

God's Grand Story pt 2 – Laying Foundations: thinking Biblically

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

NEXT WEEKEND DANISHES & COFFEE TO CELEBRATE! Pasture Lorne! As he moo-oves on to another HERD. → P. Lorne... we will UDDERLY miss you

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

- Emmanuel & Angela family – there is elections and a serious situation that took place with an American missionary – that has made it unsafe for them to remain in Liberia. They need to leave the country for a few weeks/months as things settle down.
- Discovery Time in schools – Parents? Availability during weekday hours
- Kids Church has started – woot!! Avg of 400 kids per wknd at services – wow, what an opportunity
 - In need of more **adult volunteers, greatest need is at the 11am service.**
- MS & HS kicked off this past week!! Over 200 students at Midweek and over 200 students at High School Youth Night
 - In need of more **small group leaders, greatest need is male leaders for Middle School**
- **Connect Cell starting first week of October – ALL ARE WELCOME! Are you feeling isolated or disconnected? JOIN US. 😊**
- **Each one, reach one!** No one stands alone! Pray for our Body to be strengthened in/outside the Church. That we would be truly known for our LOVE.

Recap: This is God's Grand Story – The Script – and we – his creations - get to play small parts in it! All of humankind! 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!****

4 Chapters, 5 Main Promises, 1 HERO – Jesus and is moving towards the most EPIC finale ever and the FINAL happily ever after!

- The Story reveals the MAIN CHARACTER – God! Know about God & Know God Himself!
- The Story guards us from deception – reveals truth and helps us understand key doctrines
- The Story is the foundation of a Biblical worldview
- The Story shows us how God is involved within history and the nations
- The Story shows us what will happen in the End of this Age
- The Story helps us understand what the Bible is telling us
- The Script reveals the Gospel of the Kingdom

What is a worldview? A worldview what we believe is true and real about God – Humanity - Nature
(Book: Making Sense of Your Word by W. Gary Phillips, William E. Brown, John Stonestreet)

A. The BIG questions a worldview answers:

- **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?

As we move through the Grand Story – write down as many answers to these questions as you encounter! The Bible answers ALL of our main questions and instructs us and reveals our part to play!

If you want the TRUTH to move from head → heart: Study, Pray, Obey

B. Guard your heart from competing worldviews

Trip Lee, a Christian rapper, said, “I know, when I was growing up, a lot of the views I was listening to, it was a worldview that was not helpful. The world even sold me a false idea of what the good life (girls, money, cars) was, and I wish that people would have helped me to think better about how to interact with that worldview.”

Naturalism: scientificmodern worldview

- **What is SEEN is all that is real. There is no God.**
- **Skeptics:** “God spoke and the whole earth and everything in the universe was created? Ya, God flooded the earth and only a handful of people were saved with some animals? Ya, the waters just ‘parted’, eh? Dead people don’t rise from the dead.”
- **Science** is the pursuit and application of knowledge and understanding of the natural and social world following a systematic methodology based on evidence. <https://sciencecouncil.org/about-science/our-definition-of-science/#:~:text=Science%20is%20the%20pursuit%20and,Evidence>
 - Anthony Fauci rejected criticism of his approach to the pandemic by claiming,** “I represent science.” That statement has the same moral authority as those “Science Is Real” suburban lawn signs. In both cases, the word “science” is being used as a cudgel to shut down debate.
 - Science is simply the process of asking questions, developing theories on the natural world and testing them.
 - SCIENCE IS GOOD.** Science is not God.
 - The assumption is Christians live by faith and naturalists live by facts** EVERY WORLDVIEW REQUIRES FAITH.
 - Scientists have discovered _____ which is challenging their previously held belief (faith?) that _____**
 - Job 38:4-7** “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

