

WHAT THE BIBLE IS ALL ABOUT

Text: Acts 3:24

INTRO: In this lesson we will consider a summary of the basic message of the Bible. Before we consider some highlights of O.T. history, let us first note a few things about the geography of the O.T.

I. O.T. GEOGRAPHY. Though other lands are mentioned from the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe, all the basic events recorded in the O.T. Scriptures took place within a land area about the same size as Texas, from Northern Egypt to the area known today as Iraq.

- A. Eden.
- B. Ur.
- C. Haran
- D. Canaan (Israel, Palestine)
- E. Egypt

II. O.T. HISTORY.

A. The Patriarchal Age, in which God revealed Himself to certain patriarch, or heads of families extended from the time of creation to the days of Moses, 2,500 years (or more). The history of that period is recorded in Genesis, the book of beginnings. Genesis records the beginning of the physical universe, the beginning of human sin, the first promise of a deliverer, and many other firsts, or beginnings.

NOTE: Concerning the “fall of man.” We inherit neither Adam’s sin, nor a particular tendency to sin. We inherit from Adam what God put within Adam—the power of choice.

1. God pronounced the consequences of the sins of Adam & Eve – then promised a deliverer who would eventually deal the death-blow to the “seed of” the serpent.

Gen 3:15, And I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your seed and her

Seed; He shall bruise your head, & you shall bruise His heel."

2. Later, God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees, first to Haran, then to Canaan, and promised to bless him, his descendents, and the whole world through his Seed.

Gen 12:2-3, 7, I will make you a great nation; I will bless you & make your name great; & you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, & I will curse him who curses you; & in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed... Then the LORD appeared to Abram & said, "To your descendants I will give this land.

Gen 22:18, In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

3. That promise was renewed to Abraham's son Isaac in Gen 26:4 & to Isaac's son Jacob in Gen. 28:14. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, & his descendents eventually became known as Israelites.)

B. The Mosaic Age extended from the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai to the death & resurrection of Jesus, a period of about 1,500 years. The history of most of this period of time is recorded in the books of Exodus through Esther.

1. The book of Genesis ends with the Israelites in slavery in Egypt. In the book of Exodus, Moses is called by God to free them and lead them to the land that had been promised to Abraham.

Deut 18:18, I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, & will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

2. Moses died on the verge of the Promised Land & God chose Joshua to succeed him in leading the Israelites to the land of rest that He had promised them. It is interesting that the O.T. name "Joshua" translated into Greek becomes the name "Jesus." The O.T. Joshua led the Israelites into the land of Canaan, but there remains a greater ultimate rest still awaits the people of God in heaven.

Heb 4:8-10, For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

3. Following the death of Joshua, the Israelites were governed by judges for several generations. This period of Israelite history is covered by the books of Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel. Eventually God permitted them to have a human king. Their greatest king was David, to whom God said:

2 Sam 7:12-13, "When your days are fulfilled & you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, & I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

4. The history of the Israelite kings is found in the books of Samuel, Kings, & Chronicles. Eventually, because of their unfaithfulness, they were taken into exile: 10 tribes into Assyrian exile; 115 years later the other 2 tribes into Babylonian captivity.

5. After years in captivity, those Israelites who desired to do so were permitted to return and re-establish themselves in the land of Palestine. The history of this period is recorded in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

III. THE N.T. IS THE RECORD OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECIES, TYPES, AND PROMISES OF THE O.T. THAT HAD NOT ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED IN O.T. TIMES. GOSPEL AGE.

- A. Jesus is the Seed of woman promised in Gen. 3:15. The virgin birth had also been foretold by the prophet Isaiah in 7:14.

Matt 1:22-23, So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Gal 4:4-5, But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- B. Jesus is the Seed of Abraham thru whom God promised to bless all nations & all families.

Gal 3:16, Now to Abraham & his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

- C. Jesus is the Prophet like Moses.

Acts 3:22-26, For Moses truly said to the fathers, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people. Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as

many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are sons of the prophets, & of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

D. Jesus is the descendent and heir to the throne of David.

Acts 2:30-33, Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, & having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

And that is pretty much "what the Bible is all about."

CONCLUSION: Jesus, the Seed of Abraham has come into the world to bless all nations and all families. He will bless you with forgiveness of sins, and a home in heaven if you will respond as 3,000 did on the Pentecost of Acts 2.

Susquehanna, Marietta, May 23, 2004
La Porte, TX, May 26, 2004
Jonestown, TX, May 30, 2004 (meeting)
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, June 4, 2004 (meeting)
Oaks-West, Burnet, TX, June 13, 2004
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 13, 2004
Rice Road, Tyler, TX, June 20, 2004
Butler Street, Springhill, LA, June 20, 2004
Alief, TX, June 27, 2004
Benchley, Bryan, TX, June 27, 2004