

The Theme of the Bible

by Wayne Goff

What is the **purpose** of the Bible anyway? Sometimes Bible critics will complain that there's not enough information about the subject of *creation*. Others have mentioned in the past that the Hittite nation discussed in the Bible doesn't exist, thus suggesting human error. (Since that time the Hittite nation has been discovered after all!) Then there's the ancient question, "Where did Cain get his wife?"

When insufficient answers have been given by Bible believers, the critic runs away satisfied that he has proven the Bible to be "full of errors"! Part of the problem is the failure to recognize the *purpose* of the Bible in the first place. The Bible was never intended to be the **all-sufficient answer book to all questions**.

The purpose of the Bible is to tell men that salvation and eternal life with God in heaven is possible! Thus, the theme of the Bible is **redemption: how to save man from his sins and be right with his Creator**.

Now some people will read the above paragraph and be so "turned off" as to throw down this paper in disgust. Man doesn't like to be confronted with his shortcomings, or of his need to be dependent on someone or something. Others will read that same paragraph and think, "Thank God, there's hope for my weary life yet!" So how does the Bible "turn off" some people and "turn on" others? The answer is simple: the same way the sun that melts the butter also hardens the clay! It depends on the person's make-up or constitution.

1 Corinthians 1:18 explains it this way: "*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*" It is the same message received differently. But let's get back to our original thought.

The **theme** of the Bible is how God can save man from his sin. Genesis begins by telling us that God created the heavens and the earth, and that God made everything very good (chapter 1). God also made man and woman as male and female, in God's image mentally and spiritually (chapters 1-2). God created the first family, Adam and Eve (chapter 2). God made man a free agent morally, able to choose between right and wrong (chapter 2). Mankind was given the opportunity to choose good over evil, and when tempted Eve succumbed to doing evil, or that which God had commanded her not to do (chapter 3). Adam followed in her footsteps.

As in nature, there are always **consequences** to our thoughts, our choices, and our actions. God sent away mankind from His presence, out of the close, intimate relationship he once had. "*Sin*" (violation of God's law) had separated mankind from God, and for the last six thousand years history has repeated the same sad story over and over again in a thousand different ways. Sin always separates man from God.

A Loving God's Solution

God was not willing to leave man alone, but desired to have that intimate, close relationship with him once again. Man had created the problem, but an all-wise, loving God provided the solution.

In the very beginning, after man had sinned, God began to unfold His plan to free man of his sin and guilt. In Genesis 3:15, He promised to Adam and Eve that one day there would come One born of woman, or "*her Seed*," Who would "*bruise the head*" of the Serpent (Satan). This is the first prediction of Jesus Christ coming to destroy the damage caused by sin, Satan, and death! Indeed, when Jesus was born to Joseph and Mary, He was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-23). He was and is the only human born as "*the seed of woman*." What is impossible with man is possible with God. This would be a God-given sign that Jesus was from God, and not man.

Throughout the Old Testament we find prediction after prediction of God's purpose, *man's redemption*, being unfolded through the lives of Abraham, then Abraham's descendants, Israel; and especially the lineage of King David, right up until the birth of Jesus to Joseph and Mary, descendants of Abraham and David themselves (see Matthew 1:1-17 & Luke 3:23-38). Through some 4,000 years of history, God showed man how He was working in their lives for their ultimate good.

The New Testament is *the unveiling of God's supreme purpose in the Bible* -- man's salvation through the death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. His blood forgives our sin. This is why the New Testament is called "*the gospel*," for it means "*good news*" to all men everywhere who believe it and obey it.

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