

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 15 - JROC - The Kingdom of God – Pt. 3

August 30, 2026

“How are we reading the Bible?”

We need to understand the Bible literally. “When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.” Don’t go digging for a deeper meaning. Read words with their normal, everyday meaning. More often than not, the meaning of the figurative words you find in a verse/passage is in the context of the passage (i.e. Rev. 1:20).

“Biblical literalism” is understanding the Bible literally...specifically understanding Scripture as factual history and direct truth which go hand-in-hand with believing that the Word of God is inerrant (without error) and inspired – “God breathed.” If we believe that the books of the Bible were written by men inspired by God, under the power of the Holy Spirit, then we believe that everything they wrote in the Bible is exactly what God INTENDED to say...which we know as “Authorial intent”.

II Tim. 3:16 - *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*

II Pet. 1:20-21 - *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

Have you heard of Biblical literacy? Biblical literacy is the ability to read, understand, and explain the basic meaning of the Bible and the overarching story of the Bible...to understand the general knowledge of the Bible’s contents, history, and context.

Take note of the CONTEXT...the setting...what comes before and after the verse/the passage you are reading. Before and after includes the CONTEXT of the entire Bible!

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding. Isa. 11:2 tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Lord, He is the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

A more simple, very pointed definition for biblical literacy is – the meaning of the Bible!

How would we explain the meaning of the Bible? If you were given the opportunity to share the MEANING of the Bible with a friend...what would you say?

Think of verses that might explain the meaning of the Bible:

I’m going to share with you where God took me. He very well might place on your heart different Bible verses.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten (only unique One) Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. I OBSERVED...God’s love is for ALL. God SACRIFICED Himself for ALL!

But, I came away with not considering John 3:16 as conveying the meaning of Scripture – the core meaning of the Bible. Why? Because not all believe...and everlasting life, while offered to

ALL, won't be experienced by ALL. OK – we know this already. BUT – it's almost as if John 3:16 isn't conveying ALL of the Bible

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God then put on my heart, “the glory of God” – ALL Who God is – and how He reveals ALL Who He is.

Psa. 19:1 - *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.*

Consider that the heavens continue to declare the glory of God and the expanse of heaven continues to display God's handiwork!

Rom. 1:20 - *...since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

Isa. 52:10 - *The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

Isa. 53:1 – introduces us to the holy arm of the LORD: The Suffering Servant: in Isa. 53:1, the prophet asks, “To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?” directly before describing the Suffering Servant.

God placed on my heart – HIS faithfulness – Heb. 6:13 - *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,*

Lam. 3:22-23 – Jeremiah wrote after the Temple had been destroyed in 586 BC -

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

God caused me to dwell on the worship of the LORD!

Psa. 42:1-5 - *As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

Isa. 45:23 - *I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath. (Phil. 2:10).*

From the worship of God He brought me to the truth that God desires to be known...

I Sam. 17:45-46 - *Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.’*

Ezekiel - The phrase *and they shall know that I am the LORD* (or a close variation, i.e. *then you will know that I am the LORD*) appears 63 times in Ezekiel. God uses this recurring refrain to show that His actions...whether severe judgment for sin or ultimate restoration and blessing...are designed to reveal His absolute sovereignty, holiness, and presence to Israel and the surrounding nations.

Jer. 9:23-24 - *Thus says the LORD: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the LORD.*

The Bible covers the entire scope of history from eternity past through to eternity future – including the what and why of the future. The future?

The Bible teaches that history (HIS story) has an ultimate goal and purpose.