

Survey of God's Word

- Authority of God's Word
- "Base our lives on God's Word" - Some have preconceived ideas about the Bible
 - It's hard to understand
 - The Spirit of God is required for understanding the things of God
 - **[1 Corinthians 2:11-13 ESV] [11] For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [12] Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13] And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.**
 - If you aren't a believer, the Spirit of God does not live in you, and you have no way of understanding scripture
 - Find a translation that you understand
 - Original text was inspired
 - Some are more accurate than others, but if you can't understand language, then make a change.
 - NASB and ESV - Written in familiar language and safe for word studies
 - NLT is much easier to read, and is still pretty accurate
 - If you are intimidated by the Bible, this is a fine place to start
 - Deeper study can be done in one of the other versions
 - Be careful with "The Message" - One man's paraphrase, based on his own doctrine, didn't use the original (inspired) text in his process
 - Couple of useful things to keep in mind when studying God's Word
 - God interacted differently with man over time
 - Pattern was:
 - God revealed himself and his truth (covenant)
 - Man held responsible to that revelation
 - Man rebels and fails to meet God's standard
 - God judges man and brings a new revelation (covenant)
 - Man was held accountable to what God said to them
 - They were called to "believe God" (just like us)
 - This is why we don't perform animal sacrifices anymore, even though "the Bible says so"
 - "All Scripture is written FOR us, but not all Scripture is written TO us"
 - We learn important aspects of God's character throughout the Bible
 - Bible has many dimensions, but the Spirit of Truth will guide us in the Truth
 - **[Romans 12:2 ESV] [2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**
 - It's old
 - Yep!
 - When we're talking about absolute truth, it should be constant over time

- It's a bunch of random stories that don't apply to me
 - This is where we are going to camp out today
 - Walk chronologically through Scripture
 - Overview of what it teaches
 - Examine how it isn't random... constant consistent message woven throughout
- The Bible says:
 - **[2 Timothy 3:16 ESV] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,**
 - It is God's Word and He gave it to us so we can learn about God, and man, and sin, and truth.
- We learn about God's character
 - **[Genesis 1:1 ESV] In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**
 - In the beginning, God - He was before everything
- We learn about man:
 - Made man in His image and put life into him
 - **[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, and the man became a living creature.**
 - Pure relationship with God
 - Said eat from any tree except tree of KOGAE or you will surely die
- We learn about Satan:
 - Satan (enemy of God) disguised himself as a serpent
 - **[Genesis 3:4-5 ESV] [4] But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.**
 - **[5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**
- We learn about sin:
 - They sinned and stopped BELIEVING God
 - Traded truth for a lie
 - Looked outside of God for their needs
 - Died in 3 ways
 - Spiritual death - Immediate
 - Physical death - Later
 - Eternal death - Forever
 - Realized they were naked, so they sewed leaves together as coverings
 - **[Genesis 3:21 ESV] And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.**
- We learn that the payment for sin is death
 - From this point forward, God required sacrificing an animal by the shedding of blood as a temporary covering for his sin
 - Showed that man agreed with God about his sin
 - Reminder that the payment for sin was death
 - This was how to come to God on His terms
- When man just introduced sin into the world, God gave hope
 - Promise of deliverer
 - **[Genesis 3:15 ESV] 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."**
 - One day, one will come who will conquer Satan and Sin

- We learn from Cain & Able that we MUST come to God on His terms
 - Able came God's way because he had faith in God (believed God)
 - Killed animal without blemish so that blood flowed out
 - Cain came his own way (through his efforts)
 - God rejected Cain's offering
 - Gave Cain opportunity to turn back
 - **[Genesis 4:7 ESV] If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."**
 - Cain killed his brother (first murder)
- We learned from Noah that there was only one way to be saved
 - Man became wicked
 - Only Noah and his family still coming to God on God's terms
 - Agreed with God that he was a sinner in need of God to save him from the punishment he deserved
 - Killed animals without blemish so that the blood flowed out
 - The sin could no longer go unpunished
 - God was going to flood the whole world
 - Warned Noah & Instructed him to build an ark
 - God was providing a way to save those who believed Him from the penalty of sin.
 - Ark had one door and everyone who would be saved had to enter that one way.
 - No way around it / not through the windows
 - When the time had come, Noah, all the animals entered the ark
 - GOD SHUT THE DOOR - They were sealed in & completely safe from judgement
- Learned through Abraham that God keeps his promises
 - God revealed himself to Abram and he responded to God
 - Came to God the way He prescribed
 - God commanded Abraham to leave his country and people
 - **[Genesis 15:6 ESV] [6] And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**
 - God chose Abraham to be part of what He was doing, and made him some promises, including:
 - That he would become the father of a great nation.
 - Promised land of Canaan to he and his family forever
 - **[Genesis 22:18 ESV] and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."**
 - The deliverer would come from his offspring
 - Abraham & his wife were in their 70's
 - Isaac was born
 - At this point, she was 90 and he was 100
 - God called Abraham to offer his only son as a sacrifice
 - Abraham was obedient, but God provided a substitute for the sacrifice
 - Ram caught by the horns (w/o blemish)
 - God was going to keep his promises
 - Abraham's descendants had to leave the land God promised them because of a famine
 - 12 brothers and their families ended up in Egypt
 - Stayed >400 years
 - Those 12 families grew to over 1 million people and pharaoh enslaved them
- God chose Moses to deliver them from their slavery and take them back to the promised land

