



BIBLE CONFIDENCE SERIES

The One Story of Scripture

A beginner-friendly guide to seeing how the whole Bible fits together

One Bible. Many books. One unfolding story.

The Bible contains 66 books written by many human authors across many centuries. Yet together these books reveal one God, one human problem, one rescue centered in Jesus, and one promised restoration.

THE STORY IN ONE SENTENCE

God created a good world, humanity rebelled, God promised rescue, Jesus accomplished redemption, His people now carry the good news, and one day He will make all things new.

"Beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

Luke 24:27 WEB



THE WHOLE STORY AT A GLANCE

Six movements to remember

01

Creation

God makes a good world and creates people to know Him, reflect His character, and care for what He made.

02

Rebellion

People distrust and disobey God. Sin brings guilt, death, broken relationships, and suffering into the world.

03

Promise

God begins His rescue plan through Abraham and Israel. He promises blessing, a faithful King, and a Savior.

04

Redemption

Jesus lives without sin, dies for our sins, rises from the dead, and opens the way for us to be reconciled to God.

05

Mission

Jesus gives His people the Holy Spirit and sends them to share the gospel, make disciples, and live as His witnesses.

06

Restoration

Jesus will return, defeat evil and death, renew creation, and live forever with His redeemed people.

This is a map—not a replacement for reading

The six movements help you locate a passage, but they do not tell you everything a passage means. Keep opening your Bible, reading each book in context, and allowing Scripture to fill in the map.



MOVEMENT 1 — CREATION

The story begins with God

The Bible begins with God. He creates the heavens and the earth, gives life to everything, and calls His creation good (Genesis 1:1–31). Everything begins with Him and belongs to Him.

Human beings bear God's image

God makes every human being in His image and gives people the responsibility to care for His world (Genesis 1:26–28). Every person therefore has God-given value that is not earned by ability, wealth, usefulness, age, race, or status.

God desires relationship and faithful partnership

In the garden, God provides for the first people, gives them meaningful work, and invites them to trust and obey Him (Genesis 2:4–25). People were made to know God, reflect His character, and care for what He created.

What Creation establishes

God is the Creator and rightful King. Human beings possess God-given dignity and responsibility. The world was made good, and life flourishes under God's wise rule.

Key passages

- Genesis 1:1–2:3 — God creates and blesses a good world.
- Genesis 2:4–25 — God places humanity in the garden for relationship, work, and obedience.
- Psalm 8 — Humanity's dignity and stewardship come from God.
- John 1:1–3; Colossians 1:15–17 — All things were created through and for the Son.



MOVEMENT 2 — REBELLION

Humanity chose distrust

In Genesis 3, the serpent questions God's Word and goodness. The man and woman distrust God and disobey Him. Sin begins with wanting life on our own terms instead of trusting the One who made us.

Sin fractures what God made good

01

Relationship with God

Guilt and fear lead the humans to hide from Him (Genesis 3:7–10).

02

Relationship with one another

Blame enters the first marriage, followed later by jealousy, violence, oppression, and division (3:12–13; 4:1–16; 11:1–9).

03

Relationship with creation

Work becomes painful, the ground is cursed, and human life ends in death (3:16–19).

04

Relationship within ourselves

Human desires, thinking, worship, and choices become distorted by sin (Genesis 6:5; Romans 1:21–25; 3:9–23).

Judgment and promise appear together

God judges sin, but He also gives hope. Genesis 3:15 points forward to a coming offspring who will defeat the serpent. The rest of the Bible shows this promise moving toward Jesus, who defeats sin, death, and the devil through His death and resurrection (Hebrews 2:14–15; 1 John 3:8).

The problem the Bible addresses

We need more than improved circumstances or better habits. We need forgiveness, new hearts, reconciliation with God, freedom from sin's rule, and final deliverance from death.



MOVEMENT 3 — PROMISE

God begins a rescue through one family

As sin spreads, God does not abandon His world. He calls Abraham and promises him a family, a land, and a relationship with God. Through Abraham's family, God plans to bring blessing to every nation (Genesis 12:1–3; 15:1–21; 17:1–8).

Israel becomes God's covenant people

God rescues Abraham's descendants from slavery in Egypt and makes them His covenant people, Israel (Exodus 6:6–8; 19:3–6). They are called to trust Him, obey His Word, and show the surrounding nations what the true God is like.

The Old Testament develops the promise

01

A place

God gives Israel land and places His dwelling among them, while pointing beyond earthly geography toward His worldwide purpose.

02

A people

God preserves Abraham's family despite slavery, wilderness failure, divided kingdoms, exile, and return.

03

A king

God promises David a royal descendant whose kingdom will endure (2 Samuel 7:8–16; Psalm 2; Isaiah 9:6–7).

