

# THE LIFE OF PI

According to our post-modern society, there is no Great Story. We all create our own story of life.

This philosophy is expressed in the film *The Life of Pi*, based on the 2001 novel by Yann Martel, which went on to become an international bestseller. The movie begins when a writer meets up with an Indian man, Piscine (or Pi), who has a story to tell that he claims will “make him believe in God.” Pi grew up the son of a zookeeper in India. As a child, he embraced several different religious practices (Islam, Christianity, Hinduism).

When his father sells the zoo, they embark on a voyage to Canada, but the ship sinks, and Pi is stranded on a lifeboat with a zebra, an orangutan, a hyena and a tiger. The hyena kills and eats the zebra and the orangutan. The tiger then kills the hyena and saves Pi from becoming the hyena’s next victim. Pi survives in the lifeboat for 227 days by taming the tiger and overcoming hunger, thirst, heat and loneliness.

In the end, Pi offers another version of the events in which the animals represent a French chef, his mother and a Japanese sailor.

Pi advises the writer that both stories share the same set of circumstances. In both accounts, his mother dies, an evil cook commits murder and Pi suffers greatly. He asks the writer, “Which story do you prefer?” The writer responds, “The story with the tiger; that’s the better story.”



Pi replies: “And so it is with God.”

The film reflects the ideas of a post-modern society where religion is something we conjure up to make sense of life. What *The Life of Pi* is suggesting is that there is no Great Story – just the one we tell ourselves to dress up the real one.

But that’s not the story of the Bible. According to Scripture, God sent a Redeemer into the world to offer healing and redemption so that our story may become a part of the Great Story of God’s love and redemption. He redeems not just our souls but our stories!

In God’s Great Story, Jesus left the throne room of heaven to be born in a lowly stable, grew into manhood to become a teacher, healer and miracle-worker, was crucified, resurrected, and offers eternal life in heaven through grace triggered by faith in Christ. That’s God’s Great Story.

And we can praise Him for it!

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter