

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH
(The Main Theme of the Bible)

The Bible while being the best seller of all time is mostly an unread and under-appreciated book. Relatively few people who profess to believe the Bible have read all of it. And of those who have, few with clarity could explain its MAIN theme. When I was in school, I was often frustrated by history teachers who never gave me the BIG PICTURE of how what we were studying fit into the grand flow of history. Likewise, it is very helpful in our understanding of the Bible if we can see the GRAND SCHEME of God's redemptive plan as presented in the Word of God. To complicate matters, scholars disagree on what constitutes the MAIN THEME of the Bible. Consider the following positions put forth:

1. **KINGDOM.** Some assume that the KINGDOM of God is the grand central theme in all the Bible which encompasses all the other themes of Scripture. Certainly, the kingdom theme is a main one that begins in Genesis and culminates in Revelation. Everything is moving toward the eternal kingdom. It is definitely a dominant theme!
2. **SALVATION.** Many theologians hold to the idea that the whole structure of the Bible is developed around mankind's salvation and God's redemptive purposes in history of which the major focal point is the cross. Certainly, this "scarlet theme of redemption" is a major theme interwoven throughout the Bible starting in Genesis 3:15 and culminating with the Lamb of God being worshipped in the book of Revelation. The word "Lamb" as a title for Jesus is found at least 26 times in the book of Revelation which presents the consummation of all things.
3. **THE GLORY OF GOD.** Traditionally dispensationalists (of which I am one) have emphasized that the unifying GRAND theme in all the Scriptures is the glory of God. This is seen as the governing principle and God's overall purpose in all that He is doing as presented in the Scriptures. Certainly, the end all of all is the glory of God! The Bible emphasizes all is to be done to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31). Paul in a major comprehensive statement says, "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." (Rom. 11:36)
4. **THE LORDSHIP OF GOD.** Who God is as sovereign MASTER overall is seen from the very first verse of the Bible which says, "In the beginning God..." (Gen. 1:1). Following the creation of all things the next greatest revelatory event in the OT was the Exodus. God powerfully worked in such an astounding way so that His NAME would be declared in all the earth (Ex. 9:16; Rom. 9:17).

The coming DAY OF THE LORD will champion the truth that the "LORD alone shall be exalted in that day" (Isa. 2:11, 17) which will usher in the kingdom which in turn will segue into the eternal state. Certainly, the recognition of the LORDSHIP of God as sovereign over all is a MAJOR theme in all the Scriptures.

5. **THE MESSIAH WHO IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** In a sense, a case can be made for all of the above! But I would argue that they all intersect with and are subservient to the GREATEST theme of all which is centralized in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is **Jesus** that is the full and final revelation of God (Heb. 1:1-4). In His resurrection Christ "expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Lk. 24:27). In doing so He presented to them the great key to understanding the Scripture,

namely that He Himself is the grand subject and that in Him the entire Book finds its unity (Scofield).

The *“testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”* (Rev. 19:10) indicating that the very nature of the prophetic word is to testify of Christ and bring glory to Him. Jesus came to give *“us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true”* (1 Jn. 5:20). He revealed God to us (Jn. 14:9). The entire book of John was written so we might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31). Christ as the God-Man came on a rescue mission and in doing so humbled Himself even to *“the death of the cross.”* *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which above every name”* that before Him every knee should bow and every tongue *“confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* (Phil. 2:8-11) I submit to you that the whole of the Book is centered in Jesus! He Himself is the GRAND subject of the Bible. It’s all about Jesus to the glory of God the Father!

The MAJOR THEME of the Bible is all about the Coming One Who has Come and is Coming Again! And the critical issue put before us in the Scriptures is the issue of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the grand subject of the book and the ultimate issue is our faith in Him (Jn. 3:18; Lk. 24:25-27, 45-48; 1 Jn. 5:12; Rev. 19:10).