

Intro

- For about the last 5-6 years I have been trying to figure out some very basic things.

1. What is the Gospel?

- Not what do I think it the gospel is?
- OR What does the evangelical world think it is?
- What does Protestantism think it is?
- But what did the Jews of Jesus, Paul and Jesus himself the gospel is?

2. What is the Kingdom?

3. Why did Jesus have to die?

4. What on Earth am I here for?

5. Where is all of this going?

This really intensified in July last year when I read ...

- The Day the Revolution Began.

Since then I have been doing a ton of reading and studying ...

- Actually, been the longest and most in-depth study I have ever done on anything.

I would study and then it would expand.

- Would read something that couldn't grasp and then read a book about it.

PRAYER

The Story of the Bible

OUR STORY

Each of us has a story ...

- A story that forms us and shapes us ...
- And plays a huge role in who we are and what we do.

Birth –where I was born has an enormous influence in my life.

Upbringing,

- Parents – permissive and free for all?
- Very strict and authoritarian?

- Loving, did they emotionally connect with you?
- Temperament

Schooling – teachers, friends ...

- Whether you were good as sport, academics ...

Whether you grew up religiously or not?

It could be things **further along** the way in life ...

- Break ups, heart aches, losses, disappointments ...
- Choice of career ...
- Victories or defeats.
- Luck or privileges (my experience growing up)

All of these things form and shape your story and sends you on a particular path.

- And it is the same with the people of the Bible ...
- As well as the message of the bible.

The people of the bible and the message of the bible all form part of a story.

- A plan that God has been unfolding for thousands of years ...
- That is leading somewhere.

Think of **Abraham**

- God called him out of Babylon ...
- While he was worshipping other Gods.
- And this took place against the backdrop of Genesis 1-11

This all plays a role in Abraham's formation ...

- How he views the story, where he believes he fits it ...
- And where he is supposed to be taking it.

Moses – Being a Hebrew orphan

- Pharaoh's household for 40 years then desert for 40 years.
- Against the backdrop of the whole book of Genesis.
- God said to him, I am the father of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob.
- There is a history that is busy forming and shaping his story ...
- And God is calling him also, to take the story somewhere.

David ...

- When David steps onto the stage he has a huge story behind him.
- Genesis 1-11, Abraham, Moses ...
- Joshua, Judges, Saul ...
- And each of these stories have their own set of sub-stories.
- And all of it is heading somewhere (which they didn't know at the time).

You get the **Exile ...**

- You get **Ezra/ Nehemiah** that takes place after the exile.

After the exile.

- Things get even more complex ...
- Because there are also certain expectations on this side.

Now we get the **New Testament**.

- But then there is also what is known as the **Intertestamental Period**.
- That had a HUGE influence on how people were thinking in the 1st century.
- And where they believed themselves to be taking the story.

What we tend to do, is we just want to **jump** right in **here!**

- My guess is that the majority of us ...
- Spend much more time over here (NT) than over there (OT)

Look at the **proportion (scaled)** of this side of the story.

- We have to have a better understanding of this side ...
- In order to make the right sense of what the NT authors are saying ...
- And answer the questions that I asked on in the very beginning.

1. What is the Gospel?

2. What is the good news of the Kingdom?

3. Why did Jesus have to die?

4. What on Earth am I here for?

5. Where is all of it going?

That is where I got stuck!

- I knew the main character and the "more or less" story line of the bible.

- But, I only knew it “more or less.”
- And I wasn’t quite clear as to where it all was heading ...
- Why it was heading there?
- How the authors tried to make sense of it all?
- And what role I am supposed to play in taking it forward.

What I came to realize is that ...

- In order to understand the message of the bible
- And where **you fit** into all of this ... (“you” moet in NT wees.)
- You need to know and understand **The Grand Narrative** (how to iilustrate?)

You need to try understand and make sense of some key things like

Why were we created (Genesis 1-2)?

- Why did God create “adam” = humanity?
- (Side not on Adam’s name?)

Your perception on why God created humanity will shape the whole story for you.

- So, if your perception of why God created humanity is a **degree or two of ...**
- Then your story is going to go a little bit different than the bible’s story.
- Which means that you might be heading in a **different** direction ...
- Than where God wants you to go.

