

Severna Park Baptist Church



An outline of the overall themes & sixty-six books of the Bible.

Audio Messages: <http://growinggodlygenerations.wordpress.com/media/>

Background Resources:

D. A. Carson: The God Who Is There: Finding Your Place In God's Story

David Platt, Secret Church, "Survey of the Old Testament" and "Survey of the New Testament". Found at <http://www.disciplemakingintl.org/>

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever looked at a stain glass? They are beautiful pieces of art that often communicates a meaning or even a story. The catch is that you must stand back to view the entire display or you will miss the purpose. When you look up close you only see a portion and a small glimpse of what the author intended. Stepping back helps you to see the big picture and gain a fuller appreciation and understanding.



This is the goal of this outline “God of the Word”. Originally this was an audio teaching series (*which you can listen at the website on cover page*) and has been condensed in outline form. The goal is for you to gain an aerial view and big picture perspective of not only the Word of God, the Bible, but also the living God of the written Word. It covers the broad sections of Scripture and nearly every individual book of the Bible.

Goal is not just to know the Word of God but the God of the Word.

- We can know about godliness (behavior) without really knowing Him.
- We can know about God (beliefs) without really knowing Him.
- We need to know God (being).¹
 - Our knowing of someone/something often depends on their self-revelation (them allowing us to know them). A person can be shy, socially awkward or inept that they remain hidden. Yet, God has fully revealed himself through His Son.
 - *John 1:14, 17 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”*
 - *John 14:9 “Don’t you know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”*
 - *John 17:3 “This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*
 - *Colossians 1:19 “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”*
 - *Hebrews 1:3 “[The Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature”*
 - Biblical analogies of knowing God (Packer)
 - Relationship between father and son
 - *Romans 8:15 “but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”*
 - Relationship between husband and wife
 - *Isaiah 54:5 “For your husband is your Maker – Whose name is the Lord of hosts”*
 - Relationship between king and servant
 - *Psalms 145:1 “I exalt you my God the King, and praise your name forever”*
 - Relationship between shepherd and sheep
 - *John 10:27 “My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me.”*

¹ For fuller discussion see J.I. Packer, Knowing God, especially chapter 3.

SO – in essence, the Bible is about knowing God, through His Son, by the Holy Spirit
Luke 24:25-27 Jesus explained to disciples, “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE²

- “Biblos” is Greek word for book; so Holy Bible refers to a holy or sacred book. It is sort of a library of 66 (39 OT, 27 NT) books making up one Book, showing a divine unity and continuity. It was originally written on papyrus and placed in scrolls, later in the 1200’s chapters and verses were added for address location and reference sake.
- Scripture canonization (canon – rule, measuring standard; the “rule of faith”) was the process of the Church affirming and recognizing (not creating) certain books/letters over others. This was not a small, select few monks or religious types in a secret closed room picking and choosing for their own purposes. The canonization process occurred by the Church at large agreeing based on these principles: 1) Consistent: Was the book in agreement and consistent with orthodox doctrine and practice? 2) Connection: Was the writer an Apostle or have immediate contact and eyewitness testimony with one? 3) Catholicity: Was the book read and used widely by the churches everywhere? So the transmission stages was something like this: historical events – oral culture of tradition – written sources – texts distributed and collected – texts canonized – texts copied and translated for the Church (cf. Lk 1:1-4; Jn 20:30-31; 1Cor 15:3-8; 2Pet 1:16-21; 1Jn 1:1-4). Today the Bible is translated in various parts of over 2400 languages with almost 2300 languages remaining or having no Bible access.
- Furthermore, the early church by end of 1st Century had all of today’s 27 NT books written just not collected. By as early as 70-130AD all the books were noted as inspired Scripture (cf. 1Tim 5:18 with Lk 10:7 and 2Peter 3:15-16) and before 300AD, with Eusebius beginning lists and categorization (Received, Disputed and Spurious) of the books as recognized with few disputed (such as Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, Jude and Revelation). By 367AD Athanasius had provided a full canon, confirmed further 382 Council of Rome, 393 Council of Hippo and 397 Council of Carthage. In contrast to Dan Brown’s The Davinci Code, there were no “lost Gospels” as the writings were familiar but unused by the churches and simply deemed spurious at best and heretical at worse.
- Bible written in 3 languages (Hebrew, Greek and some Aramaic). We have over 14,000 ancient copies (large thanks to the Dead Sea Scroll discovery), with fragments no later than circa 125AD, being Papyri 52. This proves Scripture texts to be profoundly reliable and trustworthy in that over 99% of the Bible is faithful to the original manuscripts, with the other percentages varying due to spelling errors, word order or word additions/omissions; and none affecting any doctrinal issues. In contrast to secular texts we have fewer than 10 copies of writings of Plato, Sophocles, Homer or Caesar Augustus, and those copies were made at least 1000 years after the original manuscript (and yet secular academia offers little if any doubt to its manuscript accuracy).
- Bible written ultimately by God’s Holy Spirit while using over 40 human authors (including kings, shepherds and farmers, philosophers, poets and prophets, fishermen and tentmakers, a doctor and scholars and even criminals. Essentially ordinary people.)
- Today there are numerous translations with differing goals: 1) Word for word translations such as KJV, NKJV, NAS, ESV. 2) Thought for thought translations such as NIV, NLT, CEV. 3) Paraphrase Translation such as TLB, AMP, or The Message. Multiple translations are helpful for

