



# Weekly Booster

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor

David B. Clark

[pastordavid@shen.church](mailto:pastordavid@shen.church)

### Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

[office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)

### Pianist

Terry Stafford

## Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

## Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

## Sunday Media Booth

Alan Hutchison

Jeff Hiser

## Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

## Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,

Barb Cunningham,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

## Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



## Understanding the Big Picture of the Bible

How can a person make sense of the Bible? After all, it was composed by some forty authors at different times in different countries, and it covers thousands of years. What is it trying to say? What's the story? What is God doing with humanity?

Many people who look to the Bible for answers become confused by it because they see only disconnected pieces. They know a story here, a verse there. And they don't know how all the pieces fit together. It's as if they had ten, twenty, or fifty pieces of a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle and were trying to make sense of it. The Bible, like much of life, is just another puzzle that can't be solved.

I believe there is a solution, and it is similar to solving a jigsaw puzzle. It starts with having the whole picture of what you're trying to put together. If you were given a thousand-piece puzzle, how would you put it together without the picture of the finished puzzle on the box top? If you didn't have any idea of what the complete picture looks like, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to put it together.

*Continued page 2.*

Quote

*“Life is tough, darling. Life is hard. And we better laugh at everything, otherwise, we’re going down the tube.”*  
Joan Rivers

**Reminders****January 13<sup>th</sup>**

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

**January 16<sup>th</sup>**

Church Office Closed

**January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

Choir – 5:30 p.m.

Bell Choir – 6:30 p.m.

**January 18<sup>th</sup>**

T.O.P.S.

**January 21<sup>st</sup>**

Men’s Monthly Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

**\*\*Worship Assistant is needed for  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\* Fellowship Volunteers needed  
sign-up in Fellowship Hall**



**Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday**

**to Deliver Meals**

**Sign-Up Sheet is on the**

**Welcome Center Counter**

**Understanding the Bible - Continued from page 1.****The Big Picture of What God is Doing in this World**

The Bible does have a single big picture, a context into which everything fits. Though the Bible consists of many pieces, all of those pieces tell one story—God’s big story of interaction with us, the human race. It is the big picture of what God is doing in this world. It’s the story of not only all the people who have come before us, it is also our story, and the story of everyone who will come after us. It tells what God is doing on earth, and once you see it, you’ll wonder why you had never noticed it before.

God’s Big Story will enable you to make sense of how you got here, why you are here, and where you are going. It communicates that God put you here on purpose and for a purpose. It’s one storyline that threads from the beginning (from Genesis, the first book of the Bible) to the end (to Revelation, the last book of the Bible). And it will help you to make sense of all the pieces.

The entirety of the Bible’s big story can be summarized in a mirror-image drawing that looks like an isosceles triangle with a vertical line dividing it in half. The story has two main parts, and there are five major events in each half. The events on the left-hand side of the mirror image occur in the Old Testament. The events on the right-hand side occur in the New Testament and parallel the five Old Testament events. The remarkable symmetry of these events is no accident, and they point to the person at the apex of the triangle: Jesus Christ. Altogether, the mirror image encompasses the entire story of humankind, and when you see it laid out, all of our history makes sense. (\*\*See diagram on page 5)

The left side line going up contains the first half of the story of humanity from the beginning of creation to Jesus. The events occur in the Old Testament. Another testament word is a contract. The left side of the mirror image tells the story of the contract God draws up with humankind through a man named Abraham. His descendants eventually became the nation of Israel.

The right side going down contains the second half of humanity’s story, from Jesus to the end of the world.

**Continued page 5.**

Quote

*“My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far I’ve finished two bags of M&Ms and a chocolate cake. I feel better already.” Dave Barry*

**Volunteers Needed**



**LAST PERSON LEAVING**  
PLEASE TURN OUT LIGHTS  
AND LOCK DOORS

First United Methodist Church  
**Please wear your name tag on Sunday mornings**

**Church Office Hours**

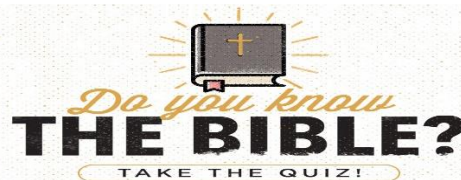
**\*\* Children & Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School – PK-6 during service, Jr/Sr High at 10:30 a.m.**

**\*\*Choir –** Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
**\*\*Bell Choir –** Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

The front door to the church will be unlocked during office hours and closed only for errands and lunch.

**Monday**  
9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00  
**Tuesday**  
9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00  
**Wednesday**  
**CLOSED**  
**Thursday**  
9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00  
**Friday**  
9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00

Please continue to call in advance if you need in the church to make sure someone is in the office. If you reach the answering machine please leave your name, number, and a brief message and your call will be returned. Calls after 2:00 p.m. may be returned the next business day.



