

God's Grand Story pt Prologue – Beginning with our worldview

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

Celebrations:

1. **Parent prayer night** – 84 leaders and 50-60 parents gathered for prayer for this next min year!
 - a. 238 MS signed Midweek
 - b. 210 HS HSYN – GOD IS ON THE MOVE!
2. **Wednesday was resting prayer** – here in the prayer room!
 - a. **INVITE: consider coming to the Prayer Room for a Selah. To sit, pray, meet with God.**

Church-Wide Prayer: 1. Life on Mission (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple our families & neighbors

- HS Morning Devo's starting up! Unity, truth, belonging, rest, encounters with Jesus
- "each one, reach one" Mission field: where do you spend most of your time during the day, pray for the people you regularly encounter there.
- "No one stands alone" Church family: Pray for our church to be unified in Christ, and unified to each other. Pray for the people to your left and right.
- God's Grand Story – that we would "get it" and that it would impact every area of our lives & the Gospel we preach.
- Pray for opportunities for each one of us to be able to love people, serve them, pray for them – to disciple them to Jesus.

Recap:

Threefold strategy for moving forward: Prayer → Church Family (gathered & scattered) → Scripture: building on a foundation of Truth

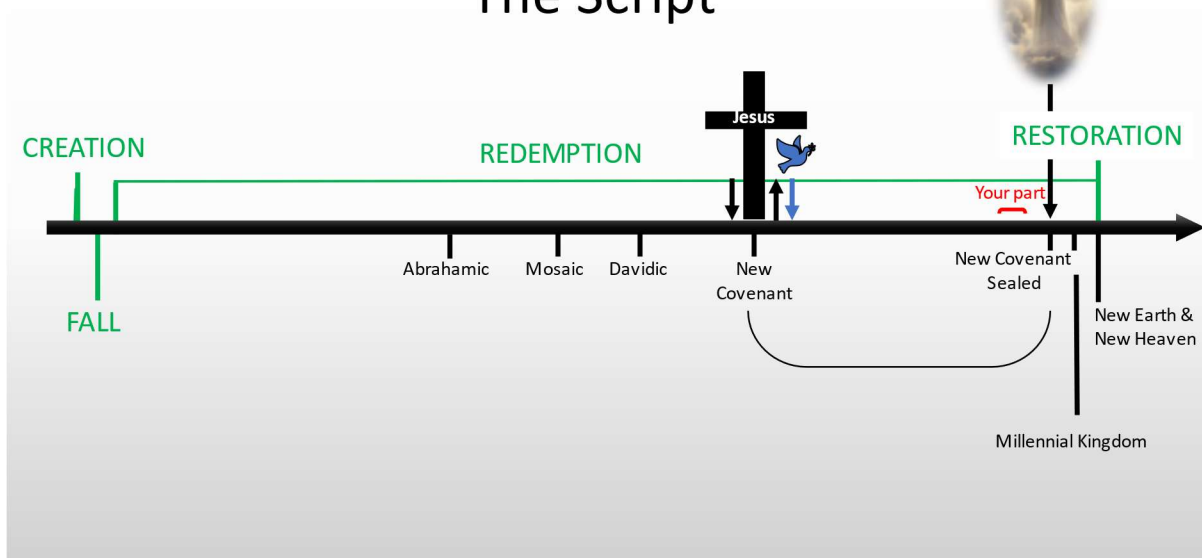
INSIDE THE CHURCH: "NO ONE STANDS ALONE" - introduce yourself by name & share the name of your favorite story → movie, book, or show.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH: "Each one, reach one." – MISSION CIRCLE: pray for the fields, people in those fields & ask God to highlight who he wants you to pray for and begin reaching out to.

- **John Scott**, "The difference between discipling 1 person and 1000 is relatively small. The difference between discipling 1 person and 0 is immense."

Today: Prologue: Why the Grand Story Matters

The Script



We are made for stories! They shape us, move us, stir up every type of emotion, entertain us, they can even teach us! We love epic, grand stories!

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

The Bible is God's Grand Story! It is an EPIC story of love, betrayal, family, conflict, war, good vs evil, facing impossible odds & cosmic forces! It ties together 66 books – spans thousands of years! and reveals the power of love to undo the curse through the HERO of the story JESUS ... this is a Story of Redemption!

We don't just learn ABOUT God's Story – He created us to be **a PART OF His Story** as we move towards the climax and the End! This is the ultimate drama – the ultimate story of redemption!

Our part? Is to seek him – to love him – to glorify him – to know him! To play the part he gives us.

Acts 17:24-27 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

Today: we are going to look at WHY this matters. Why we need to understand the Story.

Example: suppose we made a movie and you got accepted to play a part! But when you showed up, you hadn't read your lines, and you hadn't even touched the Script – I'll just WING IT. How well do you think

you'd do at playing your part? EVEN when you KNOW the script & your part -actors still all make mistakes! If you didn't know anything? It would be a DISASTER.