² Much of this material adapted from multiple sources to name a few, *Doctrine* by Mark Driscoll & Gary Breshears, *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, “How To Study the Bible” by David Platt found at <http://www.brookhills.org/media/schurch/secret-church-how-to-study-the-bible/>

study and reading but it is important to maintain closeness to the original and author's intent, using a word for word translation. And remember that Bible translators or study commentary notes were not inspired as the Biblical authors.

- Basic Christian Presuppositions:
 - o The Bible is inspired: God has revealed Himself through Scripture (2Tim 3:16-17).
 - o The Bible is inerrant: God's Word is perfect, without error and trustworthy (Ps 19:7-11).
 - o The Bible is intimate: God's Word is a treasured love story written for our benefit (Ps 16:11; 1Cor 10:6).

OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

THE GOD WHO DEMANDS WORSHIP [The Law or Pentateuch]

- Genesis
 - o In the beginning, God created everything by power of His word; only humanity created in God's image.
 - o Genesis is not so much telling us specific science as it is telling us of true theology. Bible is about God not man and answering every question humanity asks. Though, to be sure, it is true to all that it speaks in every area of life.
 - o Life starts in a garden (Genesis 3) but will end in a city (Revelation 21)
 - o Humanity willfully rebels against God and each succeeding generation has multiple relapses.
 - o God's faithfulness to Adam – Noah – Abraham – Isaac – Jacob – Joseph
- Exodus
 - o Israel large in numbers but enslaved to Egypt.
 - o God sees and hears Israel's suffering and leads Moses to deliver Israel
 - o God sacrifices a lamb to protect His people from death (Exodus 12). This becomes the Passover.
 - o God gives Israel commands (Exodus 20)
- Leviticus
 - o The Law of the Priests
 - o Emphasizes holiness (mentioned over 90x) and sacrifices.
 - o Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16) is the covering of sin from a bold priest and a blood sacrifice. The point is God is holy, God takes sin seriously and while God is just in demanding sacrifice, He is also merciful to forgive.
- Numbers
 - o Israel is counted (Numbers 1 – 4; 26 – 27)
 - o Israel grumbles, rebels and disobeys
 - o Israel is punished and wanders 40 years
- Deuteronomy
 - o "Second Law" – restating the Law to a new generation
 - o God commands Israel to hear, worship and teach new generations (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
 - o Deuteronomy is most quoted book in the Bible (356x – 190 in the NT)

THE GOD WHO LEADS [Israel's History]

- Joshua
 - o Succeeds Moses and leads people into promised land
- Judges
 - o Humanity does what is right in their own eyes
 - o Israel's history cycles into relapse, ruin, repentance, restoration
 - o God raises up "Judges" as military and spiritual leaders to bring hope
- Ruth