- Moses believed God
- God called Moses to go before Pharaoh and tell him to let God's people go (proud / stubborn)
 - Plagues
- Passover
 - Israelites told to prepare to leave Egypt
 - Told to gather in their homes, kill a lamb without blemish, and put its blood on the outside of the door
 - **[Exodus 12:13 ESV] The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.**
 - If not, every firstborn in the house would die
 - During the Passover God provided a way for the Jews to be saved from God's wrath, but they had to believe God.
 - The next morning, Pharaoh let them go, and they eventually got back to the promised land
- God kept his promise to make Israel a great nation, and eventually had a king named David
 - He was not perfect by any means
 - But he believed God, agreed w/God about his sin, and came to God on God's terms
- God promised David that the deliverer would be from his lineage
- Lots of kings would follow
- God had promised a deliverer
- For about 700 years God sent prophets to warn the people to turn back to God
 - They also predicted events that God said would happen in the future
 - Israel moved further and further from the Lord
- For 400 years, God was silent
- Until an angel appeared to a woman named Mary:

[Luke 1:31-35 ESV] And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--~~the~~ Son of God.
- This was the Deliverer that God promised 4,000 years earlier to Adam and Eve
 - Jesus would be man & God
 - Bible gives us the family tree of Mary, and she was a descendant of David
 - So promises given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, & David would all be fulfilled in Jesus
 - Jesus had no sin nature like the rest of us.
 - As Jesus went through his life, he continued to fulfill prophecies
 - Time and place of his birth
 - Who his family would be
 - Where he moved to and from
 - Fact he would be tempted
 - In total, there are >300 prophecies about the promised deliverer, all fulfilled by Jesus
 - He was 30 years old when he started his ministry and really demonstrated who he was.
 - Beginning of his ministry:

- He brought his BEST to God, and it wasn't good enough
- We can't be good enough to get to heaven
- We learned from Noah that though God is patient, one day, punishment will come
 - There was one door on the ark that everyone went through to be saved
 - **[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.**
 - For those who came in to the ark, God sealed them in and they were safe
 - **[Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.**
- When Isaac was on that altar, he would have died if God hadn't sent a substitute
 - If God hadn't sent a deliverer, we would be like Isaac on that altar.
- During the Passover, each family had to decide whether or not they would believe God
 - If they did, the blood of a perfect lamb would cause God to spare them of His wrath
 - The perfect lamb has been slain
 - It is a matter of whether or not we agree with God about our sin and our need for the deliverer, who is Jesus
 - If so, His blood will cover your sins and IT IS FINISHED
 - If not, there is no hope for you when you stand before God
- You may be thinking that you are a good person and don't need saving
 - The purpose of the Law - Show we can't meet God's standard
 - **[James 2:10 ESV] For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.**
- If you have never trusted in Jesus to save you from the punishment you deserve because of your sins, I encourage you to turn to Him
 - **[John 3:16 ESV] "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
 - You've heard the truth of what the Bible says about himself, man, sin, and how Jesus is the only way to Him
 - Becoming a believer means "Believing God" and putting your trust in His son to save you from the punishment you deserve.
- If you are a believer, understand that the Old Testament was all pointing toward the cross. The New Testament is all pointing back to cross. It is all about Jesus.
 - God is completely consistent in Scripture
 - Go deep in His Word
 - Believe what He says
 - **[1 Corinthians 2:9-12 ESV] [9] But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"-- [10] these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. [11] For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [12] Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.**
 - Things God has prepared for you THIS SIDE of heaven
 - As believers, God wants us to understand what we have in Him