

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 2 – BUT GOD!

February 3, 2026

(TO ADD TO YOUR NOTES: The Hebrew title for the first book of the Bible: *Bereshit* – “In Beginning.” “Salvation” in Hebrew is Yeshua!! JESUS! יֵשׁוּעָה (yēšû‘ā),)

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“BUT GOD”!! God is in control! God has a plan – THE plan! “BUT GOD” is a call to us – for us TO TRUST IN HIM!

Genesis 8:21 – following the flood...*the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth....* BUT GOD!

Our summary from Genesis 1 through Genesis 11 revealed God’s perfect creation marred by man’s sin (Rom. 5:12) – man’s rebellion against God which rapidly spiraled downward. The “enmity” between Satan and man, the ongoing conflict which began in Genesis 3, means “blood feud” (Gen. 3:15)_continued and intensified. BUT GOD! God is in control. God has THE plan – Plan A!

God told Adam and Eve to *be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...* and God told Noah and his sons to *be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth* (Gen. 9:1). We then read about the Tower of Babel. What happened at Babel, in the plain of Shinar? This was Nimrod’s kingdom. Nimrod, a son of Cush, a son of Ham, a son of Noah! Nimrod, whose name means rebellion, was a mighty hunter of men!!

Gen. 11:1-4 - *Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they (the whole earth?) journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³ Then they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴ And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.* We are reading of humanity’s pride and rejection of and rebellion against God!

NOTE: The land of Shinar fits into the one story. Shinar is referenced eight times in the Old Testament (Genesis 10:10; 11:2; 14:1, 9; Joshua 7:21; Isaiah 11:11; Daniel 1:2; Zechariah 5:11), always in connection to the geographical location of Babylon. Shinar fits into the “one story.”

Shinar was the location of the Tower of Babel. Genesis 10:10

Shinar was ruled by a king that Abram fought. Genesis 14:1-3, 8-9.

Shinar was associated with Babylon’s wickedness. Zechariah 5:6-8.

Shinar was the location of Judah’s exile. Because of disobedience and idol worship, the Jews were exiled from their land to Shinar (2 Chronicles 36:15–21).

Shinar is associated with the wicked worship of false gods. In the end times, Babylon the Great is the center of wickedness and demon worship. Revelation 17; Revelation 18:2-3.

Gen. 11:9 - *...from there (from Babel) the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.* Over the face of **ALL** the earth? This idolatrous mindset (exalting themselves) had become a worldview! How was God going to carry out His will from the scattering of an idolatrous worldview among the 70 nations? BUT GOD! HE IS GOD! And, the prideful

rebellion at Babel, with its idolatrous worldview was scattered and was carried into the 70 nations that we read about in Gen. 10!!!!?

CONSIDER: the scattering of these rebellious people from Babel to **all** the nations causes judgment upon Babel's rebellion AND prepares the stage for God's plan to bless all nations through Abraham and, ultimately, the Messiah. YES – Babel's rebellious worldview spreads to the nations, but so does the need for and reach of God's redemptive plan to a multi-lingual, multi-ethnic people – to the nations of the world! *For God so loved the world!*

Does this seem impossible? Judgment and blessing! We're looking at two seeming contradictions! BUT GOD!

AND, what is God's plan? We've already been told (Gen. 3:15). The Redeemer Whom we know as "the Seed of the woman." A woman doesn't have a "seed". Man carries the seed; a woman has an egg. We're understanding a supernatural birth of the Redeemer Who will remove us from bondage to sin.

We need to remember the ongoing conflict between Satan and God – between Satan and man – spiritual warfare.

We need to know: the question of whether Satan (the accuser; the adversary) is an individual being arises frequently in theological discussions. We need to know: Scripture consistently presents Satan as a personal entity rather than a symbol of evil.

Throughout both the OT and NT, passages depict Satan as possessing intellect, will, and the ability to influence human affairs.

Job 1:6 - *Now there was a day when the sons of God (the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them* – which presents to us a direct, personal confrontation. How can Satan come before God? God initiated the meeting, led the proceedings, and remained in absolute control (verse 7). The result was that Satan's power was limited (verse 12) and God was glorified. The book of Job spotlights God's sovereignty – God's absolute authority! Satan is a defeated foe!

Have you ever wondered when the book of Job was recorded – inspired by the Holy Spirit? The book of Job – the cultural and historical features and events place Job after Babel! It appears that Job lived in the 2000 BC timeframe, making him a contemporary of Abraham, Lot, and Isaac. Why is Job, more or less, in the middle of the Hebrew Scriptures? Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are the Ket'uvim in the Hebrew Scriptures – known as the Writings.

