

God's Story & God's Book

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Learning to Study the Bible through the Story Lens

Creation → Fall → Redemption → New Creation



During the battle, Rebel spies managed to steal secret plans to the Empire's ultimate weapon, the DEATH STAR, an armored space station with enough power to destroy an entire planet.

Fascination with any subject makes a person a student and a learner.

The more you love, the more you learn.
The more you learn, the more you love.

We love to connect with make-believe worlds and stories.
We love our sports heroes and championship events.

What if the ultimate epic story is true?
What if reality is indeed an "adventure" or a quest?
What if the "competition" is cosmic?

**KILL THE DRAGON,
GET THE GIRL**

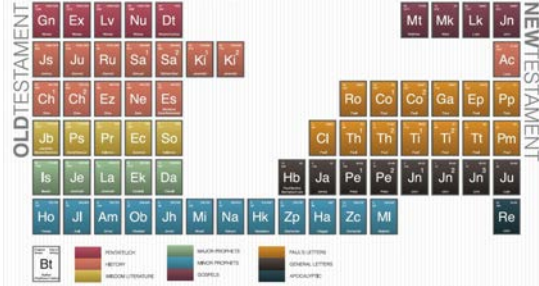
Why Bible Study is Tough

Bible study is tough because:

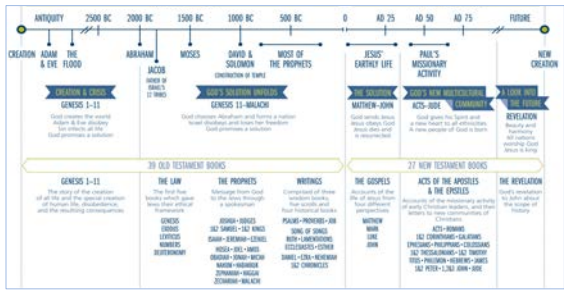
- Too long
- Too long ago
- Too much history
- Too weird
- Too boring
- Too scary
- Too much information
- Too hard to understand
- Too _____



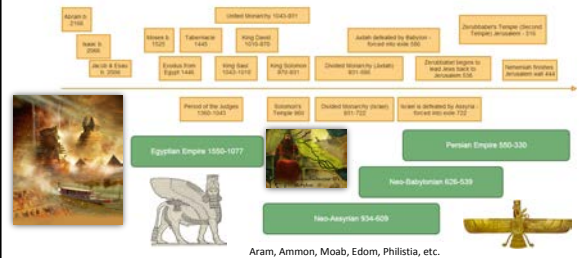
Why Bible Study is Tough: The Bible Library



Why Bible Study is Tough: The Bible Timeline



Why Bible Study is Tough: ANE Historical Background



Why Bible Study is Tough: Variety of Literary Genres



Different types of literature with complex rules of interpretation.

- Parables
- Apocalyptic
- Poetry
- Prophecies

Why Bible Study is Tough

Bible Study is like putting together a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle **without the box cover**.

- Start by collecting:
- Border pieces
 - Similar colors
 - Similar patterns



We only see in 'bits and pieces'.

The Big Picture is missing.

Few patterns
Few themes
No interest

When the Cover Picture is found, it is easier to fit the 'bits and pieces' into place.

The Bible as Grand Story

All those "bits and pieces", OT stories culminate to form a Grand Story reaching its heights in the coming of Messiah Jesus.

The Grand Story: Perspective Shift

<p>Bits and Pieces Christian: How does God fit into the story of my life?</p>	<p>Grand Story Christian: How does my little life fit into God's grand story?</p>
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Finding the "Cover" Picture of the Bible Puzzle

John 5:³⁹ You search the **Scriptures** because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is **they that bear witness about me**, ⁴⁰ yet **you refuse to come to me** that you may have life.

Finding the "Cover" Picture of the Bible Puzzle

On the road to Emmaus....

Luke 24:²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"


²⁷ And beginning with **Moses and all the Prophets**, he interpreted to them in **all the Scriptures** the things **concerning himself**.

Finding the "Cover" Picture of the Bible Puzzle

Later, Jesus appeared to his disciples and explained.....

Luke 24:44 Then he said to them,

"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."



⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them,

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Finding the "Cover" Picture of the Bible Puzzle


Tanakh

ToraH תורה

Prophets נביאים

Writings כתובים

FULFILLED
IN
CHRIST



Luke 24:27 Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

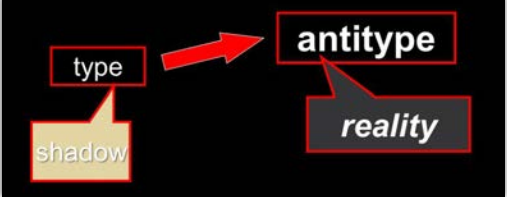
Luke 24:44 Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Finding the "Cover" Picture of the Bible Puzzle

1 Peter 1:10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

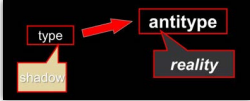


Finding the "Cover" Picture of the Bible Puzzle



TYPE — a figure, representation, or symbol of something to come, as an event in the Old Testament foreshadows another in the New Testament. Types generally find their fulfillment in the person and ministry of Christ, but they sometimes relate to God, His people, or some other reality.

