**Biblical Theology**

Lesson 2 – Charting the History of Redemption

* For tonight’s lesson, we will be looking at Scripture from 30,000 feet. Think of a forest. Each individual tree is a book of the Bible. You can look at each tree. You can look at the bark and limbs and leaves of a tree (individual verses) or you can look at all the trees together as an entire forest.
* Expository preaching primarily focuses on looking at the individual bark/limbs/leaves of a tree. Systematic Theology looks at the same kinds of leaves and limbs to understand them as a collective. Redemptive-History (what some call “Biblical Theology”) looks at the forest and how the trees make up the forest.
* The overall flow and narrative of Scripture can be looked at as the flow of certain epochs or periods of time. The most basic flow and structure of Scripture is Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration. Genesis 1-2 is Creation; Genesis 3 is Fall; Genesis 4-Revelation 20 is Redemption; Revelation 21-22 is Restoration. But we’re going to look at a little more detail than that.

1. Creation (Genesis 1-2):
   1. Yahweh is the Creator King who fashions creation in the pattern of a Temple.
   2. Yahweh creates man to be His vice-regent (proxy) and exercise dominion over Creation.
   3. The Covenant of Works with Adam.
2. Fall (Genesis 3-11):
   1. Man rebels against His King.
   2. Man is alienated from His King as sin/death enter into Creation.
   3. The promise of the Messiah // Covenant of Grace (Genesis 3:15)
   4. Mankind’s evil increases.
   5. The Flood and Noahic Covenant
3. Election & Promise (Genesis 12-50):
   1. The call of Abram
   2. The Abrahamic Covenant
   3. The Patriarchs
   4. Life in Egypt
4. A Holy Nation (Exodus-Joshua):
   1. Slavery in Egypt
   2. The call of Moses
   3. Mosaic Covenant (10 Commandments + Israelite law code)
   4. Journey to and Conquest of the Promised Land
5. A Nation Like Other Nations (Judges – 1 Samuel 15):
   1. Israel rejects God as King
   2. God establishes human kingship in Israel
6. A Royal Nation (1 Samuel 16 – 1 Kings 11 // 1 Chronicles 1 – 2 Chronicles 9):
   1. The Davidic Covenant
   2. The glory of Israel under Solomon
   3. Yahweh’s presence in the Temple
7. A Divided Nation & Exile (1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 25 // 2 Chronicles 10-36 // Prophets):
   1. Israel’s rebelliousness [Northern Kingdom]
   2. Judah’s double-mindedness [Southern Kingdom]
   3. The failure of the Davidic dynasty
   4. The message of the prophets: a remnant, the Day of the Lord, exile, restoration, the coming Messiah
8. A Restored Nation (Ezra & Nehemiah):
   1. Renewal of the covenants
   2. The Temple rebuilt
   3. Jerusalem rebuilt
9. Jesus & the Kingdom of God (Gospels):
   1. Jesus: Incarnation, Message, Miracles, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
   2. The King has come
   3. The new people of God
10. The Apostolic Age & the Church (Acts – Revelation 20:6):
    1. Jesus rules the Church through the Holy Spirit
    2. The advance of the Church
    3. The writing of the apostolic deposit for the Church
    4. The challenge of being a holy and royal people in the world
    5. This is the epoch/time period we are in right now. This helps us understand how Paul and others can say Jesus is returning “soon” or that we are living in the “last days.” There’s no other major period of time between us and Jesus’ return. The next step in God’s story is going to be the end of the story.
11. The 2nd Coming & The New Jerusalem (Revelation 20:7 – Revelation 22):
    1. Creation is transformed and restored into a New Heavens and New Earth w/a New Jerusalem
    2. The covenants are consummated
    3. God and His Messiah reign in the midst of His glorified people forever
12. This is the flow of the story of Scripture which reveals God’s saving activity in history from the beginning of time to the end of time.
13. Notice that it begins and ends with God as King walking in the midst of His people in a garden.
14. Notice that the story is about God. As James Hamilton writes, “No offense, but you aren’t the main character in the big story of the world. The triune God is the protagonist of this cosmic drama, with Satan as the (infinitely outmatched) antagonist. God and Satan are locked in conflict, each seeking the allegiance of humans made in God’s image. Protagonist and antagonist are contending for dominion over the world God made. It doesn’t take a genius to predict victory for the Creator, but it takes the power of the Spirit to side with Him.”

Diagram

Description automatically generated