

God's Plan Through the Ages - PT II

TIME FRAME: Thirteen Weeks

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Class 1: Meet & Greet, Intro

Class 2: PT 2: Vol 1

Class 3: PT 2: Vol 2

Class 4: PT 2: Vol 3

Class 5: PT 2: Vol 4

Class 6: PT 2: Vol 5

Class 7: PT 2: Vol 6

Class 8: PT 2: Vol 7

Class 9: PT 2: Vol 8

Class 10: Hermanutics PT 1

Class 11: Hermanutics PT 2

Class 12: Hermanutics PT 3

CLASS BREAK DOWN

6:30 - 6:50 Fellowship/Prayer

6:50 - 7:40 Workbook

7:40 - 8:00 Q&A

Vision

We aim to arm the people of God with the Word of God so that in this day of false teaching and attacks on our faith, God's people will be able to see all deception and stand firm on the Word of God. With the Holy Spirit inside every believer and with the Word of God in their hearts, false teaching and blasphemies will be exposed and defeated, and revival in individuals hearts can and will take place.

Mission

In each session will tell a piece of the Progress of Redemption/God's Plan Through the Ages. We want to help people connect the dots of scripture so that they can see that the Bible is not only a book of stories, but it is all one story that points to Jesus and to His everlasting dominion. A handout will be provided for all in attendance to fill in the blanks so that after we tell a piece of the story, we will facilitate discussion for deeper understanding and passion, and for real life application.

PART 2
What God is Saying



What God Is Saying

(Eight Volumes)

Volume 1: Promise

Volume 2: Law

Volume 3: Poetry

Volume 4: Prophets

Volume 5: Gospels

Volume 6: Acts

Volume 7: Letters

Volume 8: Revelation

Epilogue



Volume I: The Promise

Suggested Reading:

Genesis 12:1-9; 13:14-18; 15: 1-21; 17: 1-18;15; 22: 1-19;

Romans 4: 1-15; Galatians 3: 6-14

Part I: What God is Doing (Facts; History; Events; Biography)

Unity: The continual unfolding of the plan (Genesis 12: 1-3), through what God is doing, from the first book of the Bible to the last.

Progress: The different strategies God used (great nation, diaspora, the church, etc.) to push forward His plan.

Part II: What God is Saying (Doctrine; Teaching; Didactic)

Unity: The continual unfolding of the plan (Genesis 12: 1-3), as revealed by God through His teaching, from the first book of the Bible to the last.

Progress: The doctrine of God's plan and purposes grows by becoming both broader and more defined through His revelation.

Eight Volumes: An analysis of the eight major Saying/Teaching/Doctrine sections of the Bible

For Each of the eight volumes we will ask a series of five questions

A Framework of Inquiry

A. Question #1: The Need?

Why does this volume exist? What need does it meet?

B. Question #2: The Content?

What is its content, the nature of its content?

C. Question #3: Progress and Unity?

Is there progress and unity within and between the volumes?

D. Question #4: The Method?

How does God speak in this volume?

What method does He use to communicate?

E. Question #5: Response?

So what? What should our response be?

Question #1: *The Need?*

Question #2: *The Content?*

VOLUME I is full of references to the promise in Genesis 12.

1. On seven occasions, God repeated His promise to Abraham, becoming increasingly detailed with each one. God said “I will...” in 12: 1-3 [5 times]; 12:7; 13:14; 15:1; 17:1; 18:1; and 22:1.
2. On seven other occasions in Genesis, God reiterated the promise to Isaac, Jacob, or Jacob’s sons.
3. There are over 30 other references to the promise in other passages (e.g., Jacob’s prayer in 32:9ff; Joseph’s orders regarding his bones, 50: 24, 25: “God will surely... take you to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”)
4. In summary, the author of Genesis uses the promise as a central theme and seems to select material on that basis.

Six “seeds” ideas express the theme and content of the Promise.

1. I will make of you a great nation.
2. I will bless you.
3. I will make your name great.
4. You will be a blessing to others.
5. Those who bless you will be blessed and those who curse you will be cursed.
6. Through you and your descendants, all the nations/families of the earth will be blessed.

Question #3: *Progress and Unity?*

1. Unity: Everything stems from Genesis 12: 1-3 (which arises from the prologue which introduces the human predicament resulting from sin.)
2. Progress: God speaks progressively, from seeds ideas that grow and develop.

