

God's Revelations to Man
Journey of Faith

At some point in our
lives, we become aware
of God.

Whether young or old.

And we start a journey
of faith.



All Mankind has been on a journey of faith.

From the time our first parents sinned and were separated from God, mankind has been journeying, and God has been there to help us along the way.

But God has **always** been aware of us. He created us to be in relationship with him. He desires to have a relationship with us.

Throughout salvation history, we see God reaching to man, man reaching back toward God, and man turning away from God, and the pattern repeating itself. You may see that in your own life, your pattern matches those of the ancients.

I want to walk through the salvation story of Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) and highlight some of the instances in which God has reached out to man, and culminate in the ultimate revelation: Jesus Christ.

Be careful about getting your Bible history and facts from movies. Just like movies never fully embrace a book, so movies don't tell the story accurately.

Gotta read it for yourselves!

Filled with stories of God's love — man's hate — adventure — wars — romance — betrayal — suspense — drama — revenge — forgiveness — poetry — songs — sagas — epic tales — etc ...

The Bible begins with: “In the Beginning God.....” (Genesis 1:1)

You can’t say there was “nothing” before God because: There was not a “before God” — God always was. We can’t conceptualize that.

God chose to make the heavens and the earth to have a people with whom he can be in relationship.



- **Adam and Eve**

- Everything was provided - just as when preparing for a baby
- **Pride** — that was what the serpent enticed them with a desire to be like God
- God sacrificed an animal to provide them with clothes (first sacrifice, Genesis 3:21)
 - first sacrifice to provide us with a life without shame
- though they were banished from the garden
- Cain (raised produce) and Abel (raised animals) - God didn't abandon Cain, but marked him to protect him out of his love. He hated the sin, but still loved the sinner.
 - GOD VALUES LIFE. Social justice, capital punishment.
 - Catholic church teaches against capital punishment
- Seth
 - through this line will come Christ centuries later



Sin was a part of life. Sin is a rejection of God. Sin causes a wall of division between us and God.

As time progressed — People started moving away from God... but :

- Enoch - “Enoch walked with God, and he was no longer here, for God took him.”- Gen 5:24



- **Noah** - man had become increasingly evil, but God noticed Noah:
 - **(Gen 6:5-8)** “When the Lord saw how great the wickedness of human beings was on earth, and how every desire that their heart conceived was always nothing but evil, the Lord regretted making human beings on the earth, and his heart was grieved. So the Lord said: I will wipe out from the earth the human beings I have created, and not only the human beings, but also the animals and the crawling things and the birds of the air, for I regret that I made them. **But Noah found favor with the Lord.**”
- We know the story of Noah and the Ark
- Covenant, a family = rainbow - Genesis 9:1-17
 - Repopulated the Earth
- unfortunately, the subsequent generations again abandoned God



- **Tower of Babel (Gen 11)**- defiance to God — pride — trying to be on par with God —> confusion through sending of languages





- **Abraham**
- God called Abram and his wife Sarai to leave their home to go to a land he would show them — called them to trust him
- Abraham = Father of many nations Sarah = princess of the people
- Abraham was 100, Sarah 99 when Isaac was born
- Isaac = “God’s laugh” (God has a sense of humor)
- God does things in his time

- **Isaac** (test) - obedience, even when we don't understand
- Isaac marries **Rebecca**
- **Jacob** = Israel and **Esau** (twins) - fascinating story of mother who plays favorites between her children, and steals the birthright
- **Jacob** —> 13 children = 12 sons tribes of Israel (Leah, Rachel, 2 concubines)
 - 13th is daughter Dinah (Leah); Buried is the rape of Dinah (by Shechem), one of Jacob's, and how her brothers took REVENGE
 - **Joseph** saga —> Egypt, subsequent slavery
 - Joseph has at least 2 dreams that his parents and siblings will bow down to him. Brothers jealous. Sell him to Potipher.
 - Potipher's wife tries to seduce him —> jailed
 - interprets dreams
 - second in command to Pharaoh
 - famine brings his family to Egypt —> they bow down to him

- **Moses-** God heard the cries of the suffering Hebrews (430 years)
- Story of Moses and the Exodus is the **cornerstone of the OT.**
Everything leads up to or reflects back on the Exodus
- population overgrowth, pharaoh wanted to kill all male boys <2
- Moses is saved, raised by Pharaoh's daughter
- Miriam, nursed by his own mother
- Moses flees after killing Egyptian
- While in Midian, Mt Sinai, burning bush
 - 4 times Moses comes up with an excuse
 - 5th time he says, "I don't want to go, send someone else"
 - Aaron —
- Moses goes, 10 plagues, final is death of all firstborn
- 1st Passover - marked their doors with blood of lamb
- beginning of the liturgical calendar
- exodus of all the slaves, formed the Israelites and made a covenant
- QAHAR / Ekklesia / Church
 - summoned
 - Word
 - Respond
 - Sacrifice



- 40 years of wandering = total dependence on Him
- Grumbling, complaining was incessant
- manna in morning , quail in evening
- grumbled they were tired of quail and manna - wished they were back in Egypt where they could have variety of fruits, veggies and meat— having forgotten their bondage/suffering
- God made a Covenant with Israel
 - **Deut 8: 2** Remember how for these forty years the Lord, your God, has directed all your journeying in the wilderness, so as to test you by affliction, to know what was in your heart: to keep his commandments, or not. 3 He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your ancestors, so you might know that it is not by bread alone that people live, but by all that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord. 4 The clothing did not fall from you in tatters, nor did your feet swell these forty years. 5 So you must know in your heart that, even as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord, your God, disciplines you. 6 Therefore, keep the commandments of the Lord, your God, by walking in his ways and fearing him.

