

“Salvation As A (Love) Story” (Psalm 78)

February 14, 2016

A. What Is This?

“Holy Bible” (“biblos” = “book”); the “Scriptures”; Light / Guide

A Story!

Different summaries of the Bible’s story:

- Creation-Fall-Redemption [“God made it, we broke it, Jesus fixes it!, Michael D. Williams]
- “[The Bible tells the story of] Jesus [as] the promised Savior-King”(David Helm).
- “The Bible is the record of God's promise of and deliverance through Jesus Christ”(George Robertson).
- “God is redeeming his creation by bringing it under the lordship of Jesus Christ”(Kent Hughes).
- “Scripture tells us the story of how a Garden is transformed into a Garden City, but only after a dragon had turned that Garden into a howling wilderness, a haunt of owls and jackals, which lasted until an appointed warrior came to slay the dragon, giving up his life in the process, but with his blood effecting the transformation of the wilderness into the Garden City”(Doug Wilson).

B. Psalm 78: Tells A (Salvation) Story

i. It is a story about YHWH (God)and his people

ii. The story is turbulent with a recurring pattern: (1) YHWH guides, gives water and food, performs miracles; (2) the people rebel and sin

iii. The story is a love story (verse 68)

B. The Bible As A Love Story

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39)

“God, who made us and everything else, loves us and gave himself for us that we might live forever with him as new creatures in a new creation—the news is good!” (Phil Long)

“The Lover of our souls won't let the romance die, but is rekindling it forever” (Ray Ortlund).

God loves his children with a “Never Stopping, Never Giving, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love” (*The Jesus Storybook Bible*)

Digging Deeper (For Further Study)

1. Read Psalm 78. What are your questions and /or observations about this passage?
2. Is the idea of “story” a helpful way for you to think about the Bible?
3. Do you see the “love story” of God in your life?

Resources

What's The Bible Basically About?:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkNa6tLWrqk>

The Bible's 5 Acts (NT Wright)

<https://redeeminggod.com/how-to-properly-read-the-story-of-scripture/>

The Drama Of God's Story (Mike Goheen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjLFBK3BHMY>