- c. **Watch Expelled: Ben Stein.** He's not even a believer... and he demonstrates how no one is able to answer the origin question... and how to suggest a designer isn't allowed in most scientific or academic circles.
- v. **Science & Faith** are not opposed. They are different and work TOGETHER.
 - a. **Science:** the study of what is SEEN
 - b. **Faith:** the belief in the UNSEEN
 - c. **Romans 1:20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
- vi. **Guard your heart:** watch for your own heart and others, when they seek NATURAL explanations for everything that happens in the Bible. NOT SIN. But reveals an underlying belief system that the NATURAL WORLD IS THE REAL WORLD.
- vii. **Guard the Gospel:** this life is all that matters! Those that have a naturalistic worldview often prioritize and live for the NOW. For this life. "the good life"
- viii. **Gen 1:1** "in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"
- ix. FOR thousands of years... the idea of the universe having a beginning was ridiculed → most thought it was ETERNAL. Most religious accounts and scientific theories believed it always existed.
- x. 1929 – 100 years. Hubble, and Lemaitre, and the BIG BANG theory was born. Discovered the universe was finite. It was expanding. **The bible has said this for 4000 years.**
 - a. **SCIENCE:** study of the SEEN will never be able to explain the UNSEEN. And we shouldn't expect it to either!
 - b. **Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Transcendentalism: The Greek philosophical worldview (dualism)

- xi. **The material world = BAD. The immaterial/spiritual world = GOOD.**
- xii. **DANGER: Christians compartmentalize their lives into categories. Spiritual and non spiritual.**
 - a. Devotions good → rest, relationships, work, hobbies, everything else – BAD
 - b. Why bother engaging culture? We are leaving here anyways!
- xiii. **Historically as dualism was introduced and combined with Christianity the focus shifted.** Where Christians were busy loving God and loving people by taking care of the widows, protecting the lives of the unborn, advocating for Biblical morality (even at their own personal cost) the blending of worldviews led to the priorities being placed on spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, study, separation from the world.
- xiv. **Avoid the pendulum swing.** WE NEED THE DISCIPLINES. PRAYER, SCRIPTURE, FASTING – and keeping ourselves "unstained from the world" YES! AND... we need to engage the CULTURE and work to redeem all aspects of the material world.
- xv. **Danger: 1)** Christians flip from dualism to naturalistic.
- xvi. **DANGER: 2)** it leads to **escapism Christianity.**
- xvii. **DANGER: 3)** It also leaves many Christians disengaged from the world around them!

- xviii. **1 Corinthians 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- xix. **TRUTH: AVOID EITHER/OR → EMBRACE BOTH/AND.** Aim to give God EVERYTHING. 24/7. Seek to love him with ALL your heart, soul, mind. Seek to love your neighbor as yourself. Study Scripture. Pray without ceasing. In all things GIVE THANKS TO GOD!

C. Read the Story with a Biblical Worldview

- **How do you get that?** (the right software) **The Bible. A biblical worldview is not something separate from Scripture.**
- **What are you plugging into?** The Bible? Media? Social media? Friends? The world?
- **What are you living for? (obeying – prioritizing)**
- **Head → Heart:** requires ACTION. (Worldview Triangle)

Biblical Worldview: God created what is SEEN & UNSEEN. Both are REAL. Both were GOOD. Both were corrupted by SIN. God has promised to REDEEM/RESTORE all of his Creation!

- **USE THIS LENSE WHEN READING SCRIPTURE.**
- **The bible describes Earth, then 3 heavens. 1st, 2nd, 3rd. BOTH AS PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL.**
 - i. **Genesis 1:9** And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.
 - ii. **Ephesians 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
 - iii. **Ephesians 2:2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—
 - iv. **2 Corinthians 12:2-3** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—
 - v. **Physical earth. Physical levels of heaven. And physical movement between them all. Both have physical & spiritual components that work together.**
 - vi. **Acts 1:9-11** And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
 - vii. **Revelation 1:7** Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.
 - viii. **JESUS IS RETURNING physically on a cloud. He will come down... he’s not just “appearing” he is RETURNING. Travelling from where he went, back to us.**
 - ix. **Revelation 21:2-3** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne

saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

- x. **HEAVEN AND EARTH BECOME ONE – and Israel will receive the fulfillment of EVERY promise God has made! Land! Nation! Blessing! And the new heart, new spirit, ability to obey their King! on the throne of David will sit a descendant, who is MAN & GOD, who will physically reign for ETERNITY – JESUS.**

D. Reflection: examine your heart & life

- Where are you plugged into for truth? (media, friends, culture, Scripture, etc.)
- Look at your priorities & behaviors. Who or what are you living for? (God, yourself, this world, etc.)
- PRAY: ask Jesus to lead you in Spirit & Truth. To reveal Himself to you. To help you embrace a Biblical Worldview. To guide you as we embrace the Grand Story.
- STEP: IF Jesus is really coming back. How should that effect you today?

NEXT: Chapter 1 Creation... we begin telling the Story!

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