



The Biblical Drama

- Act One:** God establishes His Kingdom: Creation
- Act Two:** Rebellion in God's Kingdom: Fall
- Act Three:** Promise of Restoration of Kingdom: Israel's Mission
- Act Four:** Kingdom Restored: Jesus' Mission
- Act Five:** Kingdom Tasted and Displayed: Church's Mission
- *Scene 1: Church Begins Its Mission to the Nations*
 - *Scene 2: Our Place in the Story: Church Continues Its Mission to the Nations*
- Act Six:** Consummation of God's Kingdom

From Goheen, Bartholomew authors of *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*

VI. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.

Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scripture we do understand those canonical Books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.

VII. Of the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New: for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to Mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and Man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard, which feign that the old Fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the Law given from God by Moses, as touching Ceremonies and Rites, do not bind Christian men, nor the Civil precepts thereof ought of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian man whatsoever is free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called Moral.

From the *Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion*

Proper 28 *The Sunday closest to November 16*

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

From the *Book of Common Prayer*

Important NT Passages on Scripture:

Matthew 5:4 – Jesus states Scripture comes from the “mouth of God”

Luke 24:27 – the risen Jesus states all the OT is about Him

John 5:39 – Jesus says the hope of eternal life in the OT Scriptures speak of Him

John 10:35 – Jesus declares that “Scripture cannot be broken”

John 16:13 – Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit guiding the writing of the NT

Romans 3:2 – Paul speaks of the OT being “the very words of God”

2 Timothy 3:16 – Paul declares that “all Scripture is God-breathed”

2 Pet. 1:16-21 – Scripture is the product of men being “carried along” by Holy Spirit

Hebrews 4:11 – “the word of God is living and active”

Revelation 22:18-19 – the risen Jesus warns against editing God’s word

Week 5 Review - Living Within the Story: Understanding the Bible

- Our knowledge of God comes from the ways he has chosen to reveal himself to us. This takes place through nature where we learn of his glory and beauty (Ps 19:1-4), but supremely through Scripture where we learn of his grace and love in Jesus (Ps 19:7-10).
- Scripture is more like a poem than a text book or a systematic study of God's perspective on various subjects.
- The basis for what we believe are events conveyed in a story that is true
- These events are revealed to us in Scripture
- Scripture tells one overarching story of God's love and what He has done to express it through creation, salvation, and the promise of new creation
- The Story is conveyed through 66 books written over 1500 years by 40 authors, and through a variety of genres (history, eye witness accounts, letters, poetry, song, vision narratives, apocalyptic literature, prophecy, law, biography)
- At the center of the Story is Jesus, it is all about Him, and His purpose to give abundant life to those who trust in Him (Luke 24.27; John 10.10-11)
- This means Scripture is not about rules to follow and heroes to emulate (though both are present), because this would make it focused on our actions
- We all live by some grand story (or collection of them) that seeks to make sense of the world by giving a whole account of creation and its purpose i.e. worldview
- Unless we know and seek to live within the Story of Salvation, we will blindly interweave it with the idolatrous stories of the culture
- **The Biblical Drama:** Act One-God establishes His Kingdom: Creation Act Two-Rebellion in God's Kingdom: Fall Act Three-Promise of Restoration of Kingdom: Israel's Mission Act Four-Kingdom Restored: Jesus' Mission Act Five-Kingdom Tasted and Displayed: Church's Mission+Scene 1: Church Begins Its Mission to the Nations +Scene 2: **Our Place in the Story:** Church Continues Its Mission to the Nations Act Six-Consummation of God's Kingdom*
- As Christians we believe that the Bible is *authoritative* - it expresses God's loving authority over creation; *inspired* - it is "God breathed"; *inerrant* - it is true in all it affirms; *sufficient* - there is nothing to add or subtract to it for salvation; *clear* - what is said regarding salvation is straightforward.
- Our beliefs about Scripture are rooted in what Scripture says about itself
- There is good textual evidence for us to take seriously that the NT documents are factual - they are the best attested of all ancient documents; the Gospel accounts were written 35-65 years after Jesus' resurrection pointing to their accuracy; there is factual corroboration on certain events found in extra-biblical sources.
- The Bible is meeting point for our relationship with God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. As we meet with God through the Bible, Jesus becomes more alive in our hearts and we begin to think and act more like him through the Spirit's influence.
- Involves regular, ongoing engagement just like a body needs meals.
- Involves studying and learning how to read and apply the Bible for ourselves. *Study aides can be very helpful so we can understand the genre, historical context, and the context within the Story of the passage we're reading. This helps us to better apply it to life.*
- Involves reading widely and deeply, to be formed by the Word rather than merely informed. Meditating upon and praying through Scripture is equally important to knowing the Story of Salvation.
- The Story of Salvation takes center stage in our worship service at the outset by processing in behind the cross, to the reading of God's Word and the Gospel coming into our midst, to professing the summary of the story in the Nicene Creed, to confessing our sins and hearing the absolution, and by entering into the drama of the Lord's Supper as we tangibly connect to and appropriate the story.