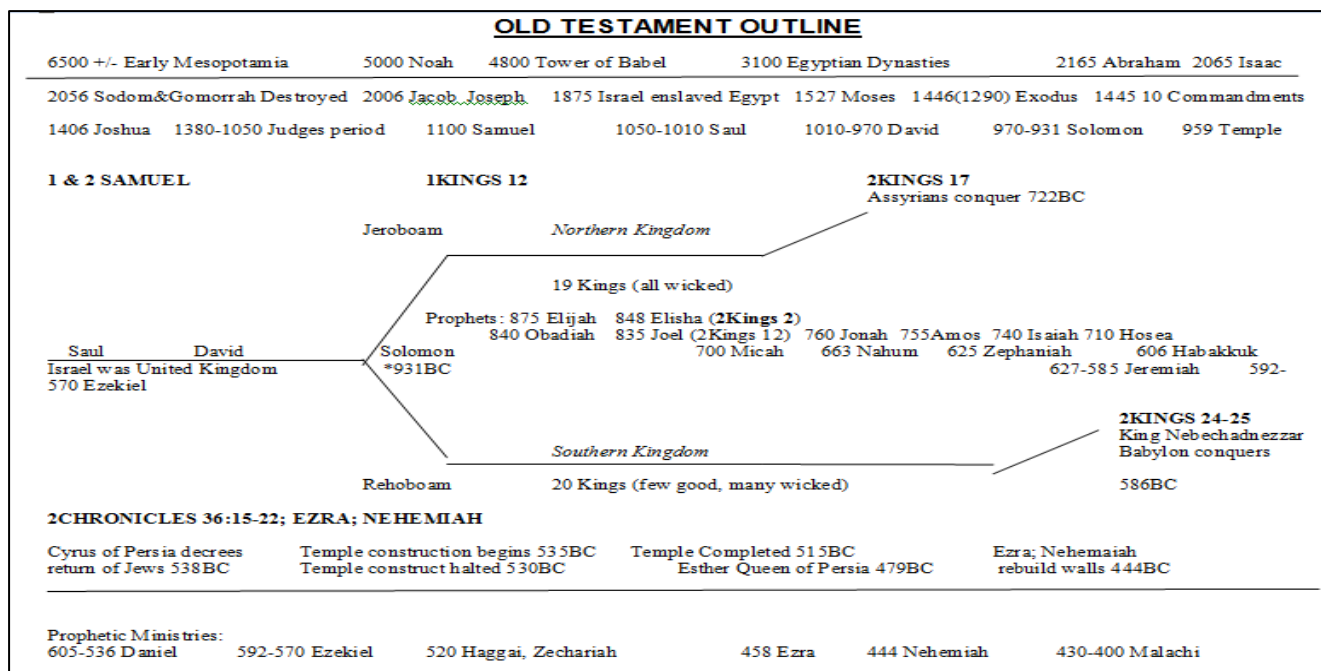
- God continues the lineage of King David... and ultimately to Jesus (see Ruth 4:13-14 with Genesis 12:1-3 and Matthew 1:1-7).
- Boaz, a kinsman-redeemer, pays price to bring Ruth into the people of God
- Samuel – Chronicles
 - Israel transitions from theocracy to monarchy; with hints & hopes of a permanent Monarchy (2Samuel 7)
 - Samuel (Israel's last Judge) anoints Saul and later David
 - Israel is a united kingdom but later divides into 2 with the North having 10 tribes and South having 2 tribes (Benjamin & Judah).
 - 39 kings, with 0 of 19 Northern Kings faithful to Lord and only 8 or 20 Southern Kings faithful.
 - God raises up prophets to speak His words of warning, judgment and promise
 - Assyria destroys Israel in 722 B.C.; Babylon destroys Judah in 586 B.C.; survivors are taken to exile for 70+ years
- Ezra & Nehemiah
 - Israel's surviving remnant returns to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and city walls
 - Israel experiences national restoration (Ezra 1-6), spiritual reformation (Ezra 7-10), physical repair (Nehemiah 1-6) and spiritual revival (Nehemiah 7-13).
- Esther
 - Though the name of God is unmentioned, His hand of providence and involvement is unmistakable.
 - Esther is uniquely chosen and uniquely cultivated to protect God's people

