



# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

*The Thread of Scripture*



September 26  
- October 17





# THE THREAD OF SCRIPTURE

## A STUDY

*through Biblical Theology*

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**September 26 - October 17**

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# The Thread of Scripture

## What is Biblical Theology?

Imagine going to a play, enjoying the first act and then leaving after intermission. Or imagine the opposite, missing the first act and only catching the play after intermission. In the first scenario there would never be resolution. “What happened to the protagonist? Did the couple finally get together? Did the antagonist get caught and punished?” In the second scenario there would be continual confusion. “Who is this guy? How are they related again? Why are they trying to do this?”

No one would intentionally only catch half a play. And yet that is how many of us read our Bibles. Often times the stories we read and the verses we hear don’t make a lot of sense because we have not connected it to the larger story. This is why Biblical Theology is important.

The Bible is not a random collection of short-stories, each teaching different moral lessons. It is ONE story told in two acts (Old and New Testament) across sixty-six books. Biblical Theology traces the themes that run through Scripture as they were progressively revealed through time. If you have ever watched Schindler’s List then you understand that the little girl in the red coat is a thread that is weaved throughout the entire story. She keeps reappearing at key moments in the movie. In many ways the little girl is a microcosm of the larger story. This is Biblical Theology; colorized themes in a black and white world which keep reappearing throughout the redemptive history of God. God has written His book in this way to help us to see the BIG PICTURE of the Bible.

As we begin this journey we will look at four main BIG PICTURES:

Suffering: The cosmic battle between Satan’s offspring and Eve’s offspring.

Glory: God dwelling among us as pictured in the temple.

Rule: The kingdom of God.

Death: The death of Jesus as the cost for our salvation.

Each mini-story leads to the one BIG story which is fulfilled in Jesus. Fasten your seat-belts as we prepare to journey together to discover God’s BIG story; Jesus the Messiah comes to bring the people of God back to God for the glory of God and the good of God’s people.

In Him,  
Pastor TJ



# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

*The Thread of Scripture*

**A FIGHTING  
CHANCE**

Genesis 3:1-15



**September 26**

# A Fighting Chance

Genesis 3:1-15

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,  
"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

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# A Fighting Chance

Satan and his offspring have always hated God; therefore they have always hated God's people. Their intent is to destroy us. If they cannot destroy us then they seek to make our life as miserable as possible. When the thread of "suffering for righteousness' sake" is highlighted for us, many confusing or disparaging parts from the Bible begin to make sense. Only when we realize that our battle is much deeper than what we can physically see can we begin to "fight the good fight of faith."

This is why Jesus says in John 15, "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." Or Peter in 1 Peter 4, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you...But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ...If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

You are not paranoid, the world IS out to get you (I use "world" in the way the Apostle John uses it). Satan IS out to destroy you. If the thread of "suffering for righteousness' sake," stopped at the last book of the Old Testament, certainly this would be discouraging news for us. But the Good News is that the thread of suffering is going somewhere. The cosmic battle between Satan's offspring and Eve's offspring does not ultimately rest on us, but on the Seed of Eve, Jesus Christ. From His birth to His death, Jesus waged war on Satan and in His resurrection we are told He "disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

So take hope for Christus Victor, "Christ the Victor," has waged war on your behalf and brought you victory!

Following Christ with you in triumphal procession,

Pastor TJ



*I will put enmity between you*

## Discussion Questions

1. What is Biblical Theology and why is it important?
2. Read Genesis 3:15. As a group fill in the chart below:

### Seed of Satan

Satan

Cain

\_\_\_\_\_

Pharaoh/Sodom

\_\_\_\_\_

Ishmael

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pharaoh

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Babylon

Sanballat

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Seed of Eve

Eve

Abel

Noah/Shem

\_\_\_\_\_

Lot

\_\_\_\_\_

Jacob

Joseph

\_\_\_\_\_

David

Elijah

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah/Jonah

Jesus

The Woman in Revelation 12

3. Choose a few Biblical stories from above and discuss how the bigger Biblical storyline helps us understand the individual story better.