*From Goheen, Bartholomew authors of *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*

Theological Terms in Simple Language:

Natural Revelation: How God has revealed knowledge about himself through creation. We can only learn of God's glory - his magnificence and beauty through natural revelation.

Special Revelation: How God has revealed himself through history in relationship to humanity.

Through God's self-disclosure we learn of his grace as displayed in his love for sinners through Jesus.

The Bible: The written record of God's special revelation enabling humanity to enter into a personal relationship with God the Father, through the saving work of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by the means of the Holy Spirit.

World View: a grand story that seeks to make sense of the world by understanding creation, the purpose of existence, the barrier to fulfilling that purpose, and the means to overcome the barrier. Most people live by a combination of stories.

Resources for Further Study and Application:

www.biblegateway.com or the Bible Gateway App

Search the Bible by topic or phrase; Multiple translations; Audio; Study Aides - includes Study Bibles, Bible dictionaries, and Commentaries.

Biblica - The International Bible Society ([Google Search - Biblica Bible Study Resources](#))

Site contains Book Introductions and Overviews, Concordance and Dictionary, Famous Passages of the Bible, Bible History Timeline, Weights and Measures in the Bible

Holy Bible App

Multiple translations; Audio; Multiple devotional reading plans

Introduction and Chapter 1 in *From Creation to New Creation* by Tim Chester

This provides a good, short overview of the Story of the Bible with helpful visual aides for understanding the various portions of the Bible. (See Fr. Mark for a copy)

Reading and Applying the Bible Personally: from Tim Keller

Bible Reading Steps:

1. Take a passage or paragraph and read it 3-4 times.
2. Then make a list of every thing it says about God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)
3. List anything that it tells you about yourself
4. List example to be followed, commands to obey or things that need to be avoided.

Meditation and Application:

Then choose one or two things that you think were most important or the best thing that you learned from the reading. Meditation is talking to yourself about God, in the presence of God (Psalm 103).

- *The Shorter Way*

Ask yourself how you would be different if this truth was explosively alive in my inner being?

Secondly, ask why is God showing me this passage today? What is going on in my life that I need to learn this truth?

- *The Deeper Way*

ACTS= Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication

Adoration: What can I praise God for in this truth?

Confession: What false attitudes, behaviour emotions or idols come alive in me whenever I forget it?

Thanksgiving: How is Jesus Christ or the grace that I have in Jesus Christ the key to help me overcome the sin that I have just confessed?

Supplication: What do I need to do or become in light of this?

Suggestions for Next Week:

Christian Basics ~ Chapter 8

To Be A Christian ~ Section on Being Christ's #224-255

Review notes looking up Scripture passages

Begin a daily Bible reading habit

Pray for the Holy Spirit's influence, guidance, and power