

# ONE

*story*

FROM SHADOWS TO SUBSTANCE

**VOLUME TWO**  
**POETRY & WISDOM - PROPHETS**



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POETRY & WISDOM - PROPHETS

*One Story: From Shadows to Substance, Volume Two*

David Holcomb

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Clemmons, NC 27012

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# FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being part of our *One Story* study as we consider God's great plan for his people, from beginning to end, in Scripture. Having concluded the Books of Law and History, we will now move to the Books of Poetry and the Prophets. We will discover different styles of writing in these biblical books, but will continue to see Scripture as a unified whole, lovingly crafted by one divine Author.

There will be new challenges in this part of our study. We will consider why a righteous person like Job suffered as he did. We will explore the unusual statements in the Book of Ecclesiastes. We will study prophets who rebuked God's people while looking forward to God's One Story redemption. Hopefully, these challenges will yield the fruit of greater appreciation for Scripture and greater love for the One who inspired its writing.

We also hope this study will equip you to better respond to questions from not-yet-believers. Many people scoff at the idea of divinely inspired and preserved Scripture. Others see the Old and New Testaments as contradictory, and absent of any unified theme. Our study will seek to present the unity of Scripture, and the contribution of both Old and New Testament books to God's eternal plan for his people.

As you read God's Word and prepare for small group discussions, may the Holy Spirit give you encouragement by revealing God's plan of redemption in all of Scripture. As a result, may you come to know him better and love him more.

In Christ,



David Beaty

Pastor, River Oaks Community Church





# INTRODUCTION

The Bible is often viewed as a collection of books—a series of stories loosely tied together with Scripture cross-references and common religious language. That could not be any farther from the reality of what we have been gifted and what we have available to us in this one-of-a-kind, fully authoritative, completely inerrant Word of God.

The Bible is actually one book—one amazing work of literature—historical, theological, and anthropological. It is the one story of redemption. One harmonious, unified narrative of deliverance and salvation that has emerged from a diversity of authors, circumstances, and literary forms. It is a miracle of inspiration and preservation that provides us with the progressive revelation of God's character and his plan to reconcile fallen creation to himself.

Every page, every passage, and every book of the Bible moves the one story of redemption forward. It is our prayer that this *One Story* study will bring greater insight to these forward movements, helping to put the pieces together in a meaningful, life-changing way.

In *Volume One* we began with the beginning. The books of the Law and History helped to lay the foundation for the story. We observed the continuous narrative of God's people as the story was advanced each week, and—in doing so—we discovered many Old Testament shadows of the One who is the substance in God's grand plan of redemption: Jesus—the Christ, Messiah, and Savior—the One who is central to the entirety of this *one story*.

In *Volume Two*, we will spend time in sections of the Old Testament that are no longer in chronological order. Rather, they

overlap, having been inspired, authored, and sprinkled into the narratives of previous volumes. The Books of Poetry & Wisdom are filled with expressions of worship and divine guidance. The Prophets, on the other hand, are rich in God's revelation of himself. In all, we will catch glimpses of the shadows of the future Lord and Savior.

While not every single book in the Prophets is covered within *One Story*, particularly within what is referred to as the Minor Prophets, this is not an indication of insignificance. Nor should it be assumed that these books do not include evidence of God's redemptive history; they do, as the many shadows and prophecies assure us. Since not all twelve would fit into this particular series, we have selected Micah and Malachi as representative of the minor prophets.

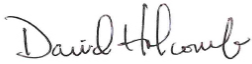
As a reminder, this series is not an attempt to teach the books of the Bible as a survey or biblical book course. However, as we follow the story of redemption from cover to cover, you are encouraged to take the opportunity to become more familiar with each of these divinely-inspired authors and books, with the intention of gaining greater understanding of the dates, people, and events.

The guidebook for *One Story* has been created primarily as a supplement to the Sunday morning teaching and a prompt for personal time of study and devotion. It includes a unit for each week of the 2020 spring/summer sermon series (May 3–July 19). We encourage you to listen online should you miss a week, in order to experience the full benefit of the unfolding narrative.

In addition, small groups will utilize the *One Story* guides to aid discussion, discovery, and discipleship within their weekly gatherings. Central to these times of community growth in God's Word will be the process of observing, asking questions, interpreting Scripture, reflecting, and applying the designated passages, while gaining insight into the particular context of the weekly passage against those of prior and future weeks.


However you choose to utilize this guide, may this season be one of deep biblical literacy—learning, loving, and living out God’s Word. May we all desire to know God better and love him more as we delight in the sweetness and richness of all that he has revealed of himself, and all that he has expected of us in response. May we marvel at the shadows as we worship the Substance.

Because He lives,


A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Holcomb".

