

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE  
WEEK 2 – God Knows the End from the Beginning!  
September 16, 2025

GOD wants us to know the END from the BEGINNING!

GOD has revealed it to us in His word!!

Have you ever wondered...Why Genesis and Revelation are considered the bookends of the Bible? How the Bible is one story/one narrative which unfolds throughout Scripture. Have you had difficulty understanding a uniformed message from God in Scripture? Are the Bible accounts fragmented to you. Have you not been able to piece them together?

*Isa. 42:9 - Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them. Past prophecies have been fulfilled (i.e., Jesus' first coming; Israel is now a modern nation/back in the land – 1948) and God is now announcing what is to come, demonstrating that He is omniscient, He is all knowing.*

*Isa. 46:10 – God is...Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,' Declaring is in the present tense! We can state it this way - God **DECLARES** the end from the beginning!!!*

Foreknowledge - God knows all future events from a timeless perspective, separate from the human constraints of time...because God is above time and space...because God is eternal!! We might explain this verse as God declaring/announcing the end, Revelation (which includes the Millennial Kingdom/the Kingdom of God AND the Eternal State (the new heavens and the new earth...the New Jerusalem), from the beginning, Genesis. God is proclaiming the end, eternity future, from eternity past!

Isa. 46:10 - God DECLARES. He announces, He makes known.

God desires for us to KNOW Him!

*Jer. 9:24 - ...let the one who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises mercy, justice, and righteousness on the earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord.*

Regarding the “end” that God reveals in Isa. 46:10, God reveals eternity future in His word. In Revelation 21 and 22 we read of the new heavens and the new earth...the New Jerusalem which WILL come about – literally - in the FUTURE following the Millennial Kingdom – the Kingdom of God in the future! We need to read the Bible literally...understanding what was written from the plain, ordinary sense of the words.

- The New Jerusalem is prophesied, according to the book of Revelation, to “descend” from heaven after the new heaven and new earth are established.

In Revelation 21, the holy city, New Jerusalem, descends from heaven. After the final judgment, God unites heaven and earth and makes New Jerusalem the capital. New Jerusalem will be the central place of the New Earth, and the New Earth will be part of heaven! Can we even fathom such a new creation?

AND, WHY is there even a new creation? **GENESIS tells us why!!!!**

When we read through the Bible, do we comprehend how God’s message UNFOLDS? God reveals His plan for the world gradually through the Scripture. Did God tell Adam and Eve about salvation? Yes. However, not all the details were revealed.

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For your personal study, please take note of the books in the OT and in the NT:

God's message revealed in the 39 books of the OT:

Torah – (“instruction”) first five books recorded by Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

History - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

The Writings/The Poets - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

The Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel,

The Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

God's message revealed in the 27 books of the NT:

The Gospels/Jesus' Ministry at His First Coming – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Church History – the Book of Acts

The Pauline Epistles: addressed to particular churches or people: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.

The General Epistles – addressed to a wider audience: James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude.

The Book of Revelation – The revelation of Jesus!

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*God knows the end from the beginning....*

Eschatology is the study of "last things" or end times...encompassing future preordained/  
predetermined events – the rapture of the Church (Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus), the

Tribulation, the Physical Second Coming of Jesus, the Millennial Kingdom which is the Kingdom of God on earth, the Eternal State/the New Jerusalem!!! The main prophetic books re: end times are in the Hebrew Scriptures (Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah) and in the NT (Revelation).

The study of last things/end times/eschatology equates to between 27% and 33% of Scripture! CONSIDER: eschatology is not just about predicting the future, but also about understanding how ALL these events in Scripture – esp. throughout Israel’s history, relate to God’s overall plan for creation, redemption and restoration.

AND, because God sees the end from the beginning – HE SEES BOTH SIDES CLEARLY!!!! God knows every detail...everything in between - because He has orchestrated every moment...every event because God is ETERNAL!

AND, because He is a God of communication, HE REVEALS His plan to us! Who are we that we should be included in understanding the revelation of His plan?!!

CONSIDER: From God’s perspective – the end times are already accomplished.

