

66 BOOKS, 1 STORY



He Gave Us His Word

Psalm 33:4-9

⁴ For **the word of the LORD** is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.

⁵ The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

⁶ By **the word of the LORD** the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
he puts the deep into storehouses.

⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the people of the world revere him.

⁹ For **he spoke**, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is **useful** for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

66 BOOKS, 1 STORY



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Canon: The texts that are recognized as Scripture, Sacred Text.

Protestant Canon: 66 books (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament)

“As [the authors of Scripture] wrote, the Holy Spirit was with them and he restrained them from any errors so that what they actually wrote represented the very words of God himself.”

TIM TENNENT

“God declares that the Bible is ‘God-breathed.’ This is much more than the word ‘inspiration’ normally conveys.... The phrase ‘God-breathed’ implies more of an ex-piration than an in-piration—the Scriptures are the very words of God breathed out of his mouth.”

TIM TENNANT

God gave us His Word for a *purpose*.
But what is it?



God did not create by His word so that His creation would only be *observed*. Likewise, God did not provide His *written* word just so that it may be *read* or *heard*. God Gave Us His Word so that He may be known and so that His story may be *lived*.

Just as God designed the forests and the trees, mountains and the molecules that make them up, so God gave the words of Scripture and the *story* of God. The story of God may be called the meta-narrative (or mega-narrative) of Scripture. Scripture tells *one* story.

“The biblical faith claims that its story is the one that God is telling, which relativizes and judges the other stories about God, us, and the world...

For them, the big story did not point to something else beyond it but was itself the point... God’s mighty acts in history...create the unfolding plot within which our lives and destinies find the proper coordinates.”

MICHAEL HORTON

The Bible tells God's Story—pointing to, centered on, and flowing from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Bible is God's written invitation into His Story. With all the disruption, violence, disorder, disagreement... we need a bigger story. We need the Story of God.

It's a story of...**redemption.**



Matthew 20:28

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a **ransom (lutron)** for many.”

Colossians 1:13-14

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have **redemption (apolutrosis)**, the forgiveness of sins.

Who is responsible for you?
To whom do you belong?



Deuteronomy 10:14-21

¹⁴ To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. ¹⁶ Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

¹⁸ **He defends the cause** of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. ²⁰ Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. ²¹ He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.

If you get into trouble, who will rescue you?

Who is responsible for the household?

What about when the household splits?



Hosea 7:13-14

¹³ Woe to them,
because they have strayed from me!

Destruction to them,
because they have rebelled against me!

I long to *redeem* them

but they speak about me falsely.

¹⁴ They do not cry out to me from their hearts
but wail on their beds.

They slash themselves, appealing to their gods
for grain and new wine,
but they turn away from me.

Hosea 1

¹The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel:

² When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.” ³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵ In that day I will break Israel’s bow in the Valley of Jezreel.”

⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. ⁷ Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the Lord their God, will save them.”

⁸ After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. ⁹ Then the Lord said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

¹⁰ “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’ ¹¹ The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

Hosea 3

¹The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

² So I bought her for fifteen shekels [6 ounces] of silver and about a homer and a lethek [430 pounds] of barley.

³ Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

⁴ For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵ Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.

Redemption is costly.

Isaiah 60:15-17

¹⁵ “Although you have been forsaken and hated,
with no one traveling through,
I will make you the everlasting pride
and the joy of all generations.

¹⁶ You will drink the milk of nations
and be nursed at royal breasts.

Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

¹⁷ **Instead of bronze I will bring you gold,
and silver in place of iron.**

**Instead of wood I will bring you bronze,
and iron in place of stones.**

Gomer's value was not set by Gomer. Gomer's value was not set by Hosea. Gomer's value was not set by the household to which she had given herself. Gomer's value was set by God. Hosea was the price God was willing to pay for her.

1 Peter 1:17-19

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were **redeemed (lutroo)** from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Ephesians 1

³ Praise be to the God and **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ **In him we have redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.

We have “forgotten the cost of [redemption].
[Our] sense of evil is diluted or lacking
altogether, and so [we have] forgotten the
price of restoration.”

FLANNERY O’CONNOR

Our problem is so complex, our bondage is so tight, that it takes the death of God's Son to *loose* us, to *redeem* us.



Ephesians 5:27

“to present her to himself as a radiant church,
without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but
holy and blameless.”

God doesn't send just anyone to find a bride for his Son. The Father sent the Son to find his own bride *and* the Son is what it cost to bring her home.

“When Christian teaching falls short of this proclamation, the work of Christ on the cross is diminished to the vanishing point...”

FLEMING RUTLEDGE
THE CRUCIFIXION

Who is responsible *for you*?
Who will bring you into *their home*?



Psalm 49

- 1 Hear this, all you peoples;
listen, all who live in this world,
- 2 both low and high,
rich and poor alike:
- 3 My mouth will speak words of wisdom;
the meditation of my heart will give you understanding.
- 4 I will turn my ear to a proverb;
with the harp I will expound my riddle:

5 Why should I fear when evil days come,
when wicked deceivers surround me—

6 those who trust in their wealth
and boast of their great riches?

7 **No one can redeem the life of another
or give to God a ransom for them—**

8 **the ransom for a life is costly,
no payment is ever enough—**

9 **so that they should live on forever
and not see decay.**

You are worth more than you can give.
Because God deems it. And God redeems
you. Christ is the price for you.



Redemption is difficult.

Isaiah 43:1-4

¹ But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; **you are mine.**

² When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

**I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your stead.**

⁴ Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,

**I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.**

Because you have been redeemed, the journey may
be more difficult.

Because you have been redeemed, the journey may be more difficult...but God goes with you.

We proclaim the message of God's redemption in Jesus Christ—we preach the Bible—because there is no bigger story. We can't settle for smaller stories because none of them will communicate the value that God places on every human life—including yours.