

"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

Introduction to the Series

According to an April 2013 study by the Barna Group, 88 percent of Americans own a Bible, 80 percent think the Bible is sacred, 61 percent wish they read the Bible more, and the average household has 4.4 Bibles. Of those whom actually read it, 57 percent do so only four times a year or less. The same study said that only 20 percent of the people in the country have actually read the entire Bible. What are some of the reasons for this?

- Some say that the Bible is not relevant to their everyday lives.
- Others reflect that they simply do not have the time.
- Many people say they do not know where to start reading it.
- Yet others say that they are intimidated with the size of the writing.

In light of this, today we are embarking on a forty week adventure through the Bible. The study is called God's Love Story because that is the common theme which runs through the entire scripture.

- We will see the relevance of the scriptures to our lives.
- We will be able to do it by sacrificing only a couple hours a week.
- We will cover it from a condensed version of the Bible, beginning in Genesis and ending in Revelation.
- We will not be intimidated, but encouraged by the wealth of knowledge and blessing contained therein.

Seven Reasons to Trust the Bible.

1) It is archeologically superior.

The Bible is not a book that starts out "Once upon a time", but in a time/place perspective. There are thousands upon thousands points of reference that can be validated from an archeological perspective.

- Mountains, rivers, lakes, cities, roads, trees and other references can be dated to be accurate.
- The customs of the varying groups mentioned throughout, from the cradle of civilization to the end of the first-century, are extremely accurate.
- Events from early on in the flood all the way to the persecution of the Christians are all in a time/place dimension.
- The cultures of the peoples, from the lowly shepherds to mighty kings, are all brought into the discussion of the text, all with great accuracy.
- Time and time again, when the Bible states a location of an event and the archeologists dig, the truth of the Bible's superiority in this area shines forth.

2) It is scientifically superior.

In just the first book of the Bible we can confirm the First and Second Law of Thermodynamics, genetic law, numerical sciences, biology, climate change, continental drift, the geologic column and dinosaurs. While scientists are constantly seeking a missing link that has never been found, the Bible made it clear they never would, for it was never there.

- Gen 1:25 And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

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Intellectual scholars promoted for centuries the idea that we lived on a flat earth, but the Bible said differently.

- Isa 40:22 “He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy...” (NIV)
- Job 26:7 "He stretches out the north over empty space, and hangs the earth on nothing.

This is just two of hundreds of examples where the Bible was proven true and the educated elites were wrong. Throughout this series we will see that the Bible is superior in the realm of science.

3) It is poetically superior.

There have been many works of poetry put together by men that resonate well in the ear. No writing in human history has moved more men in their souls. The Bible is poetically superior and a great source of encouragement.

- Ps 23:1-2 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
- Ps 55:6 And I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.
- Isa 6:3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."
- Isa 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up {with} wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.
- 1 Cor 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (KJV)

4) It is prophetically superior.

There are many hundreds of prophecies that were fulfilled from the Bible. In great detail great nations were accurately predicted to fall; droughts were predicted to come and they did; Kings were predicted to rise and fall; Astronomical events would occur as just as predicted.

Jesus was mentioned hundreds of times with accuracy centuries before His coming, including His family origin, place of birth, childhood, His ministry, His miracle-working, His parables, His triumphal entry, His cleansing of the Temple, His betrayal, His type of death to be suffered, His burial, His resurrection; His ascension all were predicted centuries prior. From a prophetic standpoint, the Bible is superior.

5) It is relevantly superior.

There is the misconception that the Bible is an out-of-date book that really does not have anything to do with our lives today. There could be nothing further from the truth, for it is truly lives up to the nickname, the Book of Life. Here are just a few of the relevant topics the Bible deals with.

a) Marriage: Most couples enter the marriage covenant with the idea that it is for life, yet millions of divorces occur every year. The Bible gives marital insight in many topics including dating, engagement, covenant, sexual relations, family leadership and growing old together.

