

## The Big Picture Story of the Bible: Four Great Themes of Covenant History

- I. **Creation**-The beginning of all things by the divine command of God, his sovereignty and love expressed in the goodness of his creation. Adam and Eve are created in his image to: live in covenant relationship with God, experience shalom (wholeness & peace), enjoy and rule over the fullness of his creation.
  - A. Sovereignty of God (Monotheism) & Goodness in the Creation Account- God is personal and separate from his creation, one God in three divine persons revealed. Genesis 1, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16-17, Job 38.
  - B. Image of God in Us- Genesis 1:27, Created for a relationship with God and others, moral conscience, capacity to reason, create, love, and explore our eternal nature (Gen. 3:22), Psalm 139:13-16.
  - C. Adamic Covenant-Dominion given to Adam & Eve to rule (Co-regents) over the earth. Genesis 1:27-28. Saint Augustine, Adam was able in his nature to obey God and avoid evil; he was “Able to not sin.”
  - D. Marriage & Family affirmed as powerful picture of God’s image to the world. Eve given as completer, coequal yet responsive to Adam’s leadership. Genesis 2:23-25.
  - E. Shalom- peace of God witnessed in the beauty, diversity, harmony of the creation, Adam & Eve’s relationship to God and each other. Gen. 1:28-31
  
- II. **Fall**- Man’s rebellion from God and break from the covenant, the resulting sin, death, and separation that passed from Adam to all mankind in the DNA of our very nature.
  - A. Desire to be Like God- Adam & Eve’s sin to know good and evil. Gen.3.
  - B. Results of sin- Death & Separation from God, Broken Shalom, Shame, Guilt. Gen. 3:10-24, Gen. 4, Job 2:1-2, Isaiah 53:6, 59:8, Jeremiah 13:23, Romans 3:10-12, 17, 6:23a.
  - C. Original Sin- All of Adam’s descendants born into sin and carry it’s death sentence. Romans 5:12-14, 17a, 18a, 19a. Saint Augustine-“Not able to not sin.”
  
- III. **Redemption**- The sovereign action of God to purchase us back from sin and call us to a new covenant relationship culminating in Christ’s death on the cross and his glorious resurrection. There were many major prongs in his redemptive plan. The first was God’s covenant to Abraham and his descendants. Secondly there was the deliverance of God through Moses’ leading Israel from Egypt and the giving of the Law. Thirdly there was the establishment of the sacrificial system for the atonement of sins. The fourth prong was the Messianic line established through King David who was an archetype of Christ. Next, the prophetic foreshadowing of Christ’s advent, substitutionary death, and resurrection. All of these threads in God’s redemptive plan culminated in Christ’s incarnation and the New Covenant established through his blood. The major headings and subheadings below are all important elements of his redemptive plan.
  - A. God’s covenant with Noah- Genesis 6:9-9:17. A shadow of the final judgment and God’s protection over his own.

- B. God's calling of Abraham & the establishment of the covenant- Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-18. "Berith" meaning to cut a covenant. The Lord passes through the sacrifice of animals pledging his oath to Abraham and his descendants. God does not require Abraham to pass through signifying God's willingness to accept the judgment of our inability to keep our covenant pledge.
- C. God's covenant with Moses at Sinai-Giving of the Law begins with a retelling of God's powerful deliverance of Israel from their slavery in Egypt. Law given to protect, provide and establish Israel as God's unique people set apart for him. Exodus 19-20. Law also given to bring profound awareness of sin and personal corporate longing for the Savior.
- D. God's covenant with King David-I Samuel 16:1-13, 2 Samuel 5:1-10, Conquers Jerusalem, becomes the City of David, Rules over a united Israel for 33 years.
- E. Messianic Reign Foreshadowed-Hatred between Satan and Eve's offspring, Christ and his church, Genesis 3:15, Jesus who crushes Satan in the cross and resurrection. Isaiah 7:14, virgin with child-Immanuel, Isaiah 9:1-7, Jesus will reign on the throne of David. Jesus, a branch from David's father Jesse-Isaiah 11. New Covenant foreshadowed-Jeremiah 31:31-34, Daniel 7:9-14, Micah 5:2, Bethlehem birthplace, 7:18-19, Spirit poured out- Joel 2:28-32.
- F. Substitutionary Atonement Foreshadowed- Abraham's testing with Isaac Gen.22, Passover in Egypt Exodus 11-12, Psalm 22, picture of crucifixion and Isaiah 53. New Covenant foreshadowed, Jeremiah 31:31-33.
- G. Word becomes Flesh-John 1:1-5, 14, Luke 1-2, Matthew 1-2, Colossians 1:15-18, Hebrews 1:1-3.
- H. Christ as mediator of a new covenant-Hebrews 9:15, 12:24, Luke 22:20. He has redeemed us from the curse of the law-Galatians 3:13-14.
- I. Christ as 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam wins victory over sin, death, and the devil through the cross and his glorious resurrection. Romans 5:12-21, Romans 6:4, Christ our Passover- I Corinthians 5:7-8, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 18. Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:19-20, 2:13-15, Philippians 2:5-11.
- J. Only Grace, Only Faith-Ephesians 2:8-9, John 1:12-13, 3:16-17, Justification by faith-Romans 4:1-8, 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:10.
- K. Marriage as Central Picture of our Covenant Relationship w/God- Creation starts w/ a wedding (Gen. 2:23-25), Jesus first miracle at a wedding (John 2), & final restoration ends w/ Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9). See also book of Hosea, Song of Solomon, John 14:1-4, Ephesians 5:25-33.
- L. Primacy of scripture-John 5:39-40, Luke 24:13-27, Mark 10:6-9, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 1, Psalm 119: 1, 9, 11, 16-18, 33-37. Do what it says-James 1:22-25.
- M. Shalom Peace of God Restored- Romans 5:1, 8:1-2, Galatians 3:26-29, Philippians 4:6-7, John 14:23, 27. There is a positional dimension which is

permanent and a relational dimension which requires obedience and ongoing trust.

- N. Holy Spirit given to the church-Jesus promises the Spirit-John 14:15-17, 25-26, John 16:7-15, Spirit poured out on the church at Pentecost-Acts 2, David's prophesy of Christ's resurrection.
- O. Shaped into the image of God's only Son-the goal of our redemption, Romans 8:28-29, Ephesians 1:3-8.
- P. Assurance of salvation- John 10:27-30, No one can snatch us from God's hand and his promise of eternal life. I John 5:11-13, he who has the Son has eternal life, those who believe in the name of the Son of God!

IV. **Final Restoration**- The consummation of all things in the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ whose return will mark the final judgment upon sin, death and the devil. In it, Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, will establish the new heaven and the new earth for all those who have been washed clean in the blood of the cross.

- A. Great White Throne Judgment- Revelation 20:11-15, judgment of all unbelievers.
- B. Satan's Judgment-Revelation 20:7-10, his final sentence following the millennium reign.
- C. Judgment for Believers- I Corinthians 3:10-15, each person's work will be tested for its quality and eternal significance.
- D. New Heaven & New Earth- Revelation 21 & 22.
- E. Received into the New Jerusalem-God's Heavenly City, Jesus the Alpha & the Omega, Reign with him, Rev.21: 3-4, 22:4-5, 12-16.