

# The Biblical Meta-narrative:

*"Knowing the story we are all a part of."*

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## PART 1: THE PROMISES OF GOD

### AN ACTIVITY:

Film: \_\_\_\_\_ Book: \_\_\_\_\_

### WHY?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### NARRATIVE & THE BIBLE

- Roughly \_\_\_\_% of the Old Testament and around \_\_\_\_% of the New Testament fall specifically within the literary genre of narrative.
- According to Gordan Fee and Douglas Stewart, professors who specialize in teaching Biblical interpretation and co-authors of How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth, there are three levels of narrative within the Bible:

**LEVEL 1:** This level consists of all of the \_\_\_\_\_ narratives found within portions of the various books of the Bible as well as entire books themselves.

(Narrative portions of prophetic books such as Jer. 13:1-14, Ezek. 14:1-5)

**LEVEL 2:** This level consists of ongoing stories that span multiple \_\_\_\_\_ of scripture.

(The establishing of Israel as God's people in the O.T. as well as the founding, growth, and spread of the Church in the N.T. )

**LEVEL 3:** This involves the whole, \_\_\_\_\_ of God worked out through His creation.

(This is what is known as the \_\_\_\_\_)

### THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THE METANARRATIVE

- Narratives capture our \_\_\_\_\_ as well as our minds.
- The Biblical Metanarrative is THE \_\_\_\_\_ to which we are to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and \_\_\_\_\_ our lives within.

### A warning from J.I. Packer:

"In recent years, great strides in Biblical theology and contemporary canonical exegesis have brought new precision to our grasp of the Bible's overall story...But I do not see how it can be denied that each New Testament book, whatever the job it may be doing, has in view, one way or another, [Martin] Luther's primary question: how may a weak, perverse, and guilty sinner find a gracious God? Nor can it be denied that real Christianity only really starts when that discovery is made. And to the extent that modern developments, by filling our horizon with the great metanarrative, distract us from pursuing Luther's question in personal terms, they hinder as well as help in our appreciation of the gospel."

**WHOSE STORY?**

GENESIS 1:1a

*"IN THE BEGINNING, GOD..."*

The Bible is about \_\_\_\_\_. It has \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Two General Truths about God from the Biblical Metanarrative**

**I. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF**

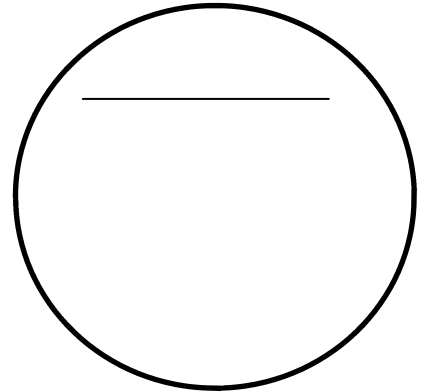
*"To speak well of God, one must first let God present Himself." - Kevin Vanhoozer*

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation (Rom. 1:19-20)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation (John 1:18, 2 Tim. 3:16)

"The Bible, therefore, is God's revelation of Himself to mankind, in order that His character may be clearly demonstrated, seen, and to whatever degree He desires, understood. We are told that 'all scripture is God-breathed' (II Timothy 3:16). Thus the value of examining the words of Scripture to know Him is great, for they are His words—His own accounting of Himself and His plan."

- Christopher Cone, *The Promises of God*



**What do we learn about God from Scripture?**

1. There is only \_\_\_\_\_ God.

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Deut. 6:4 - "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Deut. 32:39 - "I am He, and there is no god besides Me"

Isa. 43:10 - "Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me"

Isa. 46:9 - "I am God and there is no other; there is no one like Me"

**NEW TESTAMENT**

Cor. 8:4-6 - "...there is no God but one..."

1 Tim. 1:17 - "... the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God"

1 Tim. 2:5 "... there is one God"

2. God is \_\_\_\_\_.

**GOD ETERNALLY EXISTS AS THREE PERSONS—**

**FATHER, SON, & HOLY SPIRIT—WHO ARE EACH FULLY GOD.**

"In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost." - The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647)"

"Person" does not mean that God the Father or God the Spirit became human beings. Rather, it means that each member of the Trinity thinks, acts, feels, speaks, and relates because they are persons and not impersonal forces. Further, each member of the Trinity is equally God, which means that they share the divine attributes, such as eternality, omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.

