Section: Doctrine of the Word of God (Bibliology)

Lesson 21: Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Q25. What is the Bible primarily about?

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**TEACHING NOTES**

**Greeting:**

Good evening church! My name is Justin Ader. I am the Youth Director and a member of the teaching team here at Disciples Church. Tonight, we are continuing our journey in Part 2 of the Word of Truth Catechism on the Doctrine of the Word of God, known as Bibliology. Bibliology is the study of the Bible, the Word of God. I have been given the privilege to teach through our next question and answer in this section, and it is Q25. What is the Bible primarily about? Let’s pray and then we will dive in. Pray with me.

**Introduction:**

In the preface of the ESV translation of the bible, which we use here at Disciples Church, it says this: “This Book is the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.” With these words the Moderator of the Church of Scotland hands a Bible to the new monarch in Britain’s coronation service. These words echo the King James Bible translators, who wrote in 1611, “God’s sacred Word…is that inestimable treasure that excelleth all the riches of the earth.” As Christians we ought to resonate with these words. The Bible is the most valuable thing that we have brothers and sisters. Question is, do we treat the Bible as the most valuable thing that we have? I know for me, there are times when I don’t. Sometimes the Bible gets put on the back burner for a season and I find myself focusing on other things and this has me questioning whether or not I truly delight in the Word of God. It is my prayer that we all truly delight in the Word of God, that we all treasure it as the most excellent of all the riches of the earth, and that we study to understand and know it so that we know the One who it speaks of.

Tonight, my goal is to give you a big picture survey of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. To do this we are going to be looking at the basic structure of the Bible, but the breadth of this lesson will be on the overarching story of the Bible using 4 main themes. We will also look at how the Bible points to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Then, if we have time, I want to finish this lesson by showing you how you can share the big picture of the Bible with someone on something as small as a napkin while sitting at a coffee shop. So let’s look at our question and answer now.

**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**

I want to start by looking at the structure of our Bibles. I believe that it is foundational for us as Christians to learn and know the structure of the Bible in order to know how to read it and understand it. If you want to learn how to fly a plane, you first learn how the plane is put together. If you want to learn how to sail properly or well, you learn how boats are put together. If you want to learn to understand the Bible, it is very helpful to first learn how the Bible is put together.

The Bible has two major divisions: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is made up of 39 books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The New Testament is made up of 27 books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, and Revelation. 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 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 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 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Now that we have a basic understanding of how our Bible is structured, let’s turn our focus to the 4 main themes of the Bible to see that it is primarily about God.

**The Four Main Themes of the Bible**

The four main themes are: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Remembering these four themes will be helpful as you read and study the Bible. We are going to start with our first theme of creation by looking at the first book of the Bible, which is Genesis.

**Creation:**

Our catechism answer says that the Bible is primarily about God: who He is and how He works. It tells us of His work in creation. Turn to Genesis in your Bibles. The Bible starts with Genesis 1:1 which says, In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Right out the gate we see that God is the creator. The Bible does not start with man or anything else, it starts with God. We have learned in past lessons that God is not created. He has always existed eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. We have learned that God is eternal, self-existent, and self-sufficient. He is not subject to time, and He has no beginning and no end. We have learned that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere at once. In the first few verses of Genesis, we learn that God creates from nothing. He speaks creation into existence.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Notice that God did not make light out of something, He simply spoke it into existence. We see this with the rest of His creation in verses 9, 11, 14, 20, and 24. When God created out of nothing, He called His creation good.

In verse 26 we see the plurality of God mentioned. This is reference to the Trinity.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let *us* make man in *our* image, after *our* likeness. God is not referencing angels or any other created thing when He says “us” or “our.” He is referencing the Triune Godhead. At the end of chapter 1 we see God declare that everything He had made was very good!

1689 Baptist 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.

In chapter 2 of Genesis, we see the detailed creation of man and woman who were made in God’s image. I will teach on the creation of mankind more thoroughly in 2 weeks, but it’s important that we touch on it now. The first man and woman were named Adam and (eventually) Eve. God created them good, blessed, and with no sin. This is important. In chapter 2 we also see God give Adam a command.

