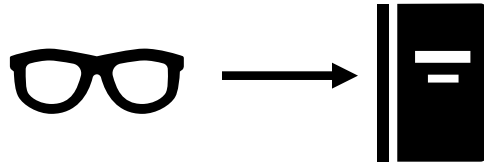


THE KINGDOM OF GOD I: The Kingdom of God in the Old Testament

Discuss this:

Why are there are so many different understandings of what the Bible means and teaches?



- What are some of the lenses through which people today read the Bible?
- What are the lenses through which Jesus would have read the Bible?

Discuss this:

How can we come to see the way that Jesus understood the story of the world told in the Bible?

How can we come to understand the Bible in the way that He did?

Discuss this:

What was Jesus's gospel?

What is the gospel that people often hear today?

(WE WILL DISCUSS THIS PAGE IN CLASS TOGETHER)

Four Spiritual Laws

1. LAW ONE

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

2. LAW TWO

Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore , he can not know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

3. LAW THREE

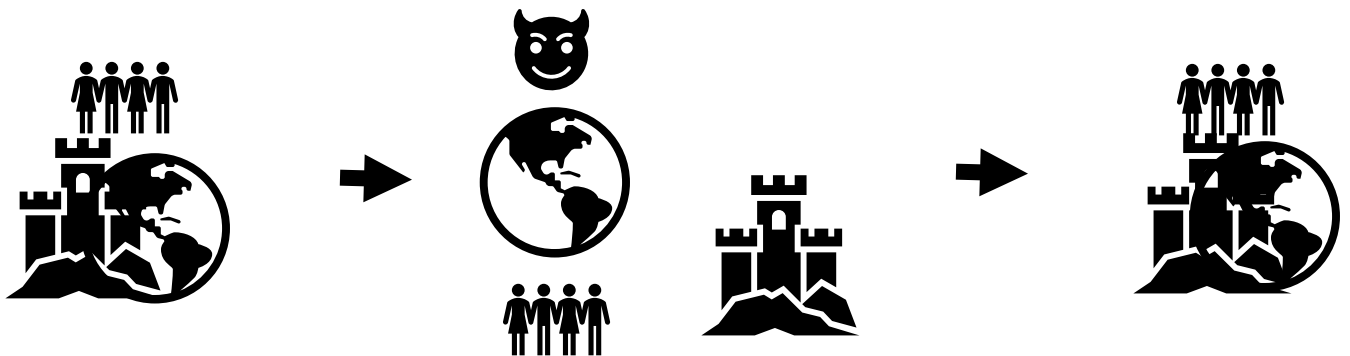
Jesus Christ is God's **ONLY** provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

4. LAW FOUR

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.



Vs.



1. Heaven

Discuss this:

What is “The Kingdom of God?”

What is “The Kingdom of Heaven?”

Discuss this:

Who is in Heaven?

What are they doing there?

Discuss this:

Where is Heaven? Is it far away from Earth somewhere?

“Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” Genesis 28:16.

“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:16-17.

2. The Creation

Discuss this:

Why did God make a physical creation? Why not just make Heaven and leave things at that?

Discuss this:

At the very start of things, what was the relationship of the Kingdom of God to His creation?

Discuss this:

What does it mean that people are made “*in God’s likeness*” and “*in God’s image*?”

Discuss this:

What is God’s grand intention for humanity?

*Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill the Earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.***” Genesis 1:28

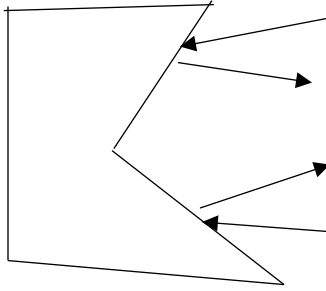
*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work it and take care of it.***
Genesis 2:15

*What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him?*

*You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor
and put everything under their feet.*

Psalms 8

Why does N.T. Wright compare God's intention to humanity to an angled mirror?



We are to be *a royal priesthood* (1 Peter 2:9).

Discuss this:

Why does the Bible say that God had Adam name the animals?

Discuss this:

Why is the whole idea of “God’s perfect will for you” deeply problematic?

Discuss this:

When humanity fails to rule rightly, truly, on God’s behalf, why doesn’t He intervene and stop them?

How did humanity end up giving up their rule of the world to Satan?