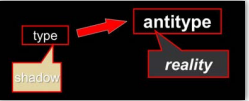
Finding the "Cover" Picture of the Bible Puzzle



Romans 5:14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

1 Corinthians 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

Finding the "Cover" Picture of the Bible Puzzle



Adam (Type)	Jesus (Antitype)	Israel (Type)	Jesus (Antitype)
The first Adam	The last Adam	Son of Abraham	Son of God
The father of our race	The new life given	3 day journey to Mountain	Dead for parts of 3 days
Alone before Eve created	Without his bride while on earth	"Sacrificed" on the altar by Abraham	Sacrificed on the cross by God
Life before he fell asleep	Earthly life	Figuratively raised from the dead (Gen. 22:2-12)	Literally rose from the dead
Falling asleep	Earthly death		
Awakening from sleep	Spiritual life after resurrection		
Joseph (Type)	Jesus (Antitype)		
Thrown into a pit by his brothers	Killed by his Jewish brethren		
Brought out of the pit	Resurrected after death		
Exalted to the right hand of Pharaoh (Gen. 41:39-46)	Exalted to the right hand of God (Mark 16:19)		

JESUS IS BETTER - THE SHADOW & THE REALITY IN HEBREWS

THE OLD COVENANT with 'our fathers' in the past	promise = shadow	fulfillment = reality	THE NEW COVENANT with 'us' in these days
angels = God's messengers	Jesus the Son is superior to the angels (1:1-14)	Jesus = God's Son = best creation, glory of God, superior to God, heavenly, priest, Lord	Jesus = God's Son = best creation, glory of God, superior to God, heavenly, priest, Lord
the message of angels	Jesus the Son is superior to the message of angels (2:1-4)	Jesus = Son over God's house	Jesus = Son over God's house
Moses = servant in God's house	Jesus the Son is superior to Moses (3:1-6)	Jesus = Son over God's house	Jesus = Son over God's house
Aaron's Levitical priests = sinful, impermanent, mortal, must offer sacrifices for themselves before offering for others	Jesus the High Priest is superior to Aaron (4:14-5:1)	Jesus = Son over God's house	Jesus = Son over God's house
Melchizedek = eternal priest	Jesus the High Priest is superior to the priesthood of Melchizedek (5:4-10)	Jesus = Son over God's house	Jesus = Son over God's house
Levitical priests = sinful, impermanent, mortal, must offer sacrifices for themselves before offering for others	Jesus the High Priest is superior to the Levitical priesthood (7:9-28)	Jesus = Son over God's house	Jesus = Son over God's house

Biblical Imagery: The Gospel of Many Colors

Type / Antitype
Jesus: central figure of God's revelation, fulfilling a variety of imagery and themes forecasted in the Old Testament, explained in the New Testament and culminating in our future.




1. Creation – New Creation Themes
2. Covenant Themes
3. Garden/Temple of Eden
4. Mountain Imagery
5. Water Imagery
6. Clothes/Armor Imagery
7. Lamp Imagery
8. Tree/Plant/ Agricultural Imagery
9. Oath/Promise Theme
10. Sword/Cut Off Theme
11. God in your midst
12. Theophany Imagery
13. Sacrifice Imagery
14. Seed of Woman Imagery
15. Shepherd & Sheep Imagery
16. Righteousness Imagery
17. Wedding Themes

From Creation to the New Creation





Progression of Christ-Typological Imagery in God's Grand Story

First Two Books of the Bible
Genesis 1-2



Garden to Garden City





Last Two Books of the Bible
Revelation 21-22

Creation → Fall → Redemption → New Creation


Genesis 1-11	Revelation 19-22	
Benefic people scattered	God's people unite to bring his presence	19A-7
Marriage of Adam and Eve	Marriage of Lamb and his bride, the church	19:7-21:2, 9
God abandoned by selfish people	God's people (those who remain, those of Christ) made ready for God, marriage of Lamb	19:7-21:2, 9-21
Expulsion from beauty of Eden	Involvement in language support of death	19:9
Satan introduces sin into world	Satan and sin are judged	19:11-21:3, 16
The serpent deceives humanity	The ancient serpent is bound "to keep him from deceiving the nations"	20:2-3
God gives humans dominion over the earth	God's people will reign with him forever	20:4, 6, 20:6
People rebel against the true God resulting in physical and spiritual death	God's people that, death to worldly the true God and thus experience life	20:4-6
Selfish people turn away from life	God's people have that names written in the Book of Life	20:4, 6, 21:3, 27
Death enters the world	Death is put to death	20:14, 21:4
God creates that heaven and earth, eventually cursed by sin	God creates a new heaven and earth where sin is nowhere to be found	21:1
Water symbolizes unbridled chaos	There is no longer any sea (symbol of evil)	21:1
Sea brings pain and tears	God comforts his people and removes crying and pain	21:4
Selfish humanity cursed with wandering (restless)	God's people given a permanent home	21:3
Continually rebuffed	Complete community acceptance	21:3, 7
Selfish people are banished from presence of God	God lives among his people	21:3, 7, 22, 22:4
Creation begins to grow and end die	All things are made new	21:5
Water used to destroy wicked humanity	God purifies those with water from spring of life	21:6, 22:1
"In the beginning God..."	"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End"	21:6
Selfish humanity suffers a wandering exile in the land	God gives his children an inheritance	21:7
Sea enters the world	Sea banished from God's city	21:6, 22, 22:15
Selfish humanity separated from presence of holy God	God's people experience God's holiness (holy city = Holy of Holies)	21:15-21
God creates light and separates it from darkness	No more night or natural light, God himself is the source of light	21:23, 22:5
Language of male humanity continued	God's people is a multicultural people	21:24, 26, 22:2
Selfish people sent away from garden	New heaven/earth includes a garden	22:2
Sea results in spiritual darkness	God's people may eat freely from the tree of life	22:2, 14
Selfish people cursed	God blesses the nations	22:2
Selfish people refuse to acknowledge God	The curse removed from indwelt humanity and they become a blessing	22:3
Selfish people refuse to acknowledge God	God's people serve him	22:3
Selfish people refuse to acknowledge God	God's people will "see his face"	22:4

