

PREPARATION FOR FIRST STUDY

Read Genesis 1-2. Try to determine the author's purpose(s) in writing this section of Scripture. What is the heart of the passage?

What does this passage teach us about God? Creation? Humanity? Marriage?

Study Genesis 1:26-28. What does it mean that God made man in his own image? Why did God give the commands in verse 28?

GENESIS TO REVELATION: AN OVERVIEW

QUESTIONS WE WILL SEEK TO ANSWER

What is the Bible all about?

What is the "center" of the Bible?

How do the parts of the Bible fit together?

What is God's purpose in creation?

How is the New Testament related to the Old Testament?

How does Israel relate to the world? How does the church relate to Israel? How does the church relate to the Old Testament?

WHAT THIS STUDY IS NOT

This is not a survey of all of the books of the Bible. We will make no attempt to be comprehensive or to answer every question.

This is not a top-down theology study where we study subjects and see what the Bible says about them.

This study is not driven by apologetic interests to prove that the Bible is true. We begin with the presupposition that all of Scripture is inspired by God and useful for training in righteousness.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS

We will focus attention on key passages, words, and themes in order to see the development of God's purposes as revealed progressively through time to man.

This study will attempt to correct misperceptions and distortions caused by long-time, selective reading of Scripture.

This is a study in which you will benefit by the more you do before and after our Sunday morning meeting.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF STUDIES

Creation
 Fall
 Cain, Noah and Babel
 Abrahamic Covenant
 Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
 Redemption from Egypt
 Mosaic Covenant
 Tabernacle and wilderness
 Deuteronomy
 Joshua
 Judges and Ruth
 Monarchy
 Davidic Covenant
 Psalms
 Proverbs
 The kingdom in the OT
 Preparation for exile
 The prophets in context
 The messianic hope
 Restoration from exile
 Chronicles
 Zechariah
 The nations in the OT
 Jesus the fulfillment
 Jesus' ministry
 Matthew
 Romans 9-11
 Ascension and Christ's present ministry
 Acts 2
 Galatians 3-4
 Paul's letters in context
 The church in the world (suffering, submission)
 The Believer and the Law
 Salvation
 Revelation

QUOTATIONS

“In short, the deeper you go into understanding the Old Testament, the closer you come to the heart of Jesus” (Wright 1992: ix).

“For the Old Testament is much more than a promise box full of blessed prediction about Jesus. It is primarily a story – the story of the acts of God in human history out of which those promises arose and in relation to which only they make sense.

If we think of the Old Testament only in terms of promises that are fulfilled we may fall into the trap of regarding the content of the Old Testament as of little value in itself. If it is all ‘fulfilled’, is it worth anything now?” (Wright 1992: 27).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “I don’t think it is Christian to want to get to the New Testament too soon and directly” (cited in Dempster 2003: 36).

God’s Kingdom-Building Program at a Glance

Old Testament Narrative History	1. Creation, fall, & flood (ca. ? B.C.)	K	<u>K</u> ickoff & rebellion
	2. Patriarchs (ca. 2100–1850 B.C.)	I	<u>I</u> nstrument of blessing
	3. Exodus, Sinai, & wilderness (ca. 1450–1400 B.C.)	N	<u>N</u> ation redeemed & commissioned
	4. Conquest & kingdoms (united & divided) (ca. 1400–600 B.C.)	G	<u>G</u> overnment in the Promised Land
	5. Exile & initial restoration (ca. 600–400 B.C.)	D	<u>D</u> ispersion & return
New Testament Narrative History	6. Christ’s work & the Church age (ca. 4 B.C.–A.D. ?)	O	<u>O</u> verlap of the ages
	7. Christ’s return & kingdom consummation (ca. A.D. ?–eternity)	M	<u>M</u> ission accomplished

(Chart by Jason DeRouchie)

SOURCES CITED

T. D. Alexander, *From Paradise to the Promised Land*, 2nd ed., 2002.
 Stephen G. Dempster, *Dominion and Dynasty*, 2003.
 Jason DeRouchie, *What the OT Authors Really Cared About*, 2013.
 Christopher J. H. Wright, *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*, 1992.