

# The Story of the Bible

by Drue Warner

12-28-23

**COMMON THREAD & THEME:** God doing the unexpected and using the unsuspecting.

**COVENANTS:** God makes covenants (promises) to His people that communicate His heart, His plans, and His purposes. The primary covenants are:

- Adam (Gen. 2) – Life / Works
- Noah (Gen. 9) - Promise
- Abraham (Gen. 12, 15, 17) - People
- Jacob (Gen. 28) – Place (the Land)
- Moses (Ex. 19-24) – Law / Obedience
- David (2 Sam. 7) – Kingship / Rule
- New Covenant (Jer. 31, Ezekiel 36) – Grace / Forgiveness

**These chapters provide excellent summaries of the story of God and His people.**

- Psalm 78
- Nehemiah 9
- Acts 7

-----  
**This is a summary of the story of the Bible written from memory (as best I can recall). 😊**

- To access a very helpful timeline of the Bible, go to [www.biblehub.com/timeline](http://www.biblehub.com/timeline).

## Creation

Adam & Eve are created in the image of God for perfect relationship with God, until they are deceived by Satan (in the form of a serpent), sin against God by eating the only fruit in the garden that God told them they couldn't have. As a result of the curse of sin, they were kicked out of the garden, and separated from God

- Cain kills his brother Abel, because Abel offered a better sacrifice (animal, bloodshed) to God than Cain (fruits and vegetables)
- Adam and Eve have another son, and name him...
- Seth (through whom would be the line of the Messiah, foreshadowed in Genesis 3:15)
- 10 generations between Adam and Noah (approx. 1650 years): Adam > Seth > Enosh > Kennan > Mahalalel > Jared > Enoch > Methuselah > Lamech > Noah
- **Noah** (a righteous man who walked with God)

God is displeased with mankind because *“every inclination of the human heart is only evil all the time,”* and so God tells Noah to build an ark because he's going to flood the earth and

start over. After 40 days, God makes a **Covenant with Noah** and sends a rainbow in the sky and tells Noah that it's His promise to never again flood the earth.

- **Shem** (Japheth, and Ham)
- Tower of Babel (Gen. 11) – Man was trying to “make a name for himself” by constructing a tower to heaven. God confused their language.
- **Abraham** & Sarah (**God's Covenant Blessing, Gen. 12, 17** - blessed to be a blessing to all nations)
- **Isaac** (& Ishmael)
- **Jacob**, deceiver, younger (& Esau)
- God reinforces His **Covenant (Land) with Jacob (Gen. 28)**
- Joseph (rescuer foreshadowing)
- **Judah** (and 10 brothers) rescued
- Judah sleeps with his daughter-in-law, Tamar, who is masquerading as a prostitute because she knows the importance of continuing the genealogical line.
- Tamar has twin sons, **Perez** and Zerah. It appeared that Zerah would be born first, so a scarlet thread was tied around his wrist, but he withdrew his hand and Perez was born first. He's the one through whom the line of the Messiah would continue.
  
- Pharaoh enslaves Israelites
- **Moses** (prophet, deliverer)
- 10 plagues of Egypt
- Red Sea rescue from the Egyptian army
- God promises to deliver Israel into a physical Promised Land (a land flowing with milk and honey)
- God gives his **Covenant of Law (10 Commandments), Ex. 19-24**
- Israel rebels immediately by making a golden calf (under the watch of Aaron, Moses' brother) while Moses is on Mt. Sinai meeting with God on behalf of the people.
- As a result of their ongoing rebellion, God sends Israel into the desert to wander for 40 years (until the current generation dies out)
- Joshua (savior) leads into Promised Land and conquers enemies left and right
- **Rahab** (a prostitute in Jericho who believed God and acted in faith to help Joshua and Israel defeat Jericho, she ended up being in the genealogical line of Jesus, the promised Messiah)
- **Ruth** (a widowed Moabite woman) is taken under the protective covering of Boaz, her kinsman-redeemer (an Israelite from the tribe of Judah, whose mother was Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute from Jericho).
- Their grandson is **Jesse** (the father of **David**)
  
- God raises up judges (Deborah, Sampson, and more) to call out to and attempt to bring rebellious Israel back to Him.

- Israel wants a king like the nations around them.
- God gives them Saul (strong, tall, handsome, arrogant, rebellious) who sins against God and is almost immediately rejected by God as king.
- God raises up and makes a **Covenant Promise to David (2 Samuel 7)**, from Jesse's house (in the line of Judah, which had been prophesied)
- **David** sins with **Bathsheba** and have a son, the next King of Israel, Solomon
- Rehoboam succeeded Solomon as king, but Jeroboam rebelled and took 10 tribes (Israel)
  
- Divided Kingdom (Judah - southern kingdom, Israel - northern kingdom)
- Elijah and Elisha (prophets) come to foreshadow the wonder, miracles, healing, and power of the coming Messiah.
- Rebellious, wicked kings and people pursued by God, to no avail, and so God sends both Israel and Judah into captivity.
  