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- Eph 5:31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

b) Parenting: If you are like most parents in the world, you might have noticed that children are not easy to bring up. If only there was an instruction book with this topic in mind. The #1 best-selling book of all-time, the Bible, has been providing sound parenting advice for more than two millennia.

- Prov 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.
- Eph 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

c) Money: Want to learn about money? Want to know how to make the ends meet and prosper? Want to know how to make good investment decisions? Want to improve your credit rating? The Bible provides great insight to financial issues in hundreds of verses. Entire national economies have come and gone for centuries, but the monetary teachings of the Bible are unchanging. Principles like saving, investing, debt, charity and fiscal responsibility are found in the Bible and most certainly are applicable today.

d) Relationships: Besides our immediate family, this #1 best seller of all time helps us in our other relationships that we have: Friendships, enemies, business, professional, government and employment. You name it; it is covered.

6) It is morally Superior.

Think of all the self-help books that are on the market today. Many of these attempt to promote a standard of living for a better life. Some reach the level of a big seller, but none surpass the Bible to become the #1 best-seller. The Bible promotes a standard of morality that is head and shoulders above all other publications.

- While the world promotes "eat, drink and be merry", the Bible says to take it all in moderation.
- While the world says that being promiscuous living is good and will bring you happiness, the Bible said that it will bring great turmoil in their lives.
- While the world is saying "Survival of the Fittest" and "Dog Eat Dog", the Bible says to love all and seek no harm to others.
- While the world says it is okay to hate your enemy, the Bible says that we should love them.
- While the world is teaching us to put ourselves FIRST, the Bible says to value others as more important than ourselves.

Look at all the morality that the world is teaching and compare it to the morals taught in the Bible. Without a doubt, the Bible is morally superior. We all are going to develop our morals from some source or someone. The question is whether it's a quality source. The Bible has passed this test over and over.

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7) It is spiritually superior.

What is the world of literature offering you that is comparative to the Bible? The Bible carries with it the words of eternal life.

- John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have {it} abundantly.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.
- John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.
- Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Do you want to know what the #1 reason is as to why the Bible is the #1 best-selling book of all time? It is because the Bible carries the hope of eternal life for those who seek to find it.

According to the study by Barna, 80 percent of Americans believe the Bible to be sacred. I am persuaded this is for many of the same reasons listed above. It is sacred because of its superiority to all other writings among humankind.

Summary

This is the introduction to the series "God's Love Story". Together for the next 39 weeks, we will cover that common theme from the Bible. For the 80 percent of people who have never read the entire Bible, we invite you to join us. For those who thought the Bible was too difficult to understand, we will work together to understand it. For those who do not see the relevancy to their lives, together we will apply it in meaningful ways. For those who have been putting off the challenge of reading the entire Bible, today this will change.

The Goals Each Week:

1. Read the chapter from God's Love Story prior to each Sunday Morning. The average reading time for the week will be thirty minutes to an hour. This will familiarize you for the lessons to follow.
 - a. If you have not received a copy yet, contact Brian Dowler or go to www.getgodslovestory.com and order one. You can also be sent an electronic PDF copy through the email upon request.
 - b. Bring it to the church building for the classes and feel free to mark it up with notes. This is yours to keep and use.
 - c. If you have a family, take the time and read it together. Make it a short devotion that builds quality time within the family.
2. Attend the Sunday morning class, the morning worship and Wednesday evening classes.
 - a. The classes are age-level friendly and the sermons all line up with the text for the week. The material for the children will be provided at the time of class.

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- b. For those who might not make it to the building, there is a live broadcast of both classes and Sunday morning sermon at www.camphillcofc.org at 9:30 and 10:30 AM respectively. The Wednesday Bible class is at 7:00 PM. The lessons are also archived at the same site if that is more convenient.

Thank you for joining us on this adventure. We hope and pray that though this collective study you will also come to appreciate the Bible as a Love Story from God.