A. The Story reveals the MAIN CHARACTER – God!

Genesis God walks in the Garden with Adam & Eve – relationship.

Throughout Scripture he expresses his love for ALL people, he takes no pleasure in the wicked, he desires that none should perish, even his judgements are given in measure to turn the hearts of men toward God.

One of the biggest problems we have with false representations of God – is a lack of understanding what He has ALREADY REVEALED ABOUT HIMSELF and his FUTURE PLANS FOR MANKIND.

Example: would you tell your friend, spouse, or kids, that you love them but don't care about their life? You're only interested in what you can GET FROM THEM.

We are going to MEET HIM through the 4 Chapters/Themes: Creation, Fall, Redemption & Restoration

B. The Story reveals Truth & guards us from deception

Matthew 24:3-51 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet... Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- **Have you thought about this before?** FALSE CHRISTS – FALSE JESUS? Jesus taught that people would come impersonating him. That we were supposed to be aware of this and ready – so as, not to be deceived.
- **Christopher Yuan**, "I don't know what Jesus you are following, but the one I follow, commands EVERY believer to deny themselves, pick up their cross and follow Him."
- **Example:** IF the Jesus you are following doesn't require you to deny yourself? Rather, he just always agrees with you and is there to give you what you want? (GENIE JESUS) Or, if the Jesus you are following allows you live contrary to His Word – affirming sinful lifestyles and choices. (WANTS ME TO LIVE MY TRUTH JESUS) You should seriously question whether you are following the Jesus of the Bible, God incarnate. Or, someone claiming to be Jesus.
- **CAVEAT:** God will never contradict his written Word. He won't break His moral law as it is a reflection of his character and he cannot deny himself and never changes.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

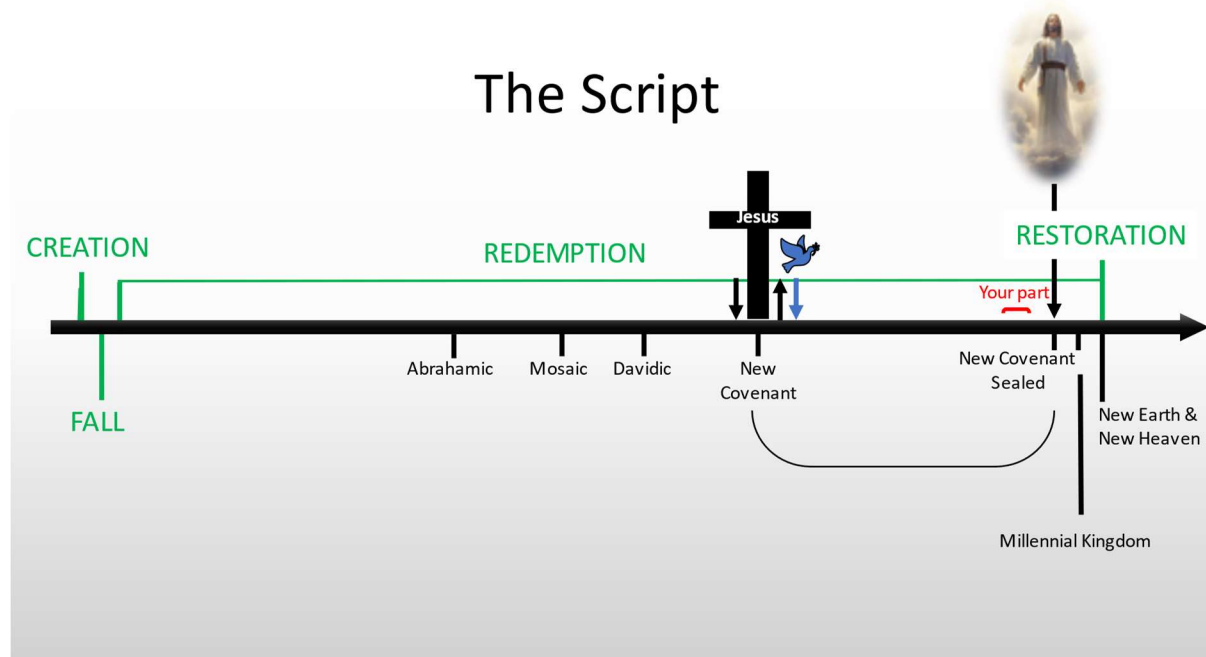
1 Timothy 4:1-5 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

There are multiple reasons people are open to deception. BUT one reason is lack of understanding the Script! They don't know the Story they are apart of!