Genesis 2:16-17 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 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 Baptist 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.

To summarize the theme of Creation: God created everything out of nothing and His creation was good. God created Adam and Eve good, blessed, and without sin. God gave Adam and Eve a garden to tend to and enjoy. God gave one command to not eat of a particular tree, they could have everything else, but not this one tree. Everything is great, right? Well, it doesn’t stay that way for too long.

**Fall:**

The second theme to remember is the fall. Adam is created by God, but he sins and disobeys God and His good commandment. Turn to Genesis chapter 3 to see how the fall took place.

Genesis 3:1-7 ​1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ​‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

1689 Baptist Confession of Faith says: 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.

God creates the world and everything in it. He gives the two humans made in His image a covenant of works to keep, and they fail. This is the most cataclysmic event in all the Old Testament. Adam and Eve fail to keep God’s command.

1689 Baptist Confession of Faith says: 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.

Immediately following their failure something is different. They feel shame. They see their nakedness and they have this newfound desire to hide from God.

But, the most important prophetic declaration to the worst possible outcome is made by God in the following verses.

Genesis 3:14-15 14 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. 15 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 Baptist Confession says: 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.

God makes a promise! He declares that Eve’s offspring will bruise the serpent's head. This is the first prophetic declaration of the gospel! Almighty God, who is self-existent, good and gracious and just, will make things right as He sees fit. He will avenge His precious image bearers, but because of their rebellion against a wholly pure and righteous creator-God, He must enact justice toward them and their offspring. God promised death and MUST keep His word. Look with me at what God says to the woman, Eve.

Genesis 3:16 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.”

Let’s see what God says to Adam.

Genesis 3:17-19 17 And to Adam he said, “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; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 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.”

From this passage we see God’s promise of death enacted for Adam and Eve as well as for their offspring. We see in the very beginning, the serpent is a liar and deceiver, and Adam and Eve are removed from Eden to live out their days until physical death would consume them. This separation was the spiritual death and removal from God’s presence that God promised would come from their disobedience. Their eventual physical death was also a reality that would not have come if they had not sinned.

Following the creation and fall narrative, readers may be wondering, how can these fallen people redeem themselves? We see many foundations in Genesis, most notably that sin increases, it is devastating, and humanity lives in rebellion against God. Sin fractures relationships and even the creation itself. Man is given over to his desire to fruitlessly attempt to take God’s position as king. An idea of man being able to redeem himself should be overwhelmingly proven impossible by a reading of the text, for the sin in man proves he is hopeless and undeserving of redemption.

The book of Genesis continues by following Adam and Eve’s offspring through the turmoil of living in a world outside of Eden. There is hardship, strife and murder. Mankind continues to multiply and fill the earth, but sin continuously increases.

God calls Noah, a righteous man, to build an ark. God will judge the earth by flooding it and save a remnant of mankind through Noah and his immediate family.

From this remnant would come a man named Abraham. God calls Abraham to a land that is not his own in Genesis 12. In this we see his obedience. Abraham is one of the most notable Old Testament figures because God makes a significant covenant with him, which we see in Genesis 17.

In this covenant, God makes known to Abraham that he will make him the ‘father of a multitude.’ Abraham is chosen by God to “father” a people to represent God to the world. God tells him that all nations are to be blessed through him. But Abraham has an issue, he is old, and his wife is barren—unable to conceive children. Through much personal sin and doubt, Abraham is given a baby boy, whose name is Isaac. God is shown to be a God of His unbreakable promises.

Abraham loved his son Isaac, but God would seek to test him greatly:

Genesis 22:1-3 1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 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.” 3 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.

Although we read of Abraham’s sin with Hagar, and the birth of his first son Ishmael, Isaac is Abraham’s true heir. This is the heir by which God promised He would multiply his seed unto the nations. And now he must walk by faith to sacrifice His only son on an altar to the Most-High God.

