

PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 301

KINGDOM NATION

“Laying Hold Of A Prophetic View Of Scripture”

I. Grasping The Big Picture Of Scripture

A. The Bible Is A Story

1. Our School teaches you how to apply fundamental principles that give you a “prophetic view”.

2. We use the term “prophetic” in the Old Testament understanding of the term:

"Well," (Saul's) servant said, "I have one small silver piece. We can at least offer it to the man of God and see what happens!" (In those days if people wanted a message from God, they would say, " Let's go and ask the seer," for prophets used to be called seers.)

1 Samuel 9:8 New Living Translation

3. Anyone can “see” the words written in the Bible...but prophetic people can SEE with an anointing, to “see” in such a way that there is a plain *interpretation* of what God is saying!

4. One of the most fundamental principles in mastering the prophetic view is to see the Bible as a *story*, but a story unlike any other:

- This is God’s story...written by His Spirit through inspired men-the story as God sees it!
- The story has a beginning, a middle, and an end...but the narrative is not written as men write stories, in that there are insertions and interruptions in the narrative. (For example, the 5 “Wisdom” books of the Bible do not promote or add to the overall “story”, but are Divine insertions of Wisdom about life and (in the case of Psalms) how to worship God.
- In the story of Jesus’ pilgrimage on earth, the story is told from 4 different perspectives; but we must remember that the earthly life of Jesus fits into the overall story of God’s dealing with man, and is best understood and appreciated from that perspective!

B. Text And Context

1. In the PV (prophetic view) of scripture, text must always be related to context.

“Any text without a context is a pretext!”

Unknown Source

2. We must learn to constantly relate every text we have in view with its context, and to do this at several levels:

- Take any text in view: A verse, a chapter, or any particular story in the Bible
- Immediate Context: Who is speaking? Whom is being addressed? Where does this passage “fit” in the “Big Picture” of the Bible?
- Larger (Prophetic) Context: What great theme or principle is related to the passage? Where else in scripture is this passage referred to or referenced?
- It’s helpful to see this kind of approach like “Google Earth” on your computer: You “zoom in” and “zoom out” on any particular location as a “micro” or “macro” view is desired. To focus on a verse, chapter, passage or Book of the Bible is a “micro” approach, which is fundamentally good, of course. But the Prophetic student instinctively “zooms out” to seek understanding from a higher perspective! This is how God sees things!

(Working Examples Of Employing These Principles Are In Your Homework)

B. The Placement Of The Pentateuch In The Canonical Order

1. The first five books of the Old and New Testament are the each, in their turn, the fundamental foundation for the rest of the Testaments they introduce.

2. In each case, they are primarily *historical*.

3. In each case, there are 5, the number of GRACE.

4. While the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old is clearly established in the New Testament, especially the Book of Hebrews, the Old Testament is foundational and indispensable to a proper understanding of the New Testament!

- The indispensable foundation of the old:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

- The superiority and transcendent nature of the New, a fulfillment of the Old!

But now (after His resurrection) He (Christ) has obtained *a more excellent ministry*, by how much also *he is the mediator of a better covenant*, which was established upon better promises.

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.
Hebrews 8:6-7 KJV

5. The monumental error of Dispensational Theology is its trivialization of the Old Testament and the discontinuity inherent in its interpretational approach.

6. The Pentateuch is not only the foundation of the Old Testament, but by extension, of the entire Bible!*

**See the 201 Course which focuses on Genesis, the “seed plot” of the Bible.*

C. The Pentateuch And The Prophetic View

1. The Pentateuch is the term used to define the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

a. The term is from two Greek words, “pente” meaning “five” and “teuchos” meaning “book”

2. These five books are referred to in the rest of scripture in several ways:

- The Law
- The Law of Moses
- (And later), as the Torah

3. The Prophetic approach to the Bible re-establishes the importance of the Old Testament, especially the Pentateuch, as fundamental to a proper understanding of the Bible, since we see it as the “BEGINNING OF THE STORY”!

**What kind of understanding would we have the plot of a movie if we came in 30 minutes after it started? If the movie is a story, or narrative, (as opposed to a documentary), a proper understanding of the beginning is fundamental to making sense of the middle and the end!*

4. The prophetic view of the Pentateuch is not unique to this Bible School—it is often found in the better “surveys” or “overview” books written about the Bible. One of the best is J. Sidlow Baxter’s, *“Explore The Book”**. Baxter sees the Pentateuch as the “Bible in miniature”:

Genesis-Ruin, brought on through the sin of man.
Exodus: Redemption, by blood and power
Leviticus: Communion, on the grounds of atonement.
Numbers: Direction, guidance by the will of God.

Deuteronomy: Destination, through the faithfulness of God.
From *"Explore The Book"*, by J. Sidlow Baxter, Zondervan Publishing

a. Throughout Baxter's book, his prophetic understanding of the Bible is tremendous, and gives the student a multitude of such insights.

