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Arrow 3, 1 Peter 1:18-25

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Introduction

- We believe that God's Word has power.
 - It has the power to change lives, bring the dead to life, and bring about second birth.
 - We're learning how to understand it using the *7 Arrows*.¹

Foundational Truth: The Unity of Scripture

- What is the Bible about? What is its central message? Who is its main character? What is its overarching story?
 - Sometimes, we struggle to understand the Bible because we are reading it in the wrong "key."
 - We read it in the key that its about *me* instead of every story being about *God*.
 - Why do we tend to do this?
 - First, we are sinful and self-centered.
 - Second, we do not understand the story of the gospel.
- Point: The Bible is a **unified Word**.
 - "The Bible is not just an instruction manual, although it certainly gives instructions. It is not just a guide for moral living, although it certainly addresses morality. It is not just an anthology of disparate stories, only connected by the front and back cover. The Bible is a covenant book, given to God's covenant people so they might know him fully." - Matthew Emerson²
 - The Bible is unified by one subject and one story.
 - The one subject is the Triune God.

- The one story is the history of redemption: creation, fall, redemption, restoration.

Arrow 3: “What Does this Passage Tell Us about God?”

- Therefore, the Bible’s unity means that we ought to have this goal in mind anytime we are reading Scripture...
- Point: Arrow 3 asks, “What does this passage tell us about God?”
 - In order to answer this question, you must develop the skill of **theological thinking**.
 - What does it mean to do theological thinking? It means learning how to look for the clues that connect the individual passage we’re reading to the main subject and story.
 - Skills for theological thinking...
 - Look for God’s words, actions, or words about God in the text
 - Look for connections to the big story
 - Look for typology
 - Ex. Jonah and Jesus, David and Jesus, Joseph, Daniel, and Jesus
 - Look for quotations and allusions
 - Look for covenantal themes

Applying the Third Skill

- Psalm 1
 - God blesses us with his Word, and he watches over those who devote their lives to him, as evidenced by obedience to his instruction.
- Matt. 21:1-11
 - God is faithful to fulfill his promises. Matthew again emphasized that God the Father is fulfilling his word to the prophets through Jesus’ ministry. Jesus established God’s kingdom on earth and enacted the forgiveness of sins.³

- Col. 1:15-20

- Our all-powerful God has created everything seen and unseen. He continues to hold all things together. Even when sin corrupted his creation, he defeated it through Jesus Christ.⁴

Conclusion

- “O my God, teach my heart where and how to seek you, where and how to find you. You are my God and you are my all and I have never seen you. You have made me and remade me, you have showered upon me all the good things I possess, still I do not know you. I have not yet done that for which I was made. Teach me to seek you. I cannot seek you unless you teach me or find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in my desire, let me desire you in my seeking. Let me find you by loving you, let me love you when I find you.” - Anselm⁵

End Notes

¹ Rogers, Matt and Donny Mathis. *Seven Arrows: Aiming Bible Readers in the Right Direction*, Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Publishing, 2017.

² Matthew Emerson, “The Bible’s Theological Unity,” *CSB News & Information*, published January 10, 2018, accessed April 15, 2024, <https://csbible.com/bibles-theological-unity/>.

³ Adapted from *Seven Arrows Bible* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2019).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Prayer of Anselm, adapted from *100 Prayers Every Christian Should Know* (Bloomington, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers, 2021), 81.