- Prophets are sent by God (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) to warn Israel and Judah to turn from their wicked ways to God, lest there be coming destruction.
- Isaiah gives the most detailed prophecies of what to expect in the coming Messiah (especially chapters 6, 9, 11, 53, 58, and 61)
  
- Through Jeremiah (31) and Ezekiel (36), God makes known a **New Covenant of Grace**, not works.
  
- Israel is taken captive by Assyria (722 BC), never to return
- Judah is taken captive by Babylon (586 BC) and returns (516 BC) to rebuild the temple (led by Ezra) and the wall surrounding Jerusalem (led by **Nehemiah**, the cupbearer for King Xerxes, Persia / Babylon)
  
- Prophets (Ezekiel, Daniel) are also given apocalyptic dreams to tell of the coming Day of the Lord's wrath and of His salvation. These prophetic dreams align perfectly with each other and with the Apostle John's prophetic writings in Revelation (500 years later). After Malachi's prophetic writings and warnings to Israel and Judah, there is...
  
- 400 years of silence, until one day...
  
- Angels appear to tell cousins, Elizabeth (& Zechariah) and **Mary** (& Joseph), that God is getting ready to act. Elizabeth will have a son, to be named John, who will prepare the way of the Lord. Mary will have a son who will be the long-promised Messiah, to be named Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

- *NOTE: In Matthew's geneology of Jesus (Ch. 1), there are 4 women included in the record: Rahab (prostitute), Ruth (Moabite), Bathsheba (Uriah's husband), and Mary (teenage pregnancy).*
- While everyone else had, pretty much, given up on God, Simeon and Anna have both been faithful in waiting to see the promised Messiah, and they see and hold him in their arms (the promised seed of Abraham, lion from the tribe of Judah, king on the throne of David) who will save His people from their sins.
- John (one like Elijah crying out in the wilderness) comes to prepare the way for Jesus by telling people to *"repent and be baptized."*
- **Jesus** comes and tells people, *"Repent and believe because the Kingdom of God is at hand."*
- Jesus lives a perfect life, dies a criminal's death, and is resurrected, then after 40 days, ascends into heaven.
- Jesus' disciples gather in fear in an upper room in Jerusalem. Jesus visits them and breaths on them the **Holy Spirit**, which comes upon them like tongues of fire.
- The disciples burst out of the upper room speaking in all kinds of different tongues (languages), such that the people accuse them of being drunk.
  - This is a reversal of the Tower of Babel. Instead of God confusing their language, God gave them languages.
- **Peter** gives his first sermon, telling and retelling this story of God's salvation, such that the people were "cut to the heart," and 3,000 people believed. This is the birth of The Church
- Christians begin to get persecuted.
- Stephen is martyred by being stoned to death.
- **Saul of Tarsus** (a Pharisee) gives approval.
- On his way to Damascus, Saul encounters Jesus who asks him, *"Saul, Saul, Why are you persecuting Me?"* Saul fell to his face and believed. To which Jesus changed his name to Paul and said, *"You will be my chosen instrument, and I will show you how much you will suffer for Me."*
- Saul is blinded, but met by Ananias (who God spoke to about Saul). After a few days, scales fell from Paul's eyes and he could see.
- Paul went out into the dessert for 3 years, then returned to Jerusalem, and began his ministry to the Gentiles.
- Paul wrote 12 letters to the churches he established and young men he disciplined.
- Other letters were written by James (Jesus' brother), Peter, Jude, and John.

- The unknown writer of Hebrews connects the Old Testament priests, sacrifices, temple, etc. all as foreshadowing that points directly to Jesus, and the physical Promised Land and Sabbath to a spiritual Promised Land and Sabbath that are all found in Jesus. **Everything points to Jesus.**
- The Bible (New Testament) ends with an apocalyptic (prophetic) dream given to John directly by Jesus, that gives instructions, encouragement, and admonishment for the seven churches (and the Church overall), tells of the spiritual battle being fought, and of the return of Christ as a warrior King coming to redeem and marry His Bride, the Church, while also judging sin and sinful man and restoring all things to perfection.