You see, in this glimpse we see the overarching story of scripture. God is working in and through man to accomplish something amazing, something that would bring Him the most glory and fame! Scripture is not really about us, it’s about something far greater than us. It’s about the **object** of Abraham’s devotion. It’s about God. Abraham believed God, and it was counted as righteousness!

Abraham did not sacrifice Isaac, as God provided an animal sacrifice at the last moment, but Abraham’s faith was indeed tested.

Isaac had a son named Jacob, and Jacob had twelve sons. These twelve sons would become the twelve tribes of Israel. One of Jacob’s sons was named Joseph. His brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt and through many trying events he would eventually rise to prominence within Egypt.

At the end of Genesis, in the midst of an amazing story, we’re left with a reminder of who God is by the words of Joseph to his brothers:

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. At the end of Genesis, in the very last verse of chapter 50, we see that Joseph dies at the age of 110 years old. He was embalmed and put in a coffin in Egypt.

When we get to the start of the book of Exodus, we see that the King of Egypt has forgotten Joseph and his God and has enslaved the Israelites.

In response to the Israelites crying out to God in Egypt, God raises up a man named Moses. Through Moses God delivers the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt and then gives them the Law.

What is compelling about the story of Moses is what is known as the Exodus account. In the Exodus account we see God command Moses to confront Pharaoh multiple times. In this confrontation, Moses requests that Pharaoh let the Israelites leave Egypt. Pharaoh continues to reject Moses’ pleas. As a response, God sends a plague to punish Pharaoh’s sin. These plagues serve to highlight the grievousness of sin against the holy God and God’s supremacy over all things. The final and most devastating plague is the tenth plague.

Exodus 11:4-6 4 So Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ​‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, 5 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. 6 There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

But God, in his mercy, gives instruction to Moses and Aaron to pass on to all the congregation of Israel of what they should do. They are to kill a spotless, one year old male lamb, and smear its blood on the two doorposts and lintel of their homes and then they are given instruction on how to eat it. Why do this?

Exodus 12:13-14 13 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. 14 “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.

In the Exodus account God provides the Israelites a way, through faith, to spare their firstborn children from death. Pharaoh eventually relents and lets the Israelites go.

The Israelites leave Egypt and travel to Mount Sinai where God makes a covenant with Israel. During this time God manifests himself “as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night” to lead Israel in the wilderness. At Sinai, God gives the Israelites the Law—commands now more fully expressed. The Law gives the Israelites the standard of who they are to be. They are to honor God with all of their lives, they are to be a holy, set apart people.

In Deuteronomy 29:29 we read: “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.

One of the important concepts to understand in the Old Testament is that God commands Israel on how they should build temples that would host the earthly manifestation of God. In Exodus, God gives Moses detailed instructions on how to build the Tabernacle where God would dwell. This allows the High Priest of Israel to have direct interaction with God in the Holy of Holies.

Eventually, after 40 years in the wilderness, Israel reaches the promised land, Canaan. This land is where they establish the nation of Israel. Joshua leads the conquest of the Promised Land, but after his death we see Israel enter into a pattern of sin and bondage. This is known as the period of Judges. A known figure in this time is Samson. Samson and others were chosen as judges to govern the people for four hundred rebellious years. We see in the very last verse of Judges that in those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. During this time, Israel begins to covet other nations who are ruled by kings and they desire that Samuel appoint a king for them. He warns them that they will regret this decision, but they persist and the Lord grants Israel’s request.

During this period of Kings, God makes a covenant with King David. This covenant is remarkable in that God promises David that through his lineage the messiah will come. This is the messiah that was prophesied way back in Genesis! David’s son and heir, Solomon, would build the first temple in Jerusalem. This would be the earthly dwelling place of God for the Israelites. David, the greatest king in the new monarchy, is followed by a succession of mostly unrighteous kings, and God eventually judges Israel for her sin, sending her into exile.

Due to the disobedience of Israel, the kingdom splits into two nations. Judah and Israel. During this time the Northern Kingdom (Israel) is handed over to the Assyrians because of their worship of false gods. It is during this time that God departs from the temple, signifying the withdrawal of His protection from Jerusalem, His judgment on the people, and the coming fall of the city to Babylon. The Southern Kingdom (Judah) is eventually handed over to Babylon.

Although Israel is in exile during this time, God does not leave them without prophets and promises. In the exile to Babylon, God gives the prophet Daniel to them. Daniel gives leadership and encourages faithfulness among the exiles for the next seventy years. God comforts Israel with the fact that their deportation is to be temporary, and that God’s people will still be redeemed by the messiah from David’s seed.

Toward the end of the exile, Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah lead people back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the city. It’s important to note that the spiritual state of Israel doesn’t become any more sanctified at this point. In many ways, the Old Testament ends on a very unresolved note. God did not restore Israel and He no longer dwells with them in the temple. This brings us into what is called the four hundred years of silence, known as the Inter-Testament. This is the time between the finish of the Old Testament with Malachi, and the New Testament. A lot happened in this time, but it was silent in the sense that God hadn’t sent any more prophets. During these four hundred years, the Pharisees and others entomb the Israelites in legalism and the people eventually become ruled by the Romans.

**Redemption:**

Now let’s look at the third theme, redemption. The New Testament opens with the lineage of David. Remember that Israel was still waiting to be redeemed by the messiah and so it’s fitting that the New Testament would start by looking to connect Jesus to David.

The New Testament, even more clearly, testifies about Jesus, (the Messiah), and what life in Him by grace through faith is to look like. Jesus comes in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of a savior and offers salvation and the true kingdom of God. Christ Jesus is born in a lowly manger, the son of a carpenter. He starts his ministry at around 30 years old by teaching, preaching, healing and discipling. He is the messianic fulfillment, through David, from Eve’s seed, reaching all the way back to the original prophecy in Genesis. Jesus is the offspring who would bruise the head of the serpent. During Jesus’ ministry, He teaches those He was witnessing to, and us, that all the Scriptures (meaning the Old Testament) point to Him. This is what God the Son says…

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.

What’s significant about Jesus is that He *isn’t* just a man, He is the God-man. He is the second person of our triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Upon His incarnation, He is God dwelling among man. Fully God and fully man.

Throughout His entire life, Christ Jesus lives perfectly—totally sinless, perfectly righteous. He satisfies all that is required of Him. During the ministry of Christ Jesus, His disciples walk with Him and interact with Him. He declares God’s truth and performs many miracles that have many layers of significance. Eventually, He is arrested, mocked, falsely accused and put on trial.

He is crucified on a roman cross with lowly criminals at his side. He is given a public execution, ordered by the Jews and carried out by the Romans. This is the apex of the entire Bible. The God-man is the spotless lamb (think back to the Exodus) that God has provided for the atonement of sin on behalf of God’s elect!

Christ dies a sacrificial, substitutional death—in this, He takes on himself the penalty for sin due His people, the full wrath of God. Upon His death He is laid in a tomb and, on the third day rises from the dead. In His death, he pays for the sins of all of God’s elect and purchases their salvation. In His resurrection He proves His victory and proves the promise that God made in Genesis 3:16 to be true. All of this is tied together, all of Scripture testifies 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.

After His resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples to encourage them and give them a command:

Matthew 28:16-20 16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

As the gospels close, we’re given a look into the expansion of the church after Christ ascends to heaven. We see two main Apostles in this. First, Peter, shortly after the Ascension of Jesus, is used by God to establish the church, God’s next major plan for man. We also see Paul, who expands the church into the Roman Empire during the next two decades. The book of Acts is marked by an explosion of the gospel unto the nations through various missionary ventures and church expansion.

Again, many of these missionary ventures are carried out by the Apostle Paul. Paul is a Jewish Pharisee & murderer of Christians turned, by God’s power and will, to be a Christian Apostle and missionary. His conversion is unique in that Jesus appears to him personally on the road to Damascus.