Biblical Theology: The Grand Story

Creation → Fall → Redemption → New Creation

Law – Psalms – Prophets >>> Gospels – Acts – Epistles – Revelation



Biblical Theology: The Grand Story









Eden - Noah - Abraham - Moses - David - Jesus

Covenants define Major Chapters in God's Story

Law – Psalms – Prophets >>> Gospels – Acts – Epistles – Revelation

Covenant: The Foundation of Bible Categories

- God Reveals Himself in Scripture as Covenant Lord.
- He is the Great King, the Creator/Redeemer who relates to his creatures on the basis of a covenant relationship.
- The Bible is a covenant document detailing the privileges and responsibilities for image bearers in relationship with the Great King.





Creation: Genesis

Lord of all: Creation - 6 days and rest
God's Authority, Control & Presence

Adam/Eve: Image Bearers / Vice-Regents
Blessing: Be Fruitful & Multiply, Dominion
Work/Serve & Keep/Care/Guard
Sabbath Rest – Rhythm of life

Eden: Yahweh's Garden Throne:
Mountain of the Lord/Four Rivers
Gold / Precious Stones

Two Trees: Test of Loyalty/Discerning Good & Evil
You Will Surely Die / Covenant Curse

Fall: Sin's Impact & Promised Redemption

Genesis 3 - God's curses on the created order:

- on the serpent - Seed of the woman will "bruise" the serpent's head and have his heel bruised.
- on Eve's childbearing – pain & future seed
- on Adam's labor - toil - futility - death






Fall: Sin's Impact & Promised Redemption

Blood: God replaces their fig leaves with skins of slain animals to hide guilt/shame.
The idea of the substitute/sacrifice introduced.

Unclean Imagery cast out of Eden:

Cherubim –Seraphim – Four Living Creatures
Flashing Sword
Guarding the holiness of God's presence

Covenant with Noah: Fallen world / de-created

Genesis 6 Sin/Violence overwhelm the planet.
LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth

De-creation: Destruction of world back to Genesis 1
Salvation found in the Ark alone.

Anticipates a future renovation by fire: 2 Peter 3:5-7

COMMON DEPRIVITY






Covenant with Noah: Living in a fallen world

Genesis 8:²⁰ Then **Noah built an altar to the LORD** and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Genesis 9:¹¹ I **establish my covenant with you**, that never again shall all flesh be **cut off** by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."



Tower of Babel: Rebellious world remains

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a **tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves**, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."



Covenant with Abraham: In you every family will be blessed

Then God calls idolatrous Abram, who receives a Seven-Fold Blessing

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and **make your name great**, so that you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"



Covenant with Abraham: In you every family will be blessed

Promise of Descendants – as Stars / Sand / Dust

Genesis 15:6 "he (Abraham) believed the LORD and he counted it to him as righteousness

Anticipating the doctrine of Justification:

Human beings are accounted / declared righteous by faith alone or trusting in God alone.

- Romans 4:9, 22
- Galatians 3:6
- James 2:23



Covenant with Abraham: In you every family will be blessed

Oath of Land – God swears to give a new Eden to a new Adam on pain of death.



Old Testament Golgotha

Genesis 15:17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, **a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.**

¹⁸ On that day the **LORD made (cut) a covenant** with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

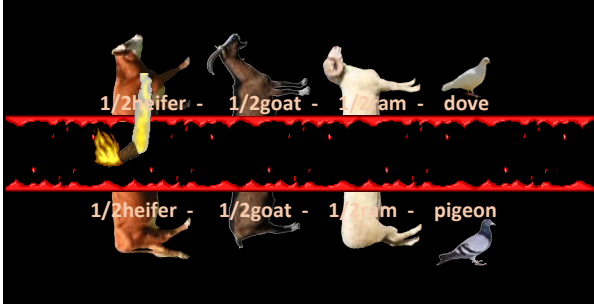
Covenant with Abraham: In you every family will be blessed

The Cutting of the Covenant:

The theophanic symbols of the "smoking firepot with a blazing torch" appeared and passed between the pieces" of butchered animals.




God alone swears an oath-curse on himself to give the land to Abram on pain of death.



Covenant with Abraham: In you every family will be blessed


Genesis 16 Sarai's Unbelief – Abram's Presumption - Hagar/Ishmael
Genesis 17 Circumcision – Abram's Oath Pledge of Loyalty
 Walk before me and be blameless....or be cut off
 Isaac Promised – Seed of the Woman – Line of Blessing



Covenant with Abraham: In you every family will be blessed

Genesis 22 Covenant Test:
 Take your son, you only son Isaac - 3x

- Child Sacrifice —
 Micah 6:7 - What is sufficient for my sin?
- on Moriah – the future Mt Zion / Temple
- Substitute theme - On the mount of the LORD it will be provided.
- Typology: Christ's Sacrifice anticipated. God will provide the Lamb.




