

Getting to Know the Bible

Lesson 15.1: the Story of God and The Bible

I. Opening Thoughts:

A. The Bible Is a Life Giving Book- W. Glyn Evans, Daily with The King, p.240 (Dec 14)

I must realize that the Bible is not a book of magic but a book of miracle. God not only spoke to the writers of the sixty-six books, but He continues to speak through them to me today. Jesus called the words of the Bible "life" (John 6:63), and Peter called them "seed" (1 Peter 1:23-25). The Word of God is seed that contains the life principle of God Himself; and when that Word is read, digested, and obeyed, it manifests itself in a living reproduction of God, just as the seed will manifest itself again in the new plant. The Bible is not history, biography, or anthology; it is God's life in the crystalline form of words that, when read and obeyed, releases that life for the benefit and blessing of the reader.

The Bible is food (Deuteronomy 8:3), and food is nothing more than the chemical continuation of life. Unless the Holy Spirit has food to give me, He cannot maintain the level of spiritual life in me that He desires. That is why He pleads with me not to live off experience, service, ritual, dogma, or fellowship, but to live off the Word, which alone carries the capability of sustaining my spiritual life.

The Bible is a life-giving book! It is a drugstore loaded with tonics of every description, all waiting to be used. There is enough resource to take care of all my needs, for both soul and body, for today, tomorrow, and forever.

Have I found His Word a delight to my heart? Do I read it as one searching for a love message and not just "doing my daily dozen"? Have I gone past dates, facts, numbers, and events and found God Himself there? Have I made the Bible a rendezvous with infinity and eternity, and is my soul satisfied? Praise God for the "angels food" He supplies for us in His Word (Psalm 78:25, KJV), which nourishes and satisfies the new man!

B. Lanny Crabb, 66 Love Letters, ABBA'S Love Letter to us.

C. Jesus – It all points to JESUS. It's all about JESUS!

II. The Story We Find Ourselves In- The Big Story - His Story - The Unfinished Drama of God - The Meta Narrative: whose Narrative? Someone's Narrative, Romans 12:1,2 / The Enemies: Self / Flesh; Sin; World. Aeon. Age; Satan...

Chapter One Teaches us all people of the world are brothers and sisters designed to live together in harmony with each other and the cosmos. Prohibits violence. (Gen. 1-2)

Chapter Two Crisis (The Fall). Enables us to understand the world's brokenness and destruction, evil, pain, sin and suffering. (Gen 3-11)

Chapter Three Calling. God calls, selects, elects, chooses a people as His messengers and servants to the rest of humanity. (Gen. 12-18)

Chapter Four Communication. God uses servants to communicate His message to us. Yet, in the story of Israel we hear of our disobedience, rebellion and sin. Need for a Savior. (Gen. 18-OT)

Chapter Five Christ (Life of Jesus). Manifests God's Covenant of love action on behalf of the world as the pinnacle of all God's acts of intervention in the past. (Gospels)

Chapter Six Community (Story of Early Christians). The foundation of the Holy Spirit's work through the saints, the church, the people of God in Messiah. (Acts - NT)

Community (Our Story). Us. Formed by what preceded us. Our roots go to the beginning of creation - to God. We are immersed in the meta-narrative, the grand story of the people of God! We are formed to act with the character of God's people by the Spirit. We know the Author of life is still alive all around us (Acts - NT - History - Today)

Chapter Seven Consummation (End of Story and Drama and Beyond). We know the end. The end of the age is not the end. We are destined for eternity. The eternal state! (Apocalypse. Prophecy. Future. Eternal State)

Marva J. Dawn, A Royal "Waste" of Time, p. 24-54 (26, 27, 54)

Brian D. McLaren, The Story We Find Ourselves In, (all) (175-177)

Leslie Newbigin, The Gospel In A Pluralist Society, p. 13, 97, 99, 125f (118f mission)

Philip Yancey, The Bible Jesus Read, p. 29ff, 37, 219

Leighton Ford, The Power of Story, (all) p. 10f, 13, 14, 118, 156, 179