*I will put enmity between you*

## Discussion Questions

4. Read Genesis 3:1 (see Rev. 20:2 for serpent = Satan). In what ways have you felt the attack of Satan in your own life?
5. What tactics does Satan use in the garden, in the Old Testament after the garden, in the New Testament, and today?
6. In what ways has Satan used our current culture to attack Christianity? (Be specific: in Beijing, in your home country, in different parts of the world).
7. In what ways are Adam and Eve passive toward Satan? In what ways is the church today passive toward Satan?
8. As you think about God's offspring in the Old and New Testament, in what ways have they resisted the work of Satan in their generation? In what ways can we effectively resist the work of Satan in our generation?
9. Read Genesis 3:15 focusing on "crush/bruise". How are all these mini stories ultimately fulfilled in Jesus?
10. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus enable Christians to fight faithfully until He returns?
11. Read Revelation 12:10-11. Share with the group your testimony of overcoming.



*I will put enmity between you*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

*The Thread of Scripture*

**HOME  
RENOVATIONS**

John 2:18-22  
Revelation 21:22-27

**October 3**

# Home Renovations

John 2: 18-22

18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Revelation 21:22-27

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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# Home Renovations

Genesis to Revelation is a story of Temple. It begins in Eden, with Adam as the first priest. It continues with the tabernacle in the desert under Moses. It is further developed with Solomon's temple, prepared by David. After that temple is destroyed we find it rebuilt under Zerubbabel's, Ezra's, and Nehemiah's leadership. In the New Testament, we find Herod beautifying the temple as the people of God center their lives around this building. And then strangely, we hear Jesus speaking these words: "Destroy this temple and in three days I will rebuild it" . This is one of the phrases used against Jesus in His trial... "He seeks to destroy the temple!"

If you go to Jerusalem today, you will discover that there is no temple. Century after century the Temple took center stage in the worship of God among His people and now for nearly 2,000 years it has just ceased to exist? Why was it so foundational in the Old Testament and NOT in the New Testament? How could God allow the Temple to not be rebuilt after such a long time?

Daniel Hays helps us with this question: "The tabernacle/Temple is the avenue through which God will encounter His people. It is the means to an end; it is not the end itself. The goal is for God's people to enter into relationship with Him and experience His presence."

The garden, the tabernacle, the Temple were all pointing to the ultimate way in which God would enter into a relationship with us, through His Son Jesus. As the Bible comes to a close we get a glimpse into Heaven as it comes to Earth. And surprisingly we see, once again, the temple... sort of. The building isn't there, but as Revelation 21:22 says, And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

What do we learn from this prominent theme in Scripture? God longs to be in relationship with YOU! In fact, He longs for it so much that for all those who put their faith in Jesus, God has taken your body and reconstructed it into a Holy Temple, where He now dwells.

Fellowshipping with you,

Pastor TJ



*In three days I will raise it up*

## Discussion Questions

1. Take some time as a group to trace the theme of Temple/Tabernacle from the Old Testament.
2. In the sermon, the Glory and Presence of God was compared to variations of light that can be experienced on a spectrum. Can you share with the group a time you experienced a greater presence of the Lord?
3. Discuss the holiness of the Temple/Tabernacle and the great care people took to approach God in His Temple.
4. In what ways can we irreverently approach the Lord today?
5. In what ways can we continually foster an atmosphere of “the Fear of the Lord” (reverence)?
6. How is Jesus the true and better Temple?
7. How does the church (assembled ones) function as a Temple today?



*In three days I will raise it up*

## Discussion Questions

8. How should the knowledge of the “church as Temple” guide how we gather together on Sundays?
9. What does it mean that your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit?
10. As you read Revelation 21:22-27, what part of life in the consummated Kingdom do you most look forward to?
11. As Eden was to be an ever-expanding Temple of God’s presence, in what ways can we contribute to the expansion of God’s presence on this earth?



*In three days I will raise it up*

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# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

*The Thread of Scripture*

**KINGDOM  
OF GOD**

Daniel 7:9-14

**October 10**

# Kingdom of God

Daniel 7:9-14

9 "As I looked,  
thrones were placed,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat;  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames;  
its wheels were burning fire.

10 A stream of fire issued  
and came out from before him;  
a thousand thousands served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;  
the court sat in judgment,  
and the books were opened.

11 "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

13 "I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.