Covenant Impasse

1. God has sworn to bless Abram with descendants / land on pain of death.....
 So by demanding Isaac's life, God's maledictory oath threatens.
2. Abram has sworn to walk blameless before the LORD on pain of death.....
 So by disobeying God, Abram forfeits his life – he is "cut off"


God provides a substitute: God will not require Abram to sacrifice his son, but God will have to provide a sacrifice – a ram now, his Son in the future.

Someone is going to be damned.

- How can God bless someone who deserves to be cursed?
- How can God curse someone he has sworn to bless?



Covenant Impasse Resolved: Cry of the Damned



Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

The cross is the cursing of the blessed Christ for the blessing of the cursed sinner.


The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory



Exodus 3
 Presence of God – Burning Bush – Holy Ground
 Revelation of Name: Yahweh – I AM יהוה


The "I am's" of Christ in John's Gospel

Exodus 12 Passover: Blood protects the First Born




1 Corinthians 5:7 For Christ our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory



Exodus 14
 Red Sea Crossing:
 typology of Baptism

Exodus 16
 Manna: Food which God provides – Bread of Life



1 Corinthians 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

Exodus 19
The Voice of God at Sinai



- theophany/ fear - Set limits - People were to keep away from the holy mountain on pain of death
- Command to wash garments - clean/unclean theme for a consecrated people

The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

God spoke forth the Ten Commandments: Worship / Behavior Intertwined



1. No other gods – Yahweh vs false gods
2. No graven images – forbids “images” – magic manipulation
3. Don’t misuse God’s name – forbids “name” magic
4. Remember the Sabbath day – keep the creation rhythm




5. Honor father & mother: “baton” command - pass Torah to next generation
6. Don’t murder: respect life
7. Don’t commit adultery: respect marriages
8. Don’t steal: respect another’s property
9. Don’t lie/slander: respect another’s reputation
10. Don’t covet....: keep your desires under control

The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

Exodus 20:¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the **people were afraid and trembled**, and **they stood far off**.¹⁹ and said to Moses,

“You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”



²⁰ Moses said to the people, **“Do not fear**, for God has come to test you, that the **fear of him** may be before you, that you may not sin.”

²¹ **The people stood far off**, while **Moses drew near** to the thick darkness where God was.

The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

Exodus 25-31 - Detailed Plans on the Tabernacle construction and service: God dwells in their midst




Exodus 25:⁹ And let them make me a sanctuary, **that I may dwell in their midst**.

⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Exodus 29:⁴⁵ I will **dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God**.

⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that **I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.**

Tabernacle/Temple: God’s Glory Presence



¹ Kings 6:²⁰ The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high, and he overlaid it with pure gold.

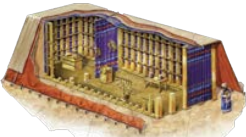
^{Revelation 21:}¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

Revelation 21:³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them**, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

Exodus 25-31: Exact Instructions to build the Tabernacle


Symbolic Edenic themes: Returning to the presence of God



- Cherubim: guarding the throne -Holiest Place
- Tree of life – Menorah
- Gold and Precious Stones
- Rivers: water to wash priestly garments
- Carvings of Palms/Pomegranates/open flowers
 - Solomon/Ezekiel Temples


The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

- Exodus 33-34: After the Golden Calf rebellion, Moses intercedes for Israel.
- Moses asks to see God's glory but is given only a veiled glimpse.
- Matthew 17: Moses/Elijah finally see God in his glory as the incarnate Christ unveiled.



Transformed into His Image

2 Corinthians 3:15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. 16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.



The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

Transformed into His Image

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is.

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will **transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body**, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.




The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

Leviticus: How to Gain Access into God's Presence
God's detailed instructions for Levitical priests & people of Israel regarding sacrifices, worship, priesthood, ceremonial cleanness, feasts.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in **the blood**, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is **the blood that makes atonement by the life**.

CLEAN & UNCLEAN



The Mosaic Covenant – Glimpses of Future Glory

Foreshadowing the Cross

Numbers 14: People rebel – 40 years of wandering
Numbers 16: Rebellion: Korah
Numbers 20: Waters of Meribah –
Moses strikes rock - robs God of glory

Numbers 21: Impatient people – the LORD sent venomous serpents as judgment.


"We have sinned": Bronze serpent lifted up
Look and live

John 3:14 – As Moses lifted up the serpent so must the Son of Man be lifted up



The Mosaic Covenant – Covenant Categories

Deuteronomy: Covenant Document for the second generation as they enter the promised land.



