

Scripture Summary

How To Read The Bible Through The Jesus Lens - Michael Williams

How To Read The Bible Book By Book - Gordon Fee, Douglas Stuart

1. Read the theme of (the book from which the text is taken.)
2. Read (text)
3. How is creation, fall, redemption and recreation revealed in this text?
4. How does the Holy Spirit use this text to point you to Jesus?
5. Which part of the Bible's story is most clearly heard in this text, creation, fall, redemption or recreation?
6. How do you fit into the story of redemption through this text?

1. Genesis:

Theme: God separates out one through whom He would bless all nations

Date: Creation through 1600 BC

Author: Moses

Key Verse: Genesis 12:2-3

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

2. Exodus

Theme: God delivers His people from slavery into His presence

Date: 1600 through 1406 BC

Author: Moses

Key Verse: Exodus 29:46

They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

3. Leviticus

Theme: God instructs His people how to live in His presence

Date: Around 1440 BC

Author: Moses

Key Verse: Leviticus 20:26

You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

4. Numbers

Theme: God chastens His disobedient people but reaffirms His intent to bring them into the Promised Land.

Date: 1446 through 1406 BC

Author: Moses

Key Verse: Numbers 14:18

The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.'

Song Link: Michael Card – Lift Up The Suffering Symbol

5. Deuteronomy

Theme: God gives Moses instructions for the second generation of Israel regarding faithful living in the Promised Land

Date: Around 1406 BC

Author: Moses

Key Verse: Deuteronomy 10:12-13

Now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

6. Joshua

Theme: God uses Joshua to lead His people to victorious rest in the Promised Land

Date: 1406-1375 BC

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: Joshua 11:23

Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

7. Judges

Theme: God raises up judges to rescue His errant people from the consequences of their rebellion

Date: 1375-1050

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: Judges 2:16-17

Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. Unlike their fathers, they quickly turned from the way in which their fathers had walked, the way of obedience to the LORD's commands.

8. Ruth

Theme: God's love through Ruth and Boaz fills Naomi's emptiness by providing her with food and a son

Date: Around 1100 BC

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: Ruth 4:14-15

The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age.

Song Link: Nicole Nordeman and Amy Grant – I'm With You

9. 1 Samuel

Theme: God exalts the weak and humbles the proud

Date: 1105-1010 BC (written after the Babylonian exile)

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: 1 Samuel 2:7-8

The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.

10. 2 Samuel

Theme: The effects of obedience and disobedience of the anointed king

Date: 1010-970 BC (written after the Babylonian exile)

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: 2 Samuel 23:3,4

The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: 'When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.'

11. 1 Kings/ 2 Kings

Theme: God expels Israel and Judah from His presence in the Promised Land when their kings turn away from the Torah

Date: 970-586 BC (written after the Babylonian exile)

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: 2 Kings 17:20

Therefore the LORD rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence.

13/14. 1 Chronicles/ 2 Chronicles

Theme: God encourages post-exile Israel by means of an account of Davidic kings who acknowledge the Lord's Rule

Date: 1000 - 589 BC (written after the Babylonian exile)

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:17-18

As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.'

15. Ezra

Theme: God brings the exiles back to Jerusalem and directs that His temple be rebuilt

Date: 539-430 BC

Key Verse: Ezra 1:3

Author: Unknown (perhaps Ezra)

Anyone of his people among you—may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem.

16. Nehemiah

Theme: God moves the returned exiles to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem

Date: 432:430 BC

Author: Unknown (perhaps Ezra)

Key Verse: Nehemiah 2:17

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."

17. Esther

Theme: God providentially provides Esther and Mordecai to bring Israel deliverance from her enemies

Date: 486-465 BC

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: Esther 4:14

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

18. Job

Theme: God is active in areas and realms beyond our understanding

Date: Somewhere around 1500 BC

Author: Unknown

Key Verse: Job 42:3

You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

19. Psalms

Theme: God the Great King provides the words of lament and praise that are appropriate responses to Him.

