

The Bible and the Kingdom of God

Intro

A diverse collection of books

1. The Bible contains 66 books written by about 40 authors over nearly 2000 years.
2. The Old Testament
 - a. Written in Hebrew
 - b. 39 books
 - c. Our English translation of the OT has a different book order than the original Hebrew.
 - i. Our English translation follows a subject arrangement

History (Genesis to Esther)
Poetry (Job to Song of Solomons)
Prophecy (Isaiah to Malachi)

3. The New Testament
 - a. Written in Greek
 - b. 27 books all written in the 1st century AD
 - c. Arranged by subject categories

Gospels (Matthew to John)
Acts (Luke’s account of the early church)
Epistles (Romans to Jude)
Revelation (John’s vision from God)

One author

The Bible is written by several divinely inspired human authors over a long span of time, but it holds together as one unified book and story written by a divine author.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God...

One subject

There are various genres, subjects, and stories written in the Bible, but there is only one ultimate subject that holds everything together – **Jesus Christ and the salvation God gives us through him.**

John 5:39

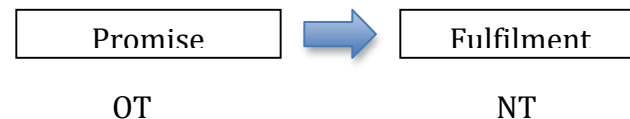
You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **it is they that bear witness about me,**

Luke 24:27, 44

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things **concerning himself.**

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, ‘that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’”

The entire Bible from beginning to end points to Jesus. The Old Testament points forward to Christ. The NT proclaims Christ as the fulfillment of all the OT promises.



One book

The OT and NT must be read together. The OT without the NT is an unfinished story. The NT without the OT won’t make much sense

and won't be as weighty. We must read the Bible understanding that it is one book with one divine author about one main subject.

The kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is the binding theme of the whole Bible.

The kingdom of God is
God's people
in **God's place**
under **God's rule and blessing.**

The themes of kingdom and covenant go hand in hand.

I. Old Testament

1. The pattern of the kingdom

God's creation

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:27, 31

So God **created man in his own image**, in the image of God he created him; **male and female** he created them.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, **it was very good.**

Colossians 1:16–17

¹⁶ 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.** ¹⁷ And he is before all things, **and in him all things hold together.**

Revelation 4:11

¹¹ “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for **you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**”

God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing

Genesis 1:28

And **God blessed them.** And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it**, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:8–9

⁸ And the LORD God planted a **garden in Eden**, in the east, and **there he put the man whom he had formed.**

Genesis 2:15–17

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and **put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.** ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

2. The perished kingdom

God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing

Genesis 3:6–8

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, **she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.** ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and **they knew that they were naked.** And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **the man**

and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:23–24 (ESV)

²³ therefore the LORD God **sent him out from the garden of Eden** to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ **He drove out the man**, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

God does not leave us without hope

Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.**”

3. The promised kingdom

God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1–3

Now the LORD said to **Abram**, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the **land** that I will show you. ² And I will make of you **a great nation**, and **I will bless you** and make your name great, so that **you will be a blessing**. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 17:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And **I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring** after you throughout their generations for an **everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give

to you and to your offspring after you the **land** of your sojournings, all the **land of Canaan**, for an **everlasting possession**, and **I will be their God.**”

4. The partial kingdom

God's people

Exodus 2:23–25

²³ ... the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and **God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.** ²⁵ **God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.**

God's rule and blessing

Exodus 19:5–6

⁵ Now therefore, **if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples**, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ **and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**

Leviticus 11:45

⁴⁵ For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall **therefore be holy, for I am holy.**”

Exodus 40:34, 38

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**

³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel **throughout all their journeys.**

God's place

Joshua 21:43–44

⁴³ Thus the **LORD gave to Israel all the land** that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. ⁴⁴ And **the LORD gave them rest** on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for **the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands.**

God's king

1 Samuel 8:5

⁵ ...Now appoint for us a king to judge us **like all the nations.**"

1 Samuel 15:23

²³ Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, **he has also rejected you from being king.**"

Davidic Covenant

2 Samuel 7:12–16

¹² ... I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ **And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' "**

5. The prophesied kingdom

Prophets are called by God. They are God's mouthpieces to his people. They are covenant enforcers and remind the people of

God's blessings on condition of their obedience and God's judgment if they disobey. They bring a message of judgment and hope.

God's people

Isaiah 10:21–22

²¹ **A remnant will return**, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. ²² For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will return.** Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness.

Isaiah 49:6

⁶ ... I will make you as **a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.**"

God's place

Isaiah 65:17–18

¹⁷ "For behold, I create **new heavens and a new earth**, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

God's rule and blessing

Jeremiah 31:31

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Isaiah 9:6–7

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us **a son is given**; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace **there will be no end**, on the throne of David and over his

kingdom, **to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.**

II. New Testament

6. The present kingdom

All of the OT promises find its fulfillment in Christ.

For the New Testament the interpretation of the Old Testament is not "literal" but "Christological." That is to say that the coming of Christ transforms all the kingdom terms of the Old Testament into gospel reality. – Graeme Goldsworthy

God's people

Romans 4:16

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be **guaranteed to all his offspring**—not only to the adherent of the law but also **to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,**

God's place

John 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

John 2:19–21

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

²¹ But **he was speaking about the temple of his body.**

John 7:37–38

³⁷ ... Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "

God's rule and blessing

Matthew 5:17

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but **to fulfill them.**

Galatians 3:13–14

¹³ **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us**—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— ¹⁴ so that **in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

Hebrews 9:15

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, **so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance,** since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

7. The proclaimed kingdom

God's people

1 Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

8. The perfected kingdom

God's place

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

¹⁹ Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?** You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Ephesians 2:19–22

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5

⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

God's rule and blessing

Romans 7:6

⁶ But now we are **released from the law**, having died to that which held us captive, so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit** and not in the old way of the written code.

God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing

Revelation 5:13

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, **"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"**

Revelation 18:21

²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, **"So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more;**

Revelation 21:1–4

Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."**