The Mosaic Covenant Compared with Suzerainty Treaties			
Structure of the ANE Suzerainty Treaties	Given on Mt Sinai	Given in the Transjordan	Given in Canaan
Preamble	Ex 20:2a	Deut 1:1-4	Josh 24:1-2a
Historical Prologue	Ex 20:2b	Deut 1:5 - 4:43	Josh 24:2b-13
General Stipulations	Ex 20:3-17	Deut 4:44 – 11:32	Josh 24:14-15, 23
Specific Stipulations	Ex 20:22 - 23:33	Deut 12:1 – 26:15	-
Deposit and Periodic Reading	Ex 25:16,21	Deut 31:9-13, 26	Josh 24:25-26a
Invocation of Witnesses	-	Deut 30:19; 31:28	Josh 24:22, 26b-27
Blessings & Curses	Lev 26	Deut 27-28	Josh 24:19-20
Vassal's Oath of Allegiance	Ex 24:3	-	Josh 24:16-18, 21, 24
Solemn Ceremony	Ex 24:4-11	Deut 11:29; 27:1-8	Josh 8:30-35

Structure of Biblical Covenants

- Preamble:** Opening text with identification of the king, who gives the treaty, his titles and genealogy.
- Historical Prologue:** Describes previous relationship between suzerain king and vassal, emphasizing the acts of benevolence performed by the suzerain on behalf of the vassal.
- Stipulations:** These are the obligations imposed on the vassal by the suzerain. They normally prohibit alliances with other kings and require involvement in military campaigns. Prescriptions for the treatment of refugees, allocation of war booty and tribute money.

Structure of Biblical Covenants

4. Deposit and Public Reading: This regulated the placement of the covenant treaty in the holy sanctuary of the vassal's deity, with periodic public readings, as a reminder of covenant obligations.

5. List of Witnesses: Pagan kings called on gods to witness the agreement and punish any breach of contract. Bible uses elements from nature (sun, clouds, the great sea, rivers, memorials) to bear witness.

6. Blessings and Curses: This section listed the good and the evil which the gods were called to bring down upon the vassal for obedience and disobedience respectively.

7. Oath and Solemn Ritual: A ceremony to ratify the covenant bond.

Structure of Biblical Covenants

1. Preamble: Opening text with identification of the king, who gives the treaty, his titles and genealogy.

Exodus 20:1 And **God spoke all these words**, saying,.....

Deuteronomy 1:1 **These are the words that Moses spoke** to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, ... 3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, **Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them**, 4 after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei. 5 Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, **Moses undertook to explain this law**, saying,.....

Joshua 24:2 And Joshua said to all the people, "**Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel**,".....

Structure of Biblical Covenants

2. Historical Prologue: Describes previous relationship between suzerain king and vassal, emphasizing the acts of benevolence performed by the suzerain on behalf of the vassal.

Exodus 20:2 "I am the Lord your God, who **brought you out of the land of Egypt**, out of the house of slavery.

Deuteronomy 1:6 "The Lord our God said to us in Horeb, "You have stayed long enough at this mountain. 7 Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. 8 See, I have set the land before you. (history of the previous 40 years reviewed until Chapter 4)

Structure of Biblical Covenants

2. Historical Prologue: Describes previous relationship between suzerain king and vassal, emphasizing the acts of benevolence performed by the suzerain on behalf of the vassal.

Joshua 24:2 ".....**Long ago**, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.

³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. ⁴ And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. ⁵ And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out.

⁶ " Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea.

Structure of Biblical Covenants

3. Stipulations: Laws - the obligations imposed on the vassal by the suzerain. They normally prohibit alliances with other kings and require involvement in military campaigns. Prescriptions for the treatment of refugees, the allocation of war booty and tribute money.

Exodus 20:3-17; 22:26 (basic) Chaps. 21-23, 25-31 (detailed)
Leviticus 1-25

Deuteronomy 4, 5-11 (basic) 12-26 (detailed) 29:9-31:8

Joshua 24:14 "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. **Put away the gods** that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and **serve the LORD**. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**"

Structure of Biblical Covenants

4. The Deposit and Public Reading: This regulated the placement of the covenant treaty in the holy sanctuary of the vassal's deity, with periodic public readings, as a reminder of covenant obligations.


Deposition of Text: - Exodus 25:16 And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you. (Ark of Covenant) - Deuteronomy 31:9; 24-26 - Joshua 24:26

Public Reading: Deuteronomy 31:¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, "**At the end of every seven years**, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, ¹¹ when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ¹² Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, **that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law**. ¹³ and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

Structure of Biblical Covenants

5. Witnesses: In the ANE, the pagan gods are called upon to witness the agreement and punish any breach of contract. Elements from nature (sun, clouds, the great sea, rivers) were also summoned to bear witness. In the Bible, the gods of paganism are excluded so instead we find:

- Memorial stones (Exodus. 24:4; Josh. 24:27)
- Moses' Song (Deut. 31:16-30; 32:1-47)
- Law-book itself (Deut. 31:26)
- People as participants (Joshua 24:22)
- Heaven / earth (Deut. 30:19; 31:28; Isaiah 1:2)




Structure of Biblical Covenants

6. Curses and Blessings:

This section listed the good and the evil which the gods were called to bring down upon the vassal for obedience and disobedience respectively.

In the Bible, the blessings over-rule the curses. For God has sworn to restore his people to himself.

Leviticus 26:3-33 (given after Sinai – 1st Gen.)
Deuteronomy 27 & 28 (40 years later – 2nd Gen.)




Structure of Biblical Covenants

7. Oath and Solemn Ritual: ANE covenant is bound by swearing allegiance on pain of death to the great King.


The oath is followed by a solemn ceremony that visualized the covenant curse.


