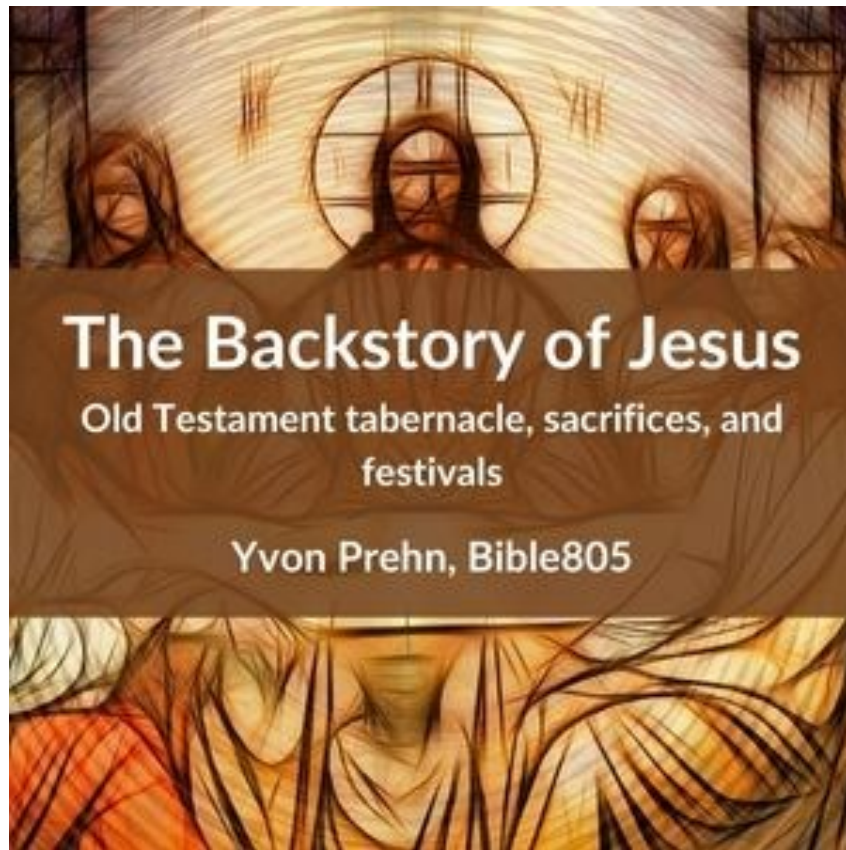


# Handouts

## Including Notes, Charts & Questions



# The Backstory of Jesus

## *Old Testament tabernacle, sacrifices, and festivals*

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Your Notes

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### **After Jesus rose from the dead, he walked with and had dinner with some disciples**

- Luke says they were kept from recognizing who he was.
- They were distraught because Jesus had been crucified (“and it’s the third day!”) and how they had hoped he was the Messiah.
- Jesus didn’t rebuke them, but it says, “**Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.**” Luke 24:27
- In the book of Matthew, passage after includes a phrase similar to this one, “*this was to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah,*” Matthew 4:14
- And again and again in writings about and by the Apostle Paul, we find statements like this, “*...he reasoned with them from the Scriptures (the Old Testament) explaining and proving the Christ would have to suffer.*” Acts 17:3.

### **Pause a minute before continuing**

- We can read passages like these and not think much of them, but we need to realize how extraordinary they are.
- That is because they are part of the body of proof that our Bibles are indeed the very Word of God, written ultimately by One Author, God Himself, consisting of **ONE STORY from beginning to end.**
- If that is the case, why don’t most people see it?

### **For the seemingly small habit—of reading the Bible in bits and pieces, of not understanding its historical progression**

- If you chop the Bible up into helpful and inspiring passages here and there, you don’t see it.
- Also, if, as “scholars” [and I use the quote marks intentionally as their work is based more on fanciful fabrications than consistent historical analysis] you chop the Bible up into totally unsubstantiated “source documents.”
- Such as the now disproven, but for a time quite unsettling, JEDP hypothesis for the Old Testament that suggested that instead of Moses as the author of the Pentateuch, that a variety of authors wrote it at various times.
- Or the Jesus Seminar deciding what parts of the New Testament they feel Jesus “truly said” based simply on what they feel is true.
- In every case chopping up the Bible, reading in bits and pieces results in false and ultimately dangerous outcomes to your life and eternal soul.

