FIRST: GOD MAKES EVERYTHING GOOD, AND PEOPLE HAVE A PURPOSE.

Genesis 1-2

People are supposed to represent God and oversee all the rest of Creation.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." [Genesis 1:26]

God's Purpose for Creation is to Share His Life with His People.

SECOND: PEOPLE REJECT GOD'S PURPOSE AND THINGS GO BADLY QUICKLY

Genesis 3-11

- **The man and the woman rebel against God in the Garden of Eden by taking knowledge into their own hands.**
- **Humanity is exiled from the Garden.**
- **Things get worse and worse and culminate in the idolatry of the Tower of Babel.**

Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves....[Genesis 11:4]

What Is God Going to Do To Fix Things?
Is God Still Committed To His Original Purpose of Sharing His Life With His People?

THIRD: GOD STARTS HIS RESCUE PLAN BY CHOOSING TO WORK THROUGH ONE MAN (AND HIS FAMILY)

Genesis 12-50
Family Is How We Fight

- **God picks Abraham and promises to use him to bless all of humanity.**
- **God cuts a covenant with Abraham.**
- **Genesis 12-50 is about what kind of family is needed to pass on the covenant from one generation to the next. What does it take to be a patriarch? What does it take to be a matriarch? Who will lead the family from one generation to the next?**

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, 4 "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God." [Genesis 17:1-8]

The Old Testament Is About How God Wants to Use Abraham's Family to Save the Entire World

FOURTH: MAKING THE FAMILY INTO A NATION

Exodus-Deuteronomy

Key ideas:

- **God rescues Abraham's family from Egypt and makes a covenant with them at Mount Sinai.**
- **The people are given the Law so they know how to live.**
- **The people wander in the wilderness for 40 years because they refuse to trust God.**
- **While in the wilderness, God teaches the people valuable lessons.**

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. [Exodus 19:5-6]

What Do You Do When Your Human Partners Are Unreliable?

FIFTH: LIFE IN THE PROMISED LAND

Joshua-2 Kings, plus some of the prophetic books

- **The family of Abraham moves into the Promised Land.**
- **They want and receive a king, but things go badly.**
- **The prophets warn the people to turn around before it's too late.**
- **Israel is idolatrous and the consequence is exile to Babylon.**

(continued from page 1)

SIXTH: EXILE AND RETURN

Daniel, Esther, Ezekiel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and some of the prophets.

- **Israel is carried off into exile in Babylon**
- **The people come back to the land, but things are hard.**
- **The prophets foretell of a time when God will send His representative (the Messiah) to save His people and rescue the entire world.**

(There are other books like Psalms and Proverbs, etc. that are theological reflections on life with God.)

SEVENTH: GOD BECOMES A MAN

The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

- **God becomes a man to rescue all of humanity.**
- **He comes as an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham.**
- **Jesus does Old Testament things in New Testament ways: He calls twelve disciples and teaches the law on a mountain in the Sermon on the Mount.**
- **Jesus is the Passover Lamb for the ultimate sacrifice.**
- **The Old Testament story of rescue is fulfilled in Jesus.**

The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" [John 1:29]

EIGHTH: THE CHURCH

Acts and the New Testament letters

- **Jesus told His followers to tell other people about Him, and Acts is about how the church started to do that.**
- **The rest of the New Testament is made up of letters that the early Christians wrote to each other to explain about Jesus.**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. [Acts 1:8]

We Are Still Living in the Age of the Church

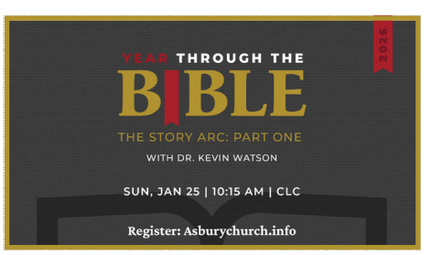
The Book of Acts ends with chapter 28.
It's as if we are living in chapter 29!

NINTH: GOD COMPLETES HIS RESCUE PLAN

Revelation

- **The final book of the Bible is Revelation, and it explains how Jesus will finally and completely fix everything.**
- **The end of Revelation is like the beginning of Genesis: God is with his people and there is a Tree of Life.**

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. [Revelation 22:1-5]







FUTURE BIBLE STUDY DATES: MARCH 4 AND MAY 6.