- Genesis 15
- Exodus 24:1-11
- Deut. 27 - fulfilled in Josh. 8:30-35
- Jeremiah 34 (800 hundred years later)




Structure of Biblical Covenants

Covenant Lawsuit: Judgment against a faithless vassal is ultimately found in the prophets through whom the God of Israel arraigns his people for breaking the covenant. - The prophet is a covenant prosecutor – bringing the rebellious covenant partner to court to face charges for violating the terms.

Isaiah 1:2 **Hear, O heavens**, and give ear, **O earth**; for the Lord has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me." 

Micah 1:2 **Hear, you peoples**, all of you; pay attention, **O earth**, and all that is in it, and let the **Lord God be a witness** against you, the Lord from his holy temple. 




Deuteronomy and the Covenant Curse

The curses described in Deuteronomy **provide the terminology used by the prophets** to depict Israel's judgment. The curses furnished the language and the symbolism that would be incorporated in its historical narratives and prophetic oracles.

The significant types of curses found in Deuteronomy 28 -29 are as follows:

Plague and Diseases -	Deut. 28:21,22, 27,28, 32, 59-61; 29:22
Drought -	Deut. 28:23
Defeated by enemies -	Deut. 28: 25, 31, 48-52, 68
Family/Community Loss -	Deut. 28:30-34
Exile -	Deut. 28:36,37, 41, 63-68
Famine -	Deut. 28:38-40,42




Deuteronomy and the Covenant Curse

All these curses would be fulfilled in the **history of Israel and Judah**.

The historical invasions of the Assyrians, the Babylonians and smaller nations brought devastation, **destruction, famine, plague, sword and captivity**.

The prophets warned Israel with their God-given authority as covenant enforcers to pronounce the curses on the people using terminology / themes of Deuteronomy.

The Curse motif runs throughout Scripture as an expression of the wrath of God.





The Mosaic Covenant – Reality Check for God's People

Joshua: Promised Land is partially conquered / divided up among Twelve tribes.

chap 8: Covenant Oath in Shechem - Gerizim/Ebal
 chap 24: Covenant Renewed – Choose this day

People said: We will serve the LORD
 Joshua said: **You are not able to serve the LORD.**
 (Anticipating covenant unfaithfulness and human inability)

Romans 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.


Judges and Covenant Disobedience





Judges: there was no king in Israel – repeated 4x

- cycle of disobedience/deliverance
- God's covenant forgotten: people served the Baals
- Judges were God's inconsistent servants
- Syncretism: false gods & false worship




Chap 19: Levite took a concubine from Bethlehem

Ruth: Hope in God's faithfulness

- Boaz: faithful Israelite
- Ruth: converted Moabite
- Line of David in Bethlehem:


Covenant with David

Davidic Covenant

- David says "I will build God's house / temple."
- God says "No you won't. I will build David's house/dynasty".

Covenant with David: Building the House of God




2 Samuel 7:11 Moreover, the LORD declares to you that **the LORD will make you a house.** ¹², I will raise up your **offspring (seed) after you.** ... and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ **He shall build a house for my name,** and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

¹⁴ **I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.**¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. **Your throne shall be established forever.' "**

Covenant with David: Building the House of God

David is not permitted to build the LORD's temple, but is used to choose "the place where God will make his name dwell there" (Deut 12.11)




David, the Census, the Plague and the Place for Temple Building

David, the Census, the Plague and Place


2 Samuel 24 / 1 Chronicles 21

1. God uses Satan to incite David to act foolishly so as to bring judgment on Israel for an unknown sin. David takes a military census, which is allowed, but requires a ransom price to be paid for every man counted to avert a plague -half/shekel each. see Ex 30:12
2. Three day of plague kills 70,000 men throughout Israel, but the LORD relents as the Angel of the Lord approaches Jerusalem and stops at Araunah's threshing floor with threatening sword.



David, the Census, the Plague and Place

3. David intercedes (priestly king) for Israel and is commanded to sacrifice burnt and peace offerings. God answers with fire from heaven, averting the plague.

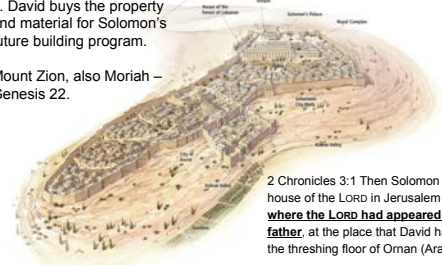


1 Chronicles 22:1 Then David said, **"Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel."**

David, the Census, the Plague and Place

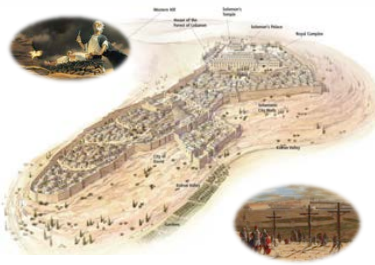
4. David buys the property and material for Solomon's future building program.

Mount Zion, also Moriah – Genesis 22.




2 Chronicles 3:1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah**, where the LORD had appeared to David his father, at the place that David had appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan (Araunah) the Jebusite.

Jerusalem / Mt. Moriah



1. The place where Melchizedek ruled as king and priest of God most High.
2. The place where Abraham offered Isaac. On the mountain of the Lord, it will be provided...
3. The site where David interceded during the plague.
4. The place where Solomon built the Temple.
5. Golgotha: nearby location where Jesus provides perfect atonement.