### **The solution—what we are doing now—reading the Bible in chronological but also**

- Looking ahead at the entire Bible as we read the early parts of it.
- This is not an easy process, but these lessons will help you.
- This is so important because when you SEE, really see and understand the Bible as ONE unified story, when you see how all the parts are woven together.
- And when you pair that with the historical FACTS of the dates when the Bible was written.
- **The only conclusion you can come to is that the God who exists outside of time is the author of it.**

### **That’s why we talked about Typology last week and why we will discuss it more this week**

- Typology is where there is a picture of something early in the timeline of the Bible that, though meaningful in itself, will have a more complete fulfillment,

and often additional expansion in meanings later.

- We will look at the many things in the Old Testament Tabernacle, sacrifices, and festivals that illustrate this today.
- Again, only ONE Author, composing the story of the Bible outside of time could accomplish this.
- For a sure foundation, trust in the Bible, our God, and the peace that comes with it is the goal of this lesson. It is not just as an apologetic exercise, but for your assurance of what you have committed your life to; for your dark nights of the soul.
- So let's get into the specifics.....

**The significance of the fulfillment in the New Testament about the Messiah from *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* by Gleason L. Archer, Jr.**

- *In general, we may say that the Old Testament presented the preparation of which the New Testament was the fulfillment; it was the seed and plan of which the New Testament was the glorious fruit. **Precisely because Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled what the Old Testament predicted, His life and deeds possessed absolute finality, rather than His being a mere religious sage like many others.** For this reason also the gospel of Christ possesses divine validity which sets it apart from all man-made religions.*
- Note: no other religion has this predictive prophecy and then fulfillment of those prophecies thousands of years later within their sacred books.
- As Archer says, other books may contain “wise sayings” but none have this millennia of prophetic fulfillment to validate their authority.

**The book goes on...**

- *The New Testament writers viewed the entire Hebrew Scriptures as a testimony to Jesus Christ, the perfect Man who fulfilled all the Law; the Sacrifice and High Priest of the ritual ordinances; the Prophet, Priest and King of who the prophets foretold. . . .*
- ***The Old Testament demonstrates that Jesus and His Church were providential, the embodiment of the purpose of God; the New Testament proves that the Hebrew Scriptures constituted a coherent and integrated organism, focused upon a single great theme and exhibiting a single program of redemption.***

**With that as background and how we now view it**

- Let's look back at the Tabernacle, its furnishings, the sacrifices, and the festivals.
- It's important to understand these in the life of the children of Israel and they will be referred to throughout the rest of the Bible, in the Old and New Testaments.
- It is like any other area of expertise—sports has its past heroes, its lingo, short-cut terms, so do every area of expertise from cooking to real estate.
- My goal and prayer is for you to understand your Bible well and this is an important foundation to help you do it.
- In addition to the content, we will go over in a minute, I have images, and extra handouts for you to understand them fully.

**The Tabernacle, why it was necessary**

- While in Egypt, the children of Israel most likely practiced some type of sacrifice, as sacrificing to Jehovah goes back to the earliest days of humanity.
- Their religion was always spoken of as coming from “Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” not from Moses.
- However, it would have been unorganized and worse as the regulations in Leviticus include the command (from a lengthy article in JSTOR):

- Lev. 17:7 ***They must no longer offer any of their sacrifices to the goat idols [or to demons] to whom they prostitute themselves. This is to be a lasting ordinance for them and for the generations to come.***

**It goes on to say, from the Jewish Quarterly Review, “The Religion of Israel before Sinai”, In addition**

- When Moses didn’t come down from the mountain as quickly as they expected (and it is a pattern that sin often results from impatience) they turned to:
- Making an idol.
- Engaging in “worship” that included eating, drinking, dancing, and “revelry.”
- An assumption could follow that this was the sort of “worship” they were accustomed to, as it was for many pagan societies.
- ***But this is NOT how God wanted to be worshipped and so He gives them specific instructions on what they are to do.***

### **First, the Tabernacle**

A place where God can physically dwell with His people.

