



BIBLE CONFIDENCE SERIES

The One Story of Scripture

A beginner's guide to seeing how the whole Bible fits together—from Creation to New Creation

The Bible is a library that tells one story.

Its sixty-six books were written through many inspired human authors across different times and places, yet together they reveal God's plan to rescue His people and restore His creation through Jesus.

WHY THIS MATTERS

When you know the big story, individual passages begin to feel less disconnected—and you can more clearly recognize God's heart and the hope found in Jesus.

"Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

Luke 24:27 NLT

Many books. One unfolding story. One faithful God.



THE STORY BEGINS

1. Creation: God made everything good

The Bible begins with God. He created the heavens and the earth, brought order and life, and made human beings in His image to know Him, represent Him, and care for His creation (Genesis 1:1, 26–31; 2:15).

What this reveals

God is the Creator and rightful King. People have dignity because we bear His image, and creation has purpose because it belongs to Him.

2. Fall: sin entered God's good world

Adam and Eve rejected God's word and chose their own way. Sin brought shame, broken relationships, suffering, and death into human experience. Humanity's rebellion affected both people and creation (Genesis 3:1–24; Romans 5:12; 8:20–22).

The problem beneath every problem

Sin separates people from God and distorts what He made good. We cannot repair that separation or make ourselves righteous through our own effort (Isaiah 59:2; Romans 3:23).

3. Promise: God began revealing His rescue plan

Even while announcing the consequences of sin, God gave the first hint that evil would not have the final word (Genesis 3:15). He later promised Abraham that through his family all the families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:1–3; 22:18).

God did not abandon His creation

From the beginning, redemption was God's work. The rest of Scripture gradually reveals how He would keep His promises and defeat sin, death, and the serpent.

Creation → Fall → Promise

A simple memory anchor

God made it good. People rebelled. God promised rescue.



THE PROMISE UNFOLDS

4. Israel: God formed a people

God formed Abraham's descendants into the nation of Israel. He rescued them from Egypt, made a covenant with them, gave them His Law, and called them to reflect His character among the nations (Exodus 6:6–8; 19:3–6; Deuteronomy 4:5–8).

The Old Testament story

Israel received God's promises, Law, land, kings, priests, temple, and prophets. Yet repeated rebellion showed that people needed more than better circumstances—they needed forgiven and transformed hearts (Judges 2:16–19; Jeremiah 31:31–34; Ezekiel 36:25–27).

5. Jesus: God's promised Savior came

Jesus is the promised offspring of Abraham, the Son of David, the true King, and the Son of God. He announced God's kingdom, revealed the Father, obeyed perfectly, died for sin, and rose bodily from the dead (Matthew 1:1; Mark 1:14–15; John 1:14–18; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

The center of the story

At the cross, Jesus bore sin and defeated the powers of evil. In His resurrection, He conquered death and opened the way to new life for everyone who trusts in Him (Colossians 2:13–15; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18).

6. Church: the good news goes to the nations

Jesus sent His followers to make disciples of all nations. The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to bear witness, live as God's people, and proclaim salvation in Christ while awaiting His return (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; 2:1–4; 1 Peter 2:9–12).

7. New Creation: God will make all things new

Jesus will return, evil will be judged, death will be defeated, and God will dwell with His people forever. Scripture ends with creation healed and God's servants worshiping and reigning with Him (1 Corinthians 15:24–26; Revelation 21:1–5; 22:1–5).

Israel → Jesus → Church → New Creation

The story in one sentence

The Creator is rescuing a people and restoring His creation through Jesus Christ—for His glory and our everlasting joy.



READING WITH THE BIG STORY

Where does this passage fit?

Every passage has its own setting and message, but it also belongs somewhere within the Bible's larger story. These questions can help you connect the part you are reading to the whole without forcing a connection that is not there.

- What has happened in the story before this passage?
- What does this passage reveal about God, people, sin, faith, or redemption?
- Does it contain a promise, pattern, problem, or hope that later Scripture develops?
- How does Jesus fulfill, clarify, or transform what I am reading?
- What faithful response is appropriate for God's people today?

Three examples

The Passover

In Exodus 12, God rescued Israel through the blood of a spotless lamb. The event belongs to Israel's exodus story, and the New Testament also identifies Christ as our Passover Lamb (John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7).

David's throne

God promised David an enduring royal line (2 Samuel 7:12–16). Israel's kings could not fulfill the promise completely; the New Testament presents Jesus as the promised Son of David whose kingdom will never end (Luke 1:31–33).

A new heart

The prophets promised that God would forgive His people, give them new hearts, and put His Spirit within them (Jeremiah 31:31–34; Ezekiel 36:25–27). Jesus established the new covenant, and the Spirit now lives within believers (Luke 22:20; Romans 8:9–11).

Avoid two common mistakes

Do not treat the Bible as disconnected inspirational sayings, and do not make every passage directly about yourself. Begin with what the passage meant in its own setting, then recognize its place in God's unfolding work of redemption.

It is okay to keep learning

Some connections become clear only after repeated reading. Write down your questions, compare Scripture carefully, and allow the Bible's story to become more familiar over time.



WANT TO GO DEEPER?

Four themes that hold the story together

Bible teachers sometimes call this kind of big-picture study biblical theology. It traces themes through Scripture while respecting each passage's original setting.

Covenant

God advances His purposes through covenant commitments involving Noah, Abraham, Israel, David, and the new covenant established by Jesus (Genesis 9:8–17; 15:1–21; Exodus 19–24; 2 Samuel 7:8–16; Luke 22:20).

Kingdom

God is King over all creation. Scripture follows His kingdom purposes through Israel, the promised Davidic King, Jesus' present reign, and the future renewal of all things (Psalm 103:19; Mark 1:14–15; 1 Corinthians 15:24–28).

Presence

Eden, the tabernacle, the temple, Jesus, the indwelling Spirit, and the New Jerusalem trace God's purpose to dwell with His people (Genesis 3:8; Exodus 40:34–38; John 1:14; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Revelation 21:3).

Promise and fulfillment

God's promises unfold across generations and reach their center in Jesus. Some await their complete fulfillment when He returns (2 Corinthians 1:20; Hebrews 11:13, 39–40; Revelation 22:12–13).

Already—and not yet

Jesus has already defeated sin and death through His cross and resurrection, yet believers still await the full removal of sin, suffering, and death. God's kingdom is already present through Christ and the Spirit, but it is not yet revealed in its final fullness (Romans 8:18–25; 1 Corinthians 15:20–28).

A next step

Read Genesis 1–3; Genesis 12:1–3; Exodus 19:3–6; 2 Samuel 7:8–16; Jeremiah 31:31–34; Luke 24:25–27; Acts 2; Romans 8:18–25; and Revelation 21–22. For each passage, ask where it belongs in the story and what it reveals about God's rescue plan.