Royal psalms portray the reign of the earthly king, as well as of the heavenly King of Israel.

This theme is evident in **Psalms 2; 18; 20; 21; 22; 45; 72; 89; 101; 110; 132; and 144**. These psalms can make us aware of our daily need to make Christ the sovereign ruler of our lives.

Messianic psalms specifically anticipate the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of David. These psalms take a variety of forms and refer to Christ in a variety of ways.

Psalm 106: Praise & Prayer based on the Story of Israel's Failure and God's Covenant Faithfulness

- I. Invocation to Praise (106:1-2)
- II. Prayer for God's Salvation (106:3-5)
- III. Acts of God's Love: Salvation (106:6-12)
- IV. History of Israel's Unbelief and God's Judgment (106:13-43)
 - A. *Impatience: Wasting Disease* (106:13-15)
 - B. *Jealousy: Death and Fire* (106:16-18)
 - C. *Idolatry: Near Destruction* (106:19-23)
 - D. *Unbelief: Death* (106:24-27)
 - E. *Idolatry: Plague* (106:28-31)
 - F. *Rebellion: Trouble* (106:32-33)
 - G. *Idolatry and Acculturation: Exile* (106:34-43)
- V. Acts of God's Love: Restraint (106:44-46)
- VI. Prayer for God's Salvation (106:47)
- VII. Invocation to Praise (106:48)

Psalm 106:7 Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. (forgot v13,21)

Psalm 106:48 For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love.


Covenant Unfaithfulness: Idolatry

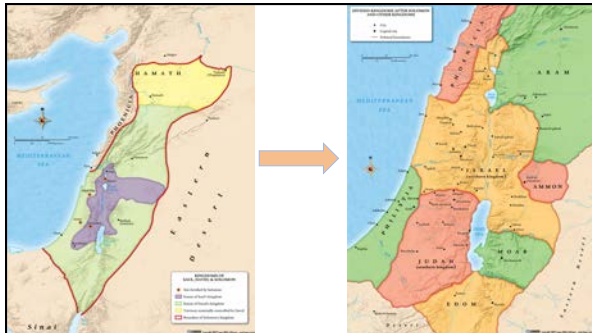
Solomon: Covenant Unfaithfulness – Deuteronomy 17 – not much horses, wives, gold.
 Wives / daughters of pagan kings - political alliances
 Idolatry: Permitted other gods to be worshipped ritually.

1 Kings 11:5 For Solomon went after **Ashtoreth** the goddess of the Sidonians, and after **Milcom** the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done.

7 Then Solomon built a high place for **Chemosh** the abomination of Moab, and for **Molech** the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem.

8 And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods





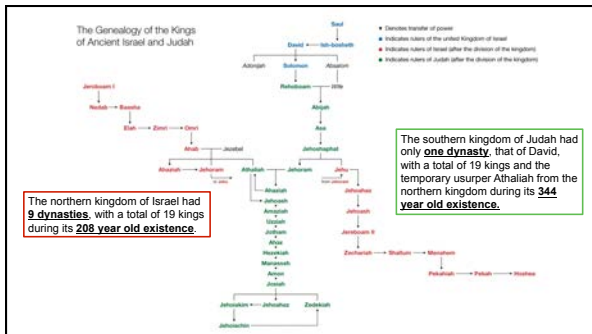
Ten Tribes of Israel – Counterfeit Religion

Jeroboam son of Nebat – King of 10 Tribes - Israel

1 Kings 12:27 If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”

28 So the king took counsel and made **two calves of gold**. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. **Behold your gods, O Israel**, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 29 And he set one in **Bethel**, and the other he put in **Dan**.

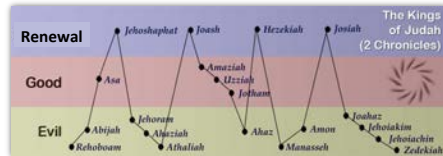
30 Then this **thing became a sin**, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one. 31 He also made **temples on high places and appointed priests** from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.



Tribe of Judah: David's Inconsistent Dynasty

The kings of Judah did not always follow the ways of the LORD. Few kings devoted themselves to God like David did. Often the Torah was neglected and the temple rituals were reduced to religious habit without heart devotion or godly living.

The Prophets singled out the hypocrisy and presumption of OT worship and condemned it if righteousness was absent.



Prophets of the Old Testament – Making Sense of Hard Material



What part do the Prophets play in God's Big Story?
Covenant Prosecutors – In wrath, remember mercy

Elijah / Elisha Confront Rebellious Israel

During the reigns of the evil kings of Israel, prophets Elijah and Elisha were active when the influx of Baal worship was threatening to completely take over the nation.

Other prophets confronted the people and leadership with their idolatry and warned of the covenant curses specified in Deuteronomy.



Isaiah: The New Testament in the Old



Isaiah 6: Holy, Holy, Holy – unclean lips, coals from altar
 Isaiah 7: Virgin Born – God is with us.
 Isaiah 9: For to us a child is born
 Isaiah 11: Righteous branch of David with sevenfold Spirit
 Isaiah 25: God will swallow death
 Isaiah 42–53: Suffering Servant – light to nations, substitute, curse bearer – cut off.
 Isaiah 55: Come all you who are thirsty -
 Isaiah 61: Spirit of the Lord is upon me – Year of the Lord's Favor
 Isaiah 65: New Heavens and New Earth

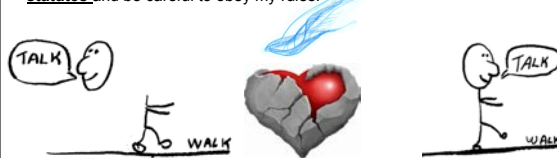


THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Ezekiel: God will Indwell a New Heart with His Spirit

Ezekiel 36:²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.



