

Why's the Bible important?

# Outline of Exploring Theology Session 3

- Recap of Sessions 1 & 2

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- Opening prayer

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- Questions of identity
- Importance of story — how do these stories relate?
- How do we learn to speak of God and ourselves?

Why's the Bible important?

# Opening prayer



Blessed Lord,  
who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
Grant that we may in such wise hear them,  
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,  
that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word,  
we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,  
which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Two more definitions of theology!

Theology is “the application of the Word of God by persons to all areas of life.”

John Frame

The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God (1987)

Theology is “nothing less than the proclamation of the Word of God to this world, allowing it to be at work through us here and now”.

John Behr

# Lectio Divina

- Read (Lectio)
- Meditate (Meditatio)
- Pray (Oratio)
- Contemplate (Contemplatio)

## Mark 8:27-33 - Read

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' 28 And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' 29 He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

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31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'



## Mark 8:27-33 - Meditate

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What are our key sources  
for theological reflection?

- Scripture

- Scripture
- Tradition

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience
- Worship



What do we mean by reason?

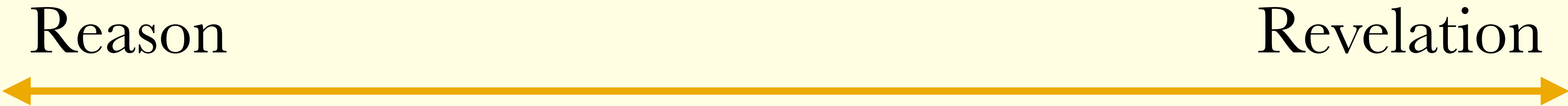
How do we know about God?

Reason

Revelation

Reason

Revelation





Where do you stand?

Reason

Revelation



Where does your  
minister stand?

Reason

Revelation



Your friends in church?



Reason

Revelation



The books, podcasts,  
YouTube etc. you read,  
listen to and watch?

# Image of God

*imago Dei*

# Holy Scripture

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- If you read the Bible, how, when and where do you do this?
- Why do you read the Bible?
- Are there parts of the Bible you prefer to others?
- Which aspects of the Bible do you find difficult?

What do you think the plot is?

How much of the plot takes place  
in the Old Testament?

How much of the plot takes place  
in the New Testament?

How much of the plot takes place

How much of the plot takes place  
now?

# The Five Act Play

- Act 1: Creation

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- Act 2: Israel



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- Act 1: Creation
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- Act 4: Church

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- Act 5: The End

Who's the key character?

# The Five Act Play

- Act 1: Creation
- Act 2: Israel
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If the key character is Jesus,

# The Five Act Play

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If the key character is Jesus,  
where is he in Acts 1, 2, 4 & 5?



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# Patterns



Jon Roxborough

Robert Jenson (1930-2017)

“God is whoever raised Jesus from the dead,  
having before raised Israel from Egypt.”



# Resurrection

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having before raised Israel from Egypt.”

What other patterns are there in Scripture?

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# Death & Resurrection

# The Five Act Play

- Act 1: Creation
- Act 2: Israel
- Act 3: Jesus
- Act 4: Church
- Act 5: The End



Why's the church important?

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