When Jesus spoke to Paul on the road to Damascus, in what language did he speak?

- a) Greek
- b) English
- c) Arabian
- d) Hebrew

What had each builder at his side while he builds in the book of Nehemiah?

- a) shield
- b) arrows
- c) sword
- d) trumpet

Who was killed because he did not stop pursuing Abner?

- a) Asahel
- b) Joab
- c) Shimei
- d) Jotham

**Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.**



14<sup>th</sup> – Dee Cooper  
17<sup>th</sup> – Kris Anderzhon, Claudia McVoy  
18<sup>th</sup> – Jack Brady, Doris Swank  
20<sup>th</sup> – Dalton Wiess

**\*\*See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to [office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)**

**Shenandoah First United  
Methodist Church**

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Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail  
[office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)

Same address – a new look at  
<https://shen.church>



<https://shenchurch.onechurchsoftware.com/>



United Methodist Church,  
Shenandoah, IA

<https://www.facebook.com/methodist.church.shenandoah>



Services are now on our YouTube  
channel only.

<https://www.youtube.com/@shen.church8192/streams>

**\*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: Terry Stafford**

**Call to Worship**

**Leader: O God, you have searched me and known me.**

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;**

**L: You are acquainted with all my ways.**

**P: Even before I speak, you know it completely.**

**L: You knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**P: I praise you, God, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

# "Here I Am"

**Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

Songs

**To God Be the Glory #98**

**God of Wonders #3034**

**Open My Eyes, That I May See #454**

**Here I Am Lord #593**

Last Week's Attendance

**In-Person Worship – 76**

**On-Line Worship – 18**

**Our Mission:**

***"Know & Serve God by Sharing Christ's Love."***

**Our Vision:**

***"We will grow in holiness, our community will thrive, & we will make a difference in our world."***

**Answers for Jan 7<sup>th</sup> are a) Joab d) self-control c) broken  
Quiz hints – Q1) Acts Q2) Nehemiah Q3) 2 Samuel**

Understanding the Bible - Continued from page 2.

These events can be found in the New Testament, which describes the story of the new contract God offers through Jesus. This contract is offered by God to everyone on earth.

# JESUS CHRIST (GOD)

*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*



To understand the big picture, you need to understand both the Old and New Testaments. I'm no lawyer, but if I were reading a contract, and it kept referring to the previous contract it replaced, I would want to read that older contract, wouldn't you? Likewise, when trying to understand the Bible, you need to understand the old contract for the new contract to make sense.

In the Bible, the old contract sets up the new contract and everything in the old contract points to the need for Jesus and his arrival. Everything in the new contract points to what God did before, making the new contract possible.

### **Old Testament Times**

If you look at the mirror image, you see that the Old Testament starts with God creating the heavens and earth along with righteous people without sin or guilt, whom God places with him in the Garden of Eden. That's the first major event in Scripture. The next major event occurs when Satan and sin enter the world, turning people against God. When God has had enough of seeing people harm one another and dishonor him, the third major event occurs: God destroys the world by flood.

The good news is that people bounce back; the bad news is that they return to their wicked ways. All of humankind works together in a unified effort to build the Tower of Babel in their desire to elevate themselves and declare their self-sufficiency away from God. Their actions precipitate the fourth major event: God confuses people's languages, and he scatters them across the earth.

Fortunately, God's love for people will not be thwarted, and he chooses to make a contract with Abraham. God promises Abraham that he will have many descendants, including the Messiah, who will provide all of humankind with a way back to him. Abraham's descendants become the twelve tribes that make up the nation of Israel, and the rest of the Old Testament recounts their story.

### **New Testament Times**

The turning point in God's big story is Jesus, the promised Messiah. This is the event upon which all of mankind's history with God hinges. That's why his arrival is the apex of the mirror image triangle. Jesus is God in human flesh, and he offers mankind a new contract and fulfills God's part in it. That is the start of the New Testament.

Jesus's most trusted followers are the twelve disciples. These men in the New Testament parallel the twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament. Just as the twelve tribes found Israel, the twelve disciples found the church. Most of the New Testament tells the story of the beginning of the era of the church. You and I are currently living in this era.

The remainder of God's big story with humankind is still in the future and is described in the last book of the Bible, Revelation. The events unfold in reverse order to the major events in the Old Testament. The people of the world will again unite. They will form a one-world government.

After that God will again cause the destruction of the world, this time by fire instead of flood. Just as Satan entered the world bringing sin with him, he will be forced to exit the world along with sin, once and for all. And the story ends with people with God in paradise once again.

