

# THE WORD

## The Storyline of Scripture

by Jon Jacobs, 2007

The Bible appears to be a bit confusing to many Christians. As evangelicals, we're convinced that the Bible is the Word of God. Yet, we wonder why the Bible seems a bit awkward.

Many of us have spent our entire Christian lives *reading* or *studying* the Bible. Is the Bible a disconnected collection of historical narratives, legal codes, stories, parables, poems, songs and strange apocryphal descriptions? We quickly affirm that the Bible contains a coherent message. But what ties it all together? I suppose that there are many legitimate answers: God is the same from beginning to end -- or perhaps theology ties the Bible together.

I would like to suggest a simple thought about how we can view the Scriptures. Try thinking of the Bible as one single story. Let's embrace the concept that from Genesis to Revelation God has given us one single intelligible story. See the Bible as God's storyline.

What does a story consist of? A good story consists of at least FOUR components:

- (1) an introduction
- (2) a conflict
- (3) the resolution of the conflict
- (4) a conclusion

Throughout any good story, there is an ongoing development of the conflict and the resolution. A good story will cause the reader to return to the introductory information as well as anticipate the conclusion.

The Bible is a storyline which, though Divinely authored, walks us as readers from:

- (1) an introduction to God
- (2) through the conflict of sin
- (3) to the resolution by way of a Redeemer
- (4) to the conclusion -- which is the consummation of the heavens and earth

A storyline demands context. Are we in the story? How much has already been revealed about any given detail? Are some things being kept in mystery to be revealed in a later chapter? I want to encourage you to read the Bible as a single coherent storyline. I think it will help.