

Christ in All the Scriptures: How Jesus Is the Red Thread of the Bible

When reading and trying to understand the Bible, we need to understand the whole, before we can interpret the different parts correctly. If you don't understand the big picture of the Bible - as it goes from Genesis to Revelation - it is easy to miss the message of the particular passage you are reading. The Bible's own approach to reading it rightly, and understanding it correctly, is historical salvation. This means that the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is one great story about God redeeming a people for himself from lost mankind. The key concepts of this story are Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration. With the Redemption and Restoration – the whole of salvation history - centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Leif Nummela works as Bible teacher and theologian for the Finnish Lutheran Mission and is Editor-in-Chief for the Finnish Christian magazine *Uusi Tie*, a weekly Christian periodical with 10,000 subscribers. He was educated as a Candidate of Missiology at the Institute of Missiology and Theology in Ryttylä, Finland; then took a Master of Theology from the University of Helsinki; and finally took a Special Degree in Leadership Training at the University of Applied Sciences in Hämeenlinna, Finland. He is an ordained pastor in the Ingrian Lutheran Church and has previously worked as both a missionary to Italy, and a leader of the Theological Institute in Finland. He has been a member of several mission and evangelism councils, as well as on the the Synod of the Finnish Lutheran Church. Leif is the author of 7 books, which have altogether sold over 40000 copies, and has written and published over 1000 articles in popular-level Christian magazines. Leif has been married to Irene for 32 years and they have 3 children and five grandchildren.

I. Jesus as key to interpreting the Old Testament

A. Understanding the BIG STORY of the Bible

B. Key to understanding the Bible given by Jesus himself

1. *Matthew 5:17*
2. *Luke 24:27*
3. *Luke 24:44*
4. *John 5:39*
5. *Hebrews 10:7*

II. The New Testament writers used the key given by Jesus

A. Testimony of the apostle John (*John 1: 1-3,18; 8:56-59; 5:37-47,12:37-43*)

B. Testimony of the apostle Paul (*Acts 28:23*)

C. Testimony of the writer of the letter to the Hebrews (*Hebrews 4:2; 11:26*)

D. Testimony of the apostle Peter (*1 Peter 1: 10-11*)

E. Testimony of Jude (*Jude 5*)

III. God always reveals himself through His Son

A. The Son reveals the Father in the Old Testament

B. The Son reveals the Father in the New Testament

IV. The Reformers used the key given by Jesus

A. During the reformation the leaders encouraged people to seek Christ in their reading of the Bible

1. Calvin

2. Luther

B. How the Old Testament points us to Christ

C. Creation through Christ and for Christ

D. The First Gospel Promise in the Bible, immediately after the fall

E. Key texts in the Old Testament promising Redemption:

1. Gospel proclaimed to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)
2. Work of Christ foreshadowed in the Exodus (Ex. 12)
3. Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:20-22)
4. Jesus is the promised Son of David (2 Sam. 7)
5. The Suffering Servant of God (Isa. 53)
6. The Son of Man is given everlasting Dominion (Dan. 7:13-14)

F. Our place in Gods great salvation story