### **Arrangement of the Tabernacle**

- The entire structure was 150 ft. long, 50 ft wide, the Holy and Most Holy Place, 35 ft. long, 15 ft. wide
- A football field is 360 ft. long and 160 ft. wide.

### **The Tabernacle furnishings**

- The Bronze Altar
- The place of the sacrifices.
- Signified the necessity to shed blood for the forgiveness of sins.
- It was a temporary covering, looking ahead to the final sacrifice of Jesus.
- Though there are many passages through the Bible that refer to it, the book of Hebrews in the New Testament is a detailed explanation of how Jesus fulfilled all that what we will talk about in the Tabernacle.

### **The various sacrifices**

- **Sin offering**—for sin, Isaiah 53:10, “the Lord makes his life a guilt offering.” specifically pointing to the life of the Messiah; Matt.20:28- “to give his life as a ransom.”
- Also, as an example of how Christian workers are to be fed from their work. (Cor and Tim. Passages).
- **Burnt offering**—complete sacrifice, as Jesus gave his all and as our lives are to be.
- For believers, Rom. 12:1—our lives completely as sacrifices to God.
- **Grain**—sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13), sharing with others, applicable to all believers then and now.
- **Fellowship**—looking forward to sharing life with Christ, Rev. 3:20—more than just salvation from damnation, but a continuing loving relationship, feasting with God.

### **Other items—Bronze Laver**

The Bronze Laver, the priests had to wash every time they made an offering.

- The essential need of purity for God’s people.
- Going forward, though we are now saved, and a kingdom of priests, we need to be continually cleansed by Jesus.
- Through the Word of God—Christ said, “*Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you*” (John 15:3).
- Jn 13—Jesus’ example of washing the feet of his disciples—an example of continuing servanthood of all believers.
- 1 John 1:9—God’s provision for our sin—when we confess, he then cleanses us.

### **The Gold Lampstand**

- The only source of light in the Tabernacle.
- Jesus as light of the World.
- And we are also commanded to be lights to our world, and not hide our light.

### **The table of Showbread**

- Fine flour speaks of the sinless nature of Christ.
- Jesus identified as the Bread of Life.
- Speaks also of fellowship, and unbelievably how the Lord desires fellowship with us.
- Rev. 3:20—***Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.***

### **Other Items**

- The Altar of Incense—Often referred to as our prayers, a vital part of worship
- The Veil—could not be accessed directly, torn apart after Jesus' death

### **Most significant, the ark of the Covenant, the mercy seat**

- After it was dedicated, only the High Priest could approach it once a year on the Day of Atonement to sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat.
- Most clear representation of the future work of Christ.
- Blood shed, sprinkled on it and God then looks with mercy on covered sins—however, it was only temporary and had to be repeated again and again.
- Hebrews in the New Testament makes clear that the death of Christ was the FINAL sacrifice—the final blood shed.

### **A summary passage, Hebrews 9:11-14**

- But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ***he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.*** <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

### **Other representations of it**

#### **References to the furnishings resembling King Tut treasures—all images from his tomb**

- God uses contemporary styles and skills for His glory.
- His work not a strange otherworldly creation.

### **And then the feasts**

#### **Feasts, in summary, a picture of salvation history to completion**

#### **A little more on the Sabbath, the Sabbath Year, and the Year of Jubilee**

- The underlying truth in all of these is that they were to be times to trust God.
- Ultimately, they are illustrations of Grace—God's totally unmerited favor to us.
- And we express our trust in that by merely being still, resting.
- And that is almost impossible for us to do.

#### **That is ultimately how the Sabbath was fulfilled in Jesus**

- As He is the final solution to all our striving, all our work to make ourselves right with God.
- ***“Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe,” says the old hymn and trusting Him completely for our salvation is the true observance of the Sabbath.***
- And then the meticulous rules are not important, but the object of God's salvation, humanity is—that's why Jesus said it was “for man.”

- Trying to observe all sorts of legalistic rules after Jesus came and fulfilled all the Law looked forward to was/is a denial of His life, death, and resurrection (as the book of Galatians explains in more detail) and why the Jews of today try so hard with their Sabbath observances.
- That's why it was now OK to heal, to do good, to observe a different day of rest, worship, and praise.

