

The Gospel According to St. John

Why Not Start at the Beginning?

- This has not worked for most people in our time
- Complex, crucial, potentially confusing
- You need a firm understanding of the "Senses of Scripture"

Sequencing Matters

- Early
 - Foundational: Gospels and Chronology
- Middle
 - Explanatory Depth: Epistles and Prophets
- Late
 - Fortification: Specialized Texts at the end

Anytime: Wisdom Literature (Psalms, Proverbs...)

Purpose

- Know Jesus Well
- Yearn for more

Senses of Scripture

- Literal Truth >> Foundational, the Empty Tomb
- Spiritual Truth
 - Moral, that which describes right judgment & living
 - Allegorical, which point to Jesus & the New Testament
 - Anagogical, which alludes to the End, you in Paradise

Chronology

- The Timeline across the Ages to Jesus
- Twelve Old Testament Books
- Then the Gospel Narrative & Acts of the Apostles
- This "Bloodline" runs from Abraham to Jesus
- These 19 centuries are categorized many ways:
 - The Three-fold Promise
 - The Ages of Man (6)
 - Expanding Covenants (6)

The Gospels are the Climax

- Study all of Sacred Scripture through the "lens" of Jesus' mission
- All of the Bible points to, or builds upon, the defeat of sin and death by Jesus

The Bible is a Library

- It is not meant to be read as a left-right book
- It pre-dates English, books, and writing itself
- It is arranged for the easy referencing of scrolls
- New Testament mirrors the Old
 - Law
 - History
 - Wisdom
 - Prophecy

What is a "Covenant"?

- The formation of a deep and complete family bond (marital, tribal, or otherwise) that carries a death penalty should one break it
- It is the foundational principle of our relationship with God
- It explains why Jesus chose to die for us, a death we had earned many times over

John's Gospel

- Jesus is One with the Eternal God
- You can live with Him forever

The Second Sign

- Still in friendly territory
- Jesus therefore said to him "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." (4:48)
- The official and all of his household believed

Healing the Blind Man

- Stepping it up now...the miracles to follow are very powerful, such that "...the works of God might be made manifest..." (9:3)
- A thorough investigation of the incident follows, with the simple testimony of the healed man being the most poignant...

The Seven Signs

- Miracles of escalating power
- Each to an ever widening audience
- Much of the narrative is the testimony and defense of these "works"
- Jesus defends Himself vigorously, and makes great attempts to persuade (us)
- It begins amongst friends...

Trouble Begins

- Now in Jerusalem for a "Feast"
- Healed a man who was paralyzed for 38 years
- Spectacularly public, but in trouble now
 - Envy
 - "On the Sabbath"
 - "(made) himself equal with God"

The Raising of Lazarus

- The Second most powerful miracle of Jesus' ministry
- Poignant prelude with disciples
- The power and fame of this event lead to his glorious reception on Palm Sunday
- It also leads the High Priest Caiaphas and the Pharisees to actively plot his murder (11:53)

The First Sign

- Mirrors the first plague, Nile > Blood
- Mary's final words in the New Testament
- This is The Model Exchange between Mother and Son, and what we hope for in Marian Intercession
- "Woman" echoes back to the first prophecy

Feeding the 5000

- This ultimately public miracle is mentioned in all four Gospels
- It is in friendly territory so Jesus is worried they will take Him away and make Him king
- John elaborates even further by continuing the discussion beyond the Walking on Water incident of that evening and into the Bread of Life discourse the following day.

Resurrection

- Last Supper
- Arrest and Trial
- Crucifixion
- Resurrection

The Four Loves

- A main concept of Scripture Study, because it is our primary understanding of God
- Four different words in the Greek NT
 - Eros > Erotic/Creative love
 - Storge > Familial love
 - Phila > Affection of friends
 - Agape > Caritas > Charity > Willing Gift-Love
- “Consubstantial with the Father” ...the substance of the Trinitarian God is Gift-Love (Caritas, Agape)

Threads to the Beginning

- Behold the Lamb of God (1:29)
 - Genesis 22
- The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us, full of grace and truth... (1:14)
 - Genesis 3
- In the Beginning was the WORD (1:1)
 - Genesis 1

“he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life” (5:24)