

Overview Of The Bible (4)

Introduction:

- A. The Bible presents a consistent story from beginning to end.
- B. The Bible tells the story of how God created man, and tells the story of God's purpose for man.
- C. The Bible tells us about the problem of sin (1 John 3:4; Ephesians 2:1).
- D. The Bible also tells us about God's plan to deal with the problem of sin.
 - 1. The plan from the beginning was for Jesus, the Son of God, to come into the world for the purpose of taking away man's sins.
 - 2. Since man couldn't do anything to remove his own sins, God's plan from the beginning was for Jesus to come and provide a way for man to have his sins forgiven so that his relationship with God could be restored.
- E. God's plan involved Abraham.
 - 1. God would use Abraham to carry out his plan to save mankind from sin.
 - 2. God made three promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - 3. The third promise refers to the fact that Jesus would be Abraham's descendant.
- F. Abraham's family and the promises.
 - 1. Seventy people of the family of Israel (Abraham's descendants) went down to Egypt (Genesis 46:27).
 - 2. The people of Israel start grew into a great nation in Egypt (Exodus 1:7).
 - 3. The first one of the promises God made to Abraham has been fulfilled!
- G. Israel's Exodus from Egypt.
 - 1. God sends Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 3-4).
 - 2. God uses Moses to lead Israel to the land that he promised to give to Abraham and his descendants (Exodus 1:7).
 - 3. God makes a covenant with Israel and gives them his law (Exodus 19-20).
 - 4. Israel refuses to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:1-3).
 - 5. God causes them to wander for 40 years (Numbers 14:33).

Body:

I. Joshua Leads Israel Into The Promised Land.

- A. God selects a new leader for Israel after the death of Moses.
 - 1. God tells Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land (Joshua 1:1-2).
 - 2. Israel receives all of the land that God promised to give them (Joshua 21:43).
 - 3. This means that the second promise that God made to Abraham has also been fulfilled!
- B. The three promises God made to Abraham give us an outline to follow in understanding the message of the Bible.
 - 1. God fulfilled his first promise to Abraham by making his descendants (Israel) into a great nation of people.
 - 2. God fulfilled his second promise to Abraham by giving Abraham's descendants (Israel) possession of the land of Canaan.

3. There is only one promise left to be fulfilled.
4. The last remaining promise is the “Seed” promise (Genesis 22:18).
5. This third promise refers to God’s plan for Jesus to come through Abraham’s family and provide a way for man’s sins to be taken away.
6. By the end of the book of Joshua, the first two promises have already been fulfilled.
7. The rest of the Old Testament looks forward to the fulfillment of the third promise!

II. The History Of Israel.

- A. The people of Israel do not remain loyal and faithful to God.
 1. Israel becomes unfaithful to God in the land God gave them (Judges 2:10).
 2. Much of this unfaithfulness centers around the fact that Israel is constantly worshiping the idols (false gods) of the nations around them (Judges 2:11-12).
- B. Israel also rejects God’s plan for ruling over them.
 1. The people of Israel demand to have a king to rule over them (1 Samuel 8:5).
 2. The first king of Israel is Saul (1 Samuel 10:20-21).
 - a. Saul disobeys the commands of God.
 - b. God takes the kingdom away from Saul (1 Samuel 15:26).
 3. The second king of Israel is David (2 Samuel 5:3).
 - a. David is obedient to God.
 - b. God promises David that his descendant will reign as king forever (2 Samuel 7:12-13).
 - c. This means the “seed” promise God made to Abraham will be fulfilled through one of David’s descendants.
 - d. Jesus will come through David’s family line!
 - e. The third promise that God made to Abraham will be fulfilled through one of David’s descendants.
 4. The third king of Israel is Solomon (1 Kings 1:39).
 - a. Solomon is the son of David.
 - b. Solomon builds a temple to worship God in Jerusalem (1 Kings 6).
 5. When Solomon dies the kingdom of Israel is divided into two separate kingdoms.
 - a. The family of David rules the southern kingdom of Judah, and various other kings rule the northern kingdom of Israel.
 - b. But the people continue to become unfaithful and rebel against God throughout their history.

III. The Prophets Of Israel.

- A. God sent prophets to speak to the people of Israel.
 1. A “prophet” is one who is a spokesman for God (Jeremiah 1:9).
 2. The prophets would then speak the word of God to the people and foretell future events.

3. God used the prophets to warn the people to stop sinning and to stop worshiping idols.
- B. The prophets foretold the coming of Christ.
 1. There are many examples, beginning with Moses, where the prophets foretold the coming of Jesus.
 - a. Deuteronomy 18:15.
 - b. Isaiah 7:14.
 - c. Isaiah 9:6-7.
 - d. Micah 5:2.
 2. Isaiah 53 gives some of the key details of the life, purpose, and death of the Christ.
 3. Psalm 22 gives some of the key details of the death that Christ would suffer.
 4. The prophets foretold the death and resurrection of Christ.
 - a. Zechariah 12:10.
 - b. Psalm 16:9-10.
 5. Since the prophets spoke of Christ in such great detail the people of Israel should have known what he would be like long before he was even born.
- C. Most of the people of Israel did not listen to the prophets of God.
 1. Because they refused to listen and continued to rebel, God caused other nations to conquer Israel to punish them for their disobedience.
 2. But God preserved a small number of the people of Israel in order to keep the promise that he made to Abraham.
 3. The third promise would be fulfilled with the coming of Jesus!

Conclusion:

- A. The focus of the Bible is the one overall story that runs through it.
- B. Remember, this story can be traced back to the fact that, from the beginning, mankind has had a problem with sin.
- C. But the plan of God to take away sin is unfolded to us throughout the pages of the Bible.
- D. When we read through the Bible we are reading about how God carried out his plan to solve the problem of sin so that we could have a relationship with him.