THE GOD WHO GIVES SONG [The Writings]

- Job
 - God is sovereign over evil and uses suffering ultimately for His glory and human good.
 - Job's pain reminds us to trust God's purposes for His glory and our good (Job 42:1-6) and to never give up hope (Job 13:15).
- Psalms – Ecclesiastes
 - Writings about God and life
 - Psalms were the hymnbook of Israel
 - Proverbs were written to seek wisdom and reject folly
 - Ecclesiastes concludes the need for an eternal perspective of fearing and obeying God in a life of unresolved tension.
 - Jesus Christ (The Messiah) is hoped for in the pursuit of praise and wisdom.
- Song of Solomon
 - From Solomon to his beloved Shulamite; language is romantic and descriptively graphic
 - Interpretation mainly literal (love between man and woman), but also Historical/Typologically (love between God and His people)

THE GOD WHO PROMISES

- Prophets
 - Some to North, some to South and some to Both.
 - Speak God's Words to promise both reproof (requiring repentance) and redemption
 - Anticipation of Jesus Christ (The Messiah) to atone for sin, redeem and restore man to God



NEW TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

THE GOD WHO BECOMES ONE OF US...FOR ALL OF US [The Gospels]

- Matthew: Written by Jewish tax collector for Jewish audience
 - o 129 references of allusions to 25 of 39 OT Books
 - o Genealogy in chapter 1
 - o Jesus is the true King of the Jews
 - o Kingdom Ethic in chapters 5 – 7 “Sermon on Mount”
 - o Great Commission in 28:18-20
- Mark: Written by John Mark with Peter’s input for Gentile audience
 - o Jesus is on the move (fast-paced; quick accounts...”immediately” 41x)
 - o Almost half devoted to Jesus’ last week
- Luke: Written by Luke for mixed audience
 - o Carefully researched, Luke was a doctor; multiple eyewitness testimony (Lk 1:1-4)
 - o Parables, more than any other Gospel
 - o Luke – Acts is 2 volume work
- [Synoptic Gospels: 97% of Marks words are in Matthew, 88% of Mark is in Luke... each were written with some familiarity of each other, yet with their own uniqueness]
- John: Written by John, beloved Disciple, to mixed audience in latter half of 1st Century
 - o Very theological; high Christology
 - The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory...
 - Signs point to Jesus’ divine identity (Water to Wine 2:1-11; Healing illness 4:46-54; Healing paralytic 5:1-9; Feeding 5K+ 6:1-14; Authority over nature 6:16-21; Healing blind 9:1-7; Raising dead Lazarus 11:38-45)
 - “I AM” statements the Bread of Life (6:35); Light of World (8:12); I Am (8:58); The Door (10:7); Good Shepherd (10:11); Resurrection and Life (11:25); The Way, Truth and Life (14:6); The Vine (15:1)

THE GOD WHO IS UNLEASHED [Acts]

