

Overview Of The Bible (5)

Introduction:

- A. The Bible presents a consistent story from beginning to end.
 - 1. It is important to have a grasp of the overall story of the Bible.
 - 2. The Bible tells the story of how God created man, and tells the story of God's purpose for man.
 - 3. It answers the most important questions man has ever asked.
 - 4. And, it tells us about the problem of sin.
 - a. Sin is the violation of God's law (1 John 3:4).
 - b. When man sins he becomes separated from God.
 - c. Man started out in a perfect relationship with God, but that relationship was soon lost through sin.
 - d. If one is guilty of committing sin, then he is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1).
- B. 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.
 - 3. God used Abraham to carry out his plan to save mankind from sin.
 - 4. God made three promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - a. Abraham's descendants would become a great nation (v. 2).
 - b. Abraham's people would be given possession of their own land (v. 1).
 - c. Through Abraham's family one would come who would bring a blessing for all of mankind (v. 3).
 - 5. The third promise refers to the fact that Jesus would be Abraham's descendant.
- C. The fulfillment of the promises God made to Abraham.
 - 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.
 - 3. By the close of the Old Testament there is only one promise left to be fulfilled.
 - 4. The end of the Old Testament looks forward to the fulfillment of the third promise!
- D. The Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of Christ.
 - 1. The prophets spoke of the coming of Christ.
 - 2. But most of the people of Israel did not listen to the prophets.
 - 3. God caused other nations to conquer Israel to punish them for their disobedience.
 - 4. But God preserved a small number of the people of Israel in order to keep the promise that he made to Abraham.
 - 5. The third promise would be fulfilled with the coming of Jesus!

Body:

I. The Birth Of Jesus.

- B. The birth of Jesus fulfilled the promises of the Old Testament.
 - 1. He comes from the correct family line (Matthew 1:1).
 - 2. But instead of being just an ordinary man, he is also the Son of God (John 1:1, 14).
- C. The birth of Jesus was miraculous.
 - 1. Jesus' parents were Joseph and Mary, but, his mother was a virgin when he was born (Matthew 1:18-20).
 - 2. The birth of Jesus was a one-of-a-kind miracle!
- C. The birth of Jesus was a key part of the fulfillment of God's plan.
 - 1. And the Bible explains the purpose for Jesus' birth (Matthew 1:21).
 - 2. Jesus would take away the sins of mankind.
 - 3. Because of Jesus, man would be able to have a relationship with God.
- D. The birth of Jesus fulfilled the prophecies written about him in the Old Testament.
 - 1. It was a matter of fulfilled prophecy that he was born of a virgin (Matt. 1:22-23).
 - 2. The place of his birth was also a matter of fulfilled prophecy (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1).
- E. The name "Jesus Christ" signifies that he is God's appointed Savior of mankind.
- F. The birth of Jesus was surrounded by turmoil.
 - 1. Herod, the king of Judea, becomes Jealous of the baby Jesus and kills all the male babies around Bethlehem while trying to destroy Jesus (Matthew 2:3; 2:16-18).
 - 2. But God warned Joseph to take his family to Egypt (Matthew. 2:13-15) and after the death of Herod they return to Israel (Matthew 2:23).

II. The Work Of John The Baptizer.

- A. John prepares the way for Jesus.
 - 1. John is sent by God to prepare the Jews for the coming of Jesus (Matthew 3:1-2).
 - 2. John teaches the Jews to repent (change and to turn away from sin) and he baptizes (immerses in water) many of the Jews (Matthew 3:5-6).
- B. Jesus begins his work once John has prepared the way.
 - 1. Jesus allows John to baptize him (Matthew 3:16-17).
 - 2. Jesus then begins his ministry.
 - 3. His work involves preaching the gospel, or "good news" (Matthew 4:17) and performing miracles (Matthew 4:23).

III. The Teaching Of Jesus.

- A. Part of the reason Jesus came was to reveal important truths and to teach man how to live acceptably before God.
 - 1. He taught that he came to fulfill the Old Testament (Matthew 5:17).

2. He challenged the Jewish religious leaders (Matthew 5:20).
3. He presented the highest moral standard the world has ever seen (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32).
4. He taught that man must serve God rather than money (Matthew 6:24).
5. He taught that man must put God first in life (Matthew 6:33).
6. He taught that we must treat each other properly (Matthew 7:12).
7. He taught that man can choose between two paths in life (Matthew 7:13-14).
8. He taught that many religious people are not acceptable to God (Matthew 7:21-23).
9. How did the people react to Jesus' teaching (Matthew 7:28-29)?
- B. Jesus selected his apostles (Matthew 10:2-4).
- C. Jesus continued to teach throughout Palestine.
 1. He warned about hell (Matthew 10:28).
 2. He demanded absolute commitment (Matthew 10:37; 16:24-26).
 3. Jesus often used "parables" as a teaching method (Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23).

IV. Jesus' Conflict With The Jewish Leaders.

- A. The religious leaders of the Jews were not willing to accept Jesus' teachings.
 1. The Jewish leaders were supposed to uphold the Old Testament Law.
 2. But instead, they developed their own traditions and placed their religious traditions above the Law of God.
 3. This resulted in conflict with Jesus.
- B. Conflict over the Sabbath (Matthew 12:9-14).
- C. Conflict over hand-washing (Matthew 15:1-9).
 1. Jesus and his disciples did not violate God's law by refusing to wash their hands in this special way before eating.
 2. But Jesus did reject the religious traditions of the Jewish leaders.
 3. When man uses man-made rules to worship God his worship is worthless!
- D. The Jewish leaders were not willing to accept the idea that Jesus was the Christ.
 1. Jesus did not fit the idea of the Christ that the Jewish leaders wanted.
 2. The Jewish leaders viewed him as a threat to their authority and power.
 3. For this reason, they wanted to do whatever it would take to get rid of Jesus!

Conclusion:

- A. There is one overall story that runs through the pages of the Bible.
- B. Remember, this story can be traced back to the fact that, from the beginning, mankind has had a problem with sin.
- C. But God had a plan to take away man's sin and the involved his Son coming to this earth.
- D. When we read about Jesus 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.