

Introduction:

The worldview of most people before Copernicus was that the earth was the center of the solar system, or even of the universe. Based on immediate sense perception, who was to say they were wrong?

Today, the vast majority of people on the earth think that view is wrong. What lies at the root of this view? Faith

What is a worldview?

1. A worldview contains a 'head-heart system' of basic beliefs, assumptions and values.
2. A worldview tells a big story about the world. [A 'master story']
3. A worldview produces action.¹

Everyone has a worldview, even if it isn't clearly set out in technical terminology.

Our series on the Trustworthiness of God's Word rests on a Biblical worldview: what the Bible says is so.

Plotting the Biblical Storyline

The Biblical worldview progresses through

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Redemption
4. Return

"It is not just a true story; it is *the* true story." [207] ²

The story of the Bible is a long, complex story, with many themes. "Because the Bible possesses multiple organizing themes, its story can be viewed from a variety of different angles." [208]

¹ Mark L. Ward, *Biblical Worldview: Creation, Fall, Redemption* (Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2016), 6.

² Layton Talbert, *The Trustworthiness of God's Words: Why the Reliability of Every Word from God Matters* (Geanies House, UK: Christian Focus, 2022), 207 (All other quotations will be noted merely by a page number [in brackets]).

Some of the Major Storylines of the Bible

- The Glory of God
- Creation, Fall, Redemption
- The Covenants
- The Kingdom

“Other big themes dominate the scriptural landscape and span both testaments: dominion, divine presence, promise and fulfillment, the people of God, and many more.” [210]

The Glory of God

The grandest overarching theme of the Bible, God's desire to display His own glory.

Jonathan Edwards, *The End for Which God Created the World*

- God displays his glory to himself (the Trinity) in Creation
- God displays his glory to man (and angels?) in the garden
- God displays his glory to man through history
- God displays his glory to man and angels in Redemption
- God will display his glory to all creation in bringing history to its conclusion and everything under his authority at the end of time

Creation, Fall, Redemption

- God created man in the image of God
- Man fell in mistrust and rebellion against God
- God took extraordinary steps to secure man's redemption

Note:

- Creation theme has threads throughout the Bible, not isolated to Genesis 1-2
- Fall works its way out in all human history, including the brutal execution of Jesus on the cross
- Redemption is a theme that displays its anticipation through the OT, focuses on the cross, develops in the church and is consummated at the return

The Covenants

Most basic view

- Old Covenant
- New Covenant

God's relationship with man develops through

- Noahic covenant
- Abrahamic covenant
- Mosaic covenant
 - Palestinian covenant (Deuteronomy)
- Davidic covenant
- New Covenant

These Covenants provide the framework for both Dispensationalism and Covenant Theology

The Kingdom

- Begins with the Creation Mandate, "have dominion"
- Dominion lost at the fall, but expressed among the nations ever since (often in defiance of God's plans)
- God formed his people from Abraham's children as a kingdom
- God promised an eternal kingdom through a son of David
- Jesus came preaching the kingdom (a major emphasis of his ministry)
- The Jews (and the apostles) expected a kingdom (which Jesus did not deny)
- The story comes to an end when the Kingdom of God fills the earth

Can we trust God's story?

- Each of the major narrative story lines of the Bible are true, they complement one another.
- Our series talks about trusting God's words
 - On the individual level of "granular" statements
 - On the broad level of far-reaching prophecy

"When we trust God's narrative of reality, it has massive ramifications for all of life, and beyond." [213]