

Filling In The Picture

Going to the movie theater is always a fun escape. Recently I had the opportunity to go to an IMAX movie at the Mall of Georgia. Wow! What an experience! The screen is four or five times larger than a normal screen. Part of the movie I was seeing was in 3-D, making the experience even more amazing.

If you are a movie goer, some of the things you always look for at the theater are the new posters that show the up and coming attractions. Some of them will show various scenes and captions from the movie, giving you just enough of a taste of what the movie is about to make you want to see the whole movie when it is released.

Imagine a movie about the Bible. If you were designing the poster to draw the audience you might consider different eye-catching scenes. Pictures of events throughout the Bible could be used, like Adam and Eve at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You might place a scene of Moses and the burning bush, or Aaron with the Ark of the Covenant on the poster. You might want to add scenes of romance like David and Bathsheba, or perhaps Ahasuerus and Esther. Other scenes included might be events in the lives of the prophet, like Elijah and the 400 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, or Naaman dipping in the Jordan River seven times, or maybe Daniel in the Lions Den. You would most certainly want to leave some room on the poster to add scenes from the New Testament like events in the life of Christ. You might want to show a picture of the 3000 on the day the church began in Acts 2 who were baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Or what about Peter and John before the Sandhedrin, or even Paul and Silas in chains in a Philippian jail. You would most certainly want to leave some room for some of the pictures described in the book of Revelation, like the seven headed dragon with ten horns.

With poster completed, what do you suppose would enter the mind of an individual as he looked at the scenes to consider if he wanted to see the movie? For those not acquainted with the Bible, perhaps the poster would seem too disjointed. Perhaps seeing all those different, apparently disconnected scenes would cause the person to say that it looks too confusing to try to put all the pictures together to make one enjoyable movie.

The Bible is much like the poster just considered. There are hundreds of pictures throughout its pages that most would consider as being completely disjointed and unrelated to one another. Many give up on the Bible because they cannot see how every picture, every scene, every event, every command of God, every action of disobedience, every battle, every article of worship, every fact, every paragraph, every sentence and every word is connected to one major theme. Nothing in God's word is there for filler, or for the purpose of confusion. If it is in the Bible it is there for a reason. All the scenes connect! But how?

This fall the Buford Satellite Campus of the Georgia School Of Preaching And Biblical Studies will offer a course on God's Scheme Of Redemption. Like going to a movie, it will show how all the scenes of the Bible interconnect in such a way as to give a full picture of God's plan for saving mankind, utilizing His

patience and His love. It will seek to identify central themes that ribbon their way throughout the entire Bible, showing how the placement of all the events of the Bible is a part of the plan of God.

Will you consider taking these classes for thirteen weeks beginning Thursday night, August 23rd at 7pm? Each class will be two hours in length. You can choose to audit the class, or take it for credit through GSOP. The only cost will be the purchase of one book. Notes and handouts will be provided. Be sure to get an application today at the Welcome Center, and come and join us in our study. Your teacher will be me, Scott Harp. If you have any questions feel free to approach me about it.

—Scott