

**“The Worldview of the Bible”**  
**Bible and Worldview Institute Session Notes – February 21, 2009**  
Brian Johnson

❖ Rationale

- Story of Scripture and the Christian Worldview
  - Scripture presents a unified worldview
  - Scripture is God’s revelation of himself
- “Bits and Pieces” Theology
  - We often do not have a forum for a systematic overview of Scripture
  - A basic grasp of the overall story makes all of our Biblical study more effective

**I. Creation (Genesis 1-2)**

- A. God is the CREATOR of all things
- B. God created the world GOOD (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12. . .)
- C. Humanity is created in the IMAGE OF GOD and therefore has inherent value (Genesis 1:26-27)

**II. Fall (Genesis 3)**

- A. Humanity’s decision to SIN had profound effect on all of creation
- B. Four results of the fall:
  - 1. Chaos in our relationship with GOD (Genesis 3:8, 22-24)
  - 2. Chaos in our relationship with ONE ANOTHER (Genesis 3:16, 4:8)
  - 3. Chaos in our relationship with OURSELVES (Genesis 3:10)
  - 4. Chaos in our relationship with CREATION (Genesis 3:17-19)
- C. Genesis 4-11 teaches us that left to ourselves humanity will get worse and worse

**III. The Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3)**

- A. God’s promise to Abraham consists of three parts:
  - 1. NATION
  - 2. LAND
  - 3. BLESSING
- B. God works through Abraham and his family in order to bring his covenant promises to pass
  - 1. Birth of ISAAC (Genesis 21:1-7)
  - 2. Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:19-26)
  - 3. Jacob’s twelve sons (Genesis 35:22c-26)
  - 4. Joseph sold into Egyptian captivity (Genesis 37:12-36)

#### IV. The Exodus

- A. In EGYPT Abraham's descendants grow from 70 to a multitude (Exodus 1:1-7)
- B. The new Pharaoh oppresses the Israelites (Exodus 1:8-10)
- C. God raises up MOSES to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian captivity (Exodus 3:1-10)
- D. The plagues show God's IDENTITY and his superiority to the FALSE GODS of the Egyptians (Exodus 6:6-8, 7:1-5, 12:13)
- E. The PASSOVER becomes a continual reminder of God's redemption of his people (Exodus 12:14-20)
- F. Abraham's descendants become a NATION (Exodus 24:3-8)
  - 1. The giving of the LAW (Exodus 19-20)
  - 2. God's PROVISION in the wilderness (Exodus 16)
  - 3. The 12 spies and the failure to trust in God's power (Numbers 13-14)

#### V. Conquest (Joshua)

- A. God's power is shown in the conquest
  - 1. Crossing the JORDAN RIVER (Joshua 3)
  - 2. Destruction of JERICHO (Joshua 6)
- B. God commands the Israelites to drive out the CANAANITES (Deuteronomy 7:1-6)
- C. Israel ultimately FAILS to obey God in driving out the Canaanites (Joshua 13:1, Judges 3:1-6)

#### VI. Period of the Judges (example: Judges 3:7-11)



## **VII. The Monarchy**

- A. Saul
  - 1. Fulfilled the people's desire for a KING (1 Samuel 10:20-25)
  - 2. Ultimately this was a FAILURE (1 Samuel 13:1-14)
- B. David
  - 1. During David's reign Israel experiences REST from their enemies (2 Samuel 7:1—fulfillment of the promise of the land)
  - 2. God's covenant promise to David (2 Samuel 7:11b-16)
    - a. The 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the Covenant is made more specific
    - b. The blessing to all peoples on earth will be a KING who rules over an eternal KINGDOM
  - 3. David's failure and the troubles of his later reign (2 Samuel 11)
- C. Solomon
  - 1. David's final words to his son (1 Kings 2:1-12)
  - 2. Solomon's FAILURE (1 Kings 11:1-13)

## **VIII. The Divided Kingdom** (date ca. 922 BC)

- A. The division is due to Rehoboam's decision to continue Solomon's oppressive policies (1 Kings 12:1-15)
- B. Jeroboam leads the opposition (1 Kings 12:16-17)
- C. The two kingdoms that emerge:
  - 1. Northern Kingdom (Israel/Ephraim)
  - 2. Southern Kingdom (Judah)
- D. The Northern Kingdom
  - 1. Characterized by spiritual apostasy (1 Kings 12:25-33)
  - 2. Political turmoil
    - a. Several ruling families
    - b. Initially stronger than Judah, but eventually became weaker
  - 3. Results in destruction by ASSYRIA (2 Kings 17:7-23)
- E. The Southern Kingdom
  - 1. The spiritual downward trend is not as pronounced as in the Northern Kingdom
  - 2. Only one family (David's line)
  - 3. Destruction and exile by the BABYLONIANS (2 Kings 25)

## **IX. Exile and Return**

- A. Exile is a result of God's people worshiping false gods
- B. Exile results in a desire for God's people to strictly keep the law
  - 1. Separatism
  - 2. Legalism
  - 3. Messianism
- C. Babylonian empire was conquered by Medo-Persian empire (Daniel 5:30)
- D. The people were allowed to return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1)

## **X. Intertestamental Period**

- A. ALEXANDER'S conquest (See Daniel 2:39, 8:5-7, 21)
  - 1. Resulted in ease of travel and a common language
  - 2. Alexander was not able to consolidate his empire before his death
- B. The "Successors" (Diadochoi—see Daniel 8:8, 22, 11:4)
  - 1. No clear successor to Alexander led to years of dispute over territory
  - 2. Ptolemies and the Seleucids battled over Israel
  - 3. Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a Seleucid king, attempted to wipe out Judaism
- C. Maccabean Revolution
  - 1. The Hasmonean family leads a rebellion against Antiochus IV's forces
  - 2. JUDAS MACCABAEUS wins victories and retakes the temple
  - 3. Within two generations the Maccabeans are as oppressive as those they had overthrown
  - 4. The Maccabean rulers have a strong influence on the people Messianic expectations
- D. The Roman conquest

## **XI. Jesus' Mission**

- A. Jesus' birth is in context of political turmoil and great EXPECTATION (Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:25-38)
- B. Jesus' actions
  - 1. Show that he was the promised one (the Messiah—John 7:30-31)
  - 2. Show his COMPASSION (Matthew 20:29-34)
  - 3. Show his DIVINITY (the incarnation—John 1:14, 18)

- C. Jesus' teaching: The Kingdom of God has come
  - 1. Jesus is the King of the Kingdom (Matthew 21:1-11, 33-46)
  - 2. Connection with 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the Covenant (see Acts 3:24-26)

## **XI. Continuation of Jesus' Mission**

- A. The Birth of the CHURCH
  - 1. Begins at Pentecost (Acts 2)
  - 2. In the early days the mission is still seen as national (Acts 1:5-8, 11:19)
- B. Inclusion of the GENTILES
  - 1. Necessary because the promise of the blessing is for *all people*
  - 2. Begins at Syrian Antioch (Acts 11:20, 13:1-3)
  - 3. Paul's missionary journeys (Acts 13-28)
- C. The Church faced struggles
  - 1. External: Persecution (1 Peter 1:3-9)
  - 2. Internal: False teaching (1 John 2:18-27)
- D. The story continues. . .
  - 1. SALVATION is not only about us (1 Peter 4:7-11)
  - 2. Work of the church: overturning the effects of the Fall
    - a. EVANGELISM (2 Corinthians 5:11-21)
    - b. UNITY (Ephesians 4:1-6)
    - c. EDIFICATION /DISCIPLESHIP (Ephesians 4:11-13)
    - d. SOCIAL ACTION (Matthew 25:31-46, Galatians 6:10, James 1:27)

## Additional Resources

### Books:

Thomas C. Brisco, *Holman Bible Atlas: A Complete Guide to the Expansive Geography of Biblical History*, Broadman and Holman, 1999. This atlas does not only contain helpful maps, but also good information on history, culture, and geography of the ancient world.

Michael D. Coogan, ed. *The New Oxford Annotated Apocrypha, Augmented Third Edition, New Revised Standard Version*, OUP, 2007. This is a good edition of the Apocrypha of the Old Testament which will introduce these documents which are so important to understanding the Intertestamental Period.

T. Desmond Alexander, Brian S. Rosner, et al., eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2000. This unique dictionary contains overviews of the books of Scripture, as well as the bigger sections of Scripture. The best feature is a series of articles that traces various themes as they are found throughout the Scripture.

**Several good books have been published recently which looks at the overall “big picture” story of Scripture. These are some of my favorites.**

Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*, InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Craig G. Bartholomew and Michael W. Goheen, *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

Mark Strom, *The Symphony of Scripture: Making Sense of the Bible's Many Themes*, Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2001.

### Websites:

<http://romans819.com/worldview-of-the-bible>. This is Brian Johnson's personal resource website. This link will take you to the “answer key” to this outline in case you missed any of the fill-in-the-blanks. There is also information here about booking Brian for a workshop or other speaking engagements.

<http://bible.org>. This site contains various articles, Bible study materials, and links to other Bible study websites. As is true of all of these websites, inclusion here does not mean that Brian Johnson agrees with all of the content.

<http://ebibleteacher.com>. This site contains lots of Bible study materials, especially PowerPoint presentations. My favorite items here are the creative maps which were made using NASA satellite photos.

<http://ntgateway.com>. Helpful resources pulled together by Dr. Mark Goodacre. A wide variety of perspectives is represented.

<http://ntwrightpage.com>. Several resources (articles, audio, video, etc.) from one of Brian's favorite Biblical theologians.

<http://biblegateway.com>. Searchable text of several Bible translations.