

LOVING THE BRIDE OF CHRIST: What is a Healthy Church Member?

Mark #2 – Gets the Bible’s Big Storyline

I. Introduction

A. What can we learn about God from Google Maps?

1. The problem of always “zooming in”
2. How great is “traffic mode”?! How great is “terrain mode”?!?

B. A Linley Wynne-ing Breakthrough

1. “What do you think God is like?” vs. “What do you *like* to think God is like?”
2. The Key: View the Bible as one Big Story

C. But Whose Story Is It? - The Lord of the Rings vs. The LORD of Heaven and Earth

“That the Old Testament tells a story needs no defense. My point is much greater however. The Old Testament tells its story as the story or, rather, as part of that ultimate and universal story that will ultimately embrace the whole of creation, time, and humanity within its scope. In other words, in reading these texts we are invited to embrace a metanarrative, a grand narrative. And on this overarching story is based a worldview that, like all worldviews and metanarratives, claims to explain the way things are, how they have come to be so, and what they will ultimately be...It is a story that...[is] a rendering of reality—and account of the universe we inhabit and of the new creation we are destined for.”

-Chris Wright, *God Mission: The Key to Unlocking the Bible’s Grand Narrative*, p. 71, 73.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

DATE	EVENT	FOUND IN
Prehistory	Creation – Garden of Eden – Fall – Cain down to Noah	Genesis
2100-1446 BC	God calls Abraham – Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Slavery in Egypt	Genesis, Exodus [Job?]
1446-1350 BC	Exodus from slavery in Egypt –Wandering in the wilderness – Giving of Law – Enter Promised Land	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua [Psalms]
1350-931 BC	Confusion under judges – Kingdom established under Saul, David, Solomon	Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, [Psalms, Prov, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs]
931-586 BC	Divided Kingdom, God destroys Northern kingdom of Israel through Assyrians (722 BC), then Southern kingdom of Judah through Babylonians (586 BC)	1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chron, [Ps, Isaiah, Jer, Hosea, Joel?, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah,
586-536 BC	EXILE from Promised Land	[Ps, Lam, Ezekiel, Daniel, Obadiah]
536-430 BC	Jews return to Judah to rebuild Jerusalem and Temple	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther? [Psalms, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi]

THE NEW TESTAMENT

DATE	EVENT	FOUND IN
~4-33 AD	John the Baptist – Earthly Life/Ministry of Jesus	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
33-65 AD	Ascension, Pentecost – Paul’s conversion (33 AD) – Spread of Gospel	Acts
44-62 AD	Perseverance through hardship taught to Christians	James
47-48 AD	Paul’s Letters during first missionary journey	Galatians
49-52 AD	Paul’s Letters during second missionary journey	1-2 Thessalonians
52-57 AD	Paul’s Letters during third missionary journey	1-2 Corinthians, Romans
60-62 AD	Paul’s Roman house arrest	Eph, Phil, Col, Philemon
64-65 AD	Paul’s Ministry in Greece	1 Timothy, Titus
65 AD	Paul’s Roman Prison and Death	2 Timothy
65-67 AD	Jude, brother of Jesus, teaches that grace doesn’t give license to sin	Jude
60-68 AD	Peter encourages Christians to stand firm through persecution	1-2 Peter
Pre-70 AD	Christ proclaimed as superior to Jewish Christians	Hebrews
85-95 AD	John warns against false teaching and encourages hospitality to those who preach the Gospel	1-3 John
96 AD	John calls for faithfulness until final judgment and blessing in Christ	Revelation

SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE = The Bible is the triune God’s revelation of who He is and what He has done, supremely through Jesus Christ, to lovingly and graciously re-establish His covenant relationship with a fallen people in order to display His own glory and receive all due worship as the only sovereign Creator-God.

III. How to Put the Pieces Together

A. Try to link New Testament passages to the Old Testament

1. “How does this passage a fulfillment of something promised in the OT?”
2. “How is this New Testament idea different from or similar to an OT teaching?”
3. “In what way does this New Testament passage clarify, unveil, or amplify something from the OT?”

A. Read the Old Testament with Jesus and the New Testament in view

1. “Where does this passage fit in the timeline of Bible-history?” (see chart above) “How does this passage a fulfillment of something promised in the Old Testament?”
2. “How does this passage point to God’s work through Jesus?”
3. “How does this truth about Israel relate to the New Testament idea of the church?”

IV. A Few Case Studies

A. LEVITICUS 1:1-9

The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, ² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock.

³ "If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. ⁴ He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. ⁵ Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. . . . And Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar; ⁹ but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

1. When in redemptive-history was Leviticus given? (*first key question!*) Why all the detailed regulations for approaching God? What does these details say about God? What do they say about us?
2. Who was required to do the killing of the animal? Can you visually imagine this?
3. How was God teaching Israel (and us) about the grand storyline of the Bible?

“[Jesus] entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.” (Heb 9:12)

4. How can reading Leviticus help you love Jesus more?

B. ACTS 6:1-4

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

1. Where in redemptive-history did Acts take place? What was going on? What is going on in this passage?
2. Why was important to get this mercy-ministry problem right in light of the Bible’s storyline?
3. How can reading Acts help you love God more as a church member?