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Keep the Big Picture in View!

The Approach • Heart Postures 12 – 13

The Bible Is the Story of God's Glory!

The Bible Is the One Story of God's Glory Progressively Revealed on Earth as It Is in Heaven!

- The Bible is **ONE STORY**.
- The Bible is the one story of **GOD'S GLORY**.
- The Bible is the one story of His glory **PROGRESSIVELY** revealed on earth as it is in heaven.

GENERAL PLOT OF THE ONE STORY of HIS GLORY								
PROMISE – Old Testament				FULFILLMENT – New Testament				
CREATION			CHRIST	RE-CREATION				
CREATION	FALL	REDEMPTION				NEW CREATION		
CREATION	FALL	REDEMPTION PROMISED SHADOWS of the REALITY <i>OT Israel</i>	CHRIST <i>1st Coming</i>	REDEMPTION FULFILLED NOW but NOT YET <i>NT Church</i>	CHRIST <i>2nd Coming</i>	KINGDOM <i>Israel & Church</i>	NEW CREATION <i>One People</i>	

Approach Your Bible in a Way that Keeps the Big Picture in View

Two Heart Postures to Keep the Story of His Glory Before You!

1. Approach Your Bible **CANONICALLY**. Read the **ENTIRE Bible Repeatedly!**

Canon = The "standard" or "rule" (the measuring stick/ruler) for the faith once delivered to the saints by God Himself through human authors in the inspired Scriptures (= Writings), which His people have recognized as being revealed by Him.

- Don't **UNHITCH** from the Old Testament.
- Don't **OVERSTAY** in the New Testament.
- Don't **PIT** one part of the Bible against another.
 - Don't pit the **OT** against the **NT**.
 - Don't pit the **wrath of the God in the OT** against the **love of Jesus in the NT**.
 - Don't pit **Paul's emphasis on faith** against **James emphasis on works**.
 - Don't pit **Luke's emphasis on repentance and faith** against **John's use of believing**.
 - Don't pit **Jesus in the Gospels** against **Jesus in the Book of Revelation**.

Yes, but How?

- Read your whole Bible like you **WASH YOUR HAIR!**
- Read the Bible in **BIG CHUNKS** in 90 days or **ONE BOOK** for 30 days.

2. Approach Your Bible PROGRESSIVELY. Read to See How God's KINGDOM Story Is Fulfilled!

Progressive = The Bible is revealed in various stages (ages/epochs/administrations/dispensations) that build upon one another and eventually climax in God's coming Kingdom: "Your Kingdom come Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"

God's Kingdom Plan for Creation

GOD'S GLORIOUS PRESENCE Progressively Rules with **GOD'S PEOPLE** over **GOD'S PLACE**
through **GOD'S PERSON** by **GOD'S POWER** for **GOD'S PURPOSE!**

The Progressive Revelation of the Mediatorial Kingdom

The Eternal Kingdom of God: The Triune God is the eternal King who always rules over all.

Psalm 145:10-13; Jeremiah 10:10; 1Timothy 1:17; 6:16; Jude 25

The Mediatorial Kingdom of God: The Triune God chooses to rule on earth as He does in heaven through His Image-Bearers.

Genesis 1:26-28; Daniel 2:44; 7:27; Matthew 6:10; Acts 1:6; Hebrews 2:8; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21; 11:15; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

1. The KINGDOM **PATTERN** in Creation. *Genesis 1 – 2*

Creation Plan Reveals the Kingdom Pattern: God's presence ruling with God's people over God's place.

Image Bearers: Kingdom-Mediators are Glory-Mirrors with a unique Relationship to God, Representation of God, and Rule Under God.

2. The KINGDOM **PERVERTED** by the Depravity of Humanity. *Genesis 3 – 11*

The FALL of Adam & Eve who believe the lie and rebel to be like gods.

Redemption Promised: The LORD promises the Seed of the Woman will be the Head-Crusher that conquers the Heel-Biter!

The FRICTION between Cain & Abel over acceptable worship – People Begin to Call on the Name of the LORD.

The FLOOD of Depravity in Noah's Day – The Sons of God Boast in Their Sexuality, Violence, and Language Like Little Gods.

The FUTILITY of Tower Building – Humanity Rebels as City-Gathers and Tower-Builders to Make a Name for Themselves.

Noahic Covenant: The LORD covenants with creation to preserve it until His creation plan, redemption promise, & kingdom pattern are fulfilled.

3. The KINGDOM **PROMISED** to Israel's Patriarchs. *Genesis 12 – 50*

Abrahamic Covenant: The LORD covenants with Abraham & his seed by grace thru faith to be a blessing to the nations as a kingdom people.

4. The KINGDOM **PURSUED** with the Nation of Israel. *Exodus – Ruth*

Mosaic Covenant: The LORD covenants with Israel to be a royal priesthood to the nations in the Promised Land with blessing and cursing.

The KINGDOM **PICTURED** in the Kingdom of Israel. *1Samuel – 2Chronicles; Psalms – Song of Songs*

Davidic Covenant: The LORD covenants with David and his sons to rule as kings over His kingdom people.