- Mark Driscoll, *Trinity: God Is*

### The Father is God

1 Cor. 8:6 - "yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

See also: John 6:27, Eph. 4:6, I Pet. 1:2

### The Son is God

John 8:58 - "Truly, truly, I [Jesus] say to you, before Abraham was, I am"

See also: John 1:1, 14, John 20:28, Rom. 9:5, Titus 2:13, 1 John 5:20

### The Spirit is God

II Cor. 3:17,18 - "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

See also: Rom. 8:9, I Cor. 6:11, Acts 5:3,4

### The Trinity in the Old Testament

- Gen. 1:1-2 - "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."
- Isa. 61:1 - "The Spirit of the Lord GOD [Father] is upon me [Jesus], because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor"

See also: Gen. 1:26, Gen. 3:22, Gen. 11:6-7, Isa. 48:16).

### The Trinity in the New Testament

- Matthew 3:16-17 - As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
- Matthew 28:19-20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

**This Doctrine is Significant:**

1. The tri-unity of God means that God is a \_\_\_\_\_.

- We can believe 1 John 4:8 - "God is \_\_\_\_\_."
- God does not \_\_\_\_\_ us, rather He \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with us.

2. The tri-unity of God means that He will forever defy our \_\_\_\_\_.

- Our inability to fully grasp Him demands of us that we \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Ps. 19:1

כבוד - \_\_\_\_\_ - "Glory" - The word denotes majesty, significance, or \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. GOD MAKES AND KEEPS HIS PROMISES FOR HIS GLORY

As the Biblical Metanarrative unfolds, we will see multiple promises that God makes to mankind. The story of the Bible is the story of God making and keeping these promises for His own glory.

\_\_\_\_\_ : God's glory is the unifying theme of the Bible.

## **The Promises of God:**

“God’s promises and the fulfillment of those promises form the basic outline of God’s communication with man in the Bible. Not only does Bible survey based on the promises of God give us a basic outline of scripture—but also an outline of world history itself—past, present, and future. And, more importantly, through the promises of God, we see the face of the covenant keeping God.” – Christopher Cone

- God promises a \_\_\_\_\_ for Adam and Eve after they sin. (Gen. 3:15)
- God promises \_\_\_\_\_ that He will never again destroy mankind in a cataclysmic event, providing the foundation for God’s plan to unfold and human history to progress. (Gen. 9:8-17)
- God promises \_\_\_\_\_ that he will be made into a great nation, and that all nations will be blessed through him. (Gen. 12:1-3; 15)
- God promises Israel that they will be blessed if they are careful to \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ and judgment if they fail to honor their covenant with Him. (Ex. 19:1-8; Deut. 31:24-29)
- God promises the people of Israel a \_\_\_\_\_. (Deut. 29-30)
- God promises the people of Israel a \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Samuel 7:4-17)
- God promises the people of Israel a \_\_\_\_\_ who would come to deliver them and establish His kingdom (Is.9:1-7) but who would also suffer and die for their sins (Is. 53)
- God promises Israel a \_\_\_\_\_ that will include the forgiveness of sin and the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- God sends Israel their Messiah and they \_\_\_\_\_ Him. During His ministry He trains disciples whom He then uses to start \_\_\_\_\_ after He sacrificed Himself to bring about the promised spiritual blessings of the New Covenant. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John)
- God promises His Church that He will \_\_\_\_\_ for them before He brings about His final judgment. (Jn. 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:16-18, 5:9)
- God eventually brings about all of His promised \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth and defeats His enemies (Rev. 4-19) while bringing to His people Israel their promised \_\_\_\_\_. (Rev. 20:1-6)
- At the end of time, God confers final \_\_\_\_\_ on His enemy Satan (Rev. 20:7-10) as well as all those who have joined in his rebellion throughout time at the Great White \_\_\_\_\_. (Rev. 20:11-15) God then undoes the curse and makes all things \_\_\_\_\_ and ushering in eternity future where He will dwell with His people forever. (Rev. 21-22)

**ALL FOR HIS OWN GLORY!!!**

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*