

Overview Of The Bible (7)

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 Jn. 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 (Eph. 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's plan involved Abraham.
 - 4. God would use Abraham to carry out his plan to save mankind from sin.
 - 5. God made three promises to Abraham (Gen. 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).
 - 6. The rest of the Old Testament deals with the fulfillment of these three promises!
 - 7. 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. God fulfilled the third promise when Jesus came to take away man's sins.
 - 4. 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.
 - 5. The Old Testament concluded by looking forward to the coming of Christ.
 - 6. The New Testament begins by announcing the birth of Christ.
 - 7. He comes from the correct family line.
 - 8. But, he is also the Son of God.
 - 9. Jesus existed from eternity as one who is God before he came to earth as man (Jn. 1:1, 14)!
 - 10. Jesus presented his teachings when he came.

- a. He came to fulfill the Old Testament.
 - b. He challenged the Jewish religious leaders.
 - c. He presented the highest moral standard the world has ever seen.
- D. Jesus died for the sins of mankind.
 - 1. He was betrayed and arrested.
 - a. He takes his apostles to a garden to pray (Matthew 26:36).
 - b. Judas leads a mob to arrest Jesus.
 - c. Jesus is arrested.
 - d. His disciples run away (Matthew 26:56).
 - 2. He was tried before the Jewish council.
 - a. The Jewish leaders put Jesus on trial and try to find a reason to put him to death.
 - b. Jesus confesses that he is the Christ, the Son of God.
 - c. The Jewish leaders decide that Jesus deserves to die for claiming to be the Son of God (Matthew 26:65-66).
 - d. They mock him and beat him.
 - 3. He was tried before the Roman governor.
 - a. The Jewish leaders do not have authority to execute a death sentence on Jesus.
 - b. Israel is under the control of the Roman Empire at this time.
 - c. So, they bring Jesus to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:1-2).
 - d. The Jewish leaders want the Roman Governor to go along with their plan and put Jesus to death.
 - e. Pilate knows that Jesus is an innocent victim.
 - f. But Pilate allows the Jewish leaders to control him.
 - g. He knows Jesus is innocent, but he gives into the desires of the Jewish leaders.
 - h. Pilate sends Jesus to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and executed.
 - 4. He was put to death on the cross.
 - a. The Roman soldiers scourge Jesus (Matthew 27:26).
 - b. They ridicule and mock him.
 - c. They crucify him (Matthew 27:35).
 - d. The Jewish leaders continue to mock him while he is dying.
 - e. Finally, Jesus dies on the cross.
 - 5. He rose from the dead on the third day.
 - a. Jesus said he would rise from the dead on the third day following his death (Matthew 20:18-19).
 - b. The third day after Jesus died and was buried, his tomb was empty!
 - c. Jesus was raised from the dead on the first day of the week (Sunday).
 - d. He appeared to his disciples during 40 days following his resurrection (Acts 1:3).
- E. Jesus gave his apostles a mission.
 - 1. The apostles will be sent to preach the message of Christ everywhere (Mk. 16:15-16).
 - 2. The message of salvation through Christ would be sent to everyone.
 - 3. Jesus told the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit would come to guide them in their teaching (Lk. 24:49).

4. Forty days after his resurrection from the dead, Jesus returned to the Father in heaven.
5. Jesus completed his mission!

Body:

I. The Coming Of The Holy Spirit.

- A. Jesus had instructed his apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
 1. Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the power of the Holy Spirit is poured out on the apostles (Acts 2:1-4).
 2. This powerful display takes place on the Day of Pentecost, which was a special religious feast day of the Jews.
 - a. There is the sound of a mighty wind (Acts 2:2).
 - b. Tongues of fire appear above the apostles (Acts 2:3).
 - c. The apostles begin speaking with other tongues, or languages (Acts 2:4).
- B. The Holy Spirit's display of power attracts the attention of the crowd in Jerusalem.
 1. This display has a great effect on these people who have come to Jerusalem to worship on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:5-8).
 2. The apostles are miraculously able to speak many different languages.
 - a. Suddenly they have the ability to speak languages they've never studied.
 - b. The gift of "tongues" is the ability to speak foreign languages instantly.
 - c. This miraculous ability got the attention of the people who were able to understand these foreign languages.

