

What's the Bible All About?

1 - The Greatest Theme – The Glory of God in Redemption

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney

Bible Quiz

1. Which book in the Bible would you read to find out how we got here? Earth? Animals? Plants? People?
2. Which books would you want to read to get the details about who Jesus was, what He did, what He said – His death, resurrection, ascension?
3. Which book in the Bible is a great one to read for your daily QT because it has 31 chapters that can be read one chapter / day – and it's full of practical wisdom regarding the tongue, money, friends, pride, work, laziness, anger, self-control, fear, sexual sins, etc.
4. What book in the Bible was originally a book of songs that were sung? And even though he never had a hit CD the author of this book played the harp... and was no wimp – 'cause he killed a bear... and a lion... and Goliath, the giant.
5. What book in the Bible is the record of a massive construction project that was completed in record time (52 days) – and the whole thing was led by a man whose real job was a butler or cupbearer for a pagan king?
6. What OT book in the Bible would be one of the best to combat hedonism or the idea that more pleasure is what we really need to experience the good life? This book was written by a man who had it all and explored it all– he tried to find satisfaction in science, philosophy, pleasure, women, drinking, bigger houses, music, and gardening yet he came up empty. One of the key words in the book is 'vanity.'
7. Which book in the Bible uses the word 'justified' more than any other... and contains the most exhaustive explanation of our salvation and ongoing growth of sanctification than any other? I'll give you another hint: The 16th Century German monk, Martin Luther, was born again while reading chapter 1, verse 17 of this book that says, "the just shall live by faith."
8. Which book in the OT was written by a very dignified prophet who said he'd seen the Lord 'high and lifted up' but then God asked this very same prophet to preach naked for 3 years to get Israel's attention with his message?
9. What book in the Bible shows the incredible sovereignty of God over all the details of history, and has a surprise ending, as well as a female lead character that won a beauty contest – but it's the only book in the Bible that does not mention the name of God even once?
10. What book in the Bible was a glorious description of the sexual relationship in marriage between a husband and wife – long before the bestselling 'Joy of Sex' was ever written – so much so that the Jews did not allow their children to read it until they were 12 years old?

I. The Greatest Book in the World also has the Greatest Theme ~ the Salvation or Redemption of Mankind to the Glory of God!

The Bible's a book of history. It's God's story of how we got into this mess, and what He's done to get us out.

"Most people's knowledge of history is like a string of pearls without the string." -*Unknown Historian*

The big theme in the Bible is RESCUE. God is on a rescue mission for man – on a scale that has never been seen before.

The Bible has one primary purpose and theme as it answers one main question: **"How can sinful people be made RIGHT with God?"**

II. This Great Theme of Redemption Runs Through the Bible Because Men and Women first Committed the Greatest Treason Against the Greatest Being in the Universe

Genesis 2:15-18; Genesis 3:6-9

These verses give us the bad news: the separation between God and man that was caused by our sinful choice in Adam. But this same chapter is where the good news starts!

III. This Great Theme of Redemption Starts with a Promise in Genesis that Builds All the Way to a Glorious Climax of Praise in Revelation 7!

Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

You Can See the Promise Spreading to the Nations...

Genesis 12:13 “Now the Lord said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”

You Can See the Promise Start to Take on Flesh in...

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Which is ‘God with us.’

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Imagine what the people thought when they heard those words for the first time!

God Himself Makes the Greatest Sacrifice to Fulfill this Redemption Promise...

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11 “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... **v. 10-11** Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When you make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, and He shall prolong His days... He shall see the travail of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many.”

You Can See the Redemption Promise becoming a Reality as Matthew Records the Birth Announcement to Joseph...

Matt. 1:18-25 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying: ‘Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

John Goes on to Show Us that this Promise is Fully Captured in One Person ~ Jesus Christ

John 1:14-18 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth... and of His fullness we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

John 1:29 “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”

That Promise is Once Again Applied to the Nations...

John 12:32 “And if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to Myself.”

The Promise of Redemption Makes No Room for Any Other Cheap Substitute...

Acts 4: 12 “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

This Redemption Has No Expiration Date on it and Never Needs Repeating...

Hebrews 10:11-14 “And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

God Gives Us a Glimpse of that Final Future Celebration Where the Promise is Fulfilled...

Revelation 7:9-10 “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, people, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

All of this resonates to the tune of grace, and Christ, and hope... for all the nations to the glory of God the Father!

Helpful Resources for Bible study:

- *MacArthur Daily Bible*
- *Believer's Bible Commentary*, by W. MacDonald
- *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*, by G. Fee