

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

When the angel Gabriel came to the Blessed Virgin Mary, when the heavenly hosts appeared to the shepherds abiding in the fields, and when the crowds gathered around John the Baptist at the Jordan River in Judea, all of them shared a “master narrative” in their hearts and minds: the narrative of God’s mighty acts in the Scriptures. The Old Testament recalls God’s acts for Israel in the past, and envisions a time of fulfillment when God will act for Israel and all people in an ultimate way, far transcending all his past saving acts. The following passages summarize key aspects of this “master narrative” of the Old Testament. Reading all of the passages below is recommended, but you should definitely read the **bold** passages. Immerse yourself in these passages, reading them very carefully, perhaps more than once.

I. The Mighty Acts of God in the Past: Key Events of the Old Testament

Creation and Fall **Genesis 1-3**

Abrahamic Covenant **Genesis 12:1-9; 13:14-18; 15; 22:1-19; Psalm 47; Micah 7:18-20; Psalm 67**

Exodus **Exodus 3:1-17; 11:1-12:13; 14:1-15:21; Psalm 105**

Covenant at Sinai **Exodus 20:1-21; 24:1-8; 24:12-18; 31:18; 34:29-32**

Conquest of Palestine Joshua 1; Judges 1-2

Davidic Kingdom **2 Samuel 7; Psalm 2; Psalm 72; 78; Psalm 89:1-37; 132**

Dwelling of Yahweh in Zion **1 Kings 8:1-13; 8:14-53; 8:54-61; Psalm 132; Psalm 135; Ezekiel 1; 10:1-4**

Prophets to Israel Amos 2; Hosea 1-2; **Jeremiah 7; Jeremiah 22-23; Isaiah 1**

Fall of Jerusalem and Exile to Babylon 2 Kings 18-19; 21:1-9; **2 Kings 25; Psalm 89; Ezekiel 1; 8:3-4; 10:4-5, 18-22; 11:22-24**

II. The Mighty Acts of God to Come: Key Prophetic Promises of the Old Testament

New Exodus **Jeremiah 32; 16:14-15; Hosea 2:14-23; Isaiah 40:1-11; 52:1-12; Amos 9:7-15; Haggai 2:1-9; cf. Psalm 106**

New Covenant **Jeremiah 31:27-34; Ezekiel 36:16-36**

Davidic Messiah or Son of David **Isaiah 9:1-7; 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Amos 9:7-15; Mic 5:1-5; Zech 9:9-10**

Renewal of Creation **Isaiah 11:6-9**; 35:1-10; 65:25; **66:22-24**; Hosea 2:18-23; Psalm 98:7-9

Resurrection of the Dead **Isaiah 25:6-12**; 26:11-19; **Daniel 12:1-2**; 12:13

Coming of Yahweh to Zion **Isaiah 40:1-11**; **Psalm 96**; **Psalm 97**; **Ezekiel 37:21-28**; reread **Ezekiel 10:18-22**; **11:22-24**, then read **Ezekiel 43:1-5**. Cf. the book's climactic verse, **48:35**.

Inclusion of the Nations 1 Kings 8:54-61; **Isaiah 2:1-5**; 45:20-25; **Jeremiah 3:16-18**; **16:19-21**; Zechariah 2:10-13; cf. Psalm 96; **Psalm 100**

The Kingdom of God Psalm 96; **Psalm 98**; **Daniel 2**; Isaiah 25:6-9; Ezekiel 17

Prophet Greater than Moses **Deut 18:9-22**, esp. 18:15-19; cf. chap. 34, esp. **34:9-12**

Son of Man of Daniel **Daniel 7**

The Servant of Isaiah **Isaiah 42:1-9**; **49:1-6**; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12

III. Awaiting the Mighty Acts of God in Zion: The Close of the Old Testament Story

Return from Babylon **2 Chronicles 36:22-23**; **Ezra 3**; **Nehemiah 9**

Post-Exilic Prophets **Haggai 2:1-9**; **Zechariah 2:10-13**; **8:18-23**; **9:9-10**

Fulfillment Time Elijah Reread **Isaiah 40:1-11**; read **Malachi 3:1-5**; **4:4-6** [=3:22-24]