

# BIBLE MINOR - NEW TESTAMENT LITERATURE

Dr. Michael McKay

## **Session 4: Theology of the Gospels (23:46)**

What does this block of biblical text contribute to the biblical story line?

Systematic theology: Asking questions of the text. How can we understand how God can be one God, and yet, there's three persons in the Godhead? How can we understand the Trinity?

Biblical theology: What theological points do the biblical authors themselves bring up?  
What theology comes naturally from the discussions in the text?

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: The Gospels. The king appears and Jesus is here.**

Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel in Old Testament expectations.

Jesus is the perfect or model disciple.

Jesus is Savior of the world.

Jesus is from God and is God.

ACT 5: MISSION OF THE CHURCH

ACT 6: RETURN OF THE KING - Redemption Completed

### **I. How does the narrative plotline of God's plan to recreate his Kingdom of Blessing develop in the Gospels?**

"The terrible end (i.e., the judgment of exile in the OT) would produce theological lessons: Eden cannot come and survive without Yahweh's constant presence - as had been the case in the original Eden. The kingdom of God cannot be built with human hands. As Israel reached the final stages of failure, God announced through the prophets that plans had changed. Restoring Eden would require God's enduring presence in the hearts of his children, and an ideal king who would remain loyal to Yahweh. God himself would supply the second Adam, the son of David, the perfect ruling servant." Michael Heiser *The Unseen Realm*, 216

Michael Heiser is the Scholar-in-Residence at Logos Bible Software.

Host of the Naked Bible Podcast

What Israel was not able to do, re-create the garden in the promised land, God has done through Jesus.

How is it that Jesus moves the story forward?

A. Jesus consistently fulfills the function of Israel perfectly:

1. Jesus trusts the Father (i.e., he walks by faith) even to the point of death. (Israel believed and trusted in idols not Yahweh; that's what brought them into captivity )
2. Jesus is loyal and faithful to the Father as demonstrated by his obedience to the point of death.
3. Jesus creates a new people with a world-wide ministry to gather more "sheep" into the "flock" which is God's people. Similar in function to Israel's call to ministry (Ex 19:5-6) to be a holy nation and kingdom of priests.

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out... I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:1-3, 11.*

*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.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." Ex 19:4-5*

Matthew 1-4: Jesus is a better Israel; the function of Israel is fulfilled by Jesus. Israel failed and Jesus is fixing that.

Jesus is a son, just like Israel is a son.

Jesus went to Egypt, just as Israel went out to Egypt.

Jesus is baptized in water, just like Israel crossed the Red Sea.

Jesus is tested in the wilderness, just like Israel is tested.

B. Jesus demonstrates that he is the perfect human (i.e., the perfect "Adam") by always resisting temptation to sin (e.g., tested by the devil), always loving God supremely by obeying him (i.e., Garden of Gethsemane "not my will but your will be done"), and always loving his neighbor (e.g., he dies so that they may live).

*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.  
Jn 15:13*

C. Jesus the King (i.e., God's Son/son) invades the kingdom of rebellion started by fallen divine beings (the serpent of Gen 3) and demonstrates his power and authority over them by being the front line of God's invasion (exorcisms, healings).

Russian nesting doll illustration - each doll represents a plot line in the bible.

At some time, there were beings in the heavenly places that God created who rebelled against him. (Gen 3)

Before that, there must have been a rebellion in the heavenly places in the cosmic realm.

God creates Adam and Eve and gives them a perfect place surrounded by abundance and blessing, he gives them a job to do and at this time there is no sin or corruption in the world. They're able to enjoy His presence without any hindrance and they rebel as well. How's God going to fix this problem?

God chooses Abraham, Issac, Jacob and Israel to be the solution to that problem. He gives them the promised land. He gives them revelation of himself (i.e., His law, He tells them what to do) And He blesses them with this covenant, the law, and His presence.

Of course, they ultimately end up failing at that resulting in another broken plot line.

Jesus is the core piece. He comes along and lives his life as a representative of Israel and accomplishes the function that God had given her. Not only that, but he dies for her sins and comes back to life.

Jesus's death for sin was not only for Israel, but for the sins of the whole world. We do not see Jesus's death as something that redeems fallen cosmic beings. But we do see Jesus's death, burial and resurrection is associated with their judgment. (i.e., justice will finally be done).

In the book of Hebrews, we learn that God is lifting up human beings above the angels in order that they might rule at his side.

Finally, we see the church (i.e., you and I). We are in Christ (i.e., a redeemed new people that are in Him as he's fulfilling his function (which was Israel's function), and saving human beings.

D. Jesus the King is the Kingdom of God point-person; in other words, where Jesus is, so is the Kingdom of God.

1. This means that God's Kingdom has broken into the present age and is a present "already" here reality. (You and I being indwelt with the Holy Spirit, being able to participate in Christ and have Christ in us... we end up continuing that on. We end up being the focal point of God's Kingdom and the world now).
2. However, God's Kingdom is "not yet" fully here; therefore, the Kingdom of God is still future.
3. Whereas Jewish belief looked forward to the next age with a clean break from the present age where God would remove Israel's enemies and save Israel. (i.e., The Day of the Lord) God overlapping the edges, we live in this overlap of the ages: the already/not yet of the Kingdom of God.

## **II. Are you devoted to Jesus and his Kingdom, or are you supporting an opposing Kingdom? (i.e., enemies of God)**

- A. To know the Word of God and be intentionally disloyal to Jesus results in the hardening of your heart.
- B. To know the Word of God and submit to it results in growth and enjoyment of Jesus.