5. The redemptive story is certainly found in the Pentateuch, and models the journey of the believer:

In Genesis, we see how we all begin, as the sinful descendants of Adam. In Exodus, we can see a model of God's sovereign deliverance from our bondage to sin. In Leviticus, we see a model for how God communes with His redeemed people. In Numbers, we see God's guidance for His people through the wilderness of this world. And in Deuteronomy, we see the pattern of "dominion by covenant", how God's destiny for us is accomplished through faith and obedience!

II. Our Theme For This Course: Kingdom Nation

A. Connecting The Dots

1. The heart of the prophetic view of scripture is the student's ability to "connect the dots", the skill of taking various verses or passages of scripture and fitting them together for greater meaning.

2. Certain New Testament passages beg clearly beg the disciples to do so:

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, *"Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?"*
John 3:3-11 NASB (Emphasis Added)

- Jesus here introduces the term, "born again", and gently rebukes Nicodemus as a "master" or "teacher" in Israel and yet did not understand what Jesus was saying...surely this clearly implies that the doctrine of regeneration ought not to have been seen as some "new" teaching! While the term might have been new, the concept of a "new heart" toward God ought to have been familiar territory for teachers who knew their Old

Testament and should have been able to connect the dots of being born again and passages such as Deuteronomy 30:6, Psalm 51:10, Jeremiah 24:7, 31:33, 32:39-40, Ezekiel 11:19, 18:31, 36:26!

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

John 5:39 KJV

- The only “scriptures” in existence at the time of this speaking was the Old Testament, the “Law and the Prophets”-which means that Jesus was rebuking the religious leaders of His day for their failure to see HIM and identify Him as their Messiah based on the Word of God already given them!

25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:25-27 KJV

- After the resurrection, Jesus appears walking alongside two of His disciples who didn’t recognize Him! He calls them “fools” who are “slow to believe”...and then proceeds to open the Old Testament scriptures and, beginning in the Pentateuch, show them where He was revealed! He was AMAZED they could not “connect the dots” between the Old Testament prophecies, (especially of His suffering and sacrificial atonement), and the recent events of His death, burial and resurrection.

B. Kingdom Nation

1. In our 301 course, we’re going to “connect the dots” on one of the most important themes of scripture: God’s sovereign purpose in creating a unique, identifiable “nation” of people who would glorify Him as a witness to the entire world.

2. This “Big Picture” is found in “seed form” in the Garden of Eden, becomes clearer in the call of Abraham, clearer yet in the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, and clearest of all in their establishment as a Nation at Mount Sinai.

3. The fullness of the picture is revealed in the revelation of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Church as the fulfillment of God’s holy purpose from before the foundation of the world.

4. The mind-boggling impact of this revelation to the Church of our day has the power to produce a new reformation and a revolution for the purposes of God in the world. So let’s begin.

III. Conclusion: An Introduction To God's "Kingdom-Nation"

A. Connecting the Dots Of The Kingdom Nation

"For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed." 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone," 8 and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:6-10 NASB

1. The Apostle Peter, writing here in one of the "Hebrew epistles", (letters to all believers but primarily addressed to Jewish Christians), EXPECTED his listeners to "connect the dots" of what he was saying with an Old Testament passage, spoken to Israel!

"And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shall thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shall speak unto the children of Israel.

Exodus 19:3-6 KJV

"Today the Lord your God has commanded you to obey all these decrees and regulations. So be careful to obey them wholeheartedly. You have declared today that the Lord is your God. And you have promised to walk in his ways, and to obey his decrees, commands, and regulations, and to do everything he tells you. The Lord has declared today that you are his people, his own special treasure, just as he promised, and that you must obey all his commands. 19 And if you do, he will set you high above all the other nations he has made. Then you will receive praise, honor, and renown. You will be a nation that is holy to the Lord your God, just as he promised."

Deut 26:16-19 New Living Translation

2. The striking similarity in the language of these two passages ought grip the hearts and minds of every Christ-follower and open the door of our understanding to one of the most powerful truths in scripture:

God's Decree: One Holy Nation

The redemption of God's elect, one "holy" (spiritual) nation, chosen before the foundation of the world, was God's express, immutable and consistent purpose in both the Old and

New Testaments...a decree that must surely come to pass because it is the sovereign will of God!

3. The implications of this truth are incredibly broad and relevant:

- **We can never rightly understand the “Church” without understanding the call and history of Israel**
- **We can never rightly understand Israel and the Old Testament without the completion of the revelation of God’s purpose in the Church and in the New Testament**
- **Our full acquaintance with the history, purpose and destiny of God’s “Kingdom-Nation” is indispensable to the advancement of the Kingdom of God and the fulfillment God’s purposes before the 2nd coming of Christ**

4. Only those holding a “prophetic view” of scripture have any hope of escaping the spiritual blindness of dispensational theology and recapturing God’s unchanging vision for His redeemed people...a “Kingdom-Nation” unique among the nations of the world...promoted and exalted by God to express a living testimony to His saving power and Truth.

(Would Jesus, if He came back today, rebuke the Church for its failure to connect the dots?)

5. Peter’s purpose-statement must be traced back to the very ROOTS of Israel, to the man scripture calls “the father of all them that believe”, even Abraham and his spiritual descendants, the chosen people of God, the subject of our next class.