

Seeing Jesus in Old Testament History
JitOT #4 | 2 Chronicles 36:11-23
October 31, 2021

Sabbatical Update

1. Gratitude
2. Combination of rest, recreation, and renewal
 - a. Recreation: family vacation, camping, baseball games, music festival
 - b. Rest: sleeping, open schedule, no obligations, meetings
 - c. Renewal: daily silence and solitude, prayer, meetings with Rusty, retreat
 - d. Reading: 13 books (5 novels)
3. Other numbers:
 - a. Travel: 9 states (OR, NY, NJ, PA, OH, AL, IL, IN, KY)
 - b. 14 Sundays: 3 here, 3 at Harbor church, 2 local churches, 2 family, 3 travel
 - i. 1 Seahawks Sunday
 - ii. Zero lead pastors preaching!
4. Thank you to the church, to the elders and staff, to Rusty, to my wife, and God
5. I'll have much more to share in upcoming weeks and months about what God has been doing in my own heart, particularly as it relates to this church, discipleship, renewal
 - a. But for today, I'm just grateful to be with you
6. Transition: books of history, Samuel-Kings-Chronicles

Scripture Reading | 2 Chronicles 36:11-23

PRAYER

Introduction

- Jamaal and Amber asking "tell us your story" | meaningful opportunity
- Storytelling is a universal human & cultural experience
- Story is more than just facts/events. It's the meaning behind those events.
 - It's why a good or novel isn't about "the thing," it's about the meaning
 - It's why a good documentary isn't just a series of dates/events
- Bible is many things, but it is primarily a story
 - Different type of literary art than we are used to
 - More or less obvious in different parts of the bible
- In our culture, we are desperate for our lives to have meaning / story
 - "Tell your story" or "be legendary"

Big idea: God's story is what gives our stories meaning

- 1) What is God's story, 2) Why should I embed myself in this story, and 3) How do I live my life in light of God's story?

Section I. What is God's Story?

* OT written and compiled over 1,500 years | NT only 60

Genesis 1-11 | Prehistory (like the scroll in Star Wars or intro on LotR)

1. Creation: God's joy and power on display, humans as his image bearers
2. Catastrophes: Adam & Eve's fruit, Cain/Abel, Nephilim/flood, Tower of Babel

Everything else | Israel

1. Patriarchs | Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
2. Exodus | Set free from slavery and given Torah
3. Conquest / Judges | The promised land
4. United monarchy | It's all come together!
5. Divided kingdom | Majority of Samuel & Kings
 - a. * **Chronicles is different from Samuel-Kings | Later retelling**
6. Two exiles
7. Incomplete return

*Unifying thread = the need for God's royal human partner

- All of God's partners fail | Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon
- The storyline of the Tanakh leaves us wanting and needing this ruling partner

New Testament | Fulfillment

1. Messiah Jesus
2. News to the nations
3. Final restoration

Section II. Why Embed Myself in this Story?

1. Ruin | both personal and societal | Plato: "the city is the soul of man written large"
 - a. Personal idolatry | **1 Kings 11:9-10** ⁹The LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. ¹⁰ He had commanded him about this, so that he would not follow other gods, but Solomon did not do what the LORD had commanded.
 - b. Societal injustice | **2 Kings 21:2-3, 16** ²[Manassah] did what was evil in the LORD's sight, imitating the detestable practices of the nations that the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites. ³ He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed and reestablished the altars for Baal. He made an Asherah, as King Ahab of Israel had done; he also bowed in worship to all the stars in the sky and served them....¹⁶ Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem with it from one end to another. This was in addition to his sin that he caused Judah to commit, so that they did what was evil in the LORD's sight.
 - i. The foundational problem is sin against God, expressed in multiple ways
2. Redemption
 - a. Desire for a king | **1 Samuel 8** ⁴So all the elders of Israel gathered together and went to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Therefore, appoint a king to judge us the same as all the other nations have." [...warnings...]¹⁹ The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!"

they said. “We must have a king over us.²⁰ Then we’ll be like all the other nations: our king will judge us, go out before us, and fight our battles.”

- b. God’s promise | **2 Samuel 7** ¹²When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [...Solomon...] ¹⁶Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.
- c. Promise upheld | **2 Chronicles 21:5-7** ⁵Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. ⁶He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab’s daughter was his wife. He did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, ⁷but for the sake of the covenant the Lord had made with David, he was unwilling to destroy the house of David since the Lord had promised to give a lamp to David and to his sons forever.

Bill Clem Our great hope is that God has declared humans redeemable. God didn’t come to earth as a nation, as a culture, or even as a church, but he came as Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This means nations and empires may come and go, cultures may transition, and churches may start and close, but God’s story is not at risk, and his children will not fade away into annihilation. The people of God are an eternal people, and the redeeming work of God is an eternal work, so, as a person and as a people of God, we can have hope in the God of the story.

Section III. How do I live my life in light of God’s story?

1. Relationship
 - a. I won’t know characters in novels, movies, history books, etc. But I **know** God.
 - b. **Robert Cheong** [God’s] story is a story not only to be told, but a story to be lived. It doesn’t just entertain us for a minute—it shapes how we live, how we love, and reveals to us God’s plan for us. God’s story reveals the most intimate relationship that we can ever know. Through our union with Christ, we can experience a perfect love that satisfies the deepest longings of our soul. It’s only through knowing God and his story that our distorted understandings of love and relationships can be untangled. God invites us to abide in Christ through the school of life, as we journey through the dark valleys, the mountaintop experiences, and everything in between.
2. Reorientation
 - a. So much calling for your attention in apocalyptic terms, *the most important election*
 - b. Other things may be important, God’s story is most important
 - c. Keeping God’s story primary helps us understand events happening
 - i. **gasp* Can you believe such and such???? Yeah, I totally can.*
3. Responsibility | God is the sovereign Lord of history, but our role is real
 - a. **Bill Clem** [B]eing human means being utterly dependent on God and yet possessing a relative ability to make significant decisions. We are real people with real choices, which is why God’s story includes risk (even if the story line is not at risk). It requires faith (even when the ending is secure within his revealed framework) and shows him to be a God of grace and truth, love and holiness, power and mercy.
 - b. United to Messiah | human partners in ruling and stewarding all things

Conclusion

- How are you experiencing your story right now?
- Disappointments? Unexpected events? Twists and turns?

Living in Christ

Colossians 3 ¹ So if you have been raised with Christ,

- Are you saved?

seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

- How much space is the “story of today” taking up in your mind?

³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- Your life, your story, is embedded in Jesus

⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- Your future is very bright

Benediction

Isaiah 26 ³ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.