

# Overview Of The Bible (1)

## **Introduction:**

- A. The Bible tells the story of how God created man, and tells the story of God's purpose for man.
- B. The Bible answers our most basic and most important questions about life.
  - 1. Everyone must wrestle with some important questions in life.
    - a. Why are we here?
    - b. How did we get here?
    - c. What is our purpose on earth?
    - d. Where are we going?
  - 2. The Bible provides us with the information that we need in order to properly answer these difficult questions.
- C. The Bible presents a consistent story from beginning to end.
  - 1. The story begins with the Old Testament and concludes with the New Testament.
  - 2. It is important to have a grasp of the overall story of the Bible.

## **Body:**

### **I. The Bible Tells The Story Of Creation.**

- A. The Bible begins by stating that God created the physical universe (Genesis 1:1).
- B. The Bible says that God created the universe and everything in it within a period of six consecutive days (Genesis 1:1-31).
- C. When God completed his creation everything that he made was perfect (Genesis 1:31).
  - 1. He did not create a single organism and leave it to evolve for millions and millions of years until it became a man.
  - 2. God's creation was complete, fully functioning, and "very good" by the time he finished on the sixth day (v. 31).
- D. God placed the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8-25).
  - 1. The first man and woman were called Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:20).
  - 2. They enjoyed a perfect relationship with God.
  - 3. All of their needs were taken care of.
  - 4. They lived in a perfect paradise in fellowship with God.

### **II. Sin Entered The World.**

- A. God gave man his law while man was in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:16-17).
  - 1. There were two special trees in the garden—the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
  - 2. Man was allowed to eat of the Tree of Life.
  - 3. But, man was not allowed to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

4. And God said that man would be punished if he broke this law.
- B. Satan tempted the woman to eat the forbidden fruit by using a serpent (Genesis 3:1-5).
- C. The woman ate the forbidden fruit and gave some to the man who ate it as well (Genesis 3:6).
  1. Both of them ate the fruit that God told them not to eat.
  2. When they ate the forbidden fruit they sinned against God.
- D. What is sin?
  1. Sin is the violation of God's law (1 John 3:4).
  2. When man breaks God's law he sins.
  3. When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit they broke God's law--they sinned.
- E. What are the consequences of sin?
  1. Sin separates man from God.
  2. Man started out in a perfect relationship with God, but when he violated God's law he became separated from God.
  3. The Bible refers to the separation that takes place when man sins as "spiritual death" (Ephesians 2:1).
- F. Adam and Eve were punished for breaking God's law (Gen. 3:22-23).
  1. They died spiritually (i.e. they were separated from God).
  2. They also began dying physically. Why? Because they could no longer eat of the Tree of Life.
- G. We suffer the consequences of sin today.
  1. We die physically. Why? Because man lost access to the Tree of Life in the beginning when he sinned.
  2. But, we do NOT suffer spiritual death because of Adam's sin--we cannot inherit the guilt of sin!
  3. Each person becomes separated from God through his own sins, not the sins of Adam or anyone else (Ezekiel 18:20).

### **III. God Had A Plan To Deal With The Problem Of Sin.**

- A. There was nothing man could do to remove his sin after he violated God's law and became separated from God.
  1. All who sin are doomed to destruction (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
  2. But God had a plan from the beginning to take away man's sin!
- B. God's plan from the beginning was for Jesus, the Son of God, to come and take away man's sins.
  1. There was nothing man could do by himself to take away his sins.
  2. Since man couldn't do anything to get rid of his own sins, God's plan was for Jesus to come and take away the sin so that man could have a relationship with God again.
  3. The Bible refers to fellowship with God as spiritual "life" (Ephesians 2:1).
  4. This is what the whole Bible is all about—man sinned and lost his relationship with God, so God enacted a plan to take away man's sins so that he could have a relationship with God again.

#### **IV. Man Continued To Sin.**

- A. There was more sin involved in Adam and Eve's family (Genesis 4:1-8).
- B. The whole world was involved in sin (Genesis 6:5-8).
- C. God decided to destroy the world with a flood because of all the sin (Genesis 6:17).
  - 1. God commanded Noah to make an ark (Genesis 6:14-15).
  - 2. Only 8 people were saved from the flood (Genesis 7:20-23).
  - 3. This should make it obvious to us that God takes sin very seriously!

#### **V. God's Plan Involved Abraham.**

- A. Abraham (Abram) was a righteous man (Genesis 18:19).
  - 1. God needed a righteous man in order to carry out his plan of bringing Jesus into the world to take away sin.
  - 2. So, God would use Abraham to carry out his plan to save mankind from sin.
- B. God made three promises to Abraham in connection with his plan (Genesis 12:1-3).
  - 1. God promised that Abraham's descendants would become a great nation (v. 2).
  - 2. God promised that Abraham's people would be given a possession of land (v. 1).
  - 3. God promised that one who would come through Abraham's descendants would bring a blessing for all of mankind (v. 3).
- C. The rest of the Old Testament deals with the fulfillment of these three promises God made to Abraham.
  - 1. The third promise refers to the fact that Jesus would be one of Abraham's descendants.
  - 2. This is the key to understanding how God would unfold his plan to take away man's sins.
  - 3. The third promise is sometimes referred to as the "seed" promise (Genesis 22:18), because Jesus would be of Abraham's "seed," or offspring.
  - 4. In other words, Jesus would eventually come through Abraham's family and he would be the one who would bring the blessing of forgiveness of sins to mankind.
  - 5. The key to understanding the message of the Bible is to understand the promises that God made to Abraham!

#### **Conclusion:**

- A. The Bible presents a consistent story that we can all understand.
- B. The plan of God to take away sin is unfolded throughout its pages.
- C. Remember, sin is the problem!
- D. God has provided the solution.