

Growing in Christ - Introduction to Bible Overview

How would you describe the Bible to someone who had never read it?

The Word of God

How can we know God? Psalm 19...

The God who speaks

Directly – In Old Testament, people heard God speak directly to them and wrote it down.

Personally (Genesis 15:7). Not an oracle, or a source of wisdom. The content of his revelation is also personal. He reveals who he is to us, person to person (Exodus 34:6-7)

On his own terms – he is the all-powerful creator, so he is at liberty to decide what we know about him and how we get to know it.

The Word about God

Revelation of God's character, purpose and relationship with his people in words, lives and experiences. It is not just the words he spoke directly to people, but how they reacted, and what happened in their lives that reveals God. So they are all recorded.

The world is a stage! And God is writer, director, producer and lead actor.¹

The Holy Spirit inspired individual people at particular times and in particular places to write (2 Peter 1:20-21) and the same Holy Spirit gives us the gifts to understand what they wrote (John 16:13-15).

Two writers are involved. We need to be aware of both! God's big picture, and the particular situation of the human writer.

Careful reading is required!

We are drawn in to the great drama as God's Word comes to bear on our lives afresh.

Telling the truth

The Truman show. The creator is outside the walls – the truth. We live in the opposite of the Truman show. Everyone else is Truman and we know the creator.

How do we know it is true? Because of Jesus (2 Peter 1:16-19)

Why do we have the books in the Bible that we have? Because of Jesus.

How does Jesus do this?

Old Testament: Matthew 5:17-18

New Testament: John 15:26-27

¹ Michael S Horton. *Covenant and Eschatology: The Divine Drama*, (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002), 121.

The big story

Unfolding and developing

A beginning and an end. An overarching story that starts in Genesis and comes to a conclusion in Revelation.



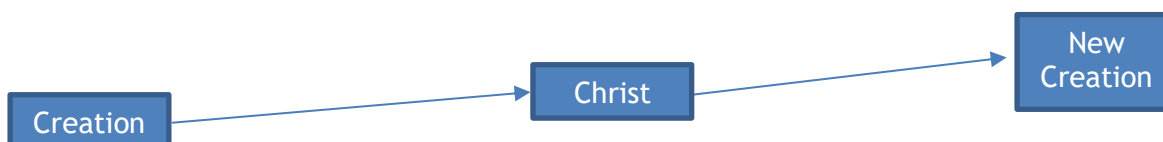
Every part of the Bible has a place in the story. Think about the place in the big story to make sense of the episode. Like a soap opera! Think about how one part of the Bible relates to the whole story.

Read on to find out more. God reveals more about his plans and promises as the big story progresses.

Not the I Ching!

A special relationship

The story of Christ. When he came everything changed.



What has changed? (Hebrews 1:1-3, John 1:14)

The Bible is the story of the relationship between God and people based on his Word and Christ is at the centre of the story.

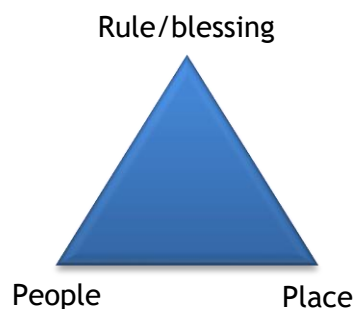
Covenant relationship. A relationship based on words. Like marriage.

Covenant relationship with God: a relationship based on God's Word.

Promises, promises

God's promise is about restoring the relationship that human beings broke after he created them.

God's promise is most easily understood as a kingdom, with a promised king.



We can understand the place in the story by seeing how well these things are developed.