Date: Songs from 1000-400 BC

Author: attributed to David, Asaph, the sons of Korah, Solomon, Jeduthun, Heman, Etan, and Moses

Key Verse: Psalm 1:6

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

20. Proverbs

Theme: God has placed an order in creation to which we should pay attention in order to live wisely

Date: Compiled from 1000-686 BC

Author: Agur, King Lemuel, Solomon, and a group called "the wise"

Key Verse: Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

21. Ecclesiastes

Theme: God prompts the Teacher to question the purpose of life

Date: Unknown - perhaps around 940 BC

Author: perhaps Solomon

Key Verse: Ecclesiastes 12:13

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

22. Song of Songs

Theme: God depicts intimate human love as a gift and also as a key to understanding His own love for His people

Date: Unknown - perhaps around 9:40 BC

Author: perhaps Solomon, but more likely the author is unknown

Key Verse: Song of Songs 8:7

Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

23. Isaiah

Theme: The Holy One of Israel challenges His people to respond appropriately to His presence among them.

Date: 740-687 BC

Author: Isaiah, a prophet

Key Verse: Isaiah 42:1

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.

24. Jeremiah

Theme: God promises His people a new covenant beyond the necessary exile

Date: 627-585 BC

Author: Jeremiah, a prophet

Key Verse: Jeremiah 31:33

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

25. Lamentations

Theme: God's loving compassion and faithfulness are present even during the cataclysmic destruction of Jerusalem

Date: 586-575 BC

Author: Unknown, perhaps Jeremiah

Key Verse: Lamentations 3:22-23

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

26. Ezekiel

Theme: God's presence is the key to life

Date: 593-571 BC

Author: Ezekiel

Key Verse: Ezekiel 37:5

This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.

27. Daniel

Theme: God asserts His authority over human kingdoms

Date: around 520 BC

Author: Daniel

Key Verse: Daniel 2:20-21

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

28. Hosea

Theme: A faithful God contends with His unfaithful people

Date: 758-722 BC

Author: Hosea

Key Verse: Hosea 1:2

When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD."

29. Joel

Theme: The day of the Lord is coming and brings judgment before restoration

Date: perhaps around 590 BC

Author: Joel

Key Verse: Joel 1:15

Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

30. Amos

Theme: God judges His people for their social injustice

Date: around 760 BC

Author: Amos, a farmer

Key Verse: Amos 5:24

Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

31. Obadiah

Theme: God will avenge Edom's mistreatment of Israel

Date: 586 BC

Author: Obadiah

Key Verse: Obadiah 10

Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.

32. Jonah

Theme: The Sovereign Lord's compassion extends beyond Israel

Date: around 750 BC

Author: Unknown, perhaps Jonah

Key Verse: Jonah 4:2

That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity

33. Micah

Theme: God will punish His rebellious people, but promises future salvation

Date: between 740-686 BC

Author: Micah

Key Verse: Micah 7:18

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

34. Nahum

Theme: The Lord is sovereign over all and will judge Nineveh

Date: around 620 BC

Author: Nahum

Key Verse: Nahum 1:7-8

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness.

35. Habakkuk

Theme: God is my only comfort in life and in death in a world of seemingly unchecked evil

Date: Between 612 and 599 BC

Author: Habakkuk

Key Verse: Habakkuk 3:19

The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.

36. Zephaniah

Theme: God announces to Judah the approaching day of the Lord

Date: 640-609 BC

Author: Zephaniah

Key Verse: Zephaniah 2:3

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands.

Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

37. Haggai

Theme: God directs His people to give priority to Him and His house, and so to be blessed

Date: 520 BC

Author: Haggai

Key Verse: Haggai 1:8

Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD.

38. Zechariah

Theme: God uses apocalyptic, eschatological imagery to encourage His people to complete the building of the temple

Date: around 520-490 BC

Author: Zechariah

Key Verse: Zechariah 1:16

Therefore, this is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,' declares the LORD Almighty.