God is emphatic in stating *My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.* In understanding Who our God is and what He has done and is doing and will continue to

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do – doesn’t this give us courage – esp. in such a chaotic world? God has **not** given us the spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind/self-control (II Tim. 1:7)? This is application!

The Bible is one story/one narrative which unfolds throughout Scripture. The one story of Scripture “unfolds”...the events in the story are revealed or become known gradually. The things that God revealed to humanity were not all given at once. This is known as progressive revelation. The details of God’s revelation become more clear over time.

I LOVE the word “until” or “til” in Scripture.

Matt. 23:37-39 - *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup> for I say to you, you shall see Me no more **till** you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'* ” About what timeframe is Jesus speaking? When Israel mourns for Jesus, He will then return to earth. Are we told when that will occur? Most definitely...

Zech. 12:10 - *And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn* (the end of the campaign of Armageddon/end of the tribulation).

UNTIL” is used in Scripture – 891 times! In the OT – 679X and in the NT – 212X. God is above time and space. God created man and placed him on this earth and into time and space. God meets with man within man’s time and space. “UNTIL” speaks of a continuation within time. Therefore, we know that the “one story” continues. Again – the revelation of God in the history of the world has been revealed progressively!

We need to know that GENESIS provides us with the key to what God HAS planned...FOREVER!

Those who teach the “Big Picture” of Scripture tend to explain the Bible from a high level. There was a problem which was addressed and then it was resolved! What’s missing? There is another label that is being used re: understanding the entire Bible: “metanarrative” – the “grand narrative” More specifically, “meta” means “goal,” “destination.” God’s destination for creation and for man! “One story” - we need to know that God’s message – His word - is working toward one climactic end. We need to know that end...and we do know that end...from Scripture.

The understanding of the one story of the Bible cannot stay at such an abbreviated version because it risks missing the details that anchor the story of Scripture that reveal the entirety of Scripture! Let that sink in! The one story of Scripture, with DETAILS, I pray, will grab us and cause us to dig deeper into Scripture and to MARVEL more than ever at God’s AWE-INSPIRING, GRACIOUS PLAN!!!!

God has provided framework for us in Scripture re: the “one story.” When I think of a framework, I think of something sturdy - the essential support structure of an entire building. We need to comprehend the framework of the entire Bible which will help us grasp the significance

of the Biblical accounts – even the difficult passages. The framework is known as the Biblical principles of Scripture – the foundation of the truth of the word of God.

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Several biblical principles, several of which are repeated throughout Scripture: *The glory of God, The kingdom of God... ...that they may know that I am God...I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you, and through you all the families of the earth shall be blessed* (Gen. 12:3)...(Gen. 18:18 - Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him ...and thus we have God's covenants with Israel...

There are four words that I've been sharing in classes for 15+ years – four words that explain the one story of Scripture...a very BROAD look upon which we will add as the weeks go by:

CREATION   FALL   REDEMPTION   RESTORATION

CREATION: God created the heavens and the earth perfectly/completely

FALL: Through disobedience, man introduced sin and brokenness into the world. This act disrupted the original harmony, bringing death, pain, and separation from God

REDEMPTION: God immediately set in motion a plan to rescue and restore. He promised a Redeemer Who would defeat evil. (Gen. 3:15).

RESTORATION (New Creation): In Jesus! Jesus is the fulfillment!

WHAT IS MISSING IN THIS VERY BROAD LOOK AT GOD'S PLAN FOR THE WORLD?

The "one story" of Scripture emphasizes that God's purpose is not only to save individuals but to restore the entire universe to its intended wholeness and peace – for the glory of God (Hab. 2:14).

## QUESTIONS

What was new to you?

What are your questions? Please write them out and give them to your Table Leader.

What impacted you this morning?

From your knowledge of Scripture, what is missing from the abbreviated explanations of Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration?

## SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 1 w/ Bible references.

As you begin to dive into Scripture on your own, observe the text and ask questions (questions that can be answered from Scripture)

As you read Scripture in your quiet time/study time, jot down how that Scripture might fit into the one story.

What is missing from the brief explanation of: CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION?

What is your favorite verse regarding JOY?

Read Week 2's handout when you receive it.