

The Big Picture of the Bible

66 Unique Books—1 BIG Story

Creation

God created the world and everything in it including you and me. When he created the world, it was utterly perfect: without sin and in right relationship with Him. He did this for the purpose of bringing Himself Glory.

[speaking of Christ] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

-Colossians 1:16

Fall

When Adam and Eve disobeyed in the garden, sin entered the world and tainted God's perfect creation. Because of their first sin, we all sin and are separated from our perfect relationship with God.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - Romans 3:23

Redemption

Through Christ we can be reconciled to God. To redeem means to buy something back that has been lost. Christ bought us back with his blood when He died on the cross and rose again, forever forgiving us of our sins. This is the Gospel. And it is the solution to the problem of our sin.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God...

- 1 Peter 3:18

Restoration

Sometimes called "consummation". Those who have been redeemed by Christ's blood are being restored and made into His likeness. This is the process called sanctification. One day we will experience perfect restoration in our relationship with God when Christ returns to bring us home.

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. - 2 Corinthians 3:18

Interpretation

What does the text mean?

Step 1: Paraphrase

Write each section of the text in your own words. What do you understand well? What parts are still tricky for you? Prayerfully think through the questions you still have.

Step 2: Look at the Big Picture

Ask yourself the following questions to think through the big picture of the Bible:

- **How would this text have been received by the people to whom it was originally written? What would it have meant to them?**
- **What does this text tell me about our Creator God and his purposes in creating all that we know and see?**
- **What does this text tell me about sin and people's separation from God?**
- **What does this text tell me about redemption and God's plan to save His people from their sins?**
- **What does this text tell me about God's work of restoring His people to the way they were supposed to be: without sin and in perfect relationship with Him?**

Step 3: Consult the Experts

Read through reliable commentaries and online resources to learn from those who have spent their lives studying the Scriptures. For a list of reliable resources, visit my post on Interpretation:

<https://www.fridaymorningbiblestudy.com/2018/06/20/how-to-study-the-bible-interpretation/>