

The Bible Story in Six Words



Stephen Grasso, September 2026

The Bible is big ‘library’. It’s a library of **66 books**, compiled by **40 human authors**, over a period of **1,500 years**, in **3 different languages** (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) and on **3 continents** (Africa, Asia and Europe).

Together, the *books* in the Bible library tell just **ONE story**. From the first book (Genesis) to the last book (Revelation) we read a coherent, exciting story of God acting to gather his people, to his place, to enjoy him and each other forever. God is the main actor in the Bible story. So us listening as God ‘speaks’ through the Bible, will help us make best sense of his story. Reading the Bible on its own terms like this is called ‘Biblical Theology’. We’ll be paraphrasing the LICC¹ approach to Biblical Theology. Other approaches include ‘God’s Big Picture’² and ‘GPS’.³

If we fly a helicopter over the Bible story, we could see God’s story in 6 main acts:

Creation → Corruption → Covenants → Christ → Church → Consummation

These 6 acts are useful sign-posts along the Bible story road, helping us understand what God is doing along the way. These sign-posts also help us to understand how individual books in the Bible library relate to the main story.

Along the way, we’ll drop some ‘**Bible road-markers**’ **▲**. These will help us find the 6 sign-posts in the Bible for ourselves as we read along. Do stop off along the way at key ‘historical sites’ given by Bible references, eg. *Luke 24:13–35* (do look this one up!)

Ready for our road trip? Let’s go! (Track your trip: <https://the.kru.cx/gps>)

¹Antony Billington et al., *Whole Life, Whole Bible: 50 Readings on Living in the Light of Scripture* (Abingdon: BRF, 2012).

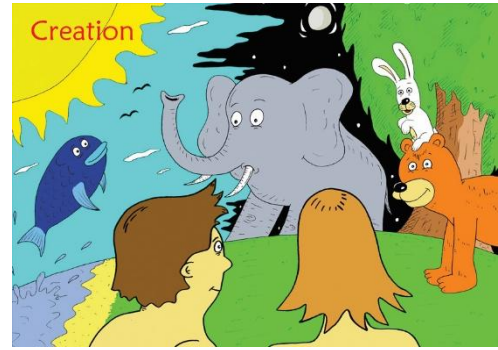
² Vaughan Roberts, *God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Story-Line of the Bible* ([Rev. ed].; Nottingham: Inter-Varsity Press, 2009).

³ Allan Leslie Chapple, *GPS: God’s Plan for Salvation* (Sydney South, NSW: Aquila Press, 2012).

Bible road-marker: Genesis chapters 1–11

1. Creation:

God the Father, eternally loving God the Son (Jesus) in the joy of God the Holy Spirit, out of the cascading overflow of their eternal love and joy, with lavish generosity, made the whole universe, and us, to know and enjoy Him forever. (*Genesis 1:1–2; John 1:1–3, 12*)



The Bible reveals God as the good and loving creator of the world, and therefore the ruler and king of the world. God created humanity and put us in charge of the world as his image-bearers, under God's good authority. So, in the beginning, God created an extraordinary and beautiful world, and people to enjoy God and the world they are to care for. And it was *very good*. (*Genesis 1:31, 2:15–16*)

2. Corruption:

Alas, the goodness is tainted. We humans rebelled against God, committing cosmic treason by defying God's authority, rejecting the good God who made us, and declaring ourselves to be in charge. This rebellious attitude is what the Bible calls 'sin', and we inherit that attitude from Adam, the first human and our federal head.

Everything broke. Being one with Adam, all of us justly die. (*Genesis 2:17, 3:1–12, 6:5–6, 11:1–9; Romans 5:12*)



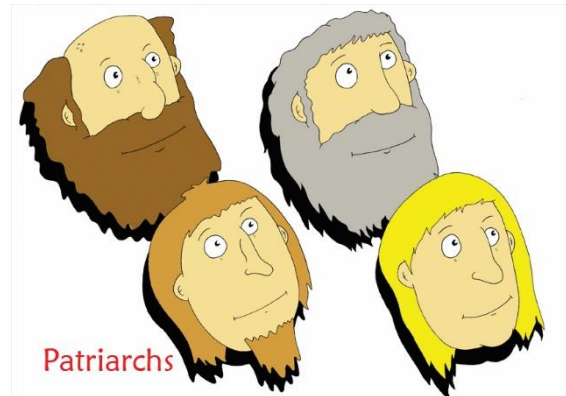
With our spiritual umbilical to God severed by sin, human relationships also broke and the world itself became a mixed and hard place. But God is too good and too just to let rebels and the effects of rebellion continue indefinitely. We cannot save ourselves. Can we jump across the Great Australian Bite, or throw rocks and hit the moon? God alone can save us. (*Genesis 3:16–19; 3:15; Psalm 14; Romans 5:6–8, 15–19*)

