

# CHRISTIAN STORY: UNDERSTANDING THE STORYLINE OF THE BIBLE

## THE STORYLINE OF THE BIBLE

Act 1 - Creation: God Establishes His Kingdom

Act 2 - Fall: Rebellion in the Kingdom

Act 3 - Redemption Initiated: The King Chooses Israel

Act 4 - Redemption Accomplished: The Coming of the King

Act 5 - The Mission of the Church: Spreading the News of the King

Act 6 - Redemption Completed: The Return of the King

## WHY DOES THE STORYLINE OF THE BIBLE MATTER?

### For Interpreting the Bible

- Provides the broader context for understanding any given passage in the Bible
  - Ask yourself: Where am I in the storyline of Scripture?
- Demonstrates the progressive nature of God's revelation in the Bible
  - Ask yourself: Where else do I see this in Scripture? Is this a pattern/theme that is repeated?
- Reveals the central figure and climactic center of the Bible—Jesus Christ and his redemptive work (i.e. life, death, and resurrection)
  - Ask yourself: How does this point to or stand in relation to the person and/or work of Jesus Christ?
- Helps identify both the unity of the Bible and its rich diversity
  - Ask yourself: How does this contribute to the overall storyline of Scripture? What is unique about this passage in comparison to others throughout the storyline of Scripture?

### For Christian Living and Our Place in the World

- Romans 12:1-2 - We are to live lives of sacrificial worship to God. We will either be shaped by...
  - The World - "Do not be conformed to this world..."
  - The Word - "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."
- Our whole lives are shaped by some story
  - The way we understand human life depends on what conception we have of the human story. What is the real story of which my life story is a part?" - Leslie Newbigin



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**CREATION: GOD ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM**

1. God brings all things into being by his sovereign word.

Key text: Gen. 1:1 (cf. Rev. 4:11)

God is the supreme ruler over all creation, he created all things and all things exist for him.

2. God's creation is very good.

Key text: Gen. 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31

In Genesis 1-2 we see that God's character is reflected in his creation and it reveals his design and purpose for it. The Garden of Eden and Adam and Eve's role in it is a glimpse of what God desires for the whole of creation as history unfolds.

3. God creates humanity in his own image—the image of God

Key text: Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15

God's creation of humanity is the high point of the creation account and reveals humanity's special relationship to their Creator and unique role in creation.



# **CREATION: GOD ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM**

## **1) WHO IS THE "LORD GOD"**

- Elohim (Gen.1); YHWH Elohim (Gen. 2:3); YHWH (Ex. 3; 6:1-12)

## **2) A FAITH FOR ISRAEL**

- Polemical/Argumentative - Purposeful words to contradict false truth
- The attention is not on the creation, but on the One who created. Israel begins to see that this God is different

## **3) WHAT KIND OF LITERATURE IS GENESIS?**

- Not just polemic, but carefully put together in order to show that God is the divine source of all things
- He stands apart from all other things and he has a special relationship with his creation

## **4) THE GOD WHO BRINGS ALL THINGS INTO BEING**

- God is the Artist of ALL things - (1) In the beginning, (2) created, (3) God [acting subject]
- Creation is a product of his personal will and the work of his hand
- He creates all things, names all things, he is Lord over all creation, and his creation is good
- God does not withhold himself from his creation

## **5) HUMANKIND AS GOD'S IMAGE**

- Man and Woman are created. We are not merely random products of time and chance
- Humankind is unique among God's creatures
- We are made in His image with a unique vocation; We were made male and female. Made to be in relationships; We have a responsibility.

## **6) THE WORLD AS GOD'S KINGDOM**

- Adam and Eve's royal stewardship is to be a small version of what God intends to happen to the whole of creation as history unfolds.
- This same God will ultimately redeem and return for his own as humanity begins to do what's right in his own eyes.