

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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The Bible: Its Subject and Purpose

- Jesus Christ as the Subject
 - Jesus Christ as the Creator.
 - ✦ The early chapters of Genesis record the creation of the world as accomplished by God, using the term *elohim* which includes God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
 - ✦ In the N.T. we learn that all things were made by Christ (Jn 1:3).
 - ✦ Col 1:16-17 states that all things were created “by Him... through Him and for Him” making Christ the main actor in the creation.
 - Jesus Christ as the supreme ruler in the world.
 - ✦ God the Father’s purpose is that Christ should rule the world (Ps 2:8-9) and that every tongue will confess that Christ is Lord and every knee will bow (Ph 2:9-11).
 - ✦ One of His titles is Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16).
 - Jesus Christ as the supreme ruler in the world.
 - ✦ Christ is the head of the Church (Eph 1:22-23).
 - ✦ Christ is the supreme judge of all mankind (John 5:27).
 - ✦ During the Millennium Christ will sit on the Davidic throne and reign as the King of Israel (Luke 1:31-33).
 - ✦ Although God has permitted earthly rulers to occupy thrones and throughout history many nations have risen and fallen, the final kingdom will be from heaven and ruled by Christ (Dan 7:13-14).
 - Jesus Christ as the Incarnate Word.
 - ✦ Jesus Christ is the Word (John 1:1) who became flesh (John 1:14).
 - ✦ The incarnation of Jesus Christ has revealed to us the nature of God, the radiance of His glory (Heb 1:3).
 - Jesus Christ as the Savior.
 - ✦ The work of Christ as Savior is the prominent message of the Bible.
 - ✦ Christ is the promised seed who would conquer Satan (Gen 3:15).
 - ✦ In the O.T. it is prophesied that Christ will be crushed by our sins which will fall upon Him (Is 53:4-6).

- ✦ In the N.T. it is declared that Christ died on the cross and suffered the judgment for the sin of the whole world (1 Cor 15:3; 2 Cor 5:19-21; 1 Pet 1:18-19; 1 John 2:2; Rev 1:5).
 - ✦ Jesus Christ is declared as the only Savior (Acts 4:12).
 - ✦ As Savior, He is also our High Priest (Heb 7:25-27).
- The History of Man in the Bible
 - Scripture unfolds God's plan and purpose for the human race and records the history of man.
 - ✦ The creation of Adam and Eve (Gen 1-2).
 - ✦ The destruction of almost all mankind in the flood (Gen 6-8).
 - ✦ The dispersion after the Tower of Babel (Gen 11).
 - ✦ The call of Abraham and the nation of Israel (Gen 12ff).
 - ✦ The O.T. records the many successes and failures of Israel.
 - ✦ The N.T. records the coming of Jesus Christ and the formation of the Church.
 - ✦ Eschatological passages describe the culmination of the Church at the Rapture, the 2nd coming of Christ, the millennial kingdom, the destruction of this world and the creation of a new one.
- The Purpose of the Bible
 - The Bible is God's message to man, so its purpose is His purpose – which is that He may be glorified.
 - The Bible records that:
 - ✦ The heavens themselves declare the glory of God (Ps 19:1).
 - ✦ The nation of Israel is for His glory (Isa 43:7; Jer 13:11).
 - ✦ Salvation is for His glory (Rom 9:23) as it is a manifestation of His grace (Eph 2:7) and wisdom (Eph 3:10).
 - ✦ All our service should be to the glory of God (Matt 5:16; John 15:8; 1 Cor 10:31; 1 Pet 2:12; 4:11) and the Bible is the instrument by which God prepares the man of God for service (2 Tim 3:16-17).
 - ✦ Believers share the glory of Christ (John 17:22; Col 3:4).
 - ✦ Even in the death of a believer Christ may be glorified (Ph 1:20).

- Questions

- What evidence is found that Christ participated in creation?
- In what sense is Christ the supreme ruler of the world and how is it expressed?
- Explain how Christ is the supreme revelation of God.
- Trace the line of Scripture dealing with Christ as Savior in both the O.T. and N.T.
- What does the Bible record concerning the history of man in Genesis 1-11?
- For what purpose did God select Abraham?
- How does the history of Israel culminate in Christ?
- What new entity in God's plan and purpose is revealed in the N.T.?
- What great nations characterize history?
- Distinguish the purpose of God as it relates to the nations, Israel, and the Church.
- In what respects does the Bible reveal the glory of God as its supreme purpose?