

ONE *story*

FROM SHADOWS TO SUBSTANCE

VOLUME ONE
LAW - HISTORY

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One Story: From Shadows to Substance

David Holcomb

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FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being part of our *One Story* journey as we consider God's great plan for his people from beginning to end in Scripture. While our church often teaches through individual books of the Bible, this is the first time we have sought to go through the Bible in a year. Our goal is to see the Bible as a unified whole, lovingly crafted by one divine Author.

There will be challenges! We will be pushed to understand why God gave us some of the Old Testament books (like Leviticus) that we might prefer to speed-read in our daily devotions. We will ask what the less-familiar books of the Bible can teach us about God, ourselves, and our place in his great plan. 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 to equip you to better respond to questions from not-yet-believers. Many people scoff at the idea of divinely-inspired and divinely-preserved Scripture. Others see the Old and New Testaments as contradictory, and absent of any unified theme. We will seek to discover the unity of Scripture, and the contribution of Old and New Testament books to God's eternal plan for his people.

I think you will get the most out of this study if you read through the whole Bible this year. There are several helpful plans (online and at our Resource Center) that can guide you in this. Most prescribe reading from both testaments each day. My favorite is Robert Murray M'Cheyne's "Read the Bible in a Year" calendar. It takes you through the Old Testament once, and the New Testament and Psalms twice in a year, but of course it requires more reading.

However you choose to engage with *One Story*, may the result be greater gratitude for the gift of Scripture. May the Holy Spirit give you understanding to see God's plan of redemption from Genesis to Revelation so that you come to know him better and love him more.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Beaty". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "David" and "Beaty" being capitalized and prominent.

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 begin *in the beginning*. The books of the Law and History help lay the foundation for the story. We will notice the continuous narrative of God's people as the story advances each week. In doing so, we will begin to see the 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.

While not every single book of the English Bible is covered in *One Story*, most are at least cited. And because God's story moves us from Genesis to Revelation, across a space of real time

and real history (particularly within these first two genres of the law and history), the story will move forward naturally and chronologically.

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 writings with the intention of gaining greater understanding of the dates, people, and events.

This *One Story* guidebook 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 winter/spring sermon series (January 12–April 26). 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* as a guide for discussion, discovery, and discipleship within their weekly gatherings. Central to these times of growing in God's Word is the process of observing, interpreting, reflecting, and applying the designated passages. In a real way, this approach is about discovering and advancing *your* story within the context of the *one story*.

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,



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

THE LAW

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

The Law is also referred to as: the Torah (Hebrew for “law”), the Pentateuch (Greek for “five scrolls”), or the Five Books of Moses. These five books, with clear continuity of content, theme, and purpose, each picking up where the previous one leaves off, contain much of the content we often think of in stand-alone Bible narratives: The Garden, the Flood, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and the Ten Commandments. Yet, each of these episodes is deeply woven into the fabric of the redemption story.

Throughout the Law, we discover not only the foreshadowing of Jesus, but—importantly—the reason for Jesus. We discover the cause of our fallen nature and begin to understand what God is putting in place to save us from that nature. It is all intentional. It is all Christ-centered. It is all critical to how we view God’s holiness, justice, mercy, and grace.

We will journey from Creation (Genesis) to the brink of the Promised Land of Canaan (Deuteronomy), from Adam and Eve to Moses and Joshua—and to all the wonderful places in between. We will observe and apply those moments that impact the overarching narrative of redemption and move our one story along. May you thoroughly enjoy and be encouraged by this five-volume “Book of Moses.”

THE BOOKS OF HISTORY

*Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings,
1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*

The twelve historical books pick up the story of God's people Israel where Deuteronomy leaves off, with the conquest and settlement of the Promised Land.

