

"M@ANA" GOSPEL

By Timaree Goertzen

Waves roar upon the shoreline; crashing into the sand like a **HEART SPLITTING** right open. A heart like yours and mine that feels big feelings and asks big questions. And one of those big

questions might just be three simple words - *"Who am I?"*

So simple. And yet, it can feel like a tidal wave sweeping overhead. Am I someone's child, or parent, or spouse, or friend, or student? And is that all that I am? Maybe your soul is asking this too. Wondering if

there **IS SOMETHING MORE OUT THERE** - if maybe *YOU* were made for just a little bit more. We search for it in our activities and accomplishments, but those often leave us feeling even more lonely and empty. It can be easy to become an island when our soul is feeling left out at sea. But when our lives become islands, our hearts slowly decay. Maybe you are standing at the edge of the water, wondering what it looks like to get off the island. What is beyond the reef? If your world feels a little bit broken and misunderstood, that's because it is. But it wasn't always that way.

Our world was once a paradise. Perfect in every way.

God created man to be filled by Him - to be His beloved. But man decided they knew better than God. And because of that, **OUR WORLD FELL UNDER A CURSE**. And the curse could not be fixed by human hands or even a demigod. No, in this story,

God fixes the curse through Jesus.

He sent Jesus to both pay the cost and provide an infinite solution for all humanity. *Paradise will one day be restored.* And in the

Christian story, paradise is restored forever. We can step off the island and find the place that our hearts long to be - in the arms of our

Savior. *He is the Chief who fills our longings and promises to make all things new.*

THIS IS THE STORY OF JESUS' VICTORY - NOT A DEMIGOD, BUT FULLY GOD - FIXING EVERYTHING AND INVITING US TO KNOW EXACTLY WHO WE ARE - CHILDREN OF THE TRUE CHIEF.

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