

The Story of God: The Bible as Narrative

Recap

The Story

II Kings 23:1-3 Then the king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. The king went up to the house of the LORD and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant.

(Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-8, 17-18)

The Story

God has given us a single contiguous Story that:

- a) Explains Him
 - b) Explains His Desire to Relate with us
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The Story

God's Goal:

- 1) Fill the Whole Earth with His Glory
 - 2) By Reigning through His Kingdom
 - 3) With His Covenant people
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Act 1: Scenes 1-5

Act 1:

Scene 1 - Creation

Scene 2 - The Fall

Scene 3 - Cain's Sin

Scene 4 - The Flood

Scene 5 - The Tower of Babel

Genesis 1-11

Act 1: Scenes 1-5

Genesis 1-11

Act 1: Scene 1 – Creation (Genesis 1 & 2)

1st of the 6 Main Covenants
Adamic Covenant

- Genesis 1:28
 - a) Be fruitful & multiply
 - b) Fill the Earth
 - c) Subdue it & Rule
-

The Narrative

Key Threads:

- In His Image
-

Act 1: Scenes 1-5 Genesis 1-11

Act 1: Scene 2 – Fall (Genesis 3)

“I” = enter Autonomy

Act 1: Scenes 1-5

Genesis 1-11

Act 1: Scene 3 – Cain's Sin (Genesis 4)

Sin is MOVING!

Act 1: Scenes 1-5

Genesis 1-11

Act 1: Scene 4 – Flood (Genesis 6-9)

2nd of the Main Covenants
Noahic Covenant

- a) Be fruitful & multiply
- b) Fill the Earth
- c) Subdue it & Rule
- d) God pledges to never destroy again

God will preserve the Earth until His Redemption is complete!!!

Act 1: Scenes 1-5

Genesis 1-11

Act 1: Scene 5 – Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

- Genesis 11:1-9
 - a) Roughly 350 years after the flood
 - b) “Let us make a name for OURSELVES”
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The Narrative

Key Threads:

- *In His Image*
 - **The “SINS” – from individuals to society**
-

Act 2

Building a Nation

From Genesis 12 through I Kings 20

- Includes some 11 Scenes
-

Act 2

Building a Nation

The Story gets quite Microscopic

- Creation of the planet = 10 words
 - Creation of the stars = 5 words
 - Creation of everything = 2 chapters
 - One person = 13 ½ chapters
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Act 2

Building a Nation

What was Noah's role?

Preservative

What was Abraham's role?

Redemptive

Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 1 – The Founding Fathers

3rd of the 6 Main Covenants

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12 & 15

- 1) Land
 - 2) Descendants = Nation
 - 3) Blessings
 - 4) Curse those that curse you (protection)
 - 5) Bless ALL Nations
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The Narrative

Key Threads:

- *In His Image*
 - *The “SINS” – from individuals to society*
 - **Israel AND the Nations**
-

Act 2 **Building a Nation**

Scene 2 – The Tribal Framework

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- 12 Sons = 12 Tribes

Genesis 12-50

Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 2 – The Tribal Framework

Leah = Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar & Zebulun (after being barren) (Also Dinah)

Bilhah (Rachel's Maid-servant) = Dan, Naphtali

Zilpah (Leah's Maid-servant) = Gad, Asher

Rachel = Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh), then eventually Benjamin

Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 3 – The Formation of a People

- I. God delivering on His covenants – Chapters 1-18
- II. Torah given on Sinai – Chapters 19-31

- Exodus 1:1-20



Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 4 – The Choosing of a Leader

- Exodus 2:23-25

“Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.”

Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 5 – The Deliverance of Israel

- Exodus 6:1-5



Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 6 – The Giving of the Torah

- Exodus 19:1-6, 7-8

Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’”



Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 3 – The Formation of a People

