

The Big Story of Scripture // God's Heart

- The Bible is **one** story
 - There are 66 books in the Bible, but it is one continuous story.
 - Divided in two sections - Old Testament & New Testament
 - Testament means a covenant partnership - a binding, relational agreement, committed
 - One story of God revealing Himself to us.
 - Let's take a journey through the Bible together to see God's big plan from the very first book to the last book.

God's Plan: Genesis to Revelation		
Scripture	What is His plan? Who did God use?	How far or who does His plan reach?
Genesis 1:26-28	Multiply His image / Adam & Eve	Fill the earth
Genesis 3	Sin enters the world, distorting God's image in people	
Genesis 6:1-8	Instead of God's image spreading, wickedness multiplied, only Noah was found not evil	
Genesis 9:1	Multiply / Noah & family	Fill the earth
Genesis 11:1-9	People disobeyed God's plan to fill the earth, they wanted to make a name for themselves instead of God. He spread them out anyways.	
Genesis 12:1-3	Blessing / Abraham	All peoples on earth
Exodus 19:5-6	Kingdom of priests, holy nation / Israel	Whole earth, all peoples
Exodus 20:18-21	The people rejected their identity as priests & only wanted Moses to talk with God	
Psalms 67	Blessing, salvation, praise, joy / His people	All nations, peoples, ends of the earth
Isaiah 49:6	Salvation, light / Jesus	Ends of the earth
Habakkuk 2:14	Knowledge of His glory	Earth filled
Matthew 28:18-20	Disciples make disciples	All nations
Acts 1:8	Witnesses	Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, end of the earth
Acts 8:1	Persecution broke out, the church was scattered through Judea & Samaria.	

Romans 15:20-21	Gospel proclaimed / Paul	Everywhere, to those who haven't heard yet
2 Corinthians 5:19-20	Reconciliation / Us, His ambassadors	The world
1 Peter 2:9	His praises proclaimed / Us, His royal priesthood	People for His possession
Revelation 5:8-14	Eternal reign & praise / His people (kingdom of priests)	Every tribe, language, people, & nation, every creature in heaven & earth
Revelation 7:9-10	Salvation / worshipers	Multitude from every nation, tribe, people, language

- From the very beginning God's plan has been to fill the earth with the knowledge of Him.
- He has chosen people to reflect His image & share His message.
- He won't stop until every language & village has heard.
- His family will include people from every nation!
- He allows us to be a part of completing His plan! This is amazing!
- So, we must learn this story to tell it to others.
 - **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** (shema)
 - Let's take a look at the different sections of this one big story & practice telling the story.
 - This is just a summary, there are a lot of details & important stories that I will leave out today, but think of this as a short overview to be able to share the big picture.

- **The Beginning** - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

- God has always existed, He exists outside of our understanding of time.
- Creation - He made the entire world (which Courtney will talk more about tomorrow)
- God & humanity - He set apart humanity to reflect His image & care for His creation
 - Adam & Eve - "So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27).
- Fall
 - Adam & Eve didn't obey, they tried to do things their own way
 - God's plan/image distorted
 - Humanity is no longer in fellowship with God, death & separation
- Promise
 - Sneak peak: God will restore His people/image
 - "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15).



- **Covenant** (friendship, alliance, pledge)

- God chooses Israel to be people set apart to show Him to the world
- “I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 22:17–18).



- Abraham & Sarah

- They left their home, obedient to God, trusting God would keep His promise to give them a new home, but Israel wandered around for many many years with no home to call their own.
- Enslaved in Egypt.

- But God still had a plan, He said they were a people for all peoples, when He blessed them, it was so that every nation could receive His blessing.

- Rescue plan promised - they had to wait

- Law - Moses
- Deliverance
- Rebellion
- Repeat

- **Judges & Kings**

- “When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Sam. 7:12–13).



- No human leaders can fulfill the promise

- The people want a king who will lead them, some of the kings end up good, some end up bad - eventually it gets so bad that the people of Israel divide up into two separate kingdoms - God raises up judges who help lead the people to righteousness & justice
- God's people are constantly failing at their role
- They have their promised land, but there is still war
- Rebellion
- Deliverance
- Repeat

- **Poets & Prophets**

- Everything is such a mess in Israel, God chooses some to tell the people what He says.
- There is art & imagery, symbolism & beauty despite tragedy
- Lament
 - Ps 79 - how long, name's sake, atonement



- Justice/Righteousness
 - Micah 6:8 - He requires it, but everyone keeps failing
- Hope
 - God is faithful, He will fulfill His promise to bless all peoples
 - “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jer. 31:33).

● Jesus

- “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).
- Gospels
 - Promise fulfilled!
 - “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed” (Isa. 53:5).
 - Reconciliation with God made possible!



● Jesus' Followers

- Acts
 - Plan and Power to finish the promise (Acts 1:8)
 - Holy Spirit
 - Apostles (sent ones)
 - Church
 - Spreading the message of reconciliation
- Letters



● Revelation

- Promise complete!
- Restoration - fully reconciled to God, brought back to perfection as it was in the garden
- “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man . . . He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:3-4).