04

A new covenant

The prophets promise forgiveness, new hearts, God's Spirit, restored relationship, and a faithful Shepherd-King (Jeremiah 31:31–34; Ezekiel 36:22–28; 37:24–28).

Israel's calling and failure both matter

Israel received real covenant privileges and a genuine mission, yet repeatedly shared humanity's problem of sin. The story creates expectation for a faithful Israelite, obedient Son, righteous King, and suffering Servant who can accomplish what sinful people cannot.



MOVEMENT 4 — REDEMPTION

Jesus is the center—not an afterthought

Jesus is the center of God's rescue plan. He is the promised descendant of Abraham and David, God's faithful Son, the true King, and the Savior who brings the new covenant (Matthew 1:1; 3:17; Luke 1:31–33; Hebrews 8:6–13).

The gospel announces what Jesus accomplished

01

He became human

The eternal Son entered His creation and lived among us (John 1:1–18; Philippians 2:5–8).

02

He lived faithfully

Jesus obeyed the Father, resisted temptation, revealed God's character, and announced His kingdom (Matthew 4:1–11; John 5:19–20; 14:9).

03

He died for sins

At the cross, Jesus bore sin, satisfied justice, defeated hostile powers, and opened the way to reconciliation (Isaiah 53; Mark 10:45; Romans 3:21–26; Colossians 2:13–15).

04

He rose bodily

God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating Him as Lord and beginning the new creation (Luke 24:1–49; 1 Corinthians 15:1–28).

05

He reigns and will return

Jesus is exalted at the Father's right hand and will return to judge evil and complete His kingdom (Acts 1:9–11; 2:32–36; Revelation 19:11–16).

The heart of redemption

Salvation is God's work of grace. Through faith in Jesus, sinners receive forgiveness, reconciliation, new life, adoption, and the Holy Spirit—not because they earned rescue, but because Christ accomplished it (Romans 5:6–11; Ephesians 2:1–10).



MOVEMENT 5 — MISSION

Where are we in the story?

Jesus died, rose from the dead, returned to the Father, and sent the Holy Spirit. He is now gathering people from every nation. We live after His first coming while we wait for Him to return and make all things new.

Jesus sends His people

Before ascending, Jesus commands His followers to make disciples of all nations and promises the Spirit's power for worldwide witness (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8). Acts traces the gospel moving from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the nations.

The church is a redeemed people—not the Redeemer

The church does not save the world; Jesus does. Believers announce His gospel, teach His Word, love one another, pursue holiness and justice, serve neighbors, endure suffering faithfully, and display a preview of His coming kingdom (Acts 2:42–47; Ephesians 2:10–22; 1 Peter 2:9–12).

Every believer belongs in the mission

01

Know Christ

Continue learning His Word, trusting His promises, and growing through the Spirit.

02

Live as His disciple

Let the gospel reshape worship, character, relationships, work, generosity, and hope.

03

Make Him known

Speak truth with love, serve faithfully, and help others open Scripture for themselves.

04

Wait with hope

Remain faithful because Jesus' return and final victory are certain.

Already—and not yet

God's kingdom has already arrived through Jesus, but it is not yet complete. For example, Jesus has already risen from the dead, and believers already have new life in Him. Yet Christians still die and wait for the future resurrection of their bodies when Jesus returns (John 5:24–29; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23).





MOVEMENT 6 — RESTORATION

God will make everything right

The Bible ends with hope. Jesus will return, evil and death will be defeated, creation will be renewed, and God will live with His people forever (Revelation 21:1–5; 22:1–5).

What God will make right

01

Evil will be judged

God's justice will answer rebellion, violence, deception, oppression, and every enemy of His good rule (Revelation 19:11–21; 20:7–15).

02

Death will be defeated

God will raise the dead, and death itself will be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:20–28, 50–57; Revelation 20:14).

03

Creation will be renewed

The world's groaning will end as God brings the freedom and glory for which creation waits (Romans 8:18–25; 2 Peter 3:13).

04

God will dwell with His people

The relationship pictured in Eden reaches its fulfillment: God's people see His face and live in His presence forever (Revelation 21:3; 22:3–5).

The final word is not loss

For those who belong to Christ, the story ends in resurrection, healing, justice, worship, meaningful life, and unhindered fellowship with God. Jesus does not merely return us to Eden; He brings God's purposes to their glorious completion.

Hope changes how we live now

Because restoration is certain, Christians can endure suffering, resist evil, pursue holiness, practice faithfulness, and labor for the Lord without believing that any faithful work is wasted (1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Peter 3:11–14; Revelation 14:12).



THREADS THAT RUN THROUGH THE STORY

Watch these themes develop

01

God's presence

Garden → tabernacle → temple → Jesus → Spirit-filled church → God dwelling with His people forever.

