

WHAT'S THE BIBLE REALLY ABOUT?

Once Upon A Time, Part 1

September 25th, 2011

The Bible was written over a period of 2,000 years, by more than 40 different authors, on 3 different continents, in 3 different languages – yet it tells one single story

The Bible is the story of...

a father who went to great lengths to reconnect with prodigal kids
artist/creator who went to great lengths to buy back a stolen treasure
king who went to great lengths to win the love of those who should serve him

This one story can be summed up in one word - Redemption

Redeem – to buy back, to regain possession of. To recover by payment. To deliver from sin and its consequences by means of a sacrifice offered for the sinner.

When God provided clothing for Adam and Eve after the fall, it showed He had not

given up on this prodigal race

Exodus 6:5-6 (NIV) "Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered My covenant. Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.'"

1 Chronicles 17:21 (NIV) "And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth whose God went out to redeem a people for Himself, and to make a name for yourself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations from before Your people, whom You redeemed from Egypt."

God is committed to physical redemption but also spiritual redemption
Psalms 130:8 (NIV) "He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins."

Isaiah 59:20 (NIV) "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the Lord."

The redemption of God is also personal

Psalms 19:14 (NIV) "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Luke 1:67-70 (NIV) "His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David (as He said through his holy prophets of long ago),...'"

You are a part of the story of redemption

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV) "In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

Romans 8:23 (NIV) "Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."

8 Characters To Help Us Put Together The One Story Of Redemption

Adam - p otential

Abraham - p romise

Moses - p assover

David - p assion

Zedekiah - p ride

Jesus - p ayment

_____ - p atience

God - p resence

Two Kinds Of People Who Don't Believe Or Put Much Stock In The Bible

1. Raised in the church & had the Bible forced on you

You have associated the Bible with a culture, & you want nothing to do with it

Your problem really wasn't with the Bible but with a bad experience

2. Those who have never really Read the Bible

Don't allow a bad Christian to turn you off from Christ & His Word

Pick up the Bible and read it to discover the story of Redemption

When we lose something, we only look for it if it's valuable to us

God went looking for you because you are valuable to Him

The intensity of search is determined by the object we are looking for

God is on an intense search for you in which He allowed His Son to die on your behalf because He wants to connect with you that much

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will begin reading the Bible to understand this story of redemption
- Prayer, "God, during this series help me see myself in the context of Your story of redemption."
- I/we plan to participate in Faith in Action on Sun, Oct 16th and bless our community