

11-26-2017, COTR Texarkana

Title: The Bible, God's Word to Us

Purpose: Present an overview of the Bible emphasizing the thread of redemption and provoke people to prioritize their life around its timeless truths.

Truth for Today: The Bible is God's Word to humanity.

Text: 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Topic: Bible, Scripture, Word of God, Truth

The Bible, God's Word to Us

I. Introduction

- A. Pic⁴/ Video¹ "Museum of the Bible" in Washington, DC was built by Steve Green, founder of Hobby Lobby. It is 430k sf and cost \$500m with thousands of displays and artifacts. Why spend so much money to educate people about the Bible? Because the Bible is the greatest Book ever written; more copies have been printed and digitized than any other book in world history. Simply stated, the Bible is the Word of God.
- B. Text: [2 Timothy 3:15–16 (NLT) You have been taught the **holy Scriptures** from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to **receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives...]**
- C. Today I'll do an overview of the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation and show you how it all fits together. It's main message, the thread of redemption, ties it all together. God's Word speaks to modern society today just like it did when it was written because the Bible's message is timeless, authoritative, and absolute truth.
- D. Title: The Bible, God's Word to Us
- E. Truth for Today: The Bible is God's Word to humanity.

II. Bible facts

- A. The Bible is a compilation of 66 books, written by +/- 44 authors over +/- 2000 years telling us about God, humanity, time, and eternity. The 2 divisions of the Bible are the OT and NT/covenant. There are 39 books in the OT and 27 in the NT. We interpret the OT through the perspective of the NT (e.g., OT people sacrificed animals to atone for sins, but Christ fulfilled this in NT and sacrifices are no longer needed.) The historical account of the Bible is centered in the Middle East but includes Egypt, Africa, Asia, and the Mediterranean world. God's people in the OT are called Israelites or Jews and, in the NT Christians, or the Church.
- B. What is the central message of the Bible? God desires relationship with the people He created. Adam and Eve sinned, i.e., they broke God's commands. All people inherit their sinful nature and suffer temporal and eternal consequences. The Good news is God offers a restored relationship through Jesus Christ. Those who, by faith, receive Jesus Christ as Savior are forgiven and will live with Him for eternity in heaven. Those who reject Him will suffer eternity in hell.

III. 39 books of the Old Testament by category ²

- A. The Pentateuch/ Law of Moses: 1st 5 books of the Bible; the beginning of everything and the early history Jews
- B. History of Israel, Joshua-Esther: The 12 books of Jewish history describe how obedience or disobedience was tied to the blessings and curses of the covenant.

- C. Poetry or Writings: 5 books about wisdom for everyday life emphasizing "the fear of the Lord," which is the beginning of wisdom. [Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (NIV) Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for **this is the duty of all mankind**. 14 For God will bring every deed into **judgment**, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.]
- D. 5 major and 7 minor prophetic books: Major and minor refer to length of the book. Prophets spoke God's word during times of crisis and reminded people of God's laws. Prophets also predicted the future, especially about Jesus. Jesus fulfilled 300 OT prophecies through His life, death, and resurrection.³ E.g., Micah 5:2 predicted Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. 800 years later Mt. 2:1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

IV. Genesis, the book of beginnings

- A. [Genesis 1:1 (ESV) **In the beginning, God created** the heavens and the earth.] The eternal, preexisting God created time, matter, and life out of nothing. God spoke and creation appeared. This is the starting place of true science.
- B. The Bible declares there is 1 God, revealed in 3 persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, e.g. H₂O: gas, liquid, solid. God the Son, Jesus: [Col. 1:15–20 (ESV) **He is the image of the invisible God**... 16 For **by him all things were created**... 17 And **he is before all things**, and **in him all things hold together**... 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to **reconcile to himself all things**... **making peace by the blood of his cross.**]
- C. God created the 1st human beings, Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden. [Genesis 2:7 (ESV) then **the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...] We didn't arbitrarily evolve from primal ooze with no purpose or destiny. God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of day. People were created to have fellowship with God.
- D. Satan, a fallen angel, tempted Eve. They disobeyed God and everything changed. Adam and Eve sinned/ (the fall) and the relationship between God and man changed. [Ge. 2:16–17 (ESV) And the Lord God commanded the man, saying...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"] Sin is the reason for everything bad, death, hardship and pain.
- E. Hope when driven from the Garden: [Genesis 3:21 (NLT) And the Lord God made clothing from **animal skins** for Adam and his wife. Hebrews 9:22 (ESV)...**without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.**]
- 1. The rest of the Bible is God's attempt to restore relationship humanity so people could spend eternity with Him in a real place called heaven.

