

# Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story

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## LECTURE I: Living Out of a Story

### 1. Starting with the Gospel

- John 5.31-47
- Mark 1.14-15
- Power of God
- Restoration
- Comprehensive scope
- Climax of a story
- Church's mission key to gospel

### 2. Narrative structure of reality

- Our lives are shaped by some story: Lesslie Newbigin: 'The way we understand human life depends on what conception we have of the human story. What is the real story of which my life story is a part?'
- The way the world actually is: 'N. T. Wright: '... a story ... is ... the best way of talking about *the way the world actually is.*'

### 3. Two different stories

Lesslie Newbigin: 'In our contemporary culture . . . two quite different stories are told. One is the story of evolution, of the development of species through the survival of the strong, and the story of the rise of civilization, our type of civilization, and its success in giving humankind mastery of nature. The other story is the one embodied in the Bible, the story of creation and fall, of God's election of a people to be the bearers of his purpose for humankind, and of the coming of the one in whom that purpose is to be fulfilled. These are two different and incompatible stories.'

- Both claim to be universally true
- Both claim to be comprehensive
- Both are communally embodied
- Both are religious
- Only one can be basic