#### **What do we learn from all of this**

- These are truly the backstory for Jesus.
- His life, death, resurrection, creation of the church, and return for His people fulfilled and will fulfill what these were pictures of.
- It makes sense to us now—as we see the finished work of Christ, being part of the church, and look forward to his coming return
- But think how different it would have been to them. . . .

#### **Their previous “sacrifices” & “worship” style**

- We mentioned that they “sacrificed to demons” in Leviticus 17:7, sacrifices of fear and pleading for protection—no praise, no thanksgiving.
- When Moses didn't come back for 40 days and they immediately constructed a golden calf and engaged in drunken immorality.
- What kind of religions were these?
- First, one of fear and placating evil spirits
- Second, of serving gods they made, of self-indulgence.

#### **What didn't work then doesn't work now**

- A groveling fear of God or a worship that is all about me and doing what I want to do; what makes ME feel good—
- Neither of these are true worship of our God, (though many try today), in contrast as C.S. Lewis said: *“I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity.”*
- And as ancient Israel couldn't serve God in the ways they wanted, we can't either, again as Lewis says:
- *Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.”*— C.S. Lewis, [Mere Christianity](#)

#### **The amazing thing is that when we give ourselves to God, when we worship as He wants, is when we find what we've always wanted, always longed for**

- *“The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become - because He made us. He invented us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be. . . It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own.”* C.S. Lewis
- *“The mold in which a key is made would be a strange thing, if you had never seen a key: and the key itself a strange thing if you had never seen a lock. Your soul has a curious shape because it is a hollow made to fit a particular swelling in the infinite contours of the divine substance, or a key to unlock one of the doors in the house with many mansions. Your place in heaven will seem to be made for you and you alone, because you were made for it -- made for it stitch by stitch as a glove is made for a hand.”* — C.S. Lewis, [The Problem of Pain](#)
- ***We become what we were created to be, what will make us most happy and fulfilled, when we trust God and follow HIS ways.***

### **In closing from personal application to the theme of the story**

- I trust that in this lesson you caught a glimpse of the unity of the grand story of the Bible.
- How from beginning to end it is the story of the God who loves us beyond all we can imagine, is working out the plot line of redemption for His creation who turned their back on Him and the perfect world He created for them.
- It's about how God worked through the centuries telling the story, bit by bit, assembling a people, His Word, sending His Son to be the final sacrifice, and calling out a people and *that includes you and me to share the story.*
- We are part of the Great Story and my prayer for all of us is that in our words and actions that we share God's story truly and well.

One more note: I highly recommend you check out this lesson:

### **The Bible, Novel or Short Story and why it matters tremendously, now and forever**

Link to the Blog about it on Bible805.com and has links to podcast and video

<https://wp.me/pazrJD-wt>

<https://youtu.be/BHG2nU14Evk> YouTube channel link

#119, Podcast link: <https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/8LLcdy8BDxb>

## QUESTIONS for

### The Backstory of Jesus

#### *Old Testament tabernacle, sacrifices, and festivals*

*Note: use of the word “story” does not mean something made up, but a piece of writing that is in primarily narrative form.*

1. Why is it important for us to understand that the Bible is ONE connected story, not simply a bunch of scattered stories? What does it teach us about God as the Author?
2. In what ways is the Old Testament the preparation and the New Testament the fulfillment of the story of Jesus?
3. What was the worship pattern of the Jewish people like before the Exodus and how overall did God change it after He brought them out of Egypt?
4. Overall, what was the Tabernacle? Name one or two of the furnishings in it and what they represented? How was Jesus the later fulfillment of them?
5. When we worship God and serve Him in the way He wants, what is the big surprise of our life in that?
6. Any other questions or comments you have about today’s lesson?



## Bible as Novel

One story, one coherent plot line

One Author - God  
Infallible, true  
Outside of time

Inspired human authors in the supernatural sense of God speaking through them

The Word of God

Supernatural, miracles and events accepted as reported

Problems in understanding require prayer and patience

Application imperative

## Bible as Short Story Collection

Many stories that are loosely tied together

Multiple human authors, editors, and redactors, fallible and a product of their times

Human authors inspired by God in a non-supernatural sense as anyone is inspired by lofty subject

Contains some words of God, human reason needed to decide

Seemingly supernatural events have natural explanations

Problems in understanding allow human judgement

Application optional