

THE BIBLE'S GREAT STORY

The Bible is a large book made up of many books written over about 1500 years. Although it is a diverse set of literature, it tells a remarkably unified story that leads to Jesus. There is one main plot line weaving the books together. As we read through the Bible, it's helpful to understand where we are in relation to this central great story.



Creation

God creates the cosmos and appoints humans, who are his image-bearers, to oversee and care for the world.



Rebellion

Humans rebel against God's good order. This leads to disaster as humans' relationships with God, with each other, and with the earth are all broken.



Covenant

God makes a covenant promise to Abraham's family to bring them into a land where they will become a nation that will bless the world. This imperfect family becomes slaves in Egypt. God raises up Moses, defeats evil, and enters into a covenant relationship with the nation of Israel, Abraham's descendants.



Homeland

Israel enters the promised land but they soon dramatically fail at being the People of God. The book of Judges describes this as a time when "Everyone did what was right in their own eyes."



Kingdom

Israel asks for and receives a king, and the first Israelite king completely fails. Even their best kings, like David, mess up. Eventually Israel's leaders ruin the nation, and they are conquered by Babylon.



Exile

Most of the Israelites are dragged to Babylon. A few prophets warn the Israelites of their sins, and point to a great hope that God will one day return to live among his people and restore them to be his people.



Return

Many Israelites return to their homeland. They have some success alongside moral failures. They are not yet the transformed people of God, and they continue to hope for a full restoration.



Jesus

Jesus means "God with us," and he is the point of the whole story. He is the true human, the perfect priest, and the faithful king who has been hoped for from the start. He defeats humanity's evil by letting it defeat him and then rising from the dead.



Church

After Jesus' resurrection, his followers receive the Holy Spirit and announce that Jesus is King. They start an international family of God.



Future

Our hope is in the return of Jesus, when all things will be made new, evil will be defeated for good, and humans who submit to his love will be invited to participate in caring for his good world.

Adapted from *The Story of the Bible* by The Bible Project