David Holcomb

Discipleship Pastor, River Oaks Community Church

edemption: Refers to a deliverance and the price paid for that deliverance. We are redeemed (delivered) from the penalty of sin by the price Jesus paid on the cross. The whole Bible, whether the Old Testament or the New Testament, looks to the mighty redemptive act of Christ.

Bruce Wilkerson & Kenneth Boa  
*Talk thru the Bible*

hese are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2:17

# POETRY AND WISDOM

*Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes,  
Song of Solomon, Lamentations*

The Books of Poetry and Wisdom are perhaps the most beautiful—albeit challenging—works of divinely-inspired literature that we come across within the One Story. Serving as a bridge linking the past (Books of History) with the future (Books of Prophecy), these works explore the experiential present—with an emphasis on our worship, posture, thoughts, and behavior before a holy God.

Many don't realize that the literary form of wisdom and poetry comprise a full one-third of the Bible. In fact, of the thirty-nine Old Testament books, poetry is completely absent in only five of them. Think about that. God has inspired and revealed himself as often through poetry and wisdom as through any other genre in Scripture. This consideration alone would warrant our diligent approach to better understand these writings.

The books that we will classify in this study as Poetry and Wisdom include: Psalms and Lamentations (Poetry), and Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon (Wisdom). Often Lamentations is included with the Prophets; however, that is because it is considered to be authored by Jeremiah and was positioned after Jeremiah's namesake book in the Old Testament canon. In terms of ancient Near Eastern literature, Lamentations is poetry.

We encourage you to participate with these books. Enjoy them. Meditate on them. They are intended to be evaluated actively and experientially. Literary styles have changed over the past 2,500 plus years. Though poetry and wisdom and proverbs and laments may look and sound different than what we are accustomed to, they are nonetheless uniquely geared toward praising God, advising man, declaring beauty and grief, and highlighting shadows of the One who is the worthy recipient of all our songs and poems, our shouts and tears.

# THE PROPHETS

*Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel,  
Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah,  
Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk,  
Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*

The sixteen books referred to as the Prophets are comprised of a widely-diverse mixture of people, contexts, and messages. The one unifying characteristic across all of them: they were servants of God sent to tell a message of God. And while *foretelling* (proclaiming man's future) was certainly found within the ministry of several prophets, the primary role of the prophets was *forthtelling* (proclaiming God's message).

These messages were generally one of four kinds:

- exposing the sinful practices of the day,
- calling God's people back to the law,
- making clear a coming judgment for those who rejected God, or
- proclaiming the coming Messiah (advancing the One Story).

In this final category, there are over three hundred prophecies recorded in Scripture that were fulfilled in Jesus. As Peter declared: "To him all the prophets bear witness" Acts 10:43.

Regarding the designations of "major prophets" and "minor prophets," these are not indications of significance or priority or prophetic skills and abilities. The Hebrew Bible had originally included a Book of Prophets (Luke 24:44). This book contained the shorter prophetic writings as a single book—or final chapter—called "The Book of the Twelve." When the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek, these twelve were broken out, and most English Bibles have followed suit. We continue to group the prophets into major and minor, though there should be no further distinction other than length.

As you read the the words of these godly messengers, imagine walking in their sandals, taking in their particular circumstances. Note that they were firmly grounded in the contemporary events of *their* day, not our day. We learn from their messages for the purpose of our life application. We do *not* use the prophetic books for the purpose of speculating about the future or predicting the end times.

Let us read the Prophets for their relevancy to the One Story, and how they center on Jesus. It is the Apostle Paul who considers the Old Testament Scripture and reminds us: “For all the promises of God find their Yes in him, the son of God, and it is why we utter out Amen to God for his glory” 2 Corinthians 1:20.

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To him all the prophets bear witness.  
Acts 10:43

# BOOKS OF



volume one

## **The Law**

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

## **Books of History**

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther



volume two

## **Poetry & Wisdom**

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

## **The Prophets**

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

**OLD TESTAMENT**



# THE BIBLE



volume three

## The Gospels and Acts

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

## The Epistles

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

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volume one



volume two



volume three

NEW TESTAMENT

# 1

## *Perseverance in Suffering*

**JOB 1:6-12, 19:23-27, 42:7-10**

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. —Job 19:25-26



### ONE STORY CONTEXT:

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## OBSERVE:

Describe the setting of this passage. Imagine yourself in the passage. What do you see, hear, feel? Look for repeated or emphasized words, new characters, relationships, locations. Write down all of your observations.

## BE CURIOUS:

Based on your observations, what questions do you have? What questions might others have?

### INTERPRET:

Use the context of the passage (including the surrounding passages and other Scripture) to answer the questions you listed. Summarize the “big idea” of this passage in one sentence.

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How does this passage move the one story of redemptive history forward? Are there shadows of the Messiah? Does God reveal anything about his character? Why might this passage be included in Scripture?

