



# soulmind

Connecting you with God's heart

## Echoes of Eden

Ephesians 6:10-18

Welcome to **Soulmind**.

In preparing for this week's topic, I took the time to re-read a short book: ***Epic***, by John Eldredge. I found his unique explanation of the Story that God is telling to be beautifully moving and full of hope. His imaginative approach really helped me to make sense of the Bible as a whole, and to understand from a heart level the hugeness of what God is up to and why this really matters in my life.

If you have ever struggled to understand the biblical story, this short, easy-to-read book is for you. Here's a link to [BUY THE BOOK](#) through Amazon if you are interested.



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Be sure to check out the **SOUL PRACTICE** suggestion for this week (*see below*).

## Topic Overview

Have you ever had the sense of something so much bigger than yourself, sometimes catching a glimpse of something so beautiful, something strange or exciting, and yet peaceful? Like, that overwhelming feeling of awe at the birth of your child, or the lump that comes into your throat at a poignant moment in a movie; a piece of music that taps into something deep inside, a warm sense of "rightness" when you give of yourself sacrificially, or that sense of deep mystery and beauty watching a sunset over the ocean. NT Wright describes this as "echoes of a voice that points beyond itself."

So what are these echoes pointing to?

For years, I didn't really get how the Bible stories from centuries ago had anything to do with my life now, or what the long litany of the people of Israel had to do with Jesus. But, slowly I've begun to understand that the Bible is telling an on-going epic story that isn't over yet – a drama that we are now experiencing. This story is full of adventure, romance, danger, and betrayal, with a hero/lover and a evil villain. Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us that we have eternity written in our

hearts, planted there by God – a Story (with a capital “S”) that we just can’t escape; somehow we just know there has to be more to our existence.

The Bible stories of the people of Israel are not just random stories, but are pieces of the saga that tell of God’s long-term plan to rescue and redeem the hearts of people and restore things back to the way they were meant to be – before evil entered the Story. The circumstances of your life are not just random events, but are interactive scenes in which you have an important role to play – one full of adventure, intrigue, sacrifice, danger, love, regret, and hope.

I believe the echoes are whispers from the One who loves us and will do whatever it takes to win our hearts back to Him. The voice is calling to us of a world set right again, a foretaste of what living life with God at the center will be like, pointing to the ending of the Story – which has already been written. Like all great stories, the villain is disposed of, the hero rescues the heroine, and they all live happily ever after – the kind of ending our hearts long for.

How would you live differently if you really believed this Story to be true? Your part matters.

## *Daily Scriptures*

### **MONDAY**

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#### **Revelation 21:3 (NLT)**

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

### **TUESDAY**

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#### **Ephesians 6:10-11, 18 (NLT)**

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil...Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

### **WEDNESDAY**

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#### **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT)**

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they

### **THURSDAY**

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#### **Romans 8:19-21 (MSG, NLT)**

The created world itself can hardly wait for what’s coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. All creation anticipates the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

### **FRIDAY**

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#### **Hebrews 11:23-25 (NLT)**

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

## Doing Your Part

### SOUL PRACTICE

#### Prayer Walking

Is there someone weighing heavy on your heart who is far from God and you don't know what to do or say? You've most likely heard, or said yourself, "Well, I've done all I can possibly do. I guess I'll just have to pray." What if we did it the other way around?

Consciously talking with God (prayer) as you walk can help you to see how God connects with every part of your environment, and keep you focused on what you are doing. Start your time by inviting the Holy Spirit, and begin walking. As you walk and pray conversationally (don't close your eyes!), be open to images or words the Spirit is giving you, people He might want you to talk to, or actions He might be calling you to take. Listen to and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in your prayers, knowing that when we don't even know what exactly to pray for, He does, and will articulate what you cannot.

### Wise Words

*"There is far more going on around us than meets the eye. We live in a world with two halves, one part that we can see and another part that we cannot. We must live as though the unseen world (the rest of reality) is more weighty and more real and more dangerous than the part of reality we can see."*

~ John Eldridge *Epic*

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