

The Bible

God's Scheme of Redemption

Introduction

1. Many speculations concerning what the Bible is about:
 - a. Some say it is a “good book” with stories that teach good morals.
 - b. Some say it is a “love letter.”
 - c. Some say it is from God, but is not law; therefore we don't need to do what it says.
 - d. Some say it is a book of fictional stories meant to give men hope.
2. Human speculation aside, God shows us in the Scriptures what the Bible is and how it is to be used.

Discussion

I. The Scriptures: God's Plan for Man's Salvation

A. Purpose of Scriptures:

1. 2 Pet. 1:20-21: Scriptures written by men of God who were moved by the Holy Spirit—not by the will of men.
2. 2 Tim. 3:16-17: All Scripture is inspired of God and is able to make the man of God complete.
3. 2 Tim. 3:15: Through knowledge of the Scriptures, we are able to gain wisdom unto salvation.
4. How?

B. The Scriptures reveal God's plan for our salvation. The Bible teaches about...

1. Our need for salvation.
2. God's efforts throughout history to carry out His plan for our salvation.
3. How God's plan for salvation was accomplished in Christ Jesus.
4. What we must do to be saved.

II. Man's Need For Salvation

A. In the Beginning: Gen. 1-3

1. God created the heavens and the earth—including man.
2. Man sinned
3. The rest of the Bible: God dealing with man's sin!

B. One overall lesson we learn from the Bible is our need for salvation.

1. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).
 - a. Abraham sinned.
 - b. Moses sinned.
 - c. King David sinned.
 - d. You and I have sinned.
2. In the Bible, we learn that because of our sins, we need God—we need salvation!

III. God's Efforts to Bring About Salvation

A. Since the beginning:

1. After fall of man, God revealed a plan in Gen. 3:15
 - a. Seed of woman would bruise serpent's head.

- b. Seed of woman is Christ, serpent is Satan.
 - c. At the cross, Jesus severely wounded Satan and the evil that he was doing (1 John 3:8).
 - 2. Noah and the flood: God saved a remnant of obedient—human kind continued, salvation still to come.
 - 3. Abraham: God made a covenant through which He would bless all nations through the Seed of Abraham. That seed was Christ (Gal. 3:16).
- B. Throughout Israelite History:
- 1. Abraham’s descendants became a nation—through whom Christ would come.
 - 2. Through Joseph in Egypt, God preserved that nation and allowed them to grow.
 - 3. God delivered a pattern to Moses, but showed that another would come after him who would be greater (Deut. 18:18—Christ).
 - 4. Throughout entire O.T. thousands of Messianic prophecies were made to point to the time of salvation.
 - 5. All roads in the O.T. lead to salvation in Christ!

IV. God’s Plan Fulfilled in Christ

- A. Eph. 3:11: God’s eternal purpose fulfilled in Christ.
- 1. God the word (Christ, John 1:1) became flesh (John 1:14).
 - 2. He humbled Himself (Phil. 2:6-8).
 - 3. He fulfilled all O.T. prophecies concerning Him (Acts 13:29).
 - 4. He was offered as a sacrifice for our sins (Isa. 53).
 - 5. He rose from the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15:4).
 - 6. He is now alive as High Priest and King at the right hand of God (Acts 2:29-36).
- B. Through the above, Christ became the author of eternal salvation TO ALL WHO OBEY HIM (Heb. 5:8-9).
- 1. **Matt. 28:20**: “...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”
 - 2. O.T. teaches us the need for salvation, and our need for obedient faith (Heb. 11, esp. vs. 13).
 - 3. N.T. teaches us what we must believe for salvation, what to do to be saved in Christ, and how to live as faithful Christians.
 - 4. The complete Bible teaches us God’s entire scheme of redemption.
- C. Where to begin?
- 1. Mark 16:15: Preach the gospel to every creature. Then what?
 - 2. Rom. 10:17: Faith comes by hearing God’s word.
 - 3. Mark 16:16: When we hear the gospel, we must believe.
 - 4. Acts 2:38: If we believe that Christ died for our sins, then we must repent of those sins (turn away from them).
 - 5. Rom. 10:14: If we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, then we must be willing to confess Him as such.
 - 6. Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4: If we are willing to confess Christ as Lord with our mouths then we must be submit to Him in obedience through baptism.
 - 7. Matt. 28:18-20: Following baptized we must be committed to living faithful to His word—the New Testament Scriptures.

Conclusion

Have you considered God’s plan for your salvation?