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Section: Doctrine of Scripture

Teacher: Justin Ader

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**Q25. What is the Bible primarily about?**

The Bible is primarily about God: who He is and how He works. It tells us of His work in creation and the redemption of His chosen people within fallen man.

* **Structure of the Bible**

The Bible has two major divisions: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is made up of 39 books; the New Testament is made up of 27 books.

There are a total of 66 books in the Bible written by about 40 authors over a 1500 year span. These authors were chosen men who were taught and carried along by the Holy Spirit. Although human authors physically wrote these 66 books, ultimately it was God who revealed Himself to us through these books. The Bible tells us that all of these books were breathed out by God.

**2 Peter 1:20-21** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

* **The Four Main Themes of the Bible**

The four main themes are: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.

* **Creation**

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 1:3** And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

**Genesis 1:26** Then God said, “Let *us* make man in *our* image, after *our* likeness.”

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “In the beginning, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was pleased to demonstrate the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness—to create or make the world and everything in it, both visible and invisible, in six days.”

**Genesis 2:16-17** “You may surely eat from every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “In addition to the law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As long as they obeyed this command, they would be happy in their communion with God and had dominion over the creatures.”

* **Fall**

**Genesis 3:1-7**

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “God created humanity upright and perfect. He gave them a righteous law that would have led to life if they had kept it but threatened death if they broke it. Yet they did not remain for long in this position of honor. Satan used the craftiness of the serpent to seduce Eve, who then seduced Adam. Adam acted without any outside compulsion and deliberately transgressed the law of their creation and the command given to them by eating the forbidden fruit. God was pleased, in keeping with his wise and holy counsel, to permit this act, because he had purposed to direct it for his own glory.”

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “By this sin our first parents fell from their original righteousness and communion with God. We fell in them, and through this, death came upon all. All became dead in sin and completely defiled in all the capabilities and parts of soul and body.”

**Genesis 3:14-16** The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

**1689 Confession of Faith** “Because the covenant of works was broken by sin and was unable to confer life, God was pleased to proclaim the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect and producing in them faith and repentance. In this promise the gospel in its substance was revealed and made effectual for the conversion and salvation of sinners.”

**Genesis 3:16** To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

**Genesis 3:17-19** “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

**Genesis 22:1-3** After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.”

**Genesis 50:20** “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

This truth sets the stage for all of Scripture: Man in his wickedness and evil is being used by God to bring about favor and love for God’s chosen people.

**Exodus 11:4-6** So Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.’”

**Exodus 12:13-14** “The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

**Deuteronomy 29:29** “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

* **Redemption**

Jesus comes in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of a savior and offers salvation and the true kingdom of God.

**John 5:39** “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.”

**Luke 24:27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

**Matthew 28:16-20**

* **Restoration**

God takes His elect from living as slaves to sin to living as sons and daughters. This happens at conversion when we are given a new heart—regenerated by God the Holy Spirit. This is restoration!

**Revelation 22:1-6**

**Mark 13:31** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

* **Conclusion**

When you realize that Jesus is the focal point of the Bible, you start to see Him all over the place!

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

The Bible is primarily about God, for His name, for His purposes, and for His glory

**John 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

**Jeremiah 9:24** (NKJV) “But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the Lord.