy, my all.

Cause I'm just a nobody
Trying to tell everybody
All about Somebody
Who saved my soul
Ever since You rescued me
You gave my heart a song to sing
I'm living for the world to see
Nobody but Jesus
I'm living for the world to see
Nobody but Jesus
Casting Crowns

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Do these endorsements persuade you? How many more do you need? Is there something lacking in him? What story can't he change?

What's your endorsement? How has Jesus changed your story? How do you commend him to others?

COMMEND CHRIST OR
HE WILL CONDEMN YOU



Hear > Change > Tell



CONCLUSION



PRAYER: Thank you, StoryChanger, for these endorsements. Use them to move me from hesitation to transformation. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What makes you hesitate to ask the StoryChanger change your story?
2. What role have Christian testimonies played in your faith journey?
2. What was the role of sacrifice in the Old Testament?
3. Is there a better way to sum up each Bible book's endorsement of Christ?
4. How has Jesus changed your story?
5. If you were asked to offer an endorsement of Christ, what would you say?
6. Who will you endorse Christ to this week?

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