

Overview Of The Bible (6)

Introduction:

- A. The Bible presents a consistent story from beginning to end.
 - 1. The Bible speaks of the problem of sin.
 - a. Sin is the violation of God's law (1 John 3:4).
 - b. If one is guilty of committing sin, then he becomes separated from God and 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. God used Abraham to carry out his plan to save mankind from sin.
 - 3. God made three promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - 4. 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 3rd 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.
 - 5. The end of the Old Testament looks forward to the fulfillment of the third promise!
- D. God fulfilled the third promise when Jesus came to take away man's sins.
 - 1. When he came he fulfilled God's plan by providing a way for man's sins to be taken away so that man could have fellowship with God again.
 - 2. The Old Testament concluded by looking forward to the coming of Christ.
 - 3. The New Testament begins by announcing the birth of Christ.
 - 4. He comes from the correct family line.
 - 5. But, he is also the Son of God (John 1:1, 14)!

Body:

I. The Teaching Of Jesus.

- A. Jesus revealed the truth of God to the people (Matthew 5).
 - 1. He taught that he came to fulfill the Old Testament.
 - 2. He challenged the Jewish religious leaders in his teaching.
 - 3. He presented the highest moral standard the world has ever seen.
 - 4. His teaching resulted in conflict with the Jewish leaders (Matthew 15)!
- B. Jesus taught his disciples about his church.
 - 1. He said he would build his church (Matthew 16:16-18).
 - a. The word "church" refers to a called-out assembly of people.
 - b. A "church" is not a building.
 - 2. Christ's church did not exist yet while he was on earth.

3. He said that he would build it in the future.
 4. And, it would be built based upon the confession that he is, “the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- C. Jesus foretold his own death and resurrection.
1. On three separate occasions he told his disciples that he would soon be killed.
 - a. Matthew 16:21.
 - b. Matthew 17:22-23.
 - c. Matthew 20:18-19.
 2. But his disciples did not understand these things at the time.

II. Jesus Enters Jerusalem.

- A. He enters Jerusalem like a king (Matthew 21:7-8, 11).
- B. He cleanses the temple (Matthew 21:12).
 1. The Jews had turned the temple into a place of business.
 2. But when Jesus arrives at the temple he corrects their error.
 3. Of course, this made the religious leaders even angrier with Jesus!
- C. His authority is questioned (Matthew 21:23).
 1. The leaders of the Jews question Jesus about the source of his authority (Matt. 21:23).
 2. This is a good question and we should always demand to know the authority for what is practiced in religion.
 3. Of course, Jesus had already proven that his authority came from heaven, but the Jewish leaders refused to believe it.
- D. The leaders plot to kill him.
 1. The Jewish leaders devise a plan to kill Jesus (Matthew 26:3-4).
 2. Judas Iscariot becomes involved in this plot (Matthew 26:14-16).
 3. Judas was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, but he chose to turn against Jesus for money.
- E. Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper.
 1. He explains the Lord’s Supper to his apostles shortly before his death (Matthew 26:26-28).
 - a. The unleavened bread is symbolic of his body, which would be offered as a sacrifice for sin.
 - b. The fruit of the vine (grape juice) is symbolic of his blood, which would be shed for the remission (forgiveness) of sins.
 - c. He would bring about a New Covenant between God and man.
 2. Later, the observance of the Lord’s Supper would become a key part of the worship of the church.

III. Jesus Is Betrayed, Arrested, And Tried.

- A. He is betrayed and arrested (Matthew 26:47).
- B. He is forced to stand trial before the Jewish council (Matthew 26:59-68).
- C. He is forced to stand trial before the Roman Governor.
 1. The Jewish leaders did not have authority to execute a death sentence on Jesus since Israel was under the control of the Roman Empire at the time.

2. So, they bring Jesus to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate and they want the Roman Governor to go along with their plan and put Jesus to death, but the governor knows that Jesus is an innocent victim (Matthew 27:1-2, 18).
3. However, the governor allows the Jewish leaders to control his decision (Matthew 27:22-23).
4. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent, but he gives in to the desires of the Jewish leaders (Matthew 27:24) and sends Jesus to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and executed.

IV. The Death, Burial, And Resurrection Of Jesus.

- A. Jesus is executed by the Roman soldiers.
 1. The Roman soldiers scourge Jesus (Matthew 27:26).
 2. They ridicule and mock him (Matthew 27:29-30).
 3. They take him and crucify him (Matthew 27:35).
 4. The Jewish leaders continue to mock him while he is dying (Matthew 27:41-42).
 5. Finally, Jesus dies on the cross (Matthew 27:50).
- B. Jesus is buried (Matthew 27:57-66).
- C. Jesus is raised from the dead.
 1. Jesus said he would rise from the dead on the third day following his death (Matthew 20:18-19).
 2. The third day after Jesus died and was buried, his tomb was empty (Matthew 28:1-8)!
 3. Jesus was raised from the dead on the first day of the week (Sunday).
 4. He appeared to his disciples during 40 days following his resurrection (Acts 1:3).

V. Jesus Gives His Apostles A Mission.

- A. After his resurrection, Jesus gives his apostles a special mission.
 1. The apostles will be sent to preach the message of Christ everywhere (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).
 2. Jesus told the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit would come to guide them in their teaching (Acts 1:8).
- B. Jesus ascends back to heaven.
 1. Forty days after his resurrection from the dead, Jesus returned to the Father in heaven (Luke 24:50-52).
 2. Jesus completed his mission!

Conclusion:

- A. The story of the Bible can be traced back to the fact that, from the beginning, mankind has had a problem with sin.
- B. But God had a plan to take away man's sin and the involved his Son coming to this earth.
- C. 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.