V. Israel/ Jews were God's chosen people, entrusted with The Law and the lineage of Jesus Christ.

- A. Patriarchs, [Mt. 1:1–16 (NLT) This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of **Abraham**: 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers... 16 Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus...the Messiah.]
- 1. [Romans 4:16 (ESV) That is why it (*our salvation*) depends on **faith**, in order that the promise (*forgiveness from sin*) may rest on **grace** (*God's free gift*) to the one who shares **the faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all,]

- B. God gave the Jews a Promised land, centered in modern day Israel. Jerusalem became the main city. A famine relocated Israel to Egypt where Joseph saves the chosen people. Moses was a deliverer and lawgiver leading Israel to Promised land. Passover [Exodus 12:1–13 (NLT) ...each family must choose a lamb...for a sacrifice...7 They are to take some of the **blood** and smear it on...the doorframes of the houses 11...this is the **Lord’s Passover**. 12 On that night I will...execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt...13...**When I see the blood, I will pass over you.**] (in judgment)
 - 1. [John 1:29 (ESV) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**] Jesus was crucified on the Jewish Passover.
- C. God gave the Jews the Law of Moses, including the 10 commandments. [Galatians 3:24 (KJV 1900) Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.] I.e., we can’t be good enough to save ourselves. Moses died and Joshua led Israel to the Promised land. There they grew and prospered under a Theocracy, i.e., ruled by God, through Prophets, Judges and Kings. Prophets warned them for 700 years. Finally, because of their disobedience God sent them into exile in Babylon for 70 years. Then they returned to the Promised Land to await the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah and savior of the world.
- D. 400 years silence between the OT and NT. Malachi, the last OT book, predicts John the Baptist would be the forerunner of Jesus Christ.

VI. The 27 books of the New Testament

- A. 4 gospels, i.e., historical accounts, of the life of Jesus Christ; the Book of Acts which is the beginning and history of the church; 21 Epistles/ letters to correct problems and establish doctrine, and the Book of Revelation, a vision about the end of time.

VII. The gospels and the teaching of Jesus Christ our Savior

- A. Summary of His life: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born to the virgin Mary, fully God and fully man. His public ministry began at 30 and lasted 3 years. He performed miracles to attest to His divinity. He had thousands of disciples but chose 12 to carry out His mission. Today He is seated at the right hand of God waiting to return to earth one day. Jesus told Pilate [Mark 14:62 (NLT)...you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and **coming on the clouds of heaven.”**]
- B. His moral teachings, embodied in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7), shaped the foundation of western civilization regarding ethics and values.
- C. Jesus summarized the Bible in 2 commandments: [Mark 12:30–31 (ESV) And **you shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: **‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** There is no other commandment greater than these.”]
- D. What He said concerning salvation: [Mt. 20:18–19 (ESV)...And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes... 19... to be...**crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.** John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** John 11:25 (ESV) Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,**]

VIII. The birth and early history of the church

- A. Overview: The church began on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit fell on Jewish believers in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Peter was the leader; Jerusalem was the epicenter and the church started with the Jews. Under Paul, the church epicenter shifted to Antioch and Gentiles/ non-Jews were the focus as Paul and others preached the gospel and planted churches throughout the Mediterranean world.
- B. The mission of the church is The Great Commission. [Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV) **Go** therefore and **make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...20 teaching them** to observe all that I have commanded you...]
- C. The message of the church is the gospel/ Good News: [1 Cor. 15:1–4 (ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel...3...Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 **he was buried, he was raised on the third day...**]
- D. The church was to accomplish its mission through preaching and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. [Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses...**to the end of the earth.”]
- E. The method: Preach the gospel, win souls, make disciples, and plant churches. Every member was a minister and missionary. We should follow their example.
- F. The 21 Epistles/ letters, written by Paul, Peter, John, James, and Jude, to churches and people were to teach doctrine, correct error, solve problems and build relationships to fulfill the great commission.

IX. The Book of Revelation

- A. A vision Jesus gave to the Apostle John, written to 7 churches in Asia Minor about the end of time and beginning of eternity. Revelation tells us about things to come: The Antichrist, the mark of the beast and a one-world government, persecution, death of believers, the 2nd coming of Christ, judgment of the devil, the end of time, final judgment and eternity in heaven or hell.
- B. Judgment Day, [Revelation 20:11–15 (ESV) I saw a **great white throne** and him who was seated on it...12 And I saw **the dead**, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened**. Then another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done...15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the **lake of fire**.]
- C. Heaven and Eternity, [Rev. 21:3–4 (ESV)...“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. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”]
- D. Last verse of the Bible: [Revelation 22:20 (ESV) He who testifies to these things says, “**Surely I am coming soon**.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!]

X. Conclusion: What do I do now?

- A. [James 1:21–25 (NLT) So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and **humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls**. 22 But **don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves...**25 But if you...**do what it says** and don’t forget what you heard, then **God will bless you for doing it**.]

1. Get a good Study Bible. I recommend the Spirit Filled Life Study Bible. Purchase at cost in the Connect Room; Download the church app and use Bible reading plan. Search for “Church on the Rock Texarkana”
- B. Souls: If you’re not a follower of Christ, receive Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord today.

XI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://vimeo.com/104737664> stop at 35 seconds
2. <http://www1.cbn.com/biblestudy/major-divisions-of-the-old-testament>
3. <http://www1.cbn.com/biblestudy/biblical-prophecies-fulfilled-by-jesus>
4. <https://www.museumofthebible.org/photos#gallery-panel-2-5>