39. Malachi

Theme: When He comes to judge, God will spare those who honor Him

Date: perhaps around 460 BC

Author: Malachi

Key Verse: Malachi 3:7

Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

40. Matthew

Theme: Jesus is the new Moses who reinterprets Torah

Date: around AD 0-33

Author: Mathew (Levi), a former tax collector

Key Verse: Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

41. Mark

Theme: Jesus is the suffering Son of Man

Date: around AD 30-33

Author: John Mark

Key Verse: Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

42. Luke

Theme: The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost

Date: around AD 0-33

Author: Luke, a doctor

Key Verse: Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

43. John

Theme: Jesus, the Word, is God

Date: around AD 30-33

Author: John

Key Verse: John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God

44. Acts

Theme: God expands and empowers His church through the Spirit

Date: around AD 33-62

Author: Luke

Key Verse: Acts 1:8 - You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

45. Romans

Theme: Through Christ, God brings His chosen ones from death to life

Date: AD 57

Author: Paul

Key Verse: Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

46. 1 Corinthians

Theme: God gives guidance to the spiritually gifted but immature Corinthian church

Date: AD 55

Author: Paul

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:3

You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

47. 2 Corinthians

Theme: God directs Paul to explain and vindicate his apostolic authority while encouraging the generosity of the Corinthian church

Date: AD 55

Author: Paul

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 2:17

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

48. Galatians

Theme: God calls for rejecting the legalistic demands of the Judaizers and embracing the gospel of grace

Date: probably AD 48

Author: Paul

Key Verse: Galatians 2:16

a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ

49. Ephesians

Theme: God establishes the church as the firstfruits of His shalom

Date: around AD 60

Author: Paul

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:17

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

50. Philippians

Theme: God gives resurrection power and joy in the face of persecution and heresy

Date: AD 61

Author: Paul

Key Verse: Philippians 3:10-11

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

51. Colossians

Theme: God has exalted His Christ above all human wisdom and tradition

Date: around AD 60

Author: Paul

Key Verse: Colossians 1:18

[Christ] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy

52/53. 1 Thessalonians/2 Thessalonians

Theme: God empowers productive, godly lives as believers wait for the Lord's return

Date: AD 51

Author: Paul

Key Verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:13

we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth

54. 1 Timothy

Theme: God encourages the church in promoting the truth and opposing error

Date: around AD 65

Author: Paul

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 4:16

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

55. 2 Timothy

Theme: God appeals to Timothy and the churches to remain loyal to the gospel message in the face of persecution and error

Date: around AD 67

Author: Paul

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

56. Titus

Theme: God provides instruction to a young church leader regarding defending, speaking, and living out the truth

Date: probably around AD 64

Author: Paul

Key Verse: Titus 2:1

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine

57. Philemon

Theme: God shows Philemon how his slave, Onesimus, has become a Christian brother

Date: AD 60

Author: Paul

Key Verse: Philemon 16

He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

58. Hebrews

Theme: Christ is the ultimate revelation and mediator of God's gracious new relationship with His people

Date: before AD 70

Author: Unknown, perhaps Barnabas or Apollos

Key Verse: Hebrews 2:9

we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

59. James

Theme: God enables a life of good works that flow from a genuine faith

Date: around AD 50

Author: James, brother of Jesus

Key Verse: James 2:18

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

60. 1 Peter

Theme: God equips struggling believers to stand firm in His grace as they live holy lives

Date: early AD 60's

Author: Peter

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

61. 2 Peter

Theme: God encourages believers in the security and grace of divine truth as they patiently await the Lord's return.

Date: around AD 67

Author: Peter

Key Verse: 2 Peter 3:17-18

Be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

62. 1 John

Theme: God calls those who believe in the divinity of the incarnate Christ to become like Him.

Date: somewhere between AD 85-95

Author: John, the apostle

Key Verse: 1 John 2:29

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

63. 2 John

Theme: God warns against showing hospitality to those who promote error

Date: somewhere between AD 85-95

Author: John, the apostle

Key Verse: 2 John 10

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.

64. 3 John

Theme: God inspires John to praise Gaius for his hospitality toward John's messengers and to condemn Diotrephes for his inhospitality toward them.

Date: somewhere between AD 85-95

Author: John, the apostle

Key Verse: 3 John 8

We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

65. Jude

Theme: God warns His people against those who encourage them to view His grace as a license to sin

Date: Probably around AD 65

Author: probably Jude, or Judas, the brother of Jesus

Key Verse: Jude 19

These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

66. Revelation

Theme: God enables His people to stand fast against Satan and his forces until God brings about the ultimate and sure victory

Date: around AD 95

Author: John, the apostle

Key Verse: Revelation 21:6-7

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.