Scene 4 – The Choosing of a Leader

Scene 5 – The Deliverance of Israel

Scene 6 – The Giving of the Torah

Exodus & Leviticus

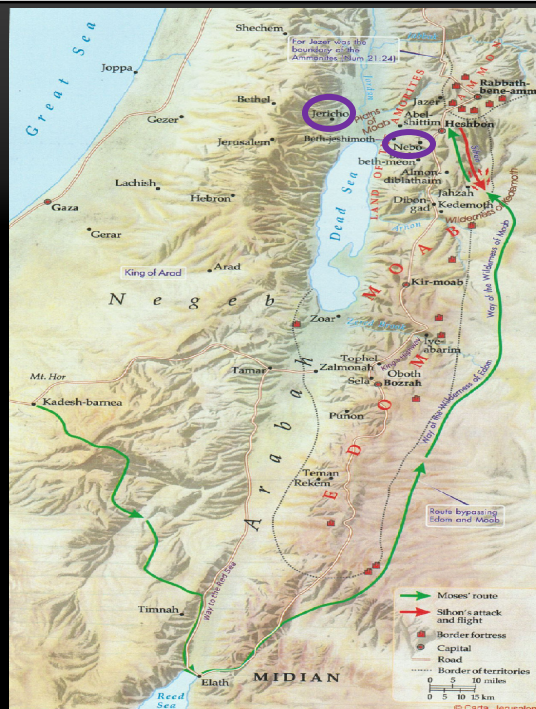
Act 2

Building a Nation

The DELAY Between Scenes 6 & 7

Numbers = Wandering

Deuteronomy = deutero = 2nd reading / nomos = law



Act 2
Building a Nation

Scene 7 – Conquering the Land

Joshua

Act 2
Building a Nation

Scene 8 – Occupying the Land

Judges, Ruth, 1 Sam. 1-7

(Time of the Judges = roughly 350 yrs.)

Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 8 – Occupying the Land

4 times = “And everyone did what was right in their own eyes”

- 1) 12 Tribes
 - 2) Working mostly independently
 - 3) With no real Leader
 - 4) They are dispersed
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Act 2

Building a Nation

Timeline:

- Adam – Noah = roughly 1000 yrs.
 - Noah – Abraham = roughly 1000 yrs.
 - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & 12 sons = roughly 250
 - Egypt = roughly 400 yrs.
 - Getting to Sinai = 3 months
 - Receiving Torah = 1 yr.
 - Edge of the Land = turn 11 days into 40 years
 - Conquering the Land = 70 yrs.
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Act 2

Building a Nation

Judges: Scene 9 – The Final Judge

- 1) Prophetic office starts
- 2) Already have High Priest
- 3) Have Land
- 4) Have the Torah

What appears to be missing that a normal Nation would have?

- 5) A King (other than God of course)

Act 2

Building a Nation

Judges: Scene 9 – The Final Judge

3 Main Accomplishments Under Samuel:

- 1) From North to South
– I Samuel 3:19-21, 7:5-6

“All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD.”



Act 2

Building a Nation

Judges: Scene 9 – The Final Judge

3 Main Accomplishments Under Samuel

- 1) From North to South – I Samuel 3:19-21, 7:5-6
- 2) Subdues main enemy, Philistines – Relative Peace – I Sam. 7:9, 13
- 3) Restores Worship – I Sam. 7:3-4

- I Samuel 7:15-17

Act 2

Building a Nation

Scene 9 – The Final Judge (Samuel)

Scene 10 – The Monarchy (King Saul)

Scene 11 – The Theocracy (King David)

I & II Samuel *Parts of Kings & Chronicles*

Act 3

The Divided Kingdom

The END of Building a Nation (Solomon)

Act 3 – The Divided Kingdom

- King Solomon's Sin results in:
 - Israel in the North
 - Judah in the South
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The Narrative

Key Threads:

- In His Image
 - The “SINS” – from individuals to society
 - Israel AND the Nations
 - **From Oppressed to Oppressor**
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Act 3

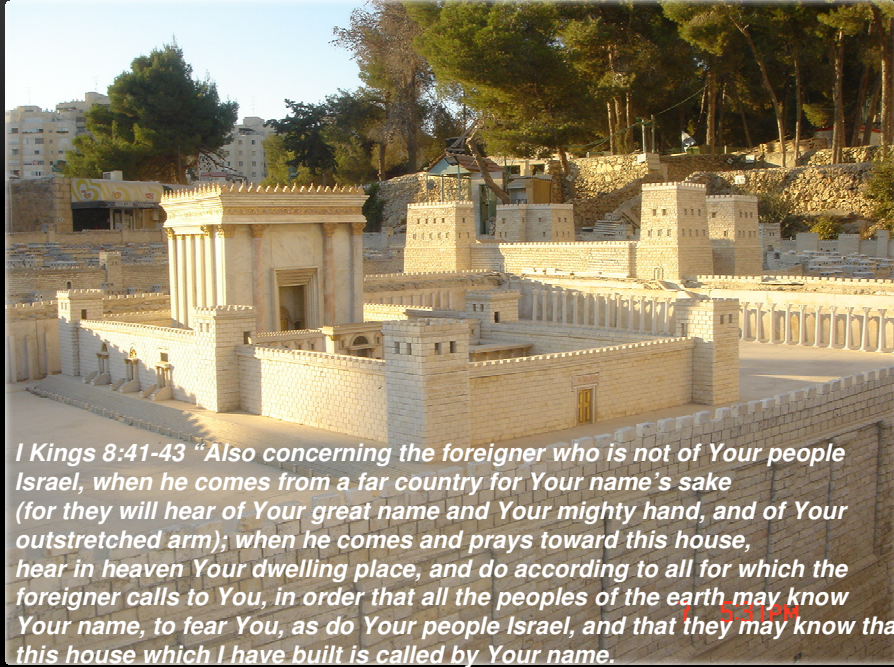
The Divided Kingdom

General Book Breakdowns:

I & II Kings - History of the Kings of Israel & Judah

I Chronicles – Genealogy from Adam & David
recap & passing baton

II Chronicles – Solomon & the Kings of Judah



1 Kings 8:41-43 "Also concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your name's sake (for they will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm); when he comes and prays toward this house, hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, to fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name."

Act 3

The Divided Kingdom

- 1 Kings 12:25-33



Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

Act 1 – Prologue – Genesis 1-11

Act 2 – Building a Nation

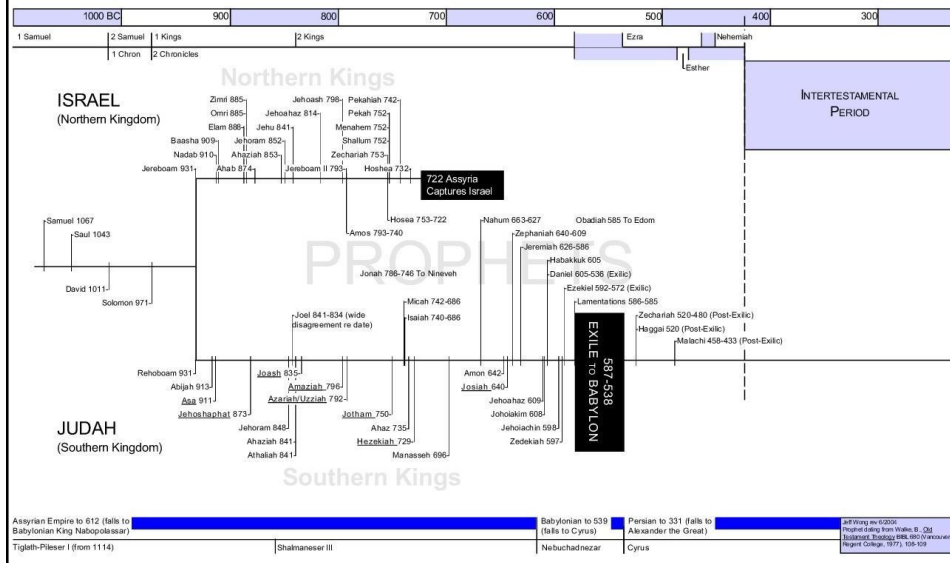
The END of Building a Nation (Solomon)

Act 3 – The Divided Kingdom

Act 4 – Repairing the Kingdom

Date	King of Israel	Years Reigned	Reign assessed		Date	King of Judah	Years Reigned	Reign assessed
928-906	Jeroboam I	22	Bad		928-911	Rehoboam	17	Bad
907-905	Nadab	2	Bad		911-908	Abijam	3	Bad
906-882	Baasha	24	Bad		908-867	(Abijam) Asa	41	mostly good
883-881	Elah	2	Bad					
881	Zimri	7 days	Bad					
881-876	Tibni	5	Bad					
882-870	Omri	5	Very Bad					
871-851	Ahab	22	The worst		870-845	Jehoshaphat	25	Good
851-850	Ahaziah	2	Bad		851-840	Jehoram	8	Bad
850-839	Joram (Jehoram)	12	Mostly bad		840	Ahaziah (Azariah)	8	Bad
839-811	Jehu	28	Mostly bad		839-833	Athaliah	6	Bad
812-795	Jehoahaz	17	Bad		833-794	(Queen) Jozabab (Jehoash)	40	Mostly good
797-781	Joash (Jehoash)	16	Bad		795-764	Amaziah	29	Mostly good
792-751	Jeroboam II	41	Bad		787-735	Uzziah (Azariah)	52	Good
750-749	Zechariah	6 mo.	Bad		794-733	Jotham	16	Good
749	Shallum	1 mo.	Bad					
749-739	Menahem	10	Bad					
738-736	Pekahiah	2	Bad		732-716	Ahaz	16	Very Bad
736-730	Pekah	20	Bad					
731-722	Hoshea	9	Bad		715-686	Hezekiah	29	Very
722-721	Fall of Samaria				697-642	Manasseh	55	Very Bad
718	Fall of Israel				642-640	Amon	2	Very Bad
					640-609	Josiah	31	Very Good
					609	Jehoahaz (Shallum)	3 mos.	Bad
					608-597	Jehoiakim	11	Very Bad
					597	Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	3 mos.	Bad
					597-587	Zedekiah	11	Bad
					587	Fall of Jerusalem, Fall of Judah		
						Assassination of Gedaliah, (Jeremiah 41)		