# Kingdom of God

The things of this world have always threatened to blind God's people to the beauty found only in the greater Kingdom. The great battle that takes place in every person's heart is a battle for loyalty. Which King do we serve? Which Kingdom do we pledge our loyalty? To whose rule do we submit?

After the flood, the people traded a heavenly throne for an earthly tower (Babel). After the division of language, Abraham was tempted to be satisfied with settling in Ur of the Chaldeans instead of, in faith, uprooting his family in search of that heavenly city. It was Moses who felt the temptations of the treasures of an Egyptian Palace as it sought to blind him to the greater pleasure of beholding Christ and setting out for a better land. It was Israel, after the Judges, who cast off their loving King for a second-rate earthly king. An earthly Kingdom with temporal pleasures at war with a heavenly Kingdom with eternal pleasures.

The Apostle John warns us of the false advertisement of the world: "And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever." Jesus' first sermon confronts us in this great battle over our loyalty. "Repent." Why? "For the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN is at hand." Graham Goldsworthy describes the Kingdom in these simple terms: God's People in God's Place under God's Rule. Where do your loyalties lie?

Repenting and seeking with you,

Pastor TJ



*To him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom*

## Discussion Questions

1. Starting with Genesis and ending with Revelation, trace out the Biblical idea of God as King.
2. What does it practically look like for you to live under God's rule as a member of His Kingdom?
3. Starting with Genesis and ending with Revelation, trace out the Biblical idea of "Babylon."
4. In what ways have you experienced the battle between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of the World?
5. Discuss the Biblical theme of Judgment and how it gives hope to those who are suffering for righteousness' sake.
6. Have you ever experienced racism? If so, share that experience with the group.



*To him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom*

## Discussion Questions

7. In what ways can the church better display the Kingdom culture of unity in diversity?
8. Compare the “fleeting pleasures” of the Kingdom of the World with the eternal pleasures of the Kingdom of Heaven.
9. What will eternity in God’s Kingdom be like?
10. How should our current lives look differently from those outside of God’s Kingdom?
11. How is Jesus different from other “Kings” who seek to rule our lives?
12. In what ways does a proper vision of the eternal Kingdom affect how you live life in the present Kingdom?



*To him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom*

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### Prayer Requests

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# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

*The Thread of Scripture*

**BLOOD  
BROTHERS**

1 Peter 1: 8-21

October 17

# Blood Brothers

## 1 Peter 1: 8-21

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

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# Blood Brothers

The very first sin resulted in the death of an animal as God covered Adam and Eve from their nakedness. It was here, at the beginning, we get the first glimpse of what it would take to redeem us. Later we find that Isaac was spared as a lamb shed its blood in Isaac's place. Even later, another lamb would be slaughtered and its blood placed over the doorposts of homes throughout Egypt as the people, in faith, waited for death to see the blood and pass over them. Daily, sacrifices would be made. Hourly, blood would flow from God's altar as lamb after lamb breathed its last.

It is in this context we read John the Baptist's words about Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." It is in this context that we behold the cross as blood flows from the side of Jesus. It is in this context that we hear the song of Revelation, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

For God to dwell with us He must do something with our sin. For God to do something with our sin He must die in our place. Therefore, God became flesh and dwelt among us. Born to die that we might live.

Singing His praises with you,

Pastor TJ



*Set your hope fully on the grace*

## Discussion Questions

1. As a group, take some time to trace the theme of blood from Genesis to Revelation.
2. Discuss the many ways the love of God (Father, Son, and Spirit) is displayed in the cross.
3. What are some practical ways you can regularly set the cross before you in order to remember the great love of God?
4. What is the Biblical idea of atonement?
5. Why is it important to have a right understanding of the atonement?
6. Give examples of the guilt we can feel from sin.
7. If fellow believers are struggling with guilt, how would you use the cross to encourage them?



*Set your hope fully on the grace*

## Discussion Questions

8. How does the death of Jesus give us present hope in our suffering?
9. List the indicatives (What Jesus has done for us) of 1 Peter 1 and then the imperatives (What we should do in light of what Jesus has done) of 1 Peter 1. How does the work of Jesus empower us to do these imperatives? Which imperatives do you most struggle with
10. How is the work of Jesus applied to our lives (aka – what must we do to be saved)?
11. Take some time to pray for friends or family who have yet to make a decision to follow Jesus.



*Set your hope fully on the grace*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports