

The Journey

The Story of the Bible: Lesson 2 Outline

One Sentence Summary: Reaching all nations for God will bring Him His greatest glory; therefore the Bible is meant to be read as one book, one introduction, one story and one conclusion.

A. Outline

a. Introduction

- i. Bob tells story about he and his wife Debby playing the road signs game. He was so focused on looking for the small sign that he lost the “big picture” of where they were going.
- ii. Bob says that we can get so focused on our little corner of the Christian world, our ministry, our church, and our youth... that we’ve lost the big picture of what God is doing overall.
- iii. We may be pursuing something that brings God glory, but we are not pursuing His greatest glory in reaching all ethnic groups.

b. Body

- i. Pursuing God’s greatest glory (This idea of God’s creating ethnic diversity and then unifying it together in His son) is what we call “the Story of the Bible.”
- ii. The Bible can be read as one book, with an introduction, a story, and a conclusion.
 1. The introduction: Genesis chapter 1-11
 2. The story : Genesis 12- Revelation chapter 4
 3. The conclusion: Revelation chapter 5:9- chapter 22.
- iii. The Introduction
 1. God creates mankind and mankind sins. God takes care of the sin.
 2. Mankind grows and man’s heart is evil. God brings judgment upon the earth with a flood. Noah and his family are saved and again man multiplies again.
 3. God gives them the rainbow as a promise to never kill mankind again through a flood. This concludes with the Tower of Babel.
 4. Gen.1:28: God’s first command to man says, “God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it.” After the flood, God repeated that command to them in Genesis 9:1.
 5. Genesis 11:1 says, “Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.”
 - a. There was no “Us/Them” mentality. There was only us= One people, one nation, one language, one culture.
 - b. They had the chance to reveal God’s glory but not His greatest glory because there was no diversity to unite. They were a homogeneous group of people.
 - c. They wanted to build a city for themselves with a tower that reached to the heavens, so that they could make a name

for themselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth. They wanted to rival God.

6. God's view of the tower of Babel
 - a. As mankind unified, their pride grew greater and they believed themselves able to do just about anything. Pride breaks our relationship with God.
 - b. There was tremendous disobedience with mankind. God had told them to, "Be fruitful, multiply and scatter." They refused to obey God's command.
 - c. They were seeking their own glory, not a glory from God.
 - i. They wanted the praise of others, not of God.
 - ii. They were very people centered in their thinking.
 - d. They thought they would be safe in a city, they were protecting themselves, not God.
 - i. They were trusting in themselves to secure their lives, rather than in God, like a Cat would do.
 - e. God knew with one language, Satan could mislead them all with one lie. God needed to protect them.
 - f. To continue with His goal of creating diversity, God took their one language and He broke it down into many different languages. Instead of one mankind in defiance to God, it was groups against other groups (about 70 counted in Genesis 10.)
 - g. God was restraining man's temptation to rebel against Him by creating diversity, they now rebel against each other. God created diversity so He could bring it back together in harmony, to reveal His greatest glory.
7. Bob believes that the tower of Babel was an act of mercy, not judgment
- iv. The Story of the Bible begins in Genesis 12
 1. God calls Abram to leave his country, his people, and his father's household and go to a land that God would show him. God gives him a covenant called The Abrahamic Covenant.
 2. Abrahamic Covenant Gen.12.2-3 = "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;
 3. Bob's mentor, Don Richardson, calls this top line and the bottom line. Overseas we call them the "upper level" and the "lower level" of the covenant.
 4. The Top Line (or upper level) is the fact that God wanted to bless Abram, and today, God wants to bless us. That's one of the ways He chooses to reveal His glory. God loves to bless us.
 5. Abram was to receive the blessing, and then turn around and pass that blessing on to others.

- a. We are not to be Cats carrying around a bucket saying “God bless me. God bless me, etc. and then keeping all of the blessings.
 - b. The blessings are to flow through us, giving us the lower level of the promise...
 - c. We are blessed to be a blessing. Upper level Blessings bring about lower level responsibilities.
 - i. We are not to simply bless those who are around us, look like us, eat and dress like us.
 - ii. We are to be a blessing to the “Them” of the world; those who are different.
 - d. God wants us to bless all the peoples of the world. Not just one group of people. For example, in the world’s eyes, Pakistan is one nation. But in God’s eyes, it is made up of many nations such as the Bhil, the Sindi, the Baluch, etc. Each of these considers themselves as a “them.” If the Gospel broke out in one group it would not be shared with the other group. This is the great commission theme that runs through the entire word of God.
6. Bob believes the Jesus did not initiate the idea of reaching all nations. He believes that Jesus gave the Great Commission, but it was a review of the theme in God’s promise to Abraham.
 7. God’s intent to reach all nations begins in Genesis 12 and forms the foundation for the entire theme of the Bible that allows us to read our Bible as one book, with one introduction, one story and one conclusion.
 8. Revelation 5:9 says, “And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. What God promised to do in His covenant to Abram in Genesis 12, He fulfills in Revelation. He purchased men for God from every tribe, language, people and nation.
- c. Conclusion
 - i. The Bible is meant to be read as one book, with one introduction, one story and one conclusion.