The Fall – Genesis 3

- What happened? What went wrong?
- If something was **broken** that need to be made right ...
- And you have a misconception of what got broken.
- You will be trying to make the wrong thing, right.

Where does **Genesis 3:15** fit into the story line ...?

Genesis 3:15¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Now we have **Abraham in Genesis 12** ...

- With God saying to him, I will bless you and you will be a blessing.
- Where is he supposed to **be taking the story? - ????**
- How did he think about it and how did the NT authors think about it?

Suddenly we have a 400 year jump ...

- With Moses, the exodus, the law/Torah and the Tabernacle.
- Where is that supposed to be taking the story???? Duideliker

Does it matter or can we just skip over it?

- How did the people of the time make sense of it?
- How did the later on prophets make sense of it?
- How did the NT authors make sense of it?

Was all of it pointing to something? → → Arrow (Soos met birth, upbringing etc collectively forming

- And if so, what was that something???? Have question marks

Where does King David and his desire to build God a house ... (one click)

- Fit into the story?

BUBBLE SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7:5-6⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?'⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day.

¹¹ ... " 'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.

What does Solomon and wisdom represent in the story.

- He was "supposed" to be the wisest person that ever lived.
- But, if you look at the choices he made in life ...
- He doesn't seem that wise?
- So, is there more to wisdom than what we think?
- And where is wisdom pointing to?

King Rehoboam's pride ... (needs to be two clicks)

- Splits the kingdom into two. Other way around
- Now we have two stories.
- That are both interchangeably taken somewhere throughout the book of kings (one click)
- King of Israel – king of Judah – Israel – Judah ...
- How many good Kings in Judah?

- Good kings in Israel.

What does the **Babylonian captivity** mean ...

- And is it taking the story **somewhere**?
- Or even pointing the story somewhere?

Leading up to this time, in this time ...

- And after this time, we have the **prophets**. (Adjust PP to spread over period).
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel ...
- The book of the 12. Minor prophets (because shorter).
- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah,
- Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Spoke of both Judgment and Salvation.

- Leaving a number of “fuzzy” expectation’s over here ...

400 GAP – Intertestamental Period ??? – Have NT on the right as well

- Apocrypha books included in Septuagint & Latin Vulgate ...
- But not Hebrew Bible.

Only now, do we have **Jesus** coming onto an onramp here ... (slide is repeated)

- He didn’t come from “nowhere” starting a new religion.
- **STOP – START** (Twee clicks)

He was a Jew and he came onto an onramp of a story ...

- That had a 2000-year history and that was heading somewhere.
- And was part of God’s plan from the word “go” of creation.
- **All flowing out of Genesis 1-3**
- Click eers Moses, Abraham etc en dan Gen. 1-3

So, what do we learn from this so far **????** Question mark is missing

- This in many ways this is a very complex story to figure out ...
- Because although it is a unified story ...
- It was written by 40 different authors from every different walks of life ...
- Over a span of more than 2000 years.

And in the midst of that we need to figure out ...

- Where do the **church** (onramp) and I fit into all of this?
- And where are we supposed to be **taking the story?** (Arrow pointing forward again)

If that wasn't enough

- The story is made up out many different GENRES of literature.

You have historical narratives: Gen, part Ex, Sam, Kings, Acts etc.

- The Law: Ex, Lev, Deut
- Wisdom: Job, Prov, Ecc

BIBLE SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 22:6 ⁶ Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

If you read it wrong, you might find yourself disappointed.

Poetry: Psalms, Song of Songs, Lam.

- Complex: Some are old time favorites Psalm 23

BIBLE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 42:1-2 ¹ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

Prophecy: Is, Jer, Ez, the book of the twelve.

- These are books that I have avoided for years.
- Because they are just so difficult to read.
- It can be hard to even just get through one chapter and make sense of it.

Rare that you say, hey, let me read from Isaiah 1-66 in one shot!

Apocalyptic writings: Daniel, Revelations.

- These books have caused much tension over the centuries.
- And there has been some interesting interpretations ...
- Particularly from Revelations.

Gospels: Matt, Mark, Luke & John.

