



Story_{OF}
SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT RECAP

GOOD, BAD, AND HOPE

God created all things good, but while in the Garden of Eden, man and woman were tempted by the crafty serpent. They sinned, and this change brought death and destruction for all humanity. Nevertheless, even in the midst of chaos, God did not abandon his creation. Years later, he called Abraham and promised him that he would be the father of a great nation, who would reside in a designated land, and who would bring about a worldwide blessing. Although blessed by God, Abraham's descendants eventually became slaves in Egypt. So God called a man named Moses to lead them out of Egypt and slavery. Even though God delivered his people, their stubborn, unbelieving hearts remained. Because of this sin, instead of immediately entering the land of promise, they wandered in the desert for forty years. During this time, God continued to demonstrate his love and holiness to Israel, yet he also reminded them that they should follow him only.

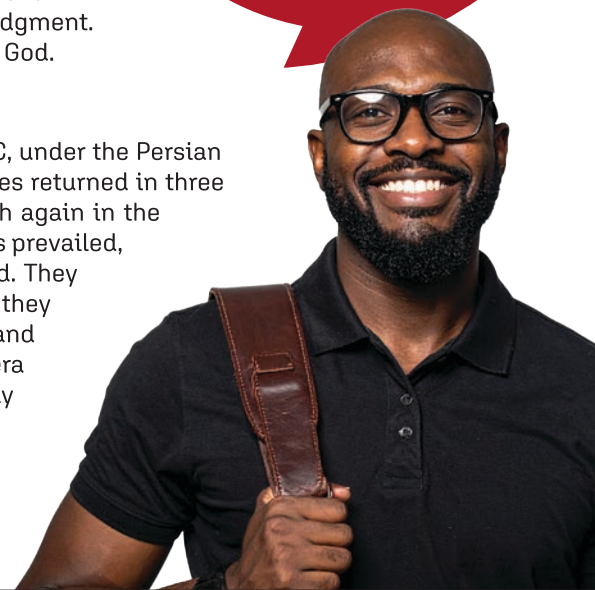
LAW, LAND, AND JUDGMENT

Thus, a new generation entered the land of promise. However, this generation, too, rebelled against God and disobeyed his laws. Eventually they cried out for a king to lead them. The first king, Saul, was reckless and did not follow God faithfully. The next king, David, was by no means perfect, but he yearned for the heart of God. To David's line God promised an eternal King, who would have a kingdom that would last forever. This promised Savior would be the ultimate king. But this kingdom was yet to come. At David's death, his son Solomon became king and built a temple for God. Though wise in the ways of men and international politics, Solomon did not always demonstrate wisdom in the ways of God. At Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam became king, taxing the people so much that they rebelled. This marked a turning point in the history of Israel, for the nation split into two kingdoms—one southern [Judah], and one northern [Israel]. Most of the kings for both nations were evil and did not follow God's covenant law. God sent prophets to call the people to repentance. But repentance never came . . . so judgment did. The northern kingdom of Israel fell first—in 722 BC to the Assyrians. The southern kingdom of Judah, collapsed in 586 BC under the Babylonians. The covenant promises remained true: Faithfulness led to blessing, and unfaithfulness led to judgment. The Israelites were captives in foreign lands, longing for the days of the blessings of God.

ANTICIPATION OF GOD'S DELIVERER

Judgment did not alter God's promises. He would bring his people home. In 538 BC, under the Persian king Cyrus, God's people were released to return to their land and rebuild. The exiles returned in three primary groups under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. Although again in the land of promise, all was not well. Israel's enemies were still present, social injustices prevailed, and God's presence, which had once dwelt in his temple, was nowhere to be found. They were not experiencing the time of peace that the prophets said would come. What they needed was the Messianic King promised to David. This King would reign in justice and power. He would save the people from sin. The final prophets of the Old Testament era anticipated this Messianic ruler who would come and make all things right. One day he would come; but first, another, in the power of Elijah, would announce his arrival. This forerunner would call the people to repentance in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

“I learned the Bible in fragments. Story of Scripture has shown me their sum.”





Story^{OF}
SCRIPTURE

WHOLE BIBLE RECAP

FINAL CONNECTING POINTS

God's Word leads us on an incredible journey from Genesis to Revelation. The master narrative allows us to see beauty, followed by sin and its consequences. However, God moves forward in spite of sin, making a covenant promise to Abraham, **guaranteeing** that through him will come a **nation** (the Jews) in a **land** (Israel) that **will bless the world** (through Jesus Christ). The trek to the fulfillment of that covenant promise is unique. Through Moses (and the Mosaic covenant), God reveals his Law. This Law, while good, demonstrates that man is a sinner in need of God's grace and **deliverance**. Judgment, because of unfaithfulness, comes to the nation as promised in the Law and reinforced by the prophets, but God's **unconditional promises** are still intact. God promises David that an ultimate deliverer, the Messiah, will establish an everlasting kingdom, where God's people will live under a New Covenant that is eternal and ratified by a pure heart, implying complete forgiveness of sin.

*The New Testament writers focus on showing the explicit fulfillment of all the covenants in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Messiah of the **Davidic line** who fulfills the covenant promises to **Abraham**. Jesus, as full deity and perfect humanity, lives out the **Mosaic covenant** flawlessly—doing what Israel could not do. Jesus, through his death and resurrection, inaugurates the **New Covenant**. While all covenants are completed in Jesus, Jesus has **yet** to complete all covenants. That is why we await the Second Advent of Christ, when he will return and finish what has been started.*

“I’ve attended church my entire life, but I have never had Scripture presented in such a unified way.”