02

Kingdom

Creation → Israel's kings → promised Davidic King → Jesus reigning → kingdom completed.

03

Covenant

God's promises to Noah, Abraham, Israel, and David culminate in the new covenant mediated by Jesus.

04

Sacrifice and atonement

Animal sacrifices reveal sin's seriousness and the need for cleansing; Jesus offers the decisive sacrifice.

05

Offspring and family

The promised offspring narrows toward Jesus, through whom people from every nation enter God's family.

06

Exile and homecoming

Eden is lost and Israel is exiled; Jesus brings reconciliation and leads His people to their lasting home.

Trace the threads carefully—and toward Jesus

Themes must grow from actual passages rather than being forced into every verse. The New Testament describes God's plan as bringing all things together in Christ (Ephesians 1:9–10): the promised King and Savior through whom God's purposes reach fulfillment.



WHERE DO THE BIBLE'S BOOKS FIT?

A simple shelf for the story

Some books advance the timeline; others pause to worship, explain, warn, interpret, or apply. All belong within the one unfolding story.

01

The Law — Genesis through Deuteronomy

Creation, rebellion, the patriarchs, exodus, covenant, and preparation for the land.

02

Old Testament History — Joshua through Esther

Israel in the land, judges, kings, divided kingdoms, exile, and return.

03

Poetry and Wisdom — Job through Song of Songs

These books usually pause the timeline rather than move it forward. Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs help us live faithfully inside God's unfolding story: they explore creation's goodness, life in a fallen world, wise trust and relationships, suffering, love, and hope while we wait for God to make all things right.

04

The Prophets — Isaiah through Malachi

Covenant warnings and promises of a King, Servant, Spirit, new covenant, and restoration.

05

The Gospels — Matthew through John

Four complementary accounts of Jesus' identity, kingdom, death, and resurrection.

06

Acts

The risen Jesus sends the Spirit, forms the church, and carries the gospel outward.

07

The Letters — Romans through Jude

Gospel truth explained and applied to believers awaiting Jesus' return.

08

Revelation

Jesus' rule, faithful witness, final judgment, and renewed creation.



DIGGING DEEPER

Add these ideas when you are ready

Covenants shape the storyline

God's covenants establish and develop His relationship, promises, and purposes. Christians sometimes organize the covenants differently, but Noah, Abraham, Israel at Sinai, David, and the new covenant are essential landmarks (Genesis 9; 12; Exodus 19–24; 2 Samuel 7; Jeremiah 31; Luke 22:20).

Promise grows through fulfillment

Some promises are fulfilled in stages. A passage may address an immediate historical situation, develop through later events, and reach fuller completion in Jesus or the final restoration. Later Scripture helps us see how God intended the parts to connect.

Patterns prepare us for Jesus

Adam, Israel, exodus, sacrifice, priesthood, kingship, temple, exile, and return create patterns that the New Testament connects to Christ. Sound typology follows biblical connections; it does not treat every similarity as a hidden prediction.

The kingdom is already and not yet

The resurrection is one clear example: Jesus has already defeated death, but believers have not yet been raised. In the same way, Jesus already reigns, yet we still pray for His kingdom to come in its fullness (Matthew 4:17; 12:28; 1 Corinthians 15:20–28).

Israel and the church require care

The New Testament celebrates Gentiles being included in Abraham's blessing through Christ while continuing to speak seriously about Israel and God's faithfulness (Galatians 3:7–29; Romans 9–11). Faithful Christians differ on some details, so avoid careless replacement language or systems that silence clear passages.

The deeper goal

Biblical theology should not make us proud of knowing a framework. It should help us worship God, magnify Jesus, understand Scripture more faithfully, and live as obedient participants in His mission.



USE THE STORY AS YOU READ

Five questions for any passage

01

Where am I in the story?

Creation, rebellion, promise, redemption, mission, or restoration? Some passages touch more than one movement.

02

What came before this passage?

Identify the book, audience, covenant setting, and events the passage assumes.

03

What does this reveal about God and people?

Notice God's character, words, actions, promises, and purposes—and the human response.

04

How does later Scripture develop this?

Follow clear quotations, promises, patterns, and themes, especially connections the New Testament makes to Jesus.

05

How should I respond here and now?

Believe what is true, receive what God provides, obey what applies, and live faithfully within the mission Jesus has given His people.

Questions for reflection or discussion

- Which movement of the story feels clearest to you? Which one would you like to understand better?
- How do Creation, Promise, and Mission deepen your understanding of salvation, dignity, and your place in the story?
- Choose one thread and trace it through four passages. How does its completion strengthen your hope?

A prayer for understanding

Father, help us understand Scripture, recognize Jesus throughout Your Word, and live faithfully within Your mission as we wait for all things to be made new. Amen.

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