- Acts is the second of a two volume work by Luke, the Gospel writer.
 - o Continuation of Jesus' work by the Holy Spirit, through the Apostles. They are to be witnesses of the gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to ends of earth (Acts 1:8). This geographic mission would be the outline of the entire book.
 - o **Acts 2-5** shows Jerusalem; **Acts 6-8** show spread through Judea & Samaria; **Acts 10** and on shows gospel spreading outward to every region; **Acts 28** ends with Paul preaching in Rome (extent of known world)
 - The Spirit is unleashed in believers (Acts 1:8; Acts 2)
 - The Spirit is unleashed in believers gathered – the Church (Acts 2:37-47)
 - The Spirit is unleashed through the Church (Acts 3 – 28)
 - o Disciples were radically transformed by Jesus
 - o Disciples were bold to live out Jesus' work; and not just in "the church" but out in the marketplace, in streets, towns and cities and beyond
 - **Acts 3:6-10** Peter & John heal beggar outside of temple
 - **Acts 5:12-16** Apostles do signs and wonders... healings
 - **Acts 8:17** Apostles pray the entrance of the Holy Spirit upon Samaritan believers
 - **Acts 8:26-40** Philip is led by God's Spirit to witness to an Ethiopian
 - **Acts 9:32-34** Peter heals Aeneas, bedridden & paralyzed for 8 years
 - **Acts 9:36-42** Peter raises to life Tabitha by praying for her
 - **Acts 10** Cornelius & Peter have dreams of which God brings them together so Peter can witness. The Gentiles receive the gospel (**10:34-35**).
 - **Acts 12:6-11** Peter is freed from prison by an angel
 - **Acts 13:9-11** Paul turns Elymas the magician blind for his disturbing the spread of the gospel
 - **Acts 14:3** God granted Paul & Barnabas to do many signs and wonders at Iconium
 - **Acts 14:8-10** Paul heals a crippled man at Lystra
 - **Acts 16:16-18** Paul casts out an evil spirit in a young fortune telling slave girl
 - **Acts 19:1-6** Paul prays for disciples at Ephesus to receive the Holy Spirit
 - **Acts 19:11-12** Paul does extraordinary miracles "so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick and their diseases left them and evil spirits came out of them."
 - **Acts 20:9-10** Paul raises Eutychus to life after dying from falling out of a window
 - **Acts 28:3-5** Paul is bit by a viper but lived
 - **Acts 28:8-9** Paul prays and heals a man with fever and sickness, and many others
- Acts 28:31** *Paul proclaimed "the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."*

THE GOD WHO GATHERS [The Letters]

- Acts is early church history and the Letters fit into the book of Acts.
- 22 Letters (Romans – Revelation) written by 6 individuals: 13 by Paul; Hebrews author; James; 2 by Peter, 4 by John; Jude.
- Written purpose to churches or individuals for teaching/training/correction (right belief & behavior); cf. *2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."*
 - o Teaching Gospel Doctrine (Acts 2:42; Romans 16:17; Galatians 1:6; Ephesians 4:14; 1Timothy 6:3; 2Timothy 4:3)
 - Two Key:
 - Salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:1-10)
 - Justification (Romans 3:21-25; 5:18-21)
 - o Teaching Gospel Community (Romans 12; 1Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; 1Peter 4)

- Pastoral Letters (Timothy & Titus) were written by Paul to pastors for instruction for their integrity of life, soundness of doctrine and purpose of ministry and leadership in the church.
- Teaching Gospel Mission (Romans 10:1-17; 2Corinthians 5:11-20; Philippians 1:27; 1Peter 2:9)

THE GOD WHO TRIUMPHS [Revelation]

- Revelation is the unveiling of Jesus Christ, written by the Apostle John (same who wrote the Gospel and Letters)
- Grand Themes
 - Jesus is Champion (Rev 1:5,8, 17,18; 2:18; 3:7,14; 5:5,13; 19:11,13,16; 21:8; 22:5-6,16,21)
 - Jesus is Coming (**Rev 1:4,7,8; 3:8; 4:8; 16:15; 22:7,12,20**)
 - Visibly (Rev 1:7)
 - Quickly (Rev 3:8, 4:8)
 - To Judge (Rev 6 – 20)
 - To Restore (Rev 21 – 22)
- Bookends of the Bible with Genesis & Revelation
 - Creation (Gen 1-2; Rev 21-22)
 - First Adam reign on earth (Gen 1:26); Second Adam reign in glory (Rev 21:5)
 - Bride brought to Adam (Gen 2:18-25); Church is Bride prepared for Christ (Rev 19:7ff)
 - Tree of Life in Eden with removal of God's presence (Gen 2:9; 3:19-24); Removal of curse, Restoration of Tree of Life (Rev 22:2-3)
 - Satan lies (Gen 3:1); Satan is bound and nothing detestable or false (Rev 20:10; 21:27)