In the canon order of Scripture, the Books of History are, for the most part, arranged chronologically, and can be read as a true record of history. The sections of history can be thought of as:

- Theocratic Books: Priests/Judges rule Israel
(Joshua, Judges, Ruth)
- Monarchical Books: Kings rule Israel
(Books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles)
- Restoration Books: Post-Exile Jews
(Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther)

It should be noted that 1 and 2 Chronicles are considered books of Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible, as they retrace much of the same material as the Books of Samuel and Kings. The difference is that 1 Chronicles is a divine perspective on the history of Israel from David to captivity, with an emphasis on the spiritual life of David. 2 Chronicles, on the other hand, focuses not only on the temple construction and dedication, but also on the spiritual and moral reasons for Israel's downfall.

Also worth noting is the structure of the earliest manuscripts of Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, and Ezra-Nehemiah, originally formatted as four books, now as eight. In effect, as you read them, you will discover a continued storyline from Book 1 to Book 2, or from Ezra to Nehemiah.

The time span between Joshua and Esther is approximately 900 years. When the final historical account is penned, the one story of redemptive history will have moved to within 450 years of the birth of Jesus. Within this history is the lineage of the Christ, the "all-nations" gospel, and many shadows of the One who is our High Priest and Almighty King. May you thoroughly enjoy and be encouraged by this twelve-volume "Book of History."

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

ONE
story



volume one



volume two



volume three

NEW TESTAMENT

1

In the Beginning

GENESIS 1:1-5

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. —Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. —John 1:1-3



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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 (surrounding text) or other Scripture to answer the questions you listed. Summarize the “big idea” of this passage.

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 is this passage included in Scripture?

APPLY:

How does this passage challenge how I have viewed God or others? How does this unit challenge how I have viewed this specific passage, this book of the Bible?

RESPOND:

Is there a command or instruction for me to obey? How does what I have discovered this week change what I'll do, think, or say tomorrow?

RETAIN:

The one takeaway from this passage, or this book of the Bible, that I want to be able to share with others is:

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

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Was the Flood Necessary?

GENESIS 6:1-22

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. —Genesis 6:5-6



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Abraham and the Covenant Promise

GENESIS 15:1-20

And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. —Genesis 15:5-6



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How Relevant are the Ten Commandments?

EXODUS 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

—Exodus 20:1-3



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5

Sacrifices: Central to the Story

LEVITICUS 17:11, 20:22

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life. —Leviticus 17:11



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The Gospel in the Wilderness

NUMBERS 20:10-13, 21:4-9

And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” —Numbers 20:12

And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. —Numbers 21:7



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7

The Purpose of the Law

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9, 7:6-9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” —Deuteronomy 6:4-7



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The Faith of Rahab

JOSHUA 2:1-21

And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

—Joshua 2:11



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What to Make of Excessive Violence

JUDGES 2:6-23, 21:25

Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.” And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” —Judges 6:11-13

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. —Judges 21:25



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10

Selfless Love in a Selfish World

RUTH 1:1-18

But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” —Ruth 1:16



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The Heart of a King: Saul and David

1 SAMUEL 15:22-31

“For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.”

Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.” —1 Samuel 15:23-24



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The Wisdom of King Solomon

1 KINGS 1:1-13

When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn." —1 Kings 2:1-3



ONE STORY CONTEXT:

The book of _____ is one of the _____ 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: _____

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 (surrounding text) or other Scripture to answer the questions you listed. Summarize the “big idea” of this passage.

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 is this passage included in Scripture?

APPLY:

How does this passage challenge how I have viewed God or others? How does this unit challenge how I have viewed this specific passage, this book of the Bible?

RESPOND:

Is there a command or instruction for me to obey? How does what I have discovered this week change what I'll do, think, or say tomorrow?

RETAIN:

The one takeaway from this passage, or this book of the Bible, that I want to be able to share with others is:

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

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13

Reviving True Worship

EZRA 6:13-22, 7:8-10

And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. —Ezra 6:16

For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel. —Ezra 7:10



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14

Rebuilding Walls and Revitalizing People

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you.” —Nehemiah 1:4-6a



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15

Seizing Opportunities to Serve God

ESTHER 4:1-17

“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” —Esther 4:14



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SOURCES

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River Oaks

Community Church