

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
God's Great Story - Introduction & Overview of the Bible
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1-7-24

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

These chapters provide excellent summaries of the story of God and His people.

- Psalm 78
- Nehemiah 9
- Acts 7

COMMON THREAD & THEME: *The Bible is the great story of God doing the unexpected for the undeserving through the least expected.*

A GOD OF COVENANTS

Webster's Dictionary (def): a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties

7 COVENANTS

God makes covenants (promises) to His people that communicate His heart, His plans, and His purposes. The primary covenants are:

- **WORKS**
 - Adam (Gen. 2) – Life / Works
 - Noah (Gen. 9) - Promise
 - Abraham (Gen. 12, 15, 17) - People
 - Jacob (Gen. 28) – Place (the Land)
 - Moses (Ex. 19-24) – Law / Obedience
 - David (2 Sam. 7) – Kingship / Rule
- **GRACE**
 - New Covenant (Jer. 31, Ezekiel 36) – Grace / Forgiveness
 - ***“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people...I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*** - Jeremiah 31:31-34

- *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God." - Ezekiel 36:26-28*

Generations – 62 from Adam to Jesus

- Adam to Noah (10)
- Noah to Abraham (10)
- Abraham to David (14)
- David to Babylonian Exile (14)
- Babylonian Exile to Jesus (14)

Reference: Genesis 5, 10-11, Matthew 1
www.biblehub.com/timeline

TIMELINE (1 of 6)

4 Major Themes: 1) Creation 2) The Fall 3) Redemption 4) Restoration

- **Creation (4,000 B.C.)**
 - **A word about the age of the earth (thousands vs. billions)**
 - When God created Adam, he appeared to be 20 years old (7,300 days), but in actuality, he was only 1 day old. The same could be true of the earth and creation.
 - **Were the 7 days literal or figurative?**
 - When referenced in Exodus 20:9-11 as relates to keeping the Sabbath holy, Moses writes, *Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*
- **The Fall - Adam & Eve**
 - 10 generations (1,650 years)
- **Noah's Ark (2,500 B.C.)**

1/3 BUT NOAH...

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil

all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

- Genesis 6:5-8

- **God, in His incredible love and grace, spared the human race because of the favor found in one man. Here, that man was Noah, but the man that Noah's life points to is Jesus.**
- **Tower of Babel (2,100 B.C.)**
 - Seeking to *"make a name for themselves"*
 - language confused > disunity
- **Abraham - *"Blessed to Bless"***
 - **Covenant** – *"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* - Genesis 12:2-3
 - **This is the essence of our calling as image bearers of God.**
We are blessed by God to be a blessing to those around us.
All of our life experiences should be received through the filter of the question, *"How can this be passed along as a blessing to others?"*
 - **14 generations (Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Tamar, Perez)**
 - Judah sleeps with his daughter-in-law, Tamar, who is masquerading as a prostitute because she knows the importance of continuing the genealogical line.
 - Tamar has twin sons, **Perez** and Zerah. It appeared that Zerah would be born first, so a scarlet thread was tied around his wrist, but he withdrew his hand and Perez was born first. He's the one through whom the line of the Messiah would continue.

Stonehenge (2,000 B.C.)

TIMELINE (2 of 6)

- **Moses (1,500 B.C.)**
 - **Passover** (establishes a pathway for redemption)
 - *For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.* - Leviticus 17:11
 - **Red Sea rescue**

- **Covenant of Law (10 Commandments)**

- Golden Calf rebellion
- Wilderness wanderings (40 yrs.)

- **Joshua & Promised Land (1,400 B.C.)**

- Rahab (prostitute)
- Ruth (Moabite widow)

King Tut (1,330 B.C.)

TIMELINE (3 of 6)

- **Judges (1,300 B.C.)**

- 12 judges (given to direct and guide Israel) – Othniel, Deborah, Gideon, Sampson

- **David (1,000 B.C.)**

- Bathsheba
- Solomon (Temple)
 - 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep

Rome (750 B.C.)

- **Divided Kingdom & Captivity (930 B.C.)**

- Israel (10 tribes) – Assyrian captivity (722 B.C.)
- Judah (2 tribes) – Babylonian captivity (586 B.C.)

- **Prophets (600 B.C.)**

- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

Buddhism (500 B.C.)

TIMELINE (4 of 6)

- **Covenant of Grace (600 B.C.)**

- Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 36

- **Return to Jerusalem (515 B.C.)**

- Ezra & the Temple (535 B.C.)
- Nehemiah & the Wall (445 B.C.)
 - cupbearer for King Xerxes

Socrates (475 B.C.)
Plato (425 B.C.)
Aristotle (385 B.C.)

- **End Times Prophecies**

- Ezekiel, Daniel

- **Silence (400 B.C.)**

New Testament

TIMELINE (5 of 6)

- **John the Baptist (6 B.C.)**
 - *“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”*
– Malachi 4:5-6
- **Jesus - Redemption (5 B.C.)**
 - Chooses 12 disciples
 - Preaches, heals, forgives
 - Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension
- **Holy Spirit (30 A.D.)**
 - Pentecost – languages understood > Unity
 - Reversal of Babel

Cleopatra (30 A.D.)

TIMELINE (6 of 6)

- **Peter - Birth of the Church (30 A.D.)**
- **Paul - Growth of the Church (34 A.D.)**
 - Journeys (4)
 - Letters (12)
 - Executed (64 A.D.)
- **Hebrews (68 A.D.)**
 - Connects the Old Testament priests, sacrifices, temple, etc. all as foreshadowing that points directly to Jesus, and the physical Promised Land and Sabbath to a spiritual Promised Land and Sabbath that are all found in Jesus. **Everything points to Jesus!**
- **Revelation (95 A.D.)**
 - Wedding Feast of the Lamb

Rome conquers Judea (63 A.D.)
Temple Abomination of Desolation (70 A.D.)

SUMMARY – One Sacrifice (every sacrifice pointed to Jesus, “the Lamb of God”)

- *For by one sacrifice, he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. – Hebrews 10:14*

SUMMARY – One House

- *As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. – 1 Peter 2:4-5*

SUMMARY – One Family

- *“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” – Revelation 21:3*

And THAT’S Good News!