Two examples from Genesis 12-22:

12:1	I will make of you...	... a great nation
12:7	“your descendants”	“this land”
13:14	“like dust of the earth”	“lift up your eyes” “walk length & breadth”
15:1ff	“from your own body” (great numbers) “stars”	“from the river... to...” (specific boundaries) “400 years in Egypt” (time frame)
17:8,19	“Sarah’s child” “mother of nations”	“the whole land of Canaan”
18:14	“next year” (timing)	
22:1	“Isaac”	

Question #4: The Method?

1. We see an example of how God communicated with Abraham in Genesis 18: A “theophany” (visible manifestation of God) over roast veal, biscuits and yogurt!

2. 2 Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8, James 2:23 provide another clue to the method when they call Abraham:

God’s _____!

3. In summary, God spoke to Abraham _____ to _____.

Question #5: Response?

1. How did Abraham respond?

Genesis 15:6 “Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4: 3-25

4:3 “What does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’

4:11 “...he is the father of all who believe...”

4:16 “... the promise come by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed... to those who are of the faith of Abraham.”

4:21-25 “...being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why it was ‘credited to him as righteousness.’ The words, it was credited to him’ were written... for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised for our justification.”

Galatians 3: 6-9

3: 6-9 “Consider Abraham: ‘He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The 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.’ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”

James 2:23

“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God’s friend.’”

2. So, how should we respond: I BELIEVE!! (FAITH)

Review Questions & Concepts: Volume I, The Promise

1. What are the five questions asked of each volume?
2. How prominent was the Promise in Genesis?
3. Describe the progress of the promise to Abraham, “I will make **of you**,” from Genesis 12-22.
4. Describe the progress of the promise to Abraham, “I will make of you **a nation**,” from Genesis 12-17
5. What is the significance of a meal of roast veal, biscuits and yogurt?
6. How is Abraham’s response to the promise used in the New Testament to illustrate what our response ought to be? Include a scripture reference.

Volume I (The Promise) Concepts

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Doing | 7. Unity | 12. 30 others |
| 2. Saying | 8. Progress | 13. Six Seeds |
| 3. Facts | 9. Method | 14. Veal, biscuits, & yogurt |
| 4. Doctrine | 10. Response | 15. Romans 4: 3-15 |
| 5. Need | 11. 7 occasions | 16. Galatians 3: 6-9 |
| 6. Content | 12. 7 more | 17. James 2:23 |

Volume II: The Law

Suggested Reading: Genesis 17:1-2; Exodus 20-24; Galatians 2:11-4:7

Exodus 20ff • Leviticus • Deuteronomy

Question #1: The Need?

1. A multitude came out of Egypt
2. The necessity of the Law

Question #2: The Content?

- 1.
2. Another way to analyze the content is through two interconnected and complex areas: Behavior and Relationships. Within these two areas there are four dimensions to consider:

Outer & Inner:

Horizontal and Vertical:

Positive and Negative:

Moral, Ceremonial and Civil:

3. Examples:	<i>Behavior</i>	<i>Relationships</i>
Exodus 20:	Do not kill, steal, have no other gods	Relating to God and others Relating to God and others
Exodus 25:	build and sanctuary	God will meet with them there
Leviticus:	*operational laws *priest, Levites *sacrifices *feasts, occasions	They came individually and corporately to worship the Lord

Leviticus 25: “If one of your countrymen becomes poor...”

*not for profit

*Help him

*No interest

*Fear God

Question #3: Unity and Progress?

1. Unity: Exodus 20:2 “I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt...”

2. Progress: Bernard, *The Progress of Doctrine in the New Testament*, p. 12

“In the Old Testament, the process is extended, interrupted, often slow and languid, and sometimes so doubtful that it seems like a step backward. Additions are made in different parts and in different ways, at times disguised in earthly forms... Yet through it all the doctrine grows, and the revelation draws nearer to the great disclosure.”

Genesis 17:1

Be blameless...

...Walk before me

Exodus 20

Ten Commandments;
to do, to be

a house
a sanctuary

Exodus 25-40

Exodus 21-24

More details on the Ten
Commandments

“walk” materials;
details on worship
sacrifice

Leviticus

Deuteronomy

The “second” giving of the law
which gives expanded details
and applications.

An emphasis on fellowship;
advice and direction
for our walk with God

Question #4: Method?

1. Not friend to friend, but...

2. As to El Shaddai!

3. Reflection on the Law

Do we have a problem with law; with the law of God?

To check (or adjust) our attitude, it is good to remember the uses of the Law.