Jeremiah: New Covenant / Forgiveness

Jeremiah 31:³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²...

³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

HeartLaw

³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Daniel: Son of Man – Messiah will be Cut Off

Daniel 2: The Rock that destroys the World Kingdoms

Daniel 7: The Son of Man – Mysterious being with divine attributes who inherits the nations and is worshipped by the nations. Jesus' favorite self-designation.

Daniel 9: Seventy Weeks - 490 years until Messiah comes. Dealing with sin/end transgression: Messiah will be cut off.



The Minor Prophets: Hidden Covenant Jewels

Hosea: The Cuckold God –
 Gomer/Israel the unfaithful wife

Joel: The LORD will pour out His Spirit on all flesh

Amos: Let justice roll down like waters.

Obedience over ritualism

Obadiah: Judgment on Edom/Esau – God's kingdom

Jonah: The LORD's mercy on repenting Ninevites.

Micah: On the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains.

Bethlehem – City of David - Messiah's birthplace



The Minor Prophets: Hidden Covenant Jewels

Nahum: God's wrath on the Ninevites

Habakkuk: The righteous shall live by faith

Zephaniah: The conversion of the nations

Haggai: The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former

Zechariah: Joshua – Sign of the Priest/King – See Him Whom They have Pierced

Malachi: Messenger of the Covenant in whom you delight is coming



Bible Study and the Intertestamental Period

Exam

- Persia Occupation
- Greece Occupation
- Jewish Independence
- Rome Occupation
- Septuagint (LXX)
- Messianic Expectations
- Apocrypha writings
- Pseudepigrapha writings
- Aramaic, then Greek

FREE PASS

bonus!

Jesus's Birth, Baptism and Temptation

Seed of Woman
Genesis 3

Son of David
2 Samuel 7

Son of Man
Daniel 7

Isaiah 11
Seven Fold Spirit on Davidic branch

Isaiah 42
I will pour my Spirit on my Servant

Psalms 2
You are my Son

Last Adam tempted in the wilderness

Deuteronomy Sustained by God's Word

Jesus' ministry to be defined by trusting the Father

Jesus and His Kingdom

Mark 1:14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel!"**

Jesus proclaims the coming of the **Kingdom of God** that will eventually change everything about worship, sacrifice and ritual law:

Isaiah's Servant: Jesus is the Covenant

Isaiah 42:6 "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; **I will give you as a covenant for the people**, a light for the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 49:8 Thus says the LORD: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; **I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people**, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, ⁹ saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.'

Isaiah's Servant: Jesus is the Covenant

To speak of the **Servant as the covenant** means that it is through his work that covenant blessings become available, **it is only in him**, in the **union of personal relationship**, that these blessings can be enjoyed.

Prophets preached the covenant and pointed away from themselves to the Lord;

the Servant will actualize the blessings and point to himself.

J. Alec Motyer

Jesus: Come to Me

Matthew's Gospel: Come to me, all you weary, I will give you rest. (Matthew 11).

John's Gospel: John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.Abide in me (John 15)

Acts: Spirit of Christ indwells and empowers God's people to bear witness to the Gospel (Acts 2).

Jesus: Come to Me

Paul's Letters. You are in Christ, so live like it (every letter). Last Adam

John's Letters: when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is (1 John 3).

Peter's Letters: partakers of the divine nature

Revelation: Cubed New Jerusalem: (Revelation 21) - no temple entire city is the Holy of Holies.

Jesus our Substitute

Galatians 3:13 **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us**

Romans 3:24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is **in Christ Jesus,** **whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.**

1 Peter 1:18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.**

1 Peter 2:24 He himself **bore our sins in his body on the tree,** that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Creation - New Creation

God's Creation Purposes Fulfilled

First Two Books of the Bible
Genesis 1-2

Last Two Books of the Bible
Revelation 21-22

The Grand Story:

DENOUEMENT

- Marriage Supper of the Lamb – Bride of Christ
- Dwelling Place: He will dwell with them
- New Jerusalem: New Holy of Holies
- Water of Life / River of Life
- Great high Mountain: God's Edenic Throne
- Precious Stones/Gold: Eden's bounty – Tabernacle/Temple
- No Temple: Lord God and the Lamb is the Temple
- Kings of the Earth bring their glory, honor of nations to worship
- Tree of Life – Healing of the nations
- They will see his face – ultimate blessing
- No night – The Lord is the Light

God's Story & God's Book

Learning to Study the Bible through the Story Lens

ADVENTURE **CRISIS** **Love**

And they all lived happily ever after.

KILL THE DRAGON, GET THE GIRL.

God's Story & God's Book

Learning to Study the Bible through the Story Lens

The more you love, the more you learn.
The more you learn, the more you love.

Fascination with any subject makes a person a student and a learner.

John 5:39 You search the **Scriptures** because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is **they that bear witness about me.**

