

Understand & Study the Bible  
Session 2 – Key to Understanding: The Big Story of the Bible

Although it contains 66 books written in many styles, the Bible tells ONE BIG story. The Bible reveals the righteous and loving God who created a very good world. That world was spoiled by the rebellion of His image-bearers but redeemed by the sacrificial death of His perfect, eternal Son, Jesus Christ. Through the Redeemer's work, God's creation will one day be restored to perfection. This BIG Story is told in four sections:

**CREATION** Genesis 1-2. The eternal and all-powerful God created a very good creation by the power of His Word. Everything in His creation was good. His greatest creation was mankind: made in His own image, given stewardship over His garden, and able to walk in fellowship with Him.

**FALL** Genesis 3. Tempted by Satan, mankind broke God's only rule. In believing the devil's lies and trying to become like God, Adam and Eve defiled creation with ongoing impact on everything we experience today. No amount of rule-following or religious behavior can rescue us from slavery to sin because God is so holy, righteous, and just that He requires perfection. However, God is loving and merciful and He promised a Redeemer.

**REDEMPTION** Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, is the Redeemer of mankind. Promised by God since the Fall, Jesus took on a human nature at His birth in Bethlehem. Jesus came to live a perfect life and give that life as the perfect blood sacrifice required to pay for the sins of the world. His death paid our penalty and His resurrection proved God accepted His sacrifice. All who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior are forgiven their sins and will spend eternity in God's presence. Jesus commissioned the church to share this Good News of redemption with everyone we encounter in the world.

**RESTORATION** One day our Redeemer will return in triumph. He will judge all mankind and creation will be renewed to perfection as heaven comes down to earth and God lives with His people. In this new heaven and new earth Christ will reign with His followers forever.

# ANTICIPATING THE REDEEMER

The Old Testament continuously points to Jesus Christ, the Redeemer. It reveals the complete holiness of God and the perfection needed to enter His presence. It explores the depths of human depravity. It shows how God prepared the way and protected the family line through whom Jesus would be born. It highlights the essential qualities of Jesus. It foretells the birth, life, death, resurrection, and coming Kingdom of the Redeemer.

Year	Bible Books	Key Events & How They Point to the Redeemer
A Long Time Ago	Genesis 4-11	<b>Depravity:</b> Civilization and human depravity spreads as a result of the Fall. Even after the Flood, mankind needs a Redeemer!
2166 BC – 1805 BC	Genesis 12-50, Job	<b>Patriarchs:</b> God promises a Redeemer descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God establishes and protects that line because He will bless and redeem all nations through Him.
1446 BC – 1406 BC	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	<b>Exodus &amp; Covenant:</b> God reveals His holy nature and infinite power, giving the Law to reveal His holiness and perfection, our sin and inadequacy, and the high price that must be paid for our sin. We see both the need and the nature of the Redeemer.
1406 BC – 1375 BC	Joshua	<b>Conquest:</b> God fulfills His promise to establish a place for His people in Canaan, pointing ahead to the greater work the Redeemer does to establish the eternal place for His people.
1375 BC - ~1050 BC	Judges, Ruth	<b>Judges:</b> Israel's rapid and worsening descent into depravity reveals the need for a king – but the only king who can actually solve our sin problem is the Redeemer. God carefully tends to the family line which will bring forth the Redeemer.
~1050 BC – 586 BC	1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Hosea, Amos, Habakkuk, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Micah, Zephaniah, Lamentations, Jonah, Nahum, Obadiah	<b>Kings:</b> The rise of Kings in Israel, the failings of every king (even the best are deeply flawed), the split of the kingdom, and the descent into increasing idolatry and depravity all point to the need for a perfect, eternal Redeemer-King.  <b>Prophets:</b> Many of the Old Testament prophets wrote to condemn Israel, Judah, or neighboring nations, revealing the coming of an eternal Redeemer-King, His glorious Kingdom, and the renewal of creation.
586 BC – 538 BC	Ezekiel, Daniel	<b>Exile:</b> A portion of Jews are taken to Babylon, where they learn more of God's redeeming love, His sovereignty, the coming Redeemer, their need for Him, and the renewal of creation.
538 BC – 445 BC	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	<b>Return:</b> God models the coming Redemption by bringing back a faithful remnant to Israel.
445 BC – ~ 5 BC	NONE	<b>Silence:</b> The world waits for the Redeemer to appear!