The book of Job is "After Babel"...after the people rebel against God. And God puts an end to their hunkering down and NOT filling the earth! God judges the nations and scatters them. Satan is more miffed and attempts to eradicate God's plan! AND SO...the book of Job, which fits into the one story...begins with a scene in heaven that explains everything to us – we who are the readers (Job 1:6-2:10). Job was suffering. God was contesting with Satan and this ongoing conflict with Satan...which Job never knew! Job was ignorant re: his losses, affliction, suffering. Job 19:25-27 tells us that Job yearned for a mediator – an advocate between God and Job, a redeemer. The term "redeemer" in Job 19 is *go'el*, the "kinsman-redeemer." Job's

Redeemer functions as a mediator who can stand in the gap and plead Job's cause. Job 19:25-26 is Job's Holy Spirit-inspired confession that God, his living Redeemer, will ultimately vindicate him. This is resurrection HOPE! At the end of the book of Job, Job rested in nothing but faith in

God's goodness and the hope of His redemption. Job learned to be content in God's sovereignty and mercy! We may not know what is going on in heaven or what God's purposes are, however, we must trust Him and His divine wisdom! What a valuable truth revealed to us in the beginning of the one story which continues throughout the one story of Scripture!

Think of the first tactic of spiritual warfare in Scripture. Satan, because he is a deceiver (Rev. 12:9 - the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels (fallen angels) were cast out with him.) ...Satan attacked God's revelation, God's very words to Adam & Eve. *Has God indeed said you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?* Satan attacked God's goodness and truthfulness – GOD'S TRUTH!! Man's sin is not just rule-breaking but man's sin is siding with Satan's interpretation of God's words – His Word. This is the essence of spiritual conflict in every age. From Gen. 3 onward, Scripture reads human history as a story of two lines: those aligned with Satan and those aligned with the promised Seed!

Back to the nations....and the scattering...how many nations came forth from Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham, Japheth? Seventy nations! These seventy nations are being bombarded with an idolatrous worldview. Seems like a travesty. BUT GOD!!!!

We see the narrowing of Noah's descendants. Gen. 9:26 - Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem. God chose Shem. Why? One of Shem's descendants was Peleg ("division") through whom came Terah - *Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran* (Gen. 11:26). ABRAM!!! God's plan continues to UNFOLD.

Genesis 11:27-32 - *This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram ("exalted father"), Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. (Lot was Abram's nephew) ²⁸ And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. (Ur was the southern part of Babylon [Shinar!]) Babylon is modern day Iraq. Ur was considered "Moon City" – the people were engaged in worshipping the moon god.) ²⁹ Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. ³⁰ But Sarai was barren; she had no child. ³¹ And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. ³² So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.* It appears that they decided to remain in Haran – awaiting the death of Terah. OR...

WHY was their destination Canaan? Who wrote Genesis? Moses – inspired by God. When did Moses write Genesis? On the way to Canaan!!!!??? WHY? What was facing the children of Israel in Canaan following 40 years in the wilderness after the departure from Egypt? What did God promise Abram? Land, among other promises. Who needed to abide in that land? Abram and his descendants! We need to know: Gen. 15:16 – that the sin of the Canaanites at the time the children of Israel reached the land God had promised them...was "complete/full" – had reached the time of judgment!

Gen. 12:1-3 – While still in Haran, God spoke to Abram and family were still in Haran) - *Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse*

him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' There were 70 nations! WHY was there the need for another nation? God's sovereign choice. From where was this nation? GOD CREATED THE NATION OF ISRAEL!

Isa. 43:1 – *But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.*

God called out Abram from the nation of Ur of the Chaldees and directed him to travel to the land He, God, would show him.

Beginning in Genesis 12 going through to Malachi, and beyond, we read of God using this great nation (Israel) that will bless the world!

Q&A

QUESTIONS

What was a V8 moment/an A HA moment to you?

Broadly, how are you understanding this lesson?

How are you understanding "BUT GOD"?

How are the pieces of this lesson fitting into the one story of the Bible?

Had you ever thought about God scattering **all** the people from Babel across all the earth and occupying the 70 nations?

How does "...for God so loved the world" fit into that orchestration on the part of God?

How are you marveling at God?

How are you glorifying God?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 2's lesson with all the Bible references.

Begin or continue journalling re: the Holy Spirit giving you understanding in the "one story" of Scripture.

Pray about sharing this lesson/part of this lesson with someone.

Read Week 3's lesson when you receive it.