The Jesus Trip, Don't Look Out Look Up

By: D. Karl Thomas

The Bible: 2 Testaments - Old and New 66 Books 31,102 Verses 1663 Commands 240 Different authors 3237 Different characters. 31 guys named "Zechariah." **1 STORY**

The Bible was not given to man so that he could fix his story.

The Bible is His story and how you can find your place in it.

You don't find 10 steps to a better life in the Bible. You get to read about a God who through His Son took 10,000 steps to get to you.

John 5:39-40 (Message) "You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. <u>These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am</u>, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want."

2 Corinthians 3:6 "...made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

The fire to do in the Christian life comes from being soaked in the fuel of the story of what has been done!

Hebrews 1:1-3 "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days <u>spoken to us by His Son</u>, ...; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person..."

The Bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about God and what he has done. You can think too highly of your interpretations of Scripture, you cannot think too highly of Scripture's view of itself.

Deuteronomy 28:36-37 "The Lord will exile you and your king to a nation unknown to you and your ancestors. There in exile you will worship gods of wood and stone! You will become an object of horror, ridicule, and mockery among all the nations to which the Lord sends you."

Deuteronomy 31:29 "I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt and will turn from the way I have commanded you to follow. In the days to come, disaster will come down on you, for you will do what is evil in the Lord's sight, making him very angry with your actions."

Moses wraps up the whole Torah (The Law) with downer of a speech. You will utterly fail! The whole point is, no one can achieve the new creation on their own.

We are in desperate need of help! God saves us Himself. Jesus did what we can't do!

Jeremiah 2:19 "Your wickedness will bring its own punishment. Your turning from me will shame you. You will see what an evil, bitter thing it is to abandon the Lord your God and not to fear him. I, the Lord, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!"

Numbers 32:23 "But if you fail to keep your word, then you will have sinned against the Lord, and you may be sure that your sin will find you out."

(MSG) "But if you don't do what you say, you will be sinning against God; you can be sure that your sin will track you down."

Proverbs 8:36 "But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul;" (NKJV) "But those who miss me injure themselves." (NLT)

- 1 Kings 13:2 "A child named Josiah will be born into the dynasty of David."
- **2 Kings 25:16** "Then Josiah turned around and noticed several tombs in the side of the hill. He ordered that the bones be brought out, and he burned..." **300 Years earlier prophesied by name!!**
- 2 Chronicles 34:14, 19 "Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord that was written by Moses." "When the king (Josiah) heard what was written in the Law, he tore his clothes in despair." Josiah makes every effort to turn the nation back to God.
- **2** Chronicles 35:22-24 "But <u>Josiah refused to listen</u> to Neco, to whom God had indeed spoken, and he would not turn back ... archers hit King Josiah with their arrows and wounded him ... brought him back to Jerusalem, where he died."
- 1 Peter 1:10-12 "This salvation was something even the prophets <u>wanted to know more about</u> when they prophesied about <u>this gracious salvation prepared for you</u>. They wondered what time ... They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you."

Two Prophets during the time of Josiah. **Habakkuk** — His book is a revelation of his wrestling with God. **Zephaniah** — His book is a God's word of hope to His people.

Habakkuk 1:2, 12 (2 Complaints) #1 "How long, O Lord, must I call for help? But you do not listen! 'Violence is everywhere!' I cry, but you do not come to save." #2 "O Lord, our Rock, you have sent these Babylonians to correct us, to punish us for our many sins." WHAT???? The Babylonians are worse than us!!!

Habakkuk 1:5 Paul connects Gospel Acts 13:38-41 As He talks to the Jews!

"Everyone who believes in him is made right in God's sight—something the law of Moses could never do ... For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.""

God reveals Gospel Habakkuk 2:4 "But the just shall live by his faith." Romans 1:17 "The just shall live by faith." Galatians 2:4 "The just shall live by faith." Hebrews 10:38 "Now the just shall live by faith;"

Habakkuk 2:14 "For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be <u>filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord</u>." Habakkuk 2:20 "But the Lord is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."

Habakkuk 3:1-2 (AMP) "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, set to (Shigionoth) wild and enthusiastic music. O Lord, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath [earnestly] remember compassion and love."

Habakkuk 3:17-19 "...even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.

All nations will be judged. But we rejoice with great hope!

Zephaniah 3:8-9 *"All the earth will be devoured by the fire of my jealousy ... Then I will purify the speech of all people, so that everyone can worship the Lord together. ... "*

Zephaniah 3:16-17 "On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, 'Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid! For the Lord your God is living among you. <u>He is a mighty savior</u>. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."

Ephesians 2:14-18 "For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <u>He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations</u> ..."

"... Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross,...

Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us."