12 Minor Prophets



Act 4 Repairing the Kingdom

- With Joel, maybe 130 yrs. since Solomon (?)
- With Amos, maybe 140 yrs. since Solomon
- With Jonah, maybe 150 yrs. since Solomon
- With Hosea, maybe 180 yrs. since Solomon

Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

- With Micah, maybe 190 yrs. since Solomon
 - With Nahum, maybe 270 yrs. since Solomon
 - With Zephaniah, maybe 290 yrs. since Solomon
 - With Obadiah, maybe 350 yrs. since Solomon
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Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

Israel in North - II Chronicles 15:3

“For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law.”

Judah in South - I Chronicles 15:15

*All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with their whole heart and had sought Him earnestly, **and He let them find Him.***

Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

Key Dates:

- 722 BC = Israel in North Falls to Assyria
 - Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Obadiah
- 612 BC = Assyria Falls to Babylon
- 587/586 BC = Judah Falls to Babylon
 - Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther, Hab.
- 70 years = Babylon Falls to Persia, Remnant returns to Promised Land
 - Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Jonah, Malachi

Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

3 Stages with Isaiah, Jeremiah, & Ezekiel

1. Isaiah – Anticipation OF the Exile
 2. Jeremiah – Transition INTO Exile
 3. Ezekiel – Participation IN Exile
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Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

God's Dilemma

The world is an utter mess...God's plan doesn't look like it is working?

God is asking, "How do I rescue the world thru Israel while Israel itself still needs rescuing?"

Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

II Isaiah – The Suffering Servant

- Israel is to be God's people & ultimately a Light to the Gentiles
 - Israel as a Nation Fails
 - Over & over Faithful Individuals try to do it FOR Israel AS AN Israelite but they cannot
 - Now One is coming along to do it
To BE Faithful Israel FOR Israel and as a light to the Gentiles
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Act 4

Repairing the Kingdom

Key Dates:

- 538 BC = First Return
 - 516 BC = Temple Restored
 - 458 BC = Ezra the Priest returns
 - 445 BC = Nehemiah returns & rebuilds walls
 - 432 BC = Nehemiah's reforms
 - 333 BC = Greece gains control over Israel
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Act 5

Preparing for Messiah

Intertestamental Period

Jews kept identity → HOW? Synagogues



Act 5 Preparing for Messiah

Eventually Rome takes over around 64 BC

- People are suffering & disillusioned
- Wicked foreigners have come into their country with hatred in their eyes and weapons in their hands
- Outside domination has gone on for roughly 800 years...the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Medes and Persians, the Greeks, the Romans
- And yet behind all this there is a hope...that God is alive and that He will make good on His Story, on His promises...EXPECTANT WAITING

Act 5

Preparing for Messiah

John 1:1-5, 14, 18

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has explained Him.**"*

Act 5

Preparing for Messiah

John the Baptist – The Elijah figure

- *He would link the Great Prophet Moses with the Greater Prophet to come*
- *He would link the covenant with Abraham with the fulfillment of Messiah an Israelite on Israel's behalf*
- *He would link the Kingship of David with the TRUE INTENDED MESSIANIC KING*

Prophet, Messiah, & King

Act 6

Jesus & the Restoration of Israel

Scene 1 - Birth & Preparation

Scene 2 – Gathering & Equipping the new Israel

Scene 3 - The Passion – death, burial & resurrection

Act 6

Jesus & the Restoration of Israel

Zech. 9:9-10 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth

*They have failed to recognize the “**HOUR
OF THEIR VISITATION**”*

Act 7

Expanding the New Community

Scene 1 – Giving of the Spirit of Jesus

Scene 2 – Formation of the Jerusalem Church

Scene 3 – Word Reaches throughout Judea

Scene 4 – Word Reaches the World

Acts of the Apostles



Awaiting Act 7

Expanding the New Community

Luke 24:45-47

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. "You are witnesses of these things. "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Problem Awaiting the Church in Rome

How has God made good on His promises?

The world is a TRAIN WRECK!

Israel as a whole is not acknowledging Jesus as Messiah
