

BAC Podcast Notes

Episode 3: “The Storyline of Scripture”

The Bible is a diverse book

- Contains 66 individual books (39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament)
- Written by over 40 authors from many walks of life (kings, fishermen, shepherds, tax collectors, etc.)
- Written in three different languages (Old Testament: Hebrew with some Aramaic; New Testament: Greek)
- Written on three different continents (Africa, Asia, Europe)
- Written over a period of ~1500 years (~1400 BC–90 AD)

Despite all of its diversity, the Bible speaks with absolute authority and unity and weaves together to form one overarching story of redemption

The Storyline of the Bible:

Old Testament:

- God creates the world for his glory and creates mankind in his image (Genesis 1–2)
- Mankind falls into sin, bringing disastrous consequences: death, suffering, and separation from God (Genesis 3)
- As mankind spreads, sin also spreads (Genesis 4–5)
- God judges mankind by sending a flood (Genesis 6–8)
- Mankind continues to sin after the flood (Genesis 9–11)
- God begins to enact his plan of salvation by making a covenant with **Abraham**—promising him land, countless descendants, and a worldwide blessing (Genesis 12, 15)
- God’s promises extend to Abraham’s son, **Isaac**, and to Isaac’s son, **Jacob** (Genesis 21–27)
- Jacob, who is renamed “Israel” (meaning “strives with God”), has 12 sons, who become the fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel (Genesis 28–41)
- A severe famine forces Jacob (or Israel) and his family to migrate to Egypt (Genesis 42–50)
- The Israelites eventually become so numerous that the Pharaoh of Egypt enslaves them for 400 years (Exodus 1)
- God raises up **Moses** to lead the Israelites (Exodus 2–6)
- God performs many miracles—including the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea—to lead the Israelites out of slavery and bondage (Exodus 7–14)
- Israel comes to Mt. Sinai, where they receive the law from God—including the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19–31; further detailed in Leviticus) —and God makes a covenant with them
- Israel sets out for the land promised to Abraham (“Promised Land”) and comes to Kadesh Barnea, a city just south of the Promised Land, where they send 12 spies to give a report of the land (Numbers 13)
- Two spies give a positive report (**Caleb** and **Joshua**); ten spies give a negative and fearful report (Numbers 13)
- Israel listens to the ten negative spies and longs to return to Egypt (Numbers 14)
- God punishes Israel for their lack of faith by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until the entire older generation dies (Numbers 14–19)

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Quarter 1, Episode 7: “The Storyline of Scripture”

- Israel encamps at Moab, just east of the Promised Land, where **Joshua** is commissioned as the New leader (Numbers 27), and Moses gives the younger generation the law (recorded in Deuteronomy, which means “second law”)
- Under Joshua’s leadership, Israel crosses the Jordan River on dry ground (Joshua 3) and conquers the nations living in the Promised Land (Joshua 6–12)
- The Israelites divide the Promised Land amongst the 12 tribes (Joshua 13-21)
- Israel falls into repeated cycles of sin: Israel sins; God delivers them over to their surrounding enemies; Israel cries out for help; God raises up a judge who delivers Israel; the judge dies; the process repeats (Judges 2–16)
- Israel cries out for a king, and **Saul** is anointed as the first King of Israel (1 Samuel 10)
- **David** is anointed as the second King of Israel (2 Samuel 5)
- David’s son, **Solomon**, is anointed as the third King of Israel (1 Kings 1)
- Solomon’s son, **Rehoboam**, becomes the next King of Israel (1 Kings 11)
- Rehoboam’s foolish leadership causes Israel to divide into two kingdoms (1 Kings 12)
 - Northern Kingdom: **Israel** (10 tribes)
 - Southern Kingdom: **Judah** (2 tribes: Judah and Benjamin)
- All of Israel’s Kings are evil, so God allows **Assyria** to take Israel into exile in **722 BC** (2 Kings 17)
- Judah has a few good kings and holds on a bit longer, but its sin also becomes its demise, and God allows Babylon to take **Judah** into exile in **586 BC** (2 Kings 25)
- The Jewish people are in exile in Babylon for **70 years** (Daniel 9)
- The **Persians** conquer Babylon and allow the Jews to return to the Promised Land (Ezra 1)
- The Jews rebuild the temple and Jerusalem (Ezra, Nehemiah)
- However, the temple is rebuilt only modestly, God’s presence does not dwell in it, and Persia is still in control
- The Old Testament **ends in anticipation** of a king who will restore Israel

New Testament:

- **Jesus** is born to the line of Abraham and David (Matthew 1)
- Jesus’ life parallels Israel’s history in many ways but with a much different outcome (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- Jesus lives a sinless life, fulfilling the law that Israel repeatedly failed to keep
- Jesus dies a criminal’s death, paying the price for the sins of Israel and the entire world
- Jesus rises on the third day, showing his victory over sin and death
- Before ascending into heaven, Jesus tells his disciples to **“Go and make disciples of all nations”** (Matthew 28)
- The Gospel (“good news”) spreads throughout the Mediterranean region through the missionary efforts of the early church and the **Apostle Paul** (Acts)
- Paul and the Apostles write letters to churches and individuals, further explaining the significance of Jesus’ death and how we are to live in light of what he’s done for us (Romans–Jude)
- Jesus will return a second time to complete God’s plan of salvation and establish his eternal Kingdom (Revelation)
- God will redeem people from every “tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5)
- God will create a New Heaven and New Earth, where God will dwell with his people forever, and “he will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away” (Revelation 22)