

THE ADVENTURE OF JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK

Lesson 2

The Adventure of Knowing God's Big Picture

Learn...

- (1) The difference between what the Bible IS and what it is FOR
- (2) The seamless unity between
the God of the Old Testament & the New Testament
- (3) The Bible's unifying storyline

Common Stumbling Blocks to Understanding God's Big Picture



STUMBLING
BLOCK



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1ST STUMBLING BLOCK

The Difference Between What the Bible IS and what it is FOR

The Bible IS...	The Bible is FOR...
Unique and Trustworthy	Revealing Jesus to you personally
66 books (39 OT, 27 NT)	John 5:39
Written over 1500 years by 40 plus authors	Luke 24: 25-27, 44-47
Written by authors in Africa, Asia, and Europe	Hebrews 1:1-3
Written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek	Hebrews 11:6
Written on hundreds of controversial subjects...	
Despite all these factors, the Bible is	
One unified story that leads to Jesus Christ	

If you focus *only* on what the Bible IS, unique and trustworthy, and not on what it is FOR—to reveal Christ to you personally, you will stumble--negative consequences will result. In contrast, focusing on both what the Bible IS and also on what it is FOR is life-giving.

Results of <i>only</i> focusing on “What the Bible IS”	Results of <i>also</i> focusing on “What the Bible is For”
The Bible appears chiefly about <u>you</u> .	The Bible is seen as centrally about <u>God</u> .
The focus narrows to what you must ____.	The focus is what God has ____ for you.
You” yo yo” between ____ & ____.	You grow in ____ & ____.
Your perspective is a “____ like” heart.	Your perspective is a “____ like” heart.

“Default Lens” Exercise: What is your default lens when you go to the Bible?
(Follow the directions the facilitator gives you.)

2nd STUMBLING BLOCK

A Supposed _____ between the God of the Old & New Testaments



Angry Lawgiver



Grace-Filled Jesus

Instead, as you read the O.T., look for the pattern of Jesus

_____, _____, & _____

INDEPENDENT STUDY: Think through the following example from Genesis in order to see the pattern of Jesus present/promised/pictured in the OT.

Jesus in the Old Testament

Present

"They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:8

How does God walking suggest the existence of the pre-incarnate Christ?

Hearing the sound and recognizing it was the Lord indicates there was a habit of regularly walking with him.

It was not just a sound in the wind. The text says it was an encounter with a being who was waking. Humans, not spirits, walk.

By calling him the Lord God there is the indication that this being was the pre-incarnate Christ.

"He was in the beginning with God..."

Promised

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."
Genesis 3:15

Who is addressing the serpent, Satan? (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)

- God is addressing the serpent whom Satan is indwelling

Who is Satan's seed? (John 8:44; Ephesians 2:1-3)

- Satan's seed is fallen humanity – Jesus told the Pharisees "you are of your father, the devil" John 8:44 and Paul told the Ephesians "you were dead in your sins and walked according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience (terms used of Satan)" Ephesians 2:1-2.

Who is the seed of the woman? (Luke 1:34-35)

- The seed of the woman points to Jesus – By using the singular, "he" & "him," in the bruising, one particular offspring is in view. Women do not have seed which implies a virgin birth. The seed, or offspring of the woman is picked up in Genesis 4:25 as Seth, and a single line of Seth's descendants is traced to a king whom would bless the world.

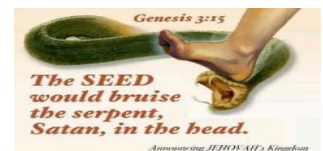
Promised

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."
Genesis 3:15

What will the seed of the woman do to Satan?

What will Satan do to the seed of the woman?

- The seed of the woman will bruise Satan's head--which is destruction.
- And "the seed" will also be bruised in the process.

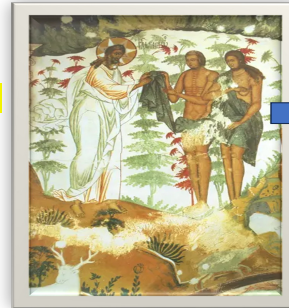


The New Testament presents Jesus as overcoming Satan while at the same time being bruised.

Pictured Genesis 3: 21, 24

"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife & clothed them..."
How does this image picture Jesus and what he will do?

- **"Garments of skin" –**
An animal had to die
to have its skin for a covering of their shame.



"So, He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life."

How does this verse picture the necessity of Christ's death to get us back into the garden?
I.E. Who will go under the sword to get us back in the garden?

Pictured Genesis 3: 21, 24

"So, He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life."

