

# The Gospel In Every Story: Introduction

January 8, 2023 P.M.  
West Side Church of Christ  
Searcy, Arkansas  
Nathan Guy

## Scripture Reading

*He promised the good news long ago. He announced it through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures.  
(Romans 1:2 NIrV)*

*Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to  
Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” (Galatians 3:8 NIV)*

I am not the only one doing this.<sup>1</sup> Several texts drive me to do this:

Romans 1:1-4: God announced the gospel through the prophets; Jesus through line of David

I, Paul, am writing this letter. I serve Christ Jesus. I have been appointed to be an apostle. God set me apart to tell others his good news. <sup>2</sup>He promised the good news long ago. He announced it through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. <sup>3</sup>The good news is about God’s Son. He was born into the family line of King David. <sup>4</sup>By the Holy Spirit, he was appointed to be the mighty Son of God. God did this by raising him from the dead. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup>We received grace because of what Jesus did. He made us apostles to the Gentiles. We must invite all of them to obey God by trusting in Jesus. We do this to bring glory to him. <sup>6</sup>You also are among those Gentiles who are appointed to belong to Jesus Christ. (NIrV)

2 Timothy 3:15-17: OT able to make you wise to salvation [Christ]; for doctrine; for righteousness

---

<sup>1</sup> Tim Keller, “Discovering the Gospel In Every Book of the Bible” 2023 Series:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt09ZL1F1Io&ab\\_channel=GospelinLife](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt09ZL1F1Io&ab_channel=GospelinLife)

and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NIV)

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the message about Christ (quoting/relying on OT)

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (NIV)

Luke 24:25-27: Law, Prophets, Writings testify to me

And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Acts 17:1-3: Paul debates on Sabbath, showing from OT that Jesus is the Christ

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” (NIV)

Hebrews 13:8: Jesus the same yesterday, today, and forever

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (NIV)

Even in the earliest books? Yes!

John 5:46-47: Moses wrote of me; call for seeing it

If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

John 8:56: Jesus says Abraham “saw” the day of Jesus

Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.

Galatians 3:8: Gospel was preached to Abraham

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”  
(NIV)

4 Things:

(1) Look for explicit teaching that the first readers, or the New Testament writers saw as referring to Jesus Christ and God’s rescue mission through Him

Example: Moses—one like unto Moses; David—through the line; Isaiah 53 [Jonah-3 days]

(2) Revisit major storylines or themes in scripture that show up in that book, and show how that storyline or theme reveals the gospel

Covenant; Exile; Kingdom; [Jonah: Exile?]

(3) Revisit characters and stories in the text that we often read as moralistic stories about how to be a better person, or how to obey God and re-imagine them as stories about the gospel

David & Goliath; Jonah—rescue mission of grace for all the world

(4) Borrow insights from some imaginative early Christian writers, and the church through the centuries that help us see even the mundane or straight-forward teachings to also give us language for talking about God in Christ creating, suffering for, and then reconciling a powerless and sinful world.

Jonah—Origen or Gregory; creation—in love, in wisdom (Jesus)

You’ll come away with 4 new insights:

(1) You’ll see that God purposed before the foundations of the world to give us the gospel, and it serves as the backdrop and the ultimate story behind every story.

(2) You’ll begin to notice the Trinity—God the sender, God the sent, and God the enabler—in story after story, showing that God is the hero in all of scripture.

(3) You’ll find that what you thought were bedtime stories for kids about why they should obey mommy and daddy are actually the gospel in miniature, and opportunities to go directly to Jesus and the cross even in the bedtime retelling.

(4) You’ll be inspired to use the gospel as a “lens”, which allows you to move from treating the Bible as a rulebook or a constitution that is primarily about us doing better to a story about God at work, a story that inspires us to let God BE at work.