## THE GOOD NEWS

*Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. - 1 John 3:4-5*

*Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. - Hebrews 9:28*

*For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.  
- Hebrews 10:14*

*“But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.” - Romans 3:21-25a*

## Seeing Jesus in Every Book of the Old Testament

*This is a resource that I discovered and thought it might be helpful to include.*

- **Genesis 3:15** - Jesus was the Seed of the woman that bruised the serpent's head (Matthew 1:18; Luke 10:19).
- **Exodus 12:21** - Jesus was our Passover Lamb sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7).
- **Leviticus 16:21-22** - Jesus was our scapegoat who bore our sins on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21 - John 1:29; Hebrews 9:28).
- **Numbers 21:8** - Jesus was lifted up on a pole like the bronze serpent (John 3:14).
- **Deuteronomy 18:15** - Jesus was the prophet like Moses who God raised up (John 7:40; Hebrews 3:2-6).
- **Joshua 5:14** - Jesus was there as a Commander of the Lord's army (Revelation 19:11-14).
- **Judges 6:22** - Jesus was there as the Angel of the Lord, encouraging Gideon (John 14:8-10).
- **Ruth 4:6** - Jesus, in His incarnation, became our Kinsman Redeemer (1 Peter 1:18; Leviticus 25; Deuteronomy 25).
- **1 Samuel 2:10** - Jesus is the Horn of Salvation that God raised up for us (Luke 1:69).
- **2 Samuel 7:12** - Jesus is the Son of David, prophesied to rule as King (Matthew 1:1).
- **1 Kings 8:27** - Jesus is the answer to the question, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth?" (John 1:14; John 2:19).
- **2 Kings 4:43** - Jesus is a prophet similar to Elisha who multiplied loaves (Mark 6:44).
- **1 Chronicles 17:14** - Jesus is the Son of David whose kingdom would last forever. He is both Priest and King (Matthew 1:1; Hebrews 6:20; John 1:49).
- **2 Chronicles 9:22** - Jesus was typified as a "Greater than Solomon" in His wisdom (Colossians 2:3; Matthew 12:42).
- **Ezra 9:2** - The preservation of the Holy Seed matters, because the lineage of Jesus matters (Genesis 3:15; Luke 3:23-38).
- **Nehemiah 13:8** - Nehemiah foreshadows Jesus cleansing the temple. (Mark 11:15-19).
- **Esther 10:3** - Jesus was typified by Mordecai's exaltation from persecuted Jew to the highest position (Matthew 21:42; Revelation 20:4).
- **Job 19:25** - Jesus is our Living Redeemer who stood on the earth (Ephesians 1:7; Matthew 28:6).
- **Psalms 22:16** - Jesus was the One whose hands and feet were pierced on the cross (John 20:25).
- **Proverbs 30:4** - Jesus was the Son of God who descended from heaven to save us and ascended to be our advocate.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:11** - Jesus was the Good Shepherd who taught us the truth.
- **Song of Solomon 2** - Jesus' love for His church was typified in Solomon's love for his bride. (Ephesians 5:25-32).
- **Isaiah 53:5** - Jesus was prophesied to be the One to take our sin's punishment (1 Peter 2:24).

- **Jeremiah 23:5** - Jesus was the Branch that sprang up from the line of David (Matt. 1:1).
- **Lamentations 2:11** - Jesus would also be in tears over Jerusalem's condition (Luke 19:41).
- **Ezekiel 34:23** - Jesus is the Chief Shepherd who fed the people physically and spiritually (1 Peter 5:4; Mark 6:42).
- **Daniel 9:25** - Jesus was prophesied to arrive as King on the exact day He did (Nehemiah 2:1-8; John 12:12; Exodus 12:1-3).
- **Hosea 11:1** - Jesus was the true Son of God that was brought out of Egypt (Matt. 2:15).
- **Joel 2:32** - Jesus would be the name people could call on for salvation (Romans 10:13; Acts 2:21).
- **Amos 9:11** - Jesus was going to arrive when the tabernacle of David was repaired after the exile (Acts 15:15-17).
- **Obadiah 1:21** - Jesus will rule the kingdom in the Millennial Period (Revelation 11:15).
- **Jonah 1:17** - Jonah typified the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (Matt. 12:40).
- **Micah 5:2** - The birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem was prophesied (Matthew 2:1).
- **Nahum 1:15** - The redemption secured by Jesus over our enemy is good news to bring to all (Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15).
- **Habakkuk 2:4** - This verse is quoted three times in the New Testament, pointing to faith in Jesus (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).
- **Zephaniah 3:15** - Jesus will be the King in the midst of His people during His Millennial reign (Revelation 19:16; 20:4).
- **Haggai 2:23** - Jesus was a descendent of Zerubbabel, fulfilling this promise (Matt. 1:12).
- **Zechariah 9:9** - Jesus was prophesied to arrive on a donkey (John 12:14-15).
- **Malachi 3:1** - Jesus had John the Baptist as a forerunner, and He Himself came suddenly to the temple (Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 11:15-19).