The KINGDOM **PUNISHED-PRESERVED** with Exile and Captivity. *2Kings; Ezra – Esther*

Covenant Loyalty: The LORD remains loyal to His covenant promises and His covenant people with loving-kindness and gracious faithfulness.

The KINGDOM **PREDICTED** in Israel's Coming King. *Isaiah – Malachi*

Covenant Enforcers: The LORD sends His Servants the Prophets to predict comfort for the Loyal Remnant and condemnation for the Disloyal.

New Covenant Promised: The LORD promises to establish a New Covenant with Israel to create a Loyal Heart by the Indwelling Spirit of God.

Coming King Predicted: The Coming King is a Suffering Servant and Sovereign Savior who restores Israel and is a Light to the Nations.

400 YEARS of SILENCE

Israel **SUFFERS** Under the Gentile Kingdoms of Babylon, Greece, Medio-Persia, and Rome.

Israel **STRUGGLES** to Maintain Faith, Hope, and Love as They Wait for the Coming of the King.

Israel **STRIVES** to Fulfill the Promise in the Power of the Flesh:

Separatism of the Essenes, **Rationalism** of the Sadducees, **Legalism** of the Pharisees, **Radicalism** of the Zealots

5. The KINGDOM **PRESENT** in the King's 1st Coming: *The Kingdom is near because the King is here! The Gospels*

Israel Rejects Her King: Partial hardening of Israel begins as the mystery of the Kingdom and Church unfolds to bring salvation to the nations.

New Covenant Established: The LORD meets the conditions of the covenants and will partially fulfill them in the Mystery of the Church.

6. The KINGDOM **PROCLAIMED** by the King's Church: *Called Out Subjects in Kingdom Outposts on mission! Acts, Epistles, Revelation 1-3*

Now-Not Yet Mystery: Partial Kingdom fulfillment in the Church during the partial hardening of Israel until full number of Gentiles are saved.

7. The KINGDOM **PREVAILS** in the King's 2nd Coming: *The Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven! Revelation 4-20*

Covenant Fulfillment: The King fulfills all the covenant promises to Israel and the Church on the Day of the LORD (Tribulation and Kingdom)!

8. The KINGDOM **PERFECTED** When the King Rules Over All: *God is all in all! Revelation 21 – 22; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

New Creation Glory: The King subjects Himself and His Kingdom to the Father, so that God is all in all as the progression of the creation plan, redemption promise, and kingdom pattern is completely fulfilled.

Approach Your Bible to Not Only See the Big Picture but Also the Big Person Who Fulfills the Big Plan!

*"If you've been puzzling over the Bible for a few years, you might be in a place where you're familiar with its many parts but are unsure of how they fit together...Like a puzzle, the pieces of the Bible—the various books, letters, characters, and stories—do fit together. The Bible contains mysteries, but its meaning is not intended to be mysterious or hidden from us, especially in its central teaching. God does not try to hide truth from us; He reveals it. **The Bible reveals more than a picture for us to enjoy. It reveals a person for us to know.**"* – Trent Hunter and Stephen Wellum, *Christ from Beginning to End*

THE APPROACH: <i>Heart Postures for Approaching Your Bible!</i>		
BIG IDEA	HEART POSTURE	SUMMARY
START WITH THE HEART!	#1 Approach Your Bible HUMBLY! #2 Approach Your Bible DESPERATELY! #3 Approach Your Bible PRAYERFULLY!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God stoops to speak to us rebel creatures. God's Word is my daily bread – <i>my life</i>. Pray before (I.O.U.S.), during, and after.
BE A BEREAN!	#4 Approach Your Bible STUDIOUSLY! #5 Approach Your Bible OBEDIENTLY!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask good questions and put pen to paper. Be quick to hear and obey from the heart.
EXPECT GREAT JOY TOGETHER!	#6 Approach Your Bible EXPECTANTLY! #7 Approach Your Bible JOYFULLY! #8 Approach Your Bible MUTUALLY!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible is powerful – <i>expect to be changed</i>. Joy overflows the Word-filled heart. Learn with others to share with others
BEHOLD THE TRIUNE GOD!	#9 Approach Your Bible THEOLOGICALLY! #10 Approach Your Bible CHRISTOLOGICALLY! #11 Approach Your Bible SPIRITUALLY!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's about knowing God more than fixing you. It's about exalting Christ over all and in all. It's about being Spirit-led to be Word-fed.
KEEP THE BIG PICTURE IN VIEW!	#12 Approach Your Bible CANONICALLY! #13 Approach Your Bible PROGRESSIVELY! #14 Approach Your Bible CONTEXTUALLY!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the Entire Bible – <i>wash, rinse, repeat!</i> Read with the Kingdom Story in mind. Read like this: <i>Context! Context! Context!</i>

I – **INCLINE** my heart to Your testimonies and not to dishonest gain. *Psalm 119:36*

O – **OPEN** my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law. *Psalm 119:18*

U – **UNITE** my heart to fear Your name. *Psalm 86:11*

S – **SATISFY** us in the morning with Your lovingkindness. *Psalm 90:14*

"Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight...

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures," Luke 24:31, 45

***A woman named Lydia...was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul."* Acts 16:14**

***"I shall run the way of Your commandments, for You will enlarge my heart."* Psalm 119:32**