APPLY:

How does this passage challenge your view of God and others?  
How does this unit challenge your previous understanding of this passage, or even this book of the Bible?

RESPOND:

Is there a command or instruction to obey? How does your study this week change what you will do, think, or say tomorrow?

RETAIN:

The one major takeaway from this passage that you would want to share with others is:



Now, share it with at least one “other.”

NOTES:

NOTES:

# 2

## *We Have a Shepherd!*

### PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. —Psalm 23:1-3



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## *Proverbial Words of Wisdom*

### PROVERB 3:1-12

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. —Proverbs 3:5-8



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## *The End of the Matter: Wisdom Is...*

### **ECCLESIASTES 1:1-4, 12:9-14**

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

—Ecclesiastes 12:13



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## *Biblical Intimacy and Longing*

### SONG OF SOLOMON 1:1-17, 2:15-17

“Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.” My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies. —Song of Solomon 2:15-16



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## *Prophecy of a Child*

ISAIAH 9:1-17, 11:1-9

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. —Isaiah 9:6



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## *The Nations Worship Idols*

**JEREMIAH 4:1-14, 9:23-26, 10:6-16, 31:31-34**

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. —Jeremiah 31:31-32



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# 8

## *Do We Mourn for Others?*

### LAMENTATIONS 1:1-18

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed. —Lamentations 1:16



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## *A New Heart, A New Spirit*

EZEKIEL 2:1-3:2, 11:14-21, 36:22-27

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. —Ezekiel 11:19-20



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# 10

## *Praying for Mercy*

**DANIEL 9:1-6, 16-23**

O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O LORD, hear; O LORD, forgive. O LORD, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name. —Daniel 9:18-19



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RESPOND:

Is there a command or instruction to obey? How does your study this week change what you will do, think, or say tomorrow?

RETAIN:

The one major takeaway from this passage that you would want to share with others is:



Now, share it with at least one “other.”

NOTES:

NOTES:

# 11

## *Justice, Kindness, Humility*

MICAH 6:1-8, 7:18-20

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? —Micah 6:8



### ONE STORY CONTEXT:

The book of \_\_\_\_\_ is one of \_\_\_\_\_ books included in the section of the Bible commonly referred to as \_\_\_\_\_. It was written by \_\_\_\_\_ and the words, or phrase, that come to mind in describing this book include: \_\_\_\_\_

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## OBSERVE:

Describe the setting of this passage. Imagine yourself in the passage. What do you see, hear, feel? Look for repeated or emphasized words, new characters, relationships, locations. Write down all of your observations.

## BE CURIOUS:

Based on your observations, what questions do you have? What questions might others have?

### INTERPRET:

Use the context of the passage (including the surrounding passages and other Scripture) to answer the questions you listed. Summarize the “big idea” of this passage in one sentence.

### REFLECT:

How does this passage move the one story of redemptive history forward? Are there shadows of the Messiah? Does God reveal anything about his character? Why might this passage be included in Scripture?



APPLY:

How does this passage challenge your view of God and others?  
How does this unit challenge your previous understanding of this passage, or even this book of the Bible?

RESPOND:

Is there a command or instruction to obey? How does your study this week change what you will do, think, or say tomorrow?

RETAIN:

The one major takeaway from this passage that you would want to share with others is:



Now, share it with at least one “other.”

NOTES:

NOTES:

# 12

## *A Messenger Prepares the Way*

**MALACHI 3:1-15, 4:1-6**

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.” —Malachi 3:1



### ONE STORY CONTEXT:

The book of \_\_\_\_\_ is one of \_\_\_\_\_ books included in the section of the Bible commonly referred to as \_\_\_\_\_. It was written by \_\_\_\_\_ and the words, or phrase, that come to mind in describing this book include: \_\_\_\_\_

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## OBSERVE:

Describe the setting of this passage. Imagine yourself in the passage. What do you see, hear, feel? Look for repeated or emphasized words, new characters, relationships, locations. Write down all of your observations.

## BE CURIOUS:

Based on your observations, what questions do you have? What questions might others have?

### INTERPRET:

Use the context of the passage (including the surrounding passages and other Scripture) to answer the questions you listed. Summarize the “big idea” of this passage in one sentence.

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How does this passage move the one story of redemptive history forward? Are there shadows of the Messiah? Does God reveal anything about his character? Why might this passage be included in Scripture?

APPLY:

How does this passage challenge your view of God and others?  
How does this unit challenge your previous understanding of this passage, or even this book of the Bible?

RESPOND:

Is there a command or instruction to obey? How does your study this week change what you will do, think, or say tomorrow?

RETAIN:

The one major takeaway from this passage that you would want to share with others is:



Now, share it with at least one “other.”

NOTES:



NOTES:



# SOURCES

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