

Pastor Mike Craver

Introduction: Luke 24:44–49

Tally Ho First Baptist Church

What are Your Thoughts

| **The Bible: The most bought book but a most neglected book?**

At first, this pessimistic view bothered me, so I researched. According to Google, on average, 20 million Bibles are sold each year. However, last year, 35.5 million Bibles were sold. The most popular Bible phone app, YouVersion, has 800,000 downloads.

Yet a recent poll uncovered that many Christians still believe the Bible to be a mystery and hard to understand.

Can People Understand the Bible?

What Makes the Bible So Challenging?

Consider these Facts

1. It usually is 1,200 pages.
2. Composed of 66 books:
 - i. 39 in the Old Testament
 - ii. 27 in the New Testament.
3. The Old Testament alone has 929 chapters
4. The New Testament contains 260,
5. It tells a story from The Bible's Covers 4, 125 years

ago. Adam's narrative from 4,026 B.C. to Revelation in 99 A.D. covers 4,125 years.

b. Roughly 4,125 years

What Translation?

a. Hebrew

b. Aramaic

c. Greek,

d. The early translations

i. The OT in Greek (LXX),

ii. Latin (Vulgate), German,

iii. English (Tyndale).

Where Does One Start Reading?

1. Many Reading Plans in the Study Bible

a. year

b. 2 years

c. 31 days in Proverbs

d. Morning In Proverbs & Evening with Psalms.

e. Gospel of John

One Can Understand Why the Bible is so Intimidating to Read.

Every Person Can Learn the Grand Story of the Bible

Purpose

This series aims to help us unravel some of the Bible's mysteries, identify the overall **“Grand Narrative of the Bible,”** “hear the overall melody of the story—Jesus and Salvation—and share it with others.

The Bible is A Story

- One way to describe the word ***story is the account of real people and events told to evolve/develop something. In this case, something is the rescue/saving of a fallen humanity.***

The Bible: As A Five-Act Drama

1. **Creation**
2. **Fall**
3. **The Promised One**
4. **The People of God**
5. **Paradise Regained**

Do You Have A Favorite Story?

- Star Wars
- Lord of the Rings

Have You Ever Wondered Why These Connect with Us?

Could it be Because We Have a Similar Story?

- A Quest for the Origin
- Good & Evil
- Villain
- Hero
- Destruction of Evil

- Happy Ever After

| One commentator said, ***“Stories are the language of the heart.”***

Could We Be Part of a Larger Story?

Could There Be A Book to Explain the Rest of the Story?

John Eldredge: Epic

we won't begin to understand our lives or what the so-called Gospel of Christianity speaks of until we understand the Story in which we have found ourselves. When we were born, we were born into an Epic that had already been underway for quite some time. (p.15)

Conclusion

The key to understanding and wanting to read the Bible is discovering it as ***God's Story and Our Story.***

Action Plan

1. Are You Open to Understanding the Bible as a Grand Story?
2. Are You open to seeing Real People's Stories Used to Unveil a Bigger Story?
3. Are you willing to be challenged on your view of the Bible and take a different approach?