- 1) Law is good and necessary. Bad government is better than no government.
- 2) The moral law tells me how I should behave to be like God.
It is a standard for happy, successful living.

3) Note the Bible's attitude toward the law.

Deuteronomy 33:3-4 "Surely it is you who love the people...and from you they receive instruction, the law that Moses gave us, the possession of (heritage) of the assembly of Jacob."

Psalm 119:97, 113, 119, 127, 159, 163, 165, 167 "Oh how I love your law. I meditate on it all day long...I love your law...I love your statutes...I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold...See how I love your precepts...I love your law...Great peace have they that love your law...I follow your commands, I love your statutes, for I love them greatly."

4. But, doesn't the New Testament have a prejudice against the Law?

No! "Law and Grace" is not an Old Testament and a New Testament issue. We see Grace in Genesis 12:2-3 ("I will") and Law in Exodus 20:1-17 ("Thou Shalt")
These two concepts are not in opposition to each other in the Old Testament. Galatians 3 is a commentary on how they operated and cooperated together:

3:1 "O you dear idiots of Galatia!" (Phillips). Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to obtain your goal by human effort? Consider Abraham: 'He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.'

Five Principles on Law and Grace from Galatians 3

Principle # 1: God's way has always and only been by grace through faith!
3:1-14

Promise	Law			
Gen. 12	Ex. 20		Gal. 3	2000
Grace	Law	Grace	Grace	Grace

Principle # 2: The Law did not replace the promise! 15-19

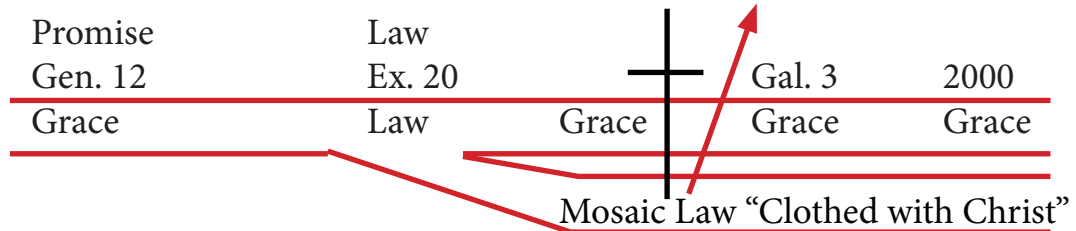
Promise	Law			
Gen. 12	Ex. 20		Gal. 3	2000
Grace	Law	Grace	Grace	Grace

[pro = put along side of] Law

Principle # 3: The Law was “added” because of transgressions. 29:21

Principle # 4: Promise and Law are not opposed; they have different roles. 23-25;
Jas 1:22-25

Principle # 5: The Law of Christ replaces (broadens) the Mosaic law. 26-29;
Romans 8:4



Question #5: Response?

Not, “I believe...,” but...

YES! (SIR!)

Exodus 24:3 “...they responded with one voice, ‘Everthing the Lord has said we will do.’”

Exodus 24:7 “... ‘We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.’”

Deuteronomy 32: 46-47 “When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, he said to them, “Take to heart all the words that I have solemnly declared to you this day, ... They are not just idle words for you — they are your life.”

Review Questions & Concepts: Volume II, The Law

1. Why was the law needed?
2. *The law speaks to two areas of life. What are they and how are they complex?*
3. *Compare the method of God’s speaking and the necessary response in Volume II and Volume I.*
4. The law is a gift from God from my highest good. Explain.

Volume II (The Law) Concepts

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Behavior | 5. Positive/Negative | 9. I love thy Law |
| 2. Relationships | 6. Moral, Civil, etc. | 10. pro = to put alongside |
| 3. Outer/Inner | 7. Genesis 17:1 | 11. Yes; I will |
| 4. God/man | 8. Sovereign | |

Volume III: Poetry

Suggested Reading: Job 40-41; Psalm 73; Proverbs 6; Ecclesiastes 1 SS 1-2

An Overview of the Poetry books

Job • Psalms • Proverbs • Ecclesiastes • Song of Songs

Volume III, unlike Volumes I and II, has little emphasis on historical narrative.

The five Poetry books are different from one another.

As a collection, they are even more different from the Promise and the Law!

