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John Herbert: From the Beginning to the End  
The Study of Scripture 1

- 1). Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 ¶ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*
  
- 2). Scripture begins with a material creation that becomes ruined necessitating a restoration of that creation, a process that requires six days of work and opens with the introduction of light into the darkness.
  
- 3). The creation had fallen into this ruined state through the actions of the one given to rule over it.
  - a). Eze 28:14 *"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*
  - b). This is the one that we know as Satan - Isa 14:12 *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!*
  - c). Eze 28:18 *"You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you.*
    - i/ Please note he defiled 'his' sanctuaries.
    - ii/ That recorded in the prophetic is often presented as having taken place in the present as it was revealed to the prophet in present time.
  
- 4). For six days God laboured to restore the earth to a place of habitation followed by a day of rest on the seventh - Ex 20:11 *For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.*

5). The ruler of the world, Satan, had proved himself unworthy to rule so in order to replace him God creates an entirely new being. One that had never existed before. And this being is created for the stated purpose of ruling over that which had been newly restored.

a). Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

i/ This is spoken before man's creation – And God's purpose is clear. 'Let them have dominion'.

b). Ge 1:27 *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

i/ And this same purpose is repeated after the creation of man, giving clear instruction as to the reason for his creation. 'Have dominion...'

5). However, it is a set pattern for rulership within God's economy that the one presently occupying the position of rulership, even though disqualified by his own actions, cannot be replaced until the one to replace him has been proved worthy.

a). Saul and David are a good example.

6). In order to be proved worthy there must be a test, and again this follows a set pattern. The test for rulership is always faithful obedience to the word of God.

a). Hence - Ge 2:16 ¶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

7). I am sure you remember the story. As a result of Satan's deception, God's new creation, the man and the woman, are disqualified to rule and find themselves in a ruined state, possessing a sin nature and devoid of the covering of glory necessary as an undergarment for the regal robes of royalty they had been created to wear.

a). However, something different now takes place. Rather than restoring the material creation and finding a new ruler, God sets about the restoration of man with the purpose of bringing him back to the place where

he can occupy the position for which he was created. This is not really different as Adam is made of the dust of the ground and is therefore, in essence, a part of the material creation.

b). It is the expression of Adam's faith in cleaving to his wife in her sin, trusting in God's ability to redeem, that plays no small part in this.

c). Ge 3:21 ¶ *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

8). And following God's set pattern for restoring that which was ruined there would be six days of work, followed by a seventh day of rest.

a). However these would not be seven literal days, but seven days each consisting of one thousand years - 2Pe 3:8 ¶ *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

b). And as all are now born in the likeness of Adam the restorative/redemptive process extends to all mankind on an individual basis and begins just as it did in Genesis with light shining in the darkness

2Co 4:6 *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

9). And then scripture concludes with the very culmination of God's stated plan from the beginning. With the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His bride replacing Satan and his fallen angels as the rulers over the material creation from the New Jerusalem in the heavenlies. And a restored Israel on the earth as the head of the nations from the earthly Jerusalem.

a). Re 19:7 *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*

b). Re 5:10 *And have made them kings and priests to our God; And they shall reign on (Literally: 'over') the earth."*

c). Ho 6:2 *After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.*

10). And finally scripture ends at the opening of the eternal ages

Re 21:1 ¶ *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is*

*with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

11). Now what we must understand at the outset is that God's stated purpose in the beginning, 'let them have dominion', brought to its conclusion at the end is the central focus of all scripture.

a). In other words, the whole of scripture, for those who have ears to hear, is about a change in rulership over both realms of God's Kingdom, the heavens and the earth. The coming of the King and the establishment of His Kingdom

12). If we are ever to understand scripture, to fully grasp God's plans and God's purposes, which are clearly stated, to understand His dealings with Israel, the reason for the inception of the Church and how we as individual believers fit into all this we must see the Bible in its totality, as God's complete revelation to man. As a text with cohesive unity without confusion or contradiction.

a). And the only way that this is possible is to realize that God gave it to us in a certain way and we should study it in the way it was given.

b). It begins in Genesis 1 and ends with Revelation 22 – and so should we.

c). We need to receive that given by God through the prophet Isaiah  
Isa 28:10 *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."*

d). We need to compare scripture with scripture - 1Co 2:13 *These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

13). Let's do just that - Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

(Teach this)

a). Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

(Teach this in connection with Colossians)

i/ Col 1:20 *and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

b). And note Jesus' own words on the subject in - Lu 24:25 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

i/ 'All that the prophets have spoken' - 1Pe 1:12 *To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.*

ii/ 'Beginning at Moses – 'In the beginning...'

iii/ And also - Lu 24:44 *Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

(Teach this)

iv/ In essence then all scripture is about the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. And this does not begin and end at the cross, but begins 'in the beginning' and ends with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords reigning with His co-heirs, those adopted as first born sons, His bride.

