

Session 2. Tracing God's Story

"The Bible is not a random collection of moral stories; it is one unified story starring Jesus Christ." — D.A. Carson

Big Idea: The story of Scripture is about the _____, _____, and _____ of the kingdom of God-through God's _____, with God's _____, in God's _____, as they live out God's _____

Aim: To see God's unified plan of redemption across the whole Bible.

God's Big Picture in Scripture

1. _____ of God- God created the world as a temple for Him and His people
2. _____ of God- God's people are designed to live in God's Presence
3. _____ of God- God's people are given a home to experience the presence of God
4. _____ of God- God's people are given a place to experience the presence of God to live out their defined purposes that He has called them to.

Genesis 1-2 and Revelation 21-22

1. The Original _____ (Genesis 1 & 2)

2. The New _____ & _____ (Revelation 21 & 22)

Intro/Resources:

General Structure for Scripture:

1. Creation: God's Good Design

a. God Creates Everything by His Word

- Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
- Psalm 33:6 – “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made...”

b. Humanity Made in God's Image

- Genesis 1:26–27 – “Let us make man in our image... male and female he created them.”
- Colossians 1:16 – “All things were created through him and for him.”

c. Purpose: Relationship, Stewardship, and Blessing

- Genesis 2:15 – “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”
- Psalm 8:4–8 – “You have crowned him with glory and honor.”

d. Creation is Very Good

- Genesis 1:31 – “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”
- Revelation 4:11 – “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power...”

2. Fall: Sin, Brokenness, and Exile

a. The Temptation and Choice to Sin

- Genesis 3:1–6 – Eve and Adam eat the forbidden fruit, disobeying God.
- James 1:14–15 – “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire...”

b. The Immediate Consequences

- Genesis 3:7–13 – Shame, hiding, and blame enter human experience.
- Romans 5:12 – “Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin...”

c. Broken Relationships: God, Each Other, and Creation

- Genesis 3:16–19 – Pain, toil, conflict, death.
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- Isaiah 59:2 – “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God...”

d. Exile and Need for Redemption

- Genesis 3:23–24 – Adam and Eve are driven out from Eden.
- Romans 8:20–22 – “The creation was subjected to futility... the whole creation has been groaning...”

3. Promise: Covenant and Hope of Redemption

a. A Promise of Defeat for Evil

- Genesis 3:15 – “He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
- Romans 16:20 – “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

a. God’s Covenant with Abraham

- Genesis 12:2–3 – “I will bless you...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
- Galatians 3:8 – “And the Scripture...preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham...”

b. Covenant with Israel: Law and Sacrifice

- Exodus 19:5–6 – “You shall be my treasured possession among all peoples... a kingdom of priests.”
- Leviticus 17:11 – “The life of the flesh is in the blood...”

c. The Promise of a Deliverer, a New Covenant

- Isaiah 9:6–7 – “Unto us a child is born...”
- Jeremiah 31:31–34 – “I will make a new covenant... I will put my law within them...”

4. Redemption: Jesus Christ, the Savior

a. The Incarnation of Jesus, God With Us

- John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”
- Matthew 1:21–23 – “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

b. The Cross: Substitution and Sacrifice

- Isaiah 53:5–6 – “He was pierced for our transgressions...”
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “He made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

c. Resurrection: New Life and Victory

- Luke 24:6–7 – “He is not here, but has risen.”
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- Romans 6:4 – “...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

d. Redemption Offered to All Nations

- Matthew 28:18–20 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”
- Revelation 5:9 – “You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language...”

5. Fullness: New Creation and God’s Eternal Kingdom

• a. Return of Christ and Final Judgment

- Acts 1:11 – “This Jesus... will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
- Revelation 20:11–15 – “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it...”

• b. Restoration: New Heavens and New Earth

- Revelation 21:1–5 – “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth ... ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”
- Isaiah 65:17 – “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth...”

• c. God Dwells with His People Forever

- Revelation 21:3–4 – “He will dwell with them, and they will be his people... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes...”
- Ezekiel 37:27 – “My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

• d. End of Sin, Eternal Joy for the Redeemed

- Revelation 22:3–5 – “No longer will there be anything accursed... they will see his face... and they will reign forever and ever.”
- 2 Peter 3:13 – “We are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Discussion: What’s one thing that’s “clicked” for you tonight? How might that practically help your reading of God’s Word this week?

Homework Assignment

- Read Genesis 1–3 and Revelation 21–22.
 - Write one or two sentences on how/when/where you’ve seen God at work in each of the 5 aspects of the Bible’s structure in your life (Creation, Fall, Promise, Redemption, Fullness).
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- I.e. When have you seen God creating something new in your life?
When/where have you seen sin/brokenness in your life? When have you been encouraged about the hope of heaven/fullness, etc.?

Additional Resources: The Gospel Coalition, 9-week online series, "God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible" -

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/gods-big-picture-tracing-storyline-bible/#course-introduction>