- It is almost a "genre" in itself, because it is a semi-biography.
- Jesus birth, snap shot age 12, three years.
- Mark 1-8: 9-16
- Different views and lenses.

- Kingdom of Heaven, Kingdom of God, Eternal Life.

Epistles/ Letters: Rom, Cor, Tim, Tit ...

- Looked at Paul's letters, thinking, wow, kind.

The form consists of six parts:

1. Name of the writer (e.g., Paul)
2. Name of the recipient (e.g., to the church of God in Corinth)
3. Greeting (e.g., Grace and peace to you from God our Father ...)
4. Prayer wish or thanksgiving (e.g., I always thank God for you ...)
5. Body
6. Final greeting and farewell (e.g., The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.)

So, we have these different genres that needs to be read and studied in different ways.

FOR US BUT NOT TO US

Now, the other challenge, that is pretty though provoking, is that ...

- "The bible was written **FOR** us, but not **TO** us." – underline "FOR" and "TO" as well

It was written with us in mind ...

- But, it was written too people in a very different time ...
- And culture than our own.

In the ancient near east ...

- People had a very different focus on the creation of the cosmos than we do today.

Today, we live in a world of science.

- So, for the last century or two we want to know, how was the world made?
- How old is the earth?
- Was it made in six 24-hour days?
- If we follow the timeline of the genealogies ...
- The world is something like 4,500 years old.

But according to scientist the earth is +- 4.5 billion years ...

- And the universe 13.8 billion years.

So, is there now a discrepancy between the two?

- For the people of that time, science was not a science.
- They had no interest in how it was made or how long it took to make.

They had an interest though in things like ...

- How order was created out of chaos.
- And which God created the order.
- **More research on this point.**

The **New Testament** is just as complex.

- They are living Roman period with a **Roman culture.**
- Not a South-African culture, not a Western Culture, not an African culture.
- They are living in a Roman culture.

But the Roman culture has its own **backdrop.**

- Which is the Greek **culture.**

In 331 BC Alexander the Great conquered the Persians.

- And his dream was to not only conquer the whole world ...
- But to Hellenize it.

He wanted Greek culture to permeate the whole world.

- And one of the biggest things for the Greek were philosophy.

So, during the Greek empire you had people like ...

- Zeno – Founder of Stoicism (Acts 17)
- Socrates, Plato, Aristotle who is the “father of science ...
- And tutored Alexander the Great
- Seneca the younger (tutor to Nero)
- Cicero, Epicurus (Acts 17)

So, when we make our landing in the **New Testament** ...

- We make a landing in a Roman culture in a Roman time ...
- That is actually Hellenized ...
- And where their thoughts on things like “the afterlife” ...
- Was predominantly influenced by the philosophers ...
- We “land” in the middle of a very interesting story.

LANGUAGE

Now, just to another layer of complexity ...

- The bible was obviously not originally written in English ...
- But in Hebrew, Greek, some sections of Aramaic [sections of Daniel & Ezra]
- And many of the words or thoughts cannot be directly translated.
- And even meant something fairly different to them ...
- Than what it would mean to us today.

John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Believe - ...

Eternal Life – ...

John 3:36 ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Besides the different language you also had different translations.

- Had Hebrew Old Testament – Masoretic Text
- Greek Old Testament called the Septuagint [LXX] ...
- That was a Greek Translation of the Hebrew Bible ...
- That was translated between the 3rd and 2nd century.

Septuagint

In the 3rd century BC seventy-two Jewish scholars were asked ...

- By the Greek King of Egypt Ptolemy II (Philadelphus)
- To translate the Torah from Biblical Hebrew into Greek ...
- For inclusion in the Library of Alexandria.

You have the Aramaic Targum's that was compiled from 1st-7th century AD ...

- Which were a paraphrase of the Hebrew Bible?
- Almost like The Message "Bible" today.

So, we have all of that which is then "penned" down ...

- In 1,189 chapters, consisting out of 31,173 verses
- With more or less 807,370 words ...
- Over about 1,200 pages.

And we need to try and make sense of it all?

So, what I want to do over the couple of weeks.

- Is to try and unpack some of this story line.

In order to try and help us figure out some of those questions I posed in the beginning.

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