II. The Apostles Preach The Gospel.

- A. The apostles now have the opportunity to begin carrying out the mission that Jesus gave them to spread his message to the world.
 1. They will present the gospel message to this crowd in Jerusalem.
 - a. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 - b. Jesus died for the sins of mankind.
 - c. Jesus was raised from the dead.
 - d. Jesus is now on the throne of God in heaven.
 - e. Jesus offers mankind salvation from sin.
 2. The powerful display of the Holy Spirit has attracted a crowd of listeners to hear this message from the apostles.
- B. Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
 1. The apostle Peter sets out to convince the people that Jesus God's appointed Savior of mankind (Acts 2:22).
 2. He makes the point that Jesus proved that he was the Son of God through the miracles that he performed.
- C. Jesus died for the sins of mankind.
 1. His own people caused him to be put to death (Acts 2:23).
 2. But it was part of God's plan for Jesus to die.

3. He had to die in order to be offered as the perfect sacrifice to take away the sins of mankind.
- D. Jesus was raised from the dead.
 1. He was resurrected from the dead the third day following his death (Acts 2:24).
 2. It wasn't possible for men to defeat God's plan!
 3. Peter makes the point that the apostles are eye-witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:32).
- E. Jesus is on the throne of God in heaven.
 1. He returned to heaven after his resurrection (Acts 2:33).
 2. Jesus is in heaven at the right hand of God.
 3. Peter says Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on this occasion.
 4. So, the apostles' ability to speak in tongues (foreign languages) is proof that Jesus is reigning in heaven!
- F. Jesus offers man salvation from sin.
 1. Peter announces that even those who put him to death can now be forgiven of their sins (Acts 2:36-39)!
 2. Those who believe and obey the gospel message can have remission (forgiveness) of all past sins!
- G. Jesus gave the apostles the responsibility of spreading this message to the world.
 1. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 2. Jesus died for the sins of mankind.
 3. Jesus was raised from the dead.
 4. Jesus is now on the throne of God in heaven.
 5. Jesus offers mankind salvation from sin.

III. The Crowd's Response To The Gospel Message.

- A. How do the people in Jerusalem respond to this gospel message?
 1. Many people are "cut to the heart," which means that they believe the gospel (Acts 2:36).
 2. They ask the apostles: "what shall we do?"
 3. They realize that they've killed the Son of God and now they want to know what they need to do to fix the situation.
- B. Peter reveals the conditions man must meet in order to have forgiveness of sins.
 1. Christ offers forgiveness of sins to all.
 2. But, man must meet the Lord's conditions, or terms in order to receive forgiveness.
 3. Man must believe in Jesus (Jn. 8:24).
 4. These people already believe in Jesus (Acts 2:37).
 5. What else do they need to do in order to have forgiveness?
 6. The apostles make the Lord's terms for forgiveness known (Acts 2:38).
 7. The terms are simple.
 - a. Man must believe the gospel.
 - b. Man must repent of his sins.
 - c. Man must be baptized (immersed in water).

- d. When a person meets these terms, God will forgive all of his past sins (Acts 2:38).
- 8. These are the same conditions for forgiveness that every sinner must meet!
- C. The people respond to the offer of forgiveness and salvation.
 - 1. How do the people of Jerusalem respond to this offer of forgiveness and salvation (Acts 2:41)?
 - 2. 3,000 people are baptized into Christ!
 - 3. 3,000 people meet the Lord's terms for forgiveness of sins!
 - 4. Jesus offers a solution to the problem of sin.
 - 5. Man is forgiven of his sins when he meets the Lord's terms for forgiveness (Acts 2:38).

IV. The Beginning Of The Church.

- A. Jesus said he would build his church (Matthew 16:18).
 - 1. A "church" is a called-out assembly of people.
 - 2. A "church" is not a building!
 - 3. When the apostles preached the gospel on the Day of Pentecost three thousand people obeyed the gospel and, "were added to them" (Acts 2:41).
 - 4. Added to whom?
 - 5. Added to the church!
- B. The Lord adds those who are saved to his church (Acts 2:47).
 - 1. When the people met the Lord's conditions for forgiveness they were saved.
 - 2. When they were saved, the Lord put them in his church.
 - 3. Christ adds people to his spiritual body of saved people (the church) when they meet his terms for forgiveness of sins.
 - 4. Chart: The Lord adds the saved to the church.
- C. The members of the church worship together.
 - 1. After these people obeyed the gospel and were added to the church they began worshipping together (Acts 2:42).
 - 2. Those who meet the Lord's conditions for forgiveness must continue to follow the apostles' teaching, which is the New Testament.
 - 3. Salvation is available to everyone through Christ!

Conclusion:

- A. There is one overall story that runs through the pages of the Bible.
- B. 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 to die as the perfect sacrifice so that man could have forgiveness of sins.
- D. When we read Acts 2 we are able to see how the entire plan of God comes together.
- E. Jesus has provided the solution to mankind's problem with sin.
- F. All we have to do is come to him on his terms to receive forgiveness and salvation.