

LECTURE II: Living Out of the Biblical Story

1. The Bible as one true story

Chaturvedi Badrinath: 'I can't understand why you missionaries present the Bible to us in India as a book of religion. It is not a book of religion-and anyway we have plenty of books of religion in India. We don't need any more! I find in your Bible a unique interpretation of universal history, the history of the whole of creation and the history of the human race. And therefore a unique interpretation of the human person as a responsible actor in history. That is unique. There is nothing else in the whole religious literature of the world to put alongside it.'

2. Breaking up the Bible into little bits

Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen: 'If we allow the Bible to become fragmented, it is in danger of being absorbed into whatever *other* story is shaping our culture, and will thus cease to shape our lives as it should. Idolatry has twisted the dominant cultural story of the secular Western world. If as believers we allow this story . . . to become the foundation of our thought and action, then our lives will manifest not the truths of Scripture, but the lies of an idolatrous culture. Hence, the unity of Scripture is no minor matter: a fragmented Bible may actually produce theologically orthodox, morally upright, warmly pious idol worshippers!'

3. Telling the Story

- Act One: God Establishes His Kingdom: Creation
- Act Two: Rebellion in the Kingdom: Fall
- Act Three: The King Chooses Israel: Redemption Initiated
 - Gen. 12.1-3: Israel as a blessing to the nations
 - Ex. 19.3-6: Israel as a showcase to the nations
 - Failure of Israel
 - Prophets
- Act Four: The Coming of the King: Redemption Accomplished
 - Takes up mission of Israel
 - Accomplishes redemption
 - Gathers renewed Israel: Commissions them to continue his mission
- Act Five: Spreading the News of the King: The Mission of the Church
- Act Six: The Return of the King: Redemption Completed

4. Reflecting on the Story

- Story of God's activity
- Story of redemption of whole creation from sin
- Chooses and uses a people as his covenant partners
- Chris Wright: 'The Bible renders to us the story of God's mission through God's people in their engagement with God's world for the sake of the whole of God's creation.'

5. Out place in the Story

- Already-not yet coming of the kingdom
- Continuing Jesus' kingdom mission
- Witness to the gospel of the kingdom
- Wide as creation