

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest covered in a thick layer of snow. A dark, winding road with white dashed lines runs horizontally across the middle of the image, curving slightly to the right. The trees are dark green and heavily laden with snow, creating a textured, white landscape.

The Unity of the Bible

Understanding the arch of Scripture from beginning to end



God created the world...

Why?

...not because he lacked anything



his Spirit & his Son were with him

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2 (ESV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

John 1:1 (ESV)

“And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”

John 17:5 (ESV)

“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 17:24-26 (ESV)

Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

Exodus 33:18-19 (ESV)

For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring
of Abraham.

Hebrews 2:16 (ESV)

God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

2 Peter 2:4 (ESV)

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

Matthew 25:34 (ESV)

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:4-6 (ESV)

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”
So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God,
who has mercy.

Romans 9:14-16 (ESV)

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”

Romans 9:17-19 (ESV)

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

Romans 9:20-22 (ESV)

in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

Romans 9:23-24 (ESV)

summarize

- ❖ What is the Bible? It is the progressive, redemptive, revelation of God's love and grace towards undeserving people.
- ❖ What is its central theme? It is that God graciously does for his chosen, yet undeserving people what they cannot do for themselves, for his glory and their good.

FIRST STEP IN RESPONDING TO
GOD'S PURPOSE