A preview of the content

Job

“Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb? Why was I not hidden in the ground like a stillborn child, like an infant who never saw the light of day?” 3:11, 16

“He knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps... But, he stands alone and who can oppose him? he does whatever he pleases... That is why I am terrified before him; when I think of all this I fear him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me.” 23:10,11,13,15

“I know (Lord) that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. you asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I do not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.” 42:1-2

Psalms

“The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?” 27: 1,18

“O Lord..., your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear... I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.” 38: 1,2,4

“I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth will I make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.” 89:1-2

“I lift up my eyes to the hills — where do my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, The Maker of heaven and earth.”
121:1-2

“Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!” His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”
147: 1-2, 10, 11

Proverbs

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. My son, do not go along with them.” 1:7-9, 15

“My son... Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another mans wife.” 6:1, 28

“A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.”
12:16

“Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.” 25:25

“If a man loudly blesses his neighbor in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.”

“A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day.”

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” 27: 14,15,17

Ecclesiastes

“I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind... For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge the more grief.”
1:12-18

“This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes.” 7:29

Song of Songs

“Tell me, you whom I love, where you grace your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday.” 1:7

“How beautiful you are, my darling! O, how beautiful! Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead.”

“Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?” 6:10

Question #1: The Need?

1. The Poetry books are a record of people's experience.

Note the use of personal pronouns. in VOLUME III, it not so much God speaking to people as it is _____ speaking _____ to other people _____.! These books are a record of those who experience promise and grace, and benefit from the law, in the midst of the _____, _____, and _____ of every day life. They are meant to help us internalize what we know of God in order to help us toward a continual _____ experience.

Question #2: The Content?

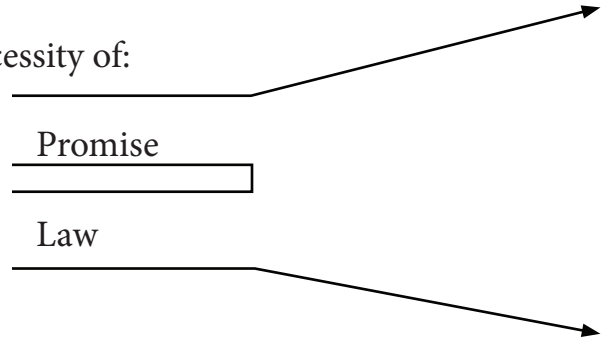
1. “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.” Job 42:5
2. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” Psalm 23:1
3. “There are three things that are to amazing for me, four that I do not understand:
The way of an eagle in the sky,
The way of a snake on a rock,
The way of a ship on the high seas,
and the way of a man with a maiden.” Proverbs 30: 18,19
4. “Of making many books there is no end, and much studying wearies the body.” Ecclesiastes 12:12
5. “The fragrance of your breath is like apples.” Song of Songs 7:8

Question #3: Unity and Progress?

While we can see some aspect of unity and progress in various Poetry books, it is much harder to trace them through than it is in the other volumes.

However, we can say this: there is clearly unity in the sense that all valid experience is based on what God has revealed in Promise and Law.

There is progress in this sense: the necessity of:



Questions #4: Method?

1. In this section of the Bible, God's truth is communicated as we hear from [testimony!] whose who are experiencing a walk with the Lord and who are learning to apply His wisdom in the midst of the joys, struggles, adventures, and sorrows of life [personalized theology].

2. The actual form is poetry, an expressive language of heart experience. "Hebrew Poetry" uses rhyming ideas and strong figurative analogies.

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see him and fear and put their trust in the Lord." Psalm 40: 1-3

Question #5 Response?

THAT'S WHAT I NEED!

Unlike the revelation of events or propositional truth, experience cannot be accumulated. It needs to be fresh on each occasion. There is an indispensable necessity to return — again and again — to our "first love."

Psalm 55: Listen, don't ignore me.

Psalm 69:

Save me!

Psalm 57: Have mercy on me; I take refuge

Psalm 64:

Hear my complaint!

Psalm 62: My soul finds rest...

Psalm 73:

It's not fair!

Psalm 63: Oh God, you are my God, earnestly I seek...

THAT'S WHAT I WANT!

“As a deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for Thee, O God.
My soul thirst for Thee, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?”

Psalm 42

Review Questions and Concepts: Volume III, Poetry

1. How does VOLUME III differ from the previous two volumes?
2. What is the need, method, and appropriate response for Volume III?

Volume III (Poetry) Concepts

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 1. Existential | 4. Personalized Theology | 7. Need |
| 2. Experience | 5. Testimony | 8. Want |
| 3. Promise & Law | 6. Language of the heart | |