What is the significance of the cherubim? (Exodus 25:18-22; Hebrews 9:5)

- **Cherubim are angels and notice that the next time they show up is over the mercy seat at the ark of the covenant where the blood was shed for atonement for sin.**

Why the flaming sword?

- **The flaming sword is to execute justice and brings death.**
God must judge sin.



Pictured Genesis 3: 21, 24

"So, He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life."

What is the significance of the tree of life? (Genesis 2:9; 3:22; Revelation 22:2,14)

- **Whatever state you are in when you eat from the Tree of Life you are locked into.**
Those eternally redeemed by the blood of Christ eat of it in heaven.



3RD STUMBLING BLOCK

Seeing the Bible chiefly as a moral rule book instead of an overarching _____ story

The Storyline of the Bible

Many people know verses from the Bible and some of its stories but do not understand how those passages fit into a unified story that leads to Jesus Christ. This lack of understanding leads to confusion; it's like trying to figure out where the pieces of a puzzle fit without being aware of the picture on the top of the box. Grasping the Bible's overarching storyline strengthens our faith by expanding our view of God, his work in the world, and how he works in and through us.

What Biblical grids can we use so that we do not miss this big picture rescue story?

1st Grid: The Bible's Storyline in Four Words

Use this grid to build a Biblical worldview about anything you face.

- (1) _____ (Genesis 1-2)
- (2) _____ (Genesis 3)
- (3) _____ (Genesis 4 to Revelation 18)
- (4) _____ (Revelation 19-22)

The Bible's story is the truth that gives your story insight & hope.

Make the Bible's storyline personal by applying this grid to your life:

Putting on your "truth glasses" and using the "Big 4" questions:

- (1) What is God's _____ for this situation?
- (2) What is _____, fallen, or broken in this situation?
- (3) Where is there _____ and _____ in this situation?
- (4) How does the _____ offered match God's _____ & _____ purposes?
Jesus' restoration program will be totally fulfilled when he returns. However, it has already begun and is being carried out daily, based on his truth and his spirit.

"Big 4" Exercise

When you take a situation you're facing or an issue you're examining and place it w/in the larger context of the Bible, your perspective changes **because** you are looking from God's point of view. Practice putting on your truth glasses.

- Use the "Big 4" questions and examine a situation you are facing or evaluating.
- If you run out of time, focus on question 3.

2nd Grid: The Bible's Plotline ("The Twos")

Use this grid to freshly appreciate your ultimate hero---Jesus!

Memorizing the following outline will enable you to understand and communicate the developing plotline of the Bible. Jesus insisted that the Scriptures all point to him, and as his followers we should understand and be able to communicate how this is true. As you memorize the outline, note that a series of "twos" will aid your memory and serve as a skeleton to hold together the body of the Bible.

God spoke all into existence for his glory, called it good, and assigned it order and purpose (Genesis 1-2).

Two _____ (Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:3-9; Genesis 3)

Two _____ (Genesis 3:15,21,24; John 5:39; Revelation 19-22)

Two _____ (Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7:12-16)

Two _____ (Genesis 22; John 1:29; 1 Kings 10)

Two _____ (Exodus 20; Matthew 5:48; Isaiah 9,11; Daniel 2,7)

Two _____ (Is.53:7; Jn 1:29; Rev. 5:5; Gen. 49:9-10)

One _____ (Matthew 1:1; Revelation 5:12)

Critical Thinking Exercise

1. Based on the Bible's plotline, when everything is a mess, what 2 things can you know?

- Why is it a mess? _____
- What is God up to? _____

2. Current Events

Picture a worrisome current event. How can the Bible's plot line give you perspective?

HOMEWORK: Adventure Workouts for Lesson 2

1. **Memorize** John 5:39 “*You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me.*”
2. **Think through** the Independent Study on Jesus in the OT (pages 3-4).

For extra practice, consider finding the pattern in Exodus 3 of Jesus present/ promised/pictured.”

If you wish to explore further, read chapter 3 (“Preaching Christ from All of Scripture”) in Tim Keller’s book, *Preaching*.

3. **Copy** the “Big 4” on a notecard and **practice using** these “truth glasses” for situations you face, books you read, movies you watch, etc.

Teach the Big 4 to someone who is ready to grow in developing a Biblical worldview.

4. **Sketch** out “The Twos” plotline of the Bible with someone.

Remember how this helps us personally gain perspective:

- It helps us see our little kingdoms in the light of his ultimate kingdom.
- It prompts us to examine our purposes in light of God’s purposes.
- It reminds that when life is a mess we know why and we also know what God is up to.

ⁱ *Cat & Dog Theology* by Bob Sjogren and Gerald Robison