人 Bible road-marker: Genesis 12 – Malachi **(the rest of the 'Old Testament')**

3. Covenants:

God begins to save humanity, making *covenants*, contracts of love, with a chosen people – starting with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The chosen people and their leaders continually *break* the covenants, like an unfaithful spouse. They are eventually divided and estranged from their homeland.

But God remains faithful. All of God's solemn promises, faithfully fulfilled by God in the land of Judah in the Old Testament, have their final and fullest fulfillment in Jesus. (*Genesis 12:1–3; Genesis 15; 1 Chronicles 16:15–18, 17:7–15; Judges 21:25; Jeremiah 11:1–17; Psalm 2; Psalm 110; Isaiah 53; Jeremiah 31:31–34; Joel 2:28–32*)



人 Bible road-marker: The Biographies of Jesus written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

4. Christ:

At the right time in history, because of his love and faithfulness, God stepped into creation as one of us, to finally save us. Jesus of Nazareth, a new federal head, a new Adam, was born of a woman, lived the life of perfect obedience and righteousness that Adam did not, and we *cannot* live. He then willingly died in our place. He bore the

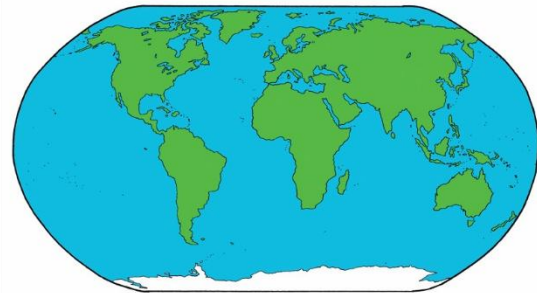
punishment that *our treason* rightly deserved. *This is the high-point of the Story: Jesus died as our substitute, "the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God"* (1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:6–10). On a Roman cross, Jesus died a shameful death. He was buried. Three days later he rose from the dead. His resurrection – attested to by many reliable witnesses – *proved* that Jesus is Messiah, God's promised and anointed King. It proved he had fully paid the ransom that sets *us* free from sin and the judgment and eternal death sin leads to – opening the way to eternal *life* for all who trust him. (*Matthew 1, 20:1–19; Mark 1:14–15, 8:27–31; Luke 23–24; John 3, 5:18–29, 20; 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; Colossian 2:13–15; Hebrews 2:14–18*)



Bible road-marker: Acts – Jude

5. Church:

Christians are the ‘church’, a people who have simply turned away from being their own lord, turned away from their own way of saving themselves, and turned to the risen King Jesus, trusting in him and his mercy. Trusting Jesus as Lord we receive forgiveness of our rebellion (sin), the gift of his Holy Spirit, eternal life, and a place in his Kingdom. Those who trust Jesus live under a *new* covenant in Christ, adopted by God as daughters and sons – an international community, a living temple of God’s presence, with God’s law written on their hearts.



Gospel to the Nations

The good news is that through Jesus, our new federal head, the fullness of God and God’s good Kingdom is now available to anyone, anywhere, from any background. (*Acts 1:1–8, 2:1–41, 10:1–48; Romans 5, 8; Ephesians 2:1–22; Hebrews 8; 1 Peter 1; Jude 24–25*)

Bible road-marker: Revelation

6. Consummation:

Jesus promised to return at the end of time, completing the establishment of his Kingdom, remaking the universe and resurrecting our bodies. All humanity will individually stand before King Jesus to be judged, giving an account of their lives. Those who have remained rebellious against him will be shut out of his good presence, his people and his kingdom, suffering death and everlasting ruin. Those who have trusted in Jesus as their King and Saviour, will enjoy everlasting life with God in his new creation forever. (*Revelation 1:1–8, 5:1–14, 21–22*)



New Creation!

The Bible tells **one story** – *God saves sinners*. God saves a people, to enjoy him forever, in a *new* creation. Are you one of them? Look to Jesus, the King of the story. Trust him today and *live*!

Credits:

Matthias Media – “The Essential Jesus”

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