

BIBLE MINOR - NEW TESTAMENT LITERATURE

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Session 1: The Bible as Story (part 1) (33:53)

Chronological Order: the order in which the books were written & events occurred from first to last. Mark to John/Revelation.

Canonical Order: based on the table of contents in your Bible.

Focuses on the storyline of Scripture - the completion and fulfillment of the Old Testament narrative through Jesus Christ.

Six Acts of the Biblical Story: Old Testament - First 3 Acts. New Testament - Last 3 Acts.

I. The importance of “story”

- A. Stories structure our daily existence and make sense out of the many moments of life. How you interpret the events in your life is by the story that’s gone before you and where you think your story is heading.
- B. Stories provide the context for our decision making (i.e., values, purpose, ethics).
- C. Stories provide the background information for determining “good” and “evil”.

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
Judges 21:25

- D. Our stories are often proven to be erroneous (i.e., false).
- E. God’s Word is his explanation or story for what actually is real, how to know it, how to determine good from evil, and how our decisions affect how the story ends.
God has invited you to be a part in what He is doing.
- F. Your life is a story; it has a beginning (birth) and end (death).
You have a choice... daily. Am I going to continue to move my story forward the way I think I should? Or am I going to be a part of His story in the real-world?
- G. Our story intersects God’s story, and God invites us to abandon any false story which we contrive and to submit ourselves to his story - he invites us to take part in his story, and his work.

Therefore, do not apply the Bible to your life; instead apply your life to the Bible!

(L.A.R.P.ing: People dress up & take on a fictional persona and enact a story for fantasy reasons)

When we jump into God's story we're jumping into the real-world. As we understand God's story we're able to identify the different belief systems that we're constantly bombarded with and recognize they're not true.

SIX ACTS OF THE BIBLICAL STORY

ACT 1: CREATION

ACT 2: THE FALL

ACT 3: ISRAEL - Redemption Initiated

INTERLUDE (What happens when the OT ends but before the NT begins?)

ACT 4: COMING KING - Redemption Accomplished

ACT 5: MISSION OF THE CHURCH

ACT 6: RETURN OF THE KING - Redemption Completed

II. The biblical story in 6 Acts:

A. Act 1 God establishes his Kingdom: CREATION (Gen 1-2)

1. God is God over all gods. (We're not the main character; God is)
2. God's kingdom is a place of blessing. Man is given a task - made in the image of God to exercise dominion over the created order.

*"The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work** it (function) and keep it." (Access to the very presence of God as it was supposed to be)
Gen 2:15*

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen 1:27-28*

3. God's kingdom is a sanctuary where his presence dwells.
4. Humanity is placed as a vice-regent (sub King) to serve and keep the Garden of blessing.

Bible Project Additional Resource: **How God's Presence Came to Dwell with All His People.**

https://bibleproject.com/articles/presence-of-god/?utm_source=web_social_share&medium

B. Act 2 Rebellion in the Kingdom: Humans rebel against God (Gen 3-11)

1. The serpent offers another story counter to God's story.
2. Adam and Eve choose to believe the serpent and disobey God.
3. God judges humanity (kicks them out of the garden) and offers mercy.

Consequences: Cain kills his brother Abel (Gen 4)
The flood (Gen 7)
Tower of Babel (Gen 11)

Mercy:

Promise of a deliver (Gen 3:15)
Choosing of Abraham (Gen 12-15)

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Gen 3:15

C. Act 3 The King chooses Israel: Redemption Initiated (Gen 12-Malachi).

1. Scene 1: God chooses a people.
 - a. God makes a covenant with Abraham to bless him, to make him a blessing, to make a nation from him, and to give him land.

"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. 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. 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." Gen 12:1-2

"And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness...

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give his land. Gen 15:4-6, 17-18

- b. God rescues Abraham's descendants from Egypt and makes them a nation.

1. God makes a covenant with Israel - the Law.

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. (Love God) Ex 20:2-3

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deut 6:5

2. God gives Israel a mission: to be a kingdom of priests (representing the one true God to all the nations who are living according to a different story) and (by being) a holy nation set apart for God. (Ex 19:1-6)

... 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' Ex 19:4-6

3. God dwells with his people and provides a way for them to be in his presence - The Tabernacle (ultimately The Temple)