The whole World is under the control of the evil one. 1 John 5: 19

2 Corinthians (4:4) describes Satan as “The god of this age”

*The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the World. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; **it has been given to me,** and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.” Luke 4 (verses 5-6)*

Discuss this:

Has God’s grand intention for humanity changed, or is it still the same as it was in the beginning?

“God is going to fulfill, He is fulfilling, His original purpose. God will dwell among humanity, as we reign over His creation.”

(END OF AUDIO SEGMENT ONE)

(START OF AUDIO SEGMENT TWO)

3. : The Jewish Project

Discuss this:

After humanity's rebellion, what did God do to get His original purpose back on track?

Discuss this:

What were the Jewish people supposed to accomplish?

Discuss this:

What was the significance of the tabernacle/temple?

Discuss this:

Were the Jews successful or unsuccessful in their appointed role?

Abraham is the father of all who believe. Romans 4:16.

Israel was supposed to be *a light to the nations* says Isaiah, (*Isaiah 49:6.*), but he notes that, *God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.*" 52:5

Discuss this:

What did God do to try and get the Jewish people back on track?

*For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!
Ezekiel 18:32*

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.” Isaiah 49:15

Did it work?

[God’s chosen people] are hard hearted, their ears are closed up Isaiah (6:10)

What form does God’s discipline of Israel take? How is this similar to the form God’s discipline takes for us today?

Discuss this:

What was the significance of the Jewish exile, and the destruction of the temple?

Discuss this:

What happened when the exile was ended and the second temple was built?

Discuss this:

Why was there “radio silence from upstairs” for hundreds of years?

Discuss this:

Why did the Jews fail time and time again?

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9-10

4. : Why did God choose the Jews?

Discuss this:

Why did God choose the Jews, if He knew ahead of time that they would fail?

Discuss this:

Despite appearances to the contrary, the project of Israel was not, in the end, a failure. Israel had a purpose. And its purpose was fulfilled

Discuss this:

Why didn't God send Jesus sooner in Jewish history?

At the right time, God sent His Son, says Galatians (4:4).

What made the time that Jesus came, "the right time?"

5.: Why did God choose the humanity to rule the Earth in the first place?

Discuss this:

Why did God choose the humanity to rule, if He knew ahead of time that they would all fail (Adam/Eve, Jews and Gentiles alike?)

Discuss this:

What is “The Divine Conspiracy?”

Discuss this:

Given human sin and folly, how is it possible that God will have His creation beautiful, perfect AND He will have it ruled by a free humanity?

Discuss this:

“Divine Providence” means that God is in control of, and is directing history, toward a wonderful end. And yet, humans really are running the world,

How can both of these things be true?

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
“Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?”
“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?”
For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11: 33-36)*

Discuss this:

We, who are the problem, end up as the beneficiaries of all of the efforts of Divine providence! How can that be?

Discuss this:

Paul saw that not only the good, but also the wicked actions of God's creatures were consistently being used to a good end. Evil defeats itself. Evil is always redirected, by God, to a good end. How can that be?

Joseph to his brothers: *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.* Genesis 50:20.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28.

Discuss this:

How is the cross "the supreme example of God's subversion of evil?"

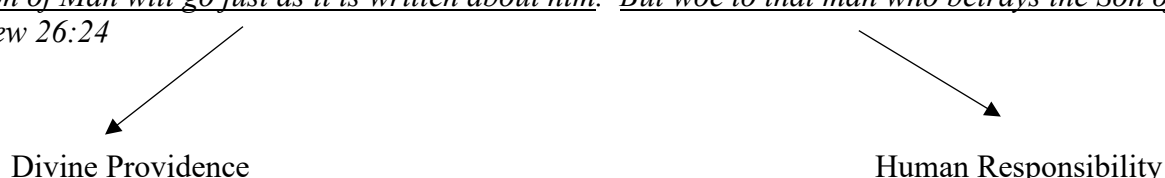
Discuss this:

Nothing that has happened to you, or that will happen to you, good, bad, or otherwise, surprises God. It was all taken into account ahead of time when He made His wonderful plan for your life. The plan that He is right now working out, through the free decisions that you make.

Discuss this:

Doesn't that just let everyone off the hook? After all, who cares what we do, bad or good, if God will work it all out in the end?!

The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man!
Matthew 26:24



Divine Providence

Human Responsibility

What would have happened if Adam and Eve and the Jews and the Gentiles and everyone else had never sinned?