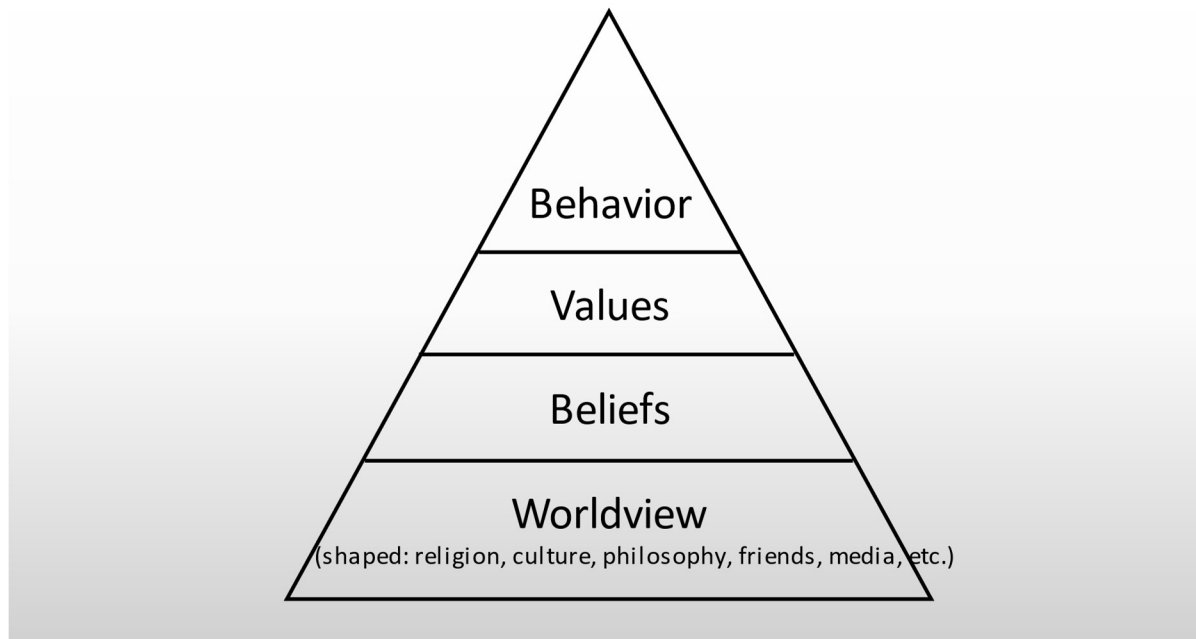
Ephesians 1:9-10 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (more on this later as we go through the Story!)

C. The Story is the foundation of a Biblical worldview

Joel Richardson in speaking about End Times said, "To get your eschatology right, you have to start with your worldview, your worldview influences your theology, which influences your eschatology, which influences your Gospel"



What is a worldview? Ultimately: our worldview is our view on what is real & true regarding God – Humanity - Nature. (Book: Making Sense of Your Word by W. Gary Phillips, William E. Brown, John Stonestreet)



- **Barna:** 6% of professing believers have a Biblical Worldview (America)
- **LET'S BE CLEAR:** a Biblical worldview is the ONLY worldview -software- that is based on ultimate and complete TRUTH. Others may contain elements of truth. But the Bible is TRUTH.
 - You may not like the truth, you may not want it to be true, but TRUTH IS TRUTH whether we like it or not. **Jesus IS TRUTH.**
- **The Flash:** Barry Allan was asked, “why do you believe that your dad is innocent?” his response, “it doesn’t matter what I believe, what matters is, what is true?” A REFRESHING PERSEPECTIVE!
- **The only path to TRUTH – ULTIMATE TRUTH & REALITY? Is to KNOW JESUS!!!**
- **John 14:6** “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

How do we get a Biblical worldview? (the right software) **The Bible. A biblical worldview is not something separate from Scripture.**

The BIG questions The Story answers: (which form your worldview)

- Origin – how did we get here? Is there a God?
- Meaning & Purpose – what is the meaning of life? Why are we here?
- Morality – is there right and wrong?
- Destiny – where is everything headed? What happens after we die?
- Identity – who am I? how do I fit in the world around me?

- Problem – what is wrong with the world? society? And me?
- Solution – how can we fix what’s wrong?

1. Answer the above questions. No GOOGLING. Just answer as best you can.
2. Examine your life and priorities. Do they reflect that you truly believe the answers you wrote down?

We’ll discover the answers to these questions and MORE as we navigate the 4 Chapters or themes in God’s Grand Story – Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration.

D. Engaging your part in the Grand Story

John 14:15-18 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

1. **Prayer & fellowship with the Spirit**
 - a. Gal 5:16-25; Mt 26:41
2. **Scripture – study the Story. Study the entire Script. Memorize. Meditate. Daily.**
 - a. Study the Passages we are covering.
3. **Obey – play your part!** Apply every truth you learn, to “transform your mind”
 - a. Rom 12:1-3

PRAY FOR EVERYONE - First time commitment – lead

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM ONLY

MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!

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SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023

Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal:** Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers