

The BIBLICAL METANARRATIVE

The story we are all a part of

The metanarrative of scripture is the Bible's overarching story, or "big picture". It's a narrative that gives meaning and context to the Bible's many books and stories.

Hermeneutic Principle: You can make sense of the parts by understanding the _____.

The Bible isn't _____ a collection of stories; it's a unified narrative that reveals God's character, His plan for creation, and humanity's place within it.

Key elements of the Metanarrative

- _____: God created the world and everything in it. Genesis tells that in the beginning, God created all things ex nihilo, or out of nothing, by His spoken Word. He created the world and all that is in it. His crowning work was the creation of humans made in His own image (imago dei).
- _____: Humans rejected God's rule, resulting in sin and brokenness. Man and woman were created for fellowship with God, but Adam and Eve broke that fellowship by disobeying His command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The punishment was death, bringing a curse to all of creation, and now we each have that same sin nature that deserves death.
- _____: God rescues broken humans and heals the broken world. Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world to restore us to fellowship with the Father. He lived a sinless life, then offered Himself as a sacrifice by dying on the cross to pay for our sins. Those who turn from sin (repent) and put their faith in His death and resurrection are made right with the Father and receive eternal life.
- _____: God's kingdom is fully established, and there is no more death or crying. While relationship with the Father is restored for those who put their faith in Jesus, the world is still lost in sin and suffers the effects of evil. Jesus will one day return to destroy the Devil and restore all things. Evil will be judged, creation will be restored, and believers will live forever and reign with Him.

****Examples of the metanarrative in the Bible****

- Ephesians 1:9-10: Speaks of a _____ will, purpose, and unity.
- Galatians 4:4: Suggests an _____

Importance of the meta-narrative

The meta-narrative helps us understand the Bible's _____ and how it relates to our lives.

Two General Truths about God from the Biblical Metanarrative

First, We learn that God _____ Himself.

Secondly, we learn that God Keeps His _____.

(We will study the first today and begin looking to the promises next week.)

I. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

A. _____ Revelation (Rom. 1:19-20)

"[We] may have knowledge of God and not be saved, but he can never be saved without knowledge of God."
John Gerstner, Theology for Everyman

B. _____ Revelation

1. Through _____ (John 1:18)

The term "glory" literally speaks of God's _____ or significance.

2. Through the _____ (2 Timothy 3:16)

While the incarnate Word is an exact embodiment of the divine Creator, Scripture is likewise a special and divine revelation from God to men (Heb. 1:1).

It is a fixed written _____ from the Creator to his creatures.

"The Bible, therefore, is God's revelation of Himself to mankind, in order that His character may be clearly demonstrated, seen, and to whatever degree He desires, understood. We are told that 'all scripture is God-breathed' (II Timothy 3:16). Thus, the value of examining the words of Scripture to know Him is great, for they are His words—His own accounting of Himself and His plan."

Christopher Cone, The Promises of God