

Overview Of The Bible (3)

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. The first promise to Abraham that God fulfilled was the promise that Abraham's descendants would become a great nation.
 - 2. Seventy people of the family of Israel (Abraham's descendants) go to Egypt.
 - 3. These seventy people of Israel will grow into a great nation in Egypt.

Body:

I. The People Of Israel Became Numerous In Egypt.

- A. The people of Israel grow into a great nation of people while living in Egypt (Exodus 1:6-12).
- B. Pharaoh devises a solution to the growing Israelite problem (Exodus 1:16).

II. Moses Becomes The Leader Of Israel.

- A. Moses is born during the period when all male Israelite children are to be killed at birth (Exodus 2:1-4).
 - 1. Pharaoh's daughter finds him and takes him to raise him as her son (Exodus 2:5-10).
 - 2. The boy is named "Moses," and he becomes Pharaoh's grandson (Exodus 2:11).
- A. Moses offends the king of Egypt (Exodus 2:11-15).
- B. God uses Moses to deliver Israel from Egyptian oppression.
 - 1. The people of Israel cry out to God for deliverance and God listens to them (Exodus 2:23-25).
 - 2. God sends Moses back to Egypt to lead Israel out of Egypt and to take them to the land that he promised to give to Abraham's descendants (Exodus 3:10).

3. But God knows that Pharaoh will not willingly let his slaves, the people of Israel, leave Egypt (Exodus 3:19-20).

III. Moses Confronts Pharaoh.

- A. God sends Moses to the king of Egypt with a message (Exodus 5:1-2).
- B. God displays his power over the false gods of Egypt.
 1. God brings a series of plagues on the land of Egypt because of Pharaoh's refusal to obey his word (Exodus 7-10).
 2. Even after these nine severe plagues Pharaoh still refuses to let Israel go.
 3. God brings one last plague on Egypt (Exodus 11-12).
 4. When the last plague takes place Pharaoh finally decides to allow Israel to leave Egypt (Exodus 12:31).
 5. By the time they leave Egypt, they have become a great nation (Exodus 12:37).

IV. Israel Leaves Egypt.

- A. Moses leads the people of Israel out of Egypt so that they can journey toward the Promised Land.
 1. Israel leaves Egypt and goes into the wilderness.
 2. But Pharaoh decides to pursue Israel (Exodus 14:5-8).
 3. Soon, the people of Israel find themselves trapped with the Red Sea in front and Pharaoh's army behind (Exodus 14:9).
 4. God parts the waters of the Red Sea and allows Israel to cross through the Red Sea on dry ground (Exodus 14:22).
 5. Pharaoh's army follows Israel into the midst of the Red Sea and is destroyed when the waters return to normal (Exodus 14:28).
 6. Israel is now safe on the other side of the Red Sea and continues to journey toward the Promised Land of Canaan.
- B. The people of Israel begin to complain while in the wilderness.
 1. They complain that they have no water (Exodus 15:24).
 2. God provides water (Exodus 15:25).
 3. They complain that they have no food (Exodus 16:2).
 4. God provides food (Exodus 16:4).
 5. They constantly complain while journeying toward the Promised Land.

V. God Makes A Covenant With Israel.

- A. A "covenant" is defined as an agreement or contract between two parties.
- B. God makes a covenant with Israel in the wilderness at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:1).
 1. God's covenant will involve Israel obeying the law of God.
 2. Israel agrees to keep God's covenant (Exodus 19:8).
- C. God gives Israel his law.
 1. God begins giving Israel his law starting with the *Ten Commandments* written on stone (Exodus 20:1-17).
 2. It is important to understand that the *Ten Commandments* were only for Israel!
 3. God also gave Israel many other religious and civil laws.

4. The Bible calls this law the “Law of Moses,” the “Law of God,” or the “Old Testament.”
- D. The law involved sacrifices.
 1. They were to offer lambs as sacrifices for sins (Leviticus 4:32-35).
 2. God’s law said the life of flesh is in its blood (Leviticus 17:11).
 3. The Law of God connected the shedding of blood with forgiveness of sins.
 4. This pointed to the future when Jesus would come and die to take away man’s sin!
- E. Israel rebels against God at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 32:4, 10).

VI. Israel Reaches The Promised Land.

- A. Israel arrives at the land which God promised to give to Abraham’s descendants.
 1. Moses sends 12 spies to search the land, because there are other nations living in the land (Numbers 13:1-2).
 2. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, return and say that God will allow them to take the land as a possession (Numbers 13:30).
 3. The other ten spies tell the people of Israel that it will be impossible to take the land (Numbers 13:31-32).
 4. The people refuse to enter the land (Numbers 14:3).
- B. God punishes Israel for rebelling against him.
 1. The whole generation that refused to enter the land will not be allowed to go in (Numbers 14:22-23).
 2. Only Joshua and Caleb will be allowed to go into the land (Numbers 14:30).
 3. Israel will have to wander in the wilderness for forty years before they can go into the Promised Land (Numbers 14:34).
- C. Moses sins against God.
 1. Israel begins wandering in the wilderness for forty years.
 2. The people need water in the wilderness, so God instructs Moses and Aaron concerning the water situation (Numbers 20:2, 8).
 3. Do Moses and Aaron obey God on this occasion (Numbers 20:10-11)?
 4. No, Moses and Aaron sinned against God (Numbers 20:12).
 5. Moses and Aaron will not be allowed to enter the Promised Land because they sinned against God on this occasion!
 6. Moses dies just before Israel enters the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 34:1, 5).
 7. Once again, we are reminded that God takes sin seriously!

Conclusion:

- A. The Bible contains many interesting stories, but there is really one overall story that runs through it.
- B. Remember, sin is the problem!
- C. The plan of God to take away sin is unfolded 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 mankind’s biggest problem.