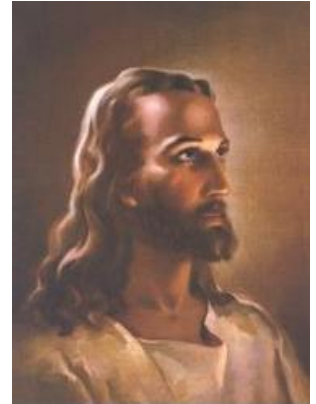


One Track Mind

As a youngster I dreamed about being a major league baseball player. I had visions of hitting monstrous home runs and making spectacular plays at shortstop. You could say I was “a legend in my own mind.” I remember clearly my parents and teachers saying I had a one track mind.

Once out in the business world the one-track mind continued. I lived and breathed my profession – initially the YMCA and in the final decade, the Chamber of Commerce. Attempting to be a success was often at the expense of other things.

I chuckle at children’s messages at church. The answer to every question is “Jesus.” Talk about a one-track mind! There is truth to that answer. If you stop and think about it, the answer to all our life’s questions *is* Jesus. A book I read recently is titled Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism (authored by New York City pastor Tim Keller.) In his book Keller contends that every story in the Bible, even the Old Testament books that describe our world long before the birth of Christ, all point to Jesus. They include many prophecies, all of which have come true, thousands of years later. Jesus himself said, “*This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.*” (Luke 24:44).



Look at the simplified storyline of the Bible. Keller said, “God created the world so that we would serve and enjoy Him and the world.” Mankind turned away from God, time and time again. In spite of this, God did not abandon the people of His creation. He grew one family into a nation and designed an agreement (covenant) with them. Again, they turned away from God. God then personally entered the world through His son, Jesus, and lived a perfect life. Some believed but others rebelled and put Jesus to death. Jesus rose from the dead, overcoming evil to show us there is hope for us, in spite of the sinful world in which we live. Jesus was present from the beginning and will be at the end. *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*” (Rev. 22:13).

Perhaps you get the idea. All the books of the Bible are a “unified narrative plotline, resolving and climaxing in Jesus.” Each book is important in its own way, filling in the blanks about the need for and impact of Jesus on our lives. Think back to a time when you were watching a movie. If you were pulled away for a phone call and returned 20 minutes later you missed key points to the story. As a result, you didn’t fully understand why things happened, and the conclusion of the story didn’t fully make sense to you. That is because you didn’t experience the whole story. The same is true of the Bible. Even though it is written by some 40 authors over a 1,500 year span, God inspired the writers to collectively tell the whole story. Jesus is the central character for it all.

Here are a few examples of verses that show the validity of the Old Testament events described in the Bible and how Jesus relates to them:

- Jesus instinctively knew and could quote the verses of Old Testament scripture (John 7:15).
- He accepted the history described in the Old Testament as fact (Matthew 19:4-5).
- Jesus often refers to some of the historical events (Matthew 24:37-39, John 8:56-58, and Matthew 12:39-41 are great examples).
- He believed that God spoke the verses of the O.T. (Mark 12:26)
- Jesus teachings are based on the scriptures (Matthew 7:12) (Mark 12:24).

We can trust the facts of the Bible. We can also clearly see that Jesus lived among us to show us how to learn from the experiences of Biblical characters from all the books of the Bible. It is OK to have a one track mind when it comes to living for Christ. Jesus *is* the answer – to our need for a Savior and as the perfect example of how we are to live our lives. And, as we fall short, He is the source of the forgiveness that leads to the eternity we desire.

Prayer: Heavenly Father. Jesus is the one answer we need to all of life’s issues. Let us turn to Him as the guide to our lives. Amen.