- *Shema!*

- **Deut 6:4** Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!
5 Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength.
6 Take to heart these words which I command you today. 7 Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up.
8 Bind them on your arm as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

- Moses dies on Mt. Nebo - could see Canaan
- **Joshua** - into the Promised Land
 - Cross the Jordan River
- **Judges (12)**
 - incessantly rescuing the Israelites , ex Jud 3:12 - 4:2 READ
 - Deborah sat under the almond tree and gave judgments
 - Gideon - poorest, weak, — sign, fire ate food — destroy gods — fleece — 100 men defeated Midianite army
 - Samson - and the Philistines, Delilah



- **Ruth** - Gentile woman named Ruth (Moab) married a Hebrew, he died;
- she stayed with her elderly mother in law (Naomi) —> amazing, beloved story of friendship, loyalty, and kinship; loved by women,
- Ruth becomes great grandmother of David



- Beautiful story of **Hannah** - and her faith
- wanted a son — Temple — **priest Eli**
- son **Samuel** —> given back to God age 3
- became a priest/judge — then played a huge role with the first kings



Now God had a relationship with Israel that he was their king;

- Samuel, the prophet, was aging.
- but, to be like the surrounding communities, they wanted a king.

I Sam 8: 4 Therefore all the elders of Israel assembled and went to Samuel at Ramah **5** and said to him, “Now that you are old, and your sons do not follow your example, appoint a king over us, like all the nations, to rule us.”

6 Samuel was displeased when they said, “Give us a king to rule us.” But he prayed to the Lord. **7** The Lord said: Listen to whatever the people say. You are not the one they are rejecting. They are rejecting me as their king. **8** They are acting toward you just as they have acted from the day I brought them up from Egypt to this very day, deserting me to serve other gods. **9** Now listen to them; but at the same time, give them a solemn warning and inform them of the rights of the king who will rule them.

- **Saul** - 1st king of Israel - tall, handsome, & strong
- after a war victory —> impatience, offered sacrifice, lost throne (I Sam 13)
- did not carry out the order to kill off a pagan army and their king
- so God rejected him as king



- David
- David was anointed by Samuel
- David and Goliath
- Saul tried to kill him because of jealousy over his popularity
- David and Jonathan - example of true brotherly love
- Saul dies in battle, wounded, falls on his sword so not to be captured (I Sam 31)
- and David becomes king.
- David was a great king, brought unity to the Israelites
- generally a time of peace
- loved God. Wrote many of the Psalms
- Danced before God naked (Michal) (2 Sam 6: 14—20+)
- BUT: David and Bathsheba - adultery, smear on his reign
- had her husband Uriah killed



- **Solomon**
- Temple
- time of peace



- Kingdom Divided
- Northern, Israel - 722 BC - **Assyria** - intermarried, 10 Lost Tribes of Israel
- Jeroboam - leader of Solomon's army
- Southern, Judah
- Solomon's son - Rehoboam
- Judah and Benjamin
- **Babylon**

Several prophets before and during the conquering of each kingdom — each of them with a significant message to the kings and the people, to repent of their idolatry and return to the covenant.



Destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, by [Francesco Hayez](#)

Jeremiah 31:31-34: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **not like the covenant which I made with their fathers** when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. **But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Ezekiel 36:26-27

26 I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** I will put my spirit within you so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them.

- story of **Daniel**
- King Nebuchanezzar of Babylon
- not eating unclean food, vegetables, 3 days
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - fiery furnace
- Lion's den



<https://seedsofffaith.cph.org/2016/06/01/lesson-1-daniel-in-the-lions-den/>

Judah was Exiled for 70 years. Released by King Cyrus, Persia

- **Persians** - King Cyrus
- Released the Israelites
- Rebuilt the Temple (Ezra and Nehemiah)



Maccabees

- Alexander the Great (**GREEK**) conquered Persia, his son Philip became King
- controlled by **Greek Empire**
- Alexander the Great dies, empire divided into his generals
- king wanted Jews to forsake their God
- Maccabee family revolted, and God gave them the victory
- Jews celebrate **Hanukkah**. 1 Mac 4:36 - end; - bc they lit the menorah with old oil, lasted 8 days - miracle, so celebrate it every year
- John 10:22 - **Feast of the Dedication**. The feast of the Dedication was then taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon.
 - overlaps with our Advent/Christmas

Roman Empire overtook the Greek Empire.

- Roman Empire expanded, Israel suppressed, under Roman rule
- Jesus is born
- Mary, Gabriel, Joseph, Elizabeth
- manger, shepherds, wise men from afar bearing gifts
- told parables, led a band of 12 and had multitude of followers
- know he died on the cross for our sins after being beaten mercilessly
- we know he resurrected and left the 12 to start the Church.....