We see in this testimony the amazing, transforming grace of God. Paul, a murderer of Christians, now a Christian discipler unto the nations! Paul becomes one of the fellow Apostles and spends the remainder of his years preaching the gospel and ministering to churches throughout the Greco-Roman world.

**Restoration:**

The fourth and final theme is restoration. The New Testament explains that those who are bought by the blood of Christ have the God of the universe dwelling in them. God is no longer dwelling in the temple or the tabernacle, but because of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, He dwells within us.

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!

The Bible ends with a glimpse into the future to when Christ will return to the Earth to enact judgment upon the earth. We see the Earth renewed by fire and a new Eden where there will be no more sin and strife.

Revelation 22:1-6 1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. 6 And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

Jesus tells us that the Word of God is eternal.

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

**Conclusion:**

Let’s take a look at our catechism question again: 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.

As we saw in the creation portion of our lesson tonight, the story of scripture shows us how our God works. He is the Creator who creates from nothing. He is a plurality in persons and yet one being, eternally existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Bible testifies in many different areas of the different attributes of God. It shows us that he is omniscient, omnipotent, immutable, etc. The Bible, overwhelmingly, is about God.

In the fall we learn about the justice of God. He cannot simply let us sin without recourse. Sin must be punished. We see this clearly through the winding history of Israel.

The New Testament helps us look back on the Old Testament and understand that it’s pointing us to something. It's pointing to Jesus—God in flesh! Jesus declares the Bible to be about God.

Consider this also, the fall was ordained to bring God glory, it’s about Him! The fall of man is ordained by God in order to bring about the redemption of sinners through the blood of Christ, by His grace and for His glory! Jesus is God. It’s all about God!

In the Exodus story, we see the lamb’s blood as a clear indicator of the coming messiah and the blood that he would shed for God’s elect! From Genesis to Revelation, the story of the bible is that God, for the glory of His name, is reconciling and reclaiming all things to Himself.

When you realize that Jesus is the focal point of the Bible, you start to see Him all over the place! In Genesis 22, where God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, this story is meant to point us to the coming redemption narrative of a loving father who would sacrifice his one and only son for the salvation of many! God’s covenant promise to Abraham is to make him a father to a multitude of nations, which comes to fruition in the great commission in the New Testament. We are to take the gospel news to the ends of the earth as a means that God uses to draw all His elect to Himself! These things point us toward Christ and His glory for the nations!

Consider God’s blessing and work to save sinners in…

Ephesians 1:3-14 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The Bible is primarily about God, for His name, for His purposes, and for His glory. If we read the bible thinking that it’s simply a guide for how we should live our lives, we will read it incorrectly. The commands in it certainly tell us how to live, that’s true. And we should want to know what it says about how we should live because those are things we need to know. Jesus said:

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

Not only that though, look at what God declares in…

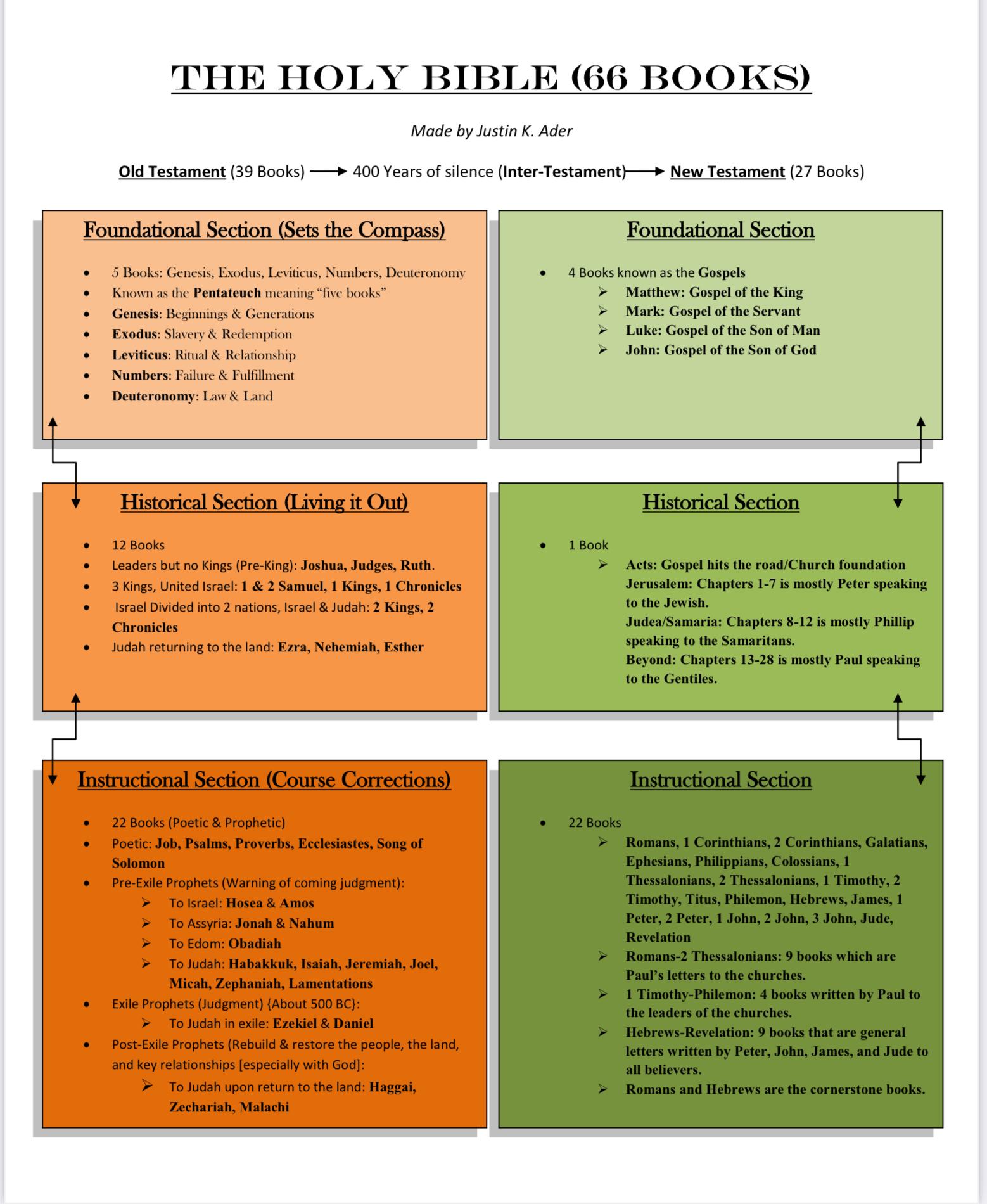
Jeremiah 9:24 (NKJV) “But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD. God wants us to know Him and understand Him. Where do we find these things about God in order to know and understand Him? In His written word, the Bible, which is primarily about Him.

The temptation is to look at the stories in Scripture and personalize them. We want to place ourselves in the place of David and make ourselves the hero of scripture. But, you are not David, and your troubles are not Goliath. The narrative is not about us, it’s about God! We are not the hero, Jesus is!

If the Bible is about us and what we must do to make ourselves right before God or to live our “best life now”, then we miss God’s truth that we can’t do what’s required in ourselves. Rather the Bible declares to us the doctrine of God and salvation found in God alone—it’s about Christ and what he has done. The gospel, the good news which we are to take to all of the nations, is a declaration of something that God has done. We go and tell people that Jesus Christ has died in the place of sinners and provided the only means of salvation, which is granted to those who trust in Him by faith alone.

There is much application and instruction given to us by God in scripture, but the book is not about us primarily. No, it’s primarily about God, the triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(If we have time—Need 5 Minutes): Turn your attention to the monitors. About 8 years ago, I took a class where I learned how to break down the Bible in 5 minutes on a napkin. The class was much more than that as we dove into many other deep layers. But one of the assignments was to give someone who has no clue about the Bible, a big picture survey of it on a napkin. So let me show you.



Church, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let’s Pray.