

Steve Whitacre

SESSION 4 | The Story of Scripture, Parts 6-8

I. Period 6—Christ: The Kingdom Present (Matthew-John)

A. Textual Themes

1. Key BT observation: NT writers intentionally and closely connect the person and work of Christ to the Old Testament

2. The Kingdom of God has come in the person of Jesus Christ
 - i. The kingdom represents power: the coming of God's authoritative rule
 - Davidic King

 - ii. The kingdom represents relationship: the peaceful relationship with God in the garden is moved toward restoration.
 - "Eternal Life"

 - iii. The kingdom represents order: The divinely intended order for earth in which man in God's image (cf. Col. 1:15) rules earth as God's loyal vice-regent is moved toward restoration.
 - New Adam

3. Jesus came to deliver His people from bondage to sin
 - i. John's forerunner role

 - ii. Exodus typology

 - iii. Sacrificial death: Mark 10:45

 - iv. New Temple: John 2:19

- v. New Tabernacle: John 1:14

- 4. Jesus inaugurated the new covenant by which God and His people would be related
 - Luke 22:20

- 5. The locus of the people of God is no longer the nation of Israel, but Jesus Himself
 - New Israel: Matt. 2:13-15; Matt. 4:1-11

II. Period 7—Church: The Kingdom Proclaimed (Acts-Jude)

A. Textual Themes

- 1. Reflection upon Jesus' person and work
 - i. The nature and uniqueness of Jesus' person
 - a. Col. 2:9: "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form"

 - b. Heb. 1:3: "He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power."

 - c. Phil 2:5-11

 - ii. Implications of Christ's work relative to the institutions of Judaism
 - Stephen

 - Hebrews

 - iii. The relationship between the covenants
 - Gal. 3; Rom. 4

- iv. The further development of OT themes
 - Election (Eph. 1)
 - Nature of sin (Rom. 1-3)
 - Propitiation and forgiveness (Rom. 3)
 - Justification (Rom 3)

2. The work of the Holy Spirit
 - i. The Holy Spirit was present in the Old Testament, but his role in the New Testament, and especially in the epistles, expands both quantitatively and qualitatively.

3. Life between the ages
 - i. “Already and not yet”
 - Many blessings now
 - A difficult struggle now
 - A glorious future ahead

4. The church as God’s people
 - i. New Israel (Gal. 6:16; cf. 1 Peter 2:9; Rom 9-11)

 - ii. New Temple (1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16)

“Corporately, the Christian community is the new divine sanctuary, the place where the living God most fully expresses his presence.” Murray J. Harris

5. The universal scope of salvation
 - i. Inclusion of the Gentiles

 - ii. Preaching to the nations

III. Period 8 – Consummation: The Kingdom Perfected (Revelation)

A. Textual Themes

1. God's People (Revelation 7:9-17)
2. God's Place (Revelation 21:1-5, 22-27)
3. God's Rule (Revelation 21:3-4; 22:1-3)

“God will no longer be worshipped here and there, wherever two or three are gathered together in the name of Christ as strangers and aliens in a world which is not their home. There he will be worshipped permanently on the heavenly mountain by the whole community of saints of all times and places, along with the heavenly hosts of angels and archangels. There, there will be no more sin to be atoned for, no more weakness of the flesh to be mortified, no more forces of the evil one to be resisted: only the people of the King, gathered in the presence of the King, to worship the King forever.”

Iain Duguid