## Life to the Full

Why is it important to understand the big story contained in the mirror image? Because understanding Scripture is the starting point for real maturity. Growth in Christ and the full life Jesus promises in [John 10:10](#) come as the result of engaging three areas:

The mind, which grows in maturity with biblical knowledge;  
The heart, which grows in maturity with spiritual intimacy; and  
The will, which grows in maturity with holy obedience.

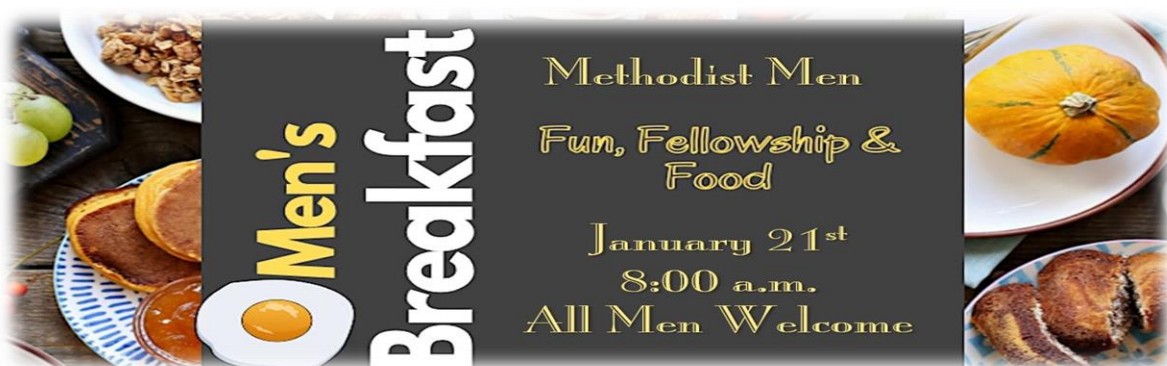
Understanding the context of God's big story helps you to better understand everything you read in the Bible. Understanding the Bible helps facilitate spiritual intimacy with God, and that heart engagement with God inspires our willingness to obey him.

If we neglect any of these three areas, we will not become spiritually mature. If we elevate one at the expense of the other two, we develop blind spots that hinder our life in Christ, because:

Biblical knowledge without spiritual intimacy and holy obedience becomes intellectualism.  
Spiritual intimacy without biblical knowledge and holy obedience becomes emotionalism.  
Holy obedience without biblical knowledge and spiritual intimacy becomes legalism

With an ever-growing knowledge of God's Word, you will begin to understand him more. Your desire and ability to experience spiritual intimacy with him will grow. And your desire to obey what he is asking of you will increase. So will your ability to follow through. As these things happen, you will grow in spiritual maturity, and your life will begin to change for the better. And so will your ability to help and serve others.

*Adapted from the article by Kevin A. Myers, NIV Maxwell Leadership Bible. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, January 8, 2024*



## January

Peanut Butter and jelly, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Peaches, Spaghetti Sauce and Spaghetti Noodles, Cake, Brownie, Cookie, and Muffin Mixes, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Sloopy Joe Mix (canned), Soda Crackers, Cereal, Bar Soap, Deodorant.



There are times when people who use the Food Pantry come to the pantry on foot. They are then forced to walk home carrying, pushing, or pulling several pounds of food. Southwest Iowa Transit, for a very reasonable fee of \$5.00, will take individuals with their food items home. If you are interested in helping pay for these fees, simply seal your cash (whatever you would like to give) in a plain envelope and add it to your donated food items.

### *Bring Your Change to Make a Change*

*Collected each Sunday after  
the children's message*



*“Each of you should GIVE what you have decided in YOUR HEART to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for GOD LOVES a cheerful GIVER.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

The Noisy Offering is one more way to do ministry for those in need and also teach your children the importance of giving and serving. Each Sunday a new opportunity for mission giving will take place after the Children's Message. Sunday School students will walk around the congregation, collecting your loose coins and currency in their colorful metal pails. This would be a good time to clean out the loose change from your pockets or purse. The money donated in January will go to the General Care Packages.



**Tuesday, Jan. 16th  
Open Wednesday**





Winter is fully upon us, whether your snow blower was ready to go or not. January is an invitation for us to slow down. Sometimes we need things like winter storms to remind us that we need to walk slowly, listen to silently falling snow at night, drink hot chocolate, and curl up under comfy blankets.

January is also a time of reflecting on who we want to be in this next. It is an invitation to listen deeply to how God might be calling you to start that new thing, to learn that new thing, or maybe continue an old thing but with renewed passion.

Our Sundays during January and into February will consider how God calls us in many different ways. We'll get a story of the young prophet Samuel, of Jonah, of prophets, and of eagles. This is a time for us to say, along with young Samuel, "Here I am."

Grace and peace,  
Pastor David B. Clark