14). We can see Christ in inanimate objects like the ark of Noah, in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, the manna, the brazen serpent.

a). In living creatures like the Passover Lamb, the sacrificial bullocks, goats and rams.

b). In institutions like the Passover, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of First Fruits, Tabernacles, foot washing and baptism.

c). And in the leading personages of the OT whose stories picture our Lord's character and earthly ministry.

d). The example of the tabernacle as a picture of Christ – Slide

i/ Why does the tabernacle point to the cross? - Col 1:20 *and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

(Teach this going beyond spirit salvation)

e). The example of David as a picture, a type of Christ – From A.W.Pink – ‘He was born in Bethlehem. He is described as “of a beautiful countenance and godly to look upon”. His name means “beloved”. By occupation he was a shepherd. During his shepherd life he entered into conflict with wild beasts. He slew Goliath (by bruising his head) – the opposer of God’s people and a type of Satan. From the obscurity of shepherdhood he was exalted to Israel’s throne. He was anointed a king before he was coronated. He was pre-eminently a man of prayer [see the psalms] and is the only one in scripture termed “The man after God’s own heart”. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, suffering chiefly from those of his own household. Repeated attempts were made upon his life by Israel’s ruler. When his enemy [Saul] was in his power he refused to slay him, instead he dealt with him in mercy and grace. He delivered Israel from all their enemies and vanquished all their foes.’

15). In exactly this same way everything that moves to the placing of Christ on the throne with His Bride, His Consort Queen beside Him is laid out for us in the OT types that picture and testify of this event. The foundations are laid in Genesis and then progressively built upon throughout the rest of scripture.

a). Remember what scripture says concerning Adam and Christ  
Ro 5:14 *Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

16). The very first place we see Christ and His Bride is not in the NT but in Genesis 2

a). The bride taken from the body to be the wife of Adam  
i/ Ge 2:18 ¶ *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*  
ii/ Ge 2:21 ¶ *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*

b). In Genesis 24 it is the bride taken from the family to be the wife of the son of promise - Ge 24:4 *"but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."*

c). In Ruth it is the bride taken from the Gentiles to be the wife of the kinsman redeemer –

i/ Ru 2:6,... *"It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.*

ii/ Ru 4:10 *"Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife,*

d). And in Ephesians it is the Bride in the Church to become the wife of Christ - Eph 5:31 *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

e). And, just as in Genesis, the Bride is in the process of being made

i/ Eph 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

f). And when does the process of making the Bride begin? When the Lord is put into a deep sleep on the cross and His side is opened

i/ Joh 19:34 *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

(teach this – redemption/the salvation of the spirit is based on His death and shed blood. The event here occurs after His death dealing with those who will be made into His Bride, those taken from His body). (The process that makes faithful obedience possible for those who choose it – faithful obedience, the test that remains for those who would be found worthy to rule).

17). I hope then, in this extremely brief overview, that we can begin to see how we should approach our study of scripture and how God has given us His revelation. If we will begin to see this He will open our understanding that we might comprehend the scriptures.

a). Again let us let scripture speak for itself - 2Ti 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

b). And let us take heart. We do not need to be a doctor of theology to understand scripture, nor do we need to have academic brilliance, nor is this only for a select few. It is available to everyone who will have faith to believe what God has said.

i/ Joh 16:13 *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

c). And how will He do this? Not through a charismatic experience or sending \$20 to a so called 'prophet', but through the word, which is spirit and truth as we prayerfully study. By working in our hearts and minds as we hear the word preached as it will be throughout this conference.

i/ Ro 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

d). We will need to reject the lie that there are some parts of scripture that God does not want us to understand – remember 2 Timothy 3:16

e). And embracing the truth that God wants us to know

i/ 1Co 2:9 *But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

ii/ Jas 2:5 *Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*

f). Remember it was not to the theologians of His day that He opened the scriptures, but to uneducated, untrained, simple fishermen.

18). Pray Ephesians - Eph 1:17 *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*