



Today we continue to look into Worldview Puzzle Piece No. 8 – As I have stated for the previous Seven (7) Puzzle Pieces...The Bible is not only the foundational, indispensable textbook and truth guide for Theology, Philosophy, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Ethics, and Law...it is the chief sources of History, history from the very beginning of time itself.

According to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History#Etymology> The word 'History' comes from the Greek **ἱστορία** *historia*, meaning "inquiry; knowledge acquired by investigation". Events before the invention of writing systems are called pre-history. History as an academic discipline uses narrative to describe, examine, question and analyze past events, and their significant cause and effects.” (Wikipedia)

The Greek Herodotus (c. 484-425BC) is considered the ‘father of history’ because of the way he gathered evidence and tested it for accuracy. Another important individual in the development of the discipline of History was the Athenian (Greek) historian and General **Thucydides** (Θουκυδίδης [[thū:ky:díde:s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thucydides)]; c. 460 – c. 400 BC), who seemed to be a little more scientific in his approach.

Of course, long before either one of these we have the great History writer the Old Testament – Moses. There are entire groups of people in the Bible that are focused solely on preserving the Historical record between God and His people.

According to this web site

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Navigation/Community/Arcadia-and-THP-Blog/June-2016/Why-It%E2%80%99s-Important-That-We-Study-History>

Here are some reasons why the study of HISTORY MATTERS for Biblical Worldview Christians.

1. History helps us develop a better understanding of the world.
2. History helps us understand ourselves.
3. History helps us learn to understand other people.
4. History teaches a working understanding of change.
5. History gives us the tools we need to be better citizens.
6. History makes us better decision makers.

You may be familiar with these somewhat famous quotes:

- “The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future. (President Theodore Roosevelt)
- Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” (George Santayana, similar quotes attributed to Edmund Burke & Winston Churchill)

The key reason that I see as to why HISTORY MATTERS to those of us who are seeking to Develop A Biblical Worldview is this:

Knowing how God has spoken and interacted with humankind in the past and how we as humans have responded to God, and to one another; can give us knowledge and wisdom to live our daily lives so that we can live in RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD, WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND WITH THE CREATED WORLD AND Its RESOURCES.

In essence, when we obey God, history records a positive outcome for mankind. When we disobey, history records a negative outcome. It doesn't take a genius to figure out what we should be doing... RIGHT?

HISTORY

I have entitled today's message '*His-Story – It Matters*.'

This is a refocusing of the subject of History back to its original and true meaning... The Story of God and His interaction with mankind. You may not have heard any sermons with the subject of History, but it is vitally important that we place our worldview understanding of History in the proper perspective of our past human experiences in relationship with God.

Biblical Principles & the Study of History

(Adapted from <https://www.liberty.edu/arts-sciences/history/biblical-worldview-principles/>)

1. God is comprehensively sovereign over the nations. (Acts 17:26)
2. Jesus Christ is central in human history. (Colossians 1: 16-17, Ephesians 1: 10)
3. God has established order, intelligence, and truth in the universe and history. (Isaiah 42:5, John 1:1, John 1:14, Acts 17: 25 & 28, Romans 11: 36)
4. Commitment to objectivity and honesty is essential to historical investigation. (Proverbs 12: 19)
5. **The Bible** provides principles of ethics that guide our evaluation of people and nations. (Exodus 20: 1-17)
6. Man is an image-bearer of God, yet fallen and sinful. (Genesis 1: 27, Romans 1:18-32)

7. The historian must be dedicated to a reasoned and investigated reconstruction of primary sources. (Luke 1: 1-4)
8. The Bible teaches all men to recognize their human limitations. (Psalm 90, Psalm 139)
9. History illustrates the brevity of life and the reality of eternity to come. (Ecclesiastes 3:11, James 4: 13-15, Psalm 39: 4-6)

THE THEOLOGICAL - HISTORICAL CONNECTION

(Adapted from Richard P. Tolson. Professor at Cedarville University. "History and the Biblical Worldview"

https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1167&context=history_and_government_publications)

1. The Historical Necessity of Divine Omniscience and Sovereignty.

"These are two (2) key biblical doctrines foundational to understanding history are God's omniscience (Job 24:23; Ps. 33:13-15, 139:13-16; Prov. 15:3; Jer. 16:17; Heb. 4:13) — that is, God knowing all things — and God's sovereignty or absolute control of all things. The Lord knows everything because He establishes every event of history (*Eph. 1:11... We have also received an inheritance in Him, predestined according to the purpose of the One who works out everything in agreement with the decision of His will,*) for His own glorifying purpose, which we are told is always good (*Rom. 8:28... all things work together*)

Having created all things and continually sustaining all things through His Son who "*upholds the universe by the word of his power*" (*Heb. 1:3*), the Father according to His good and perfect will determines what is possible and impossible in our historical experiences. He knows the future no less than the past because He has foreordained all events that have happened as well as those yet to transpire. This includes both good and bad experiences:

Isaiah 45:7... ***“I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things”***

God’s sovereign rule over history, then, is absolute and perfectly righteous, even though His ultimate purpose may be hidden from us (***Gen. 50:20... You planned evil against me; God planned it for good***). Because God is the author of every moment, history as a form of knowledge is objective without being impersonal — yet personal without being arbitrary or unpredictable”. (Tolson, Richard. P. 54)

2. Divine Grace and The Human Will

“God’s sovereign control over our lives by no means constitutes blind determinism, where individuals — like Sophocles’ tragic character Oedipus — valiantly strive against their grim destiny but are hopelessly overcome by it. Quite the contrary, according to Scripture, we freely choose all that we do, yet we do so in circumstances that God has arranged for us, for according to the psalmist, ***“You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me” (Ps. 139:5)***. Moreover, we cannot blame our unrighteous actions ***James 1:13,14...¹³ No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God.” For God is not tempted by evil, and He Himself doesn’t tempt anyone.¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires***

I Corinthians 10:13...No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it.

“Given this biblical fact that ***“no one does good, not even one” (Rom. 3:12)***, it is a foregone conclusion how man will act apart from the grace of God, which restrains the full destructive power of our rebellious nature, thereby making human civilization possible. That there is moral orderliness to our existence in a world under the curse of sin testifies to the fact that God is superior over and intervening in the affairs of men — introducing righteous spontaneity to what would otherwise be a nonstop committal of lawlessness on our part. Absent this supernatural infusion of grace, we would not have the freedom to do good because all our actions would be immorally yet volitionally determined by our natural condition — a condition from which we are powerless to break free of or overcome on our own. God’s grace is the only way for man to have any choice other than to carry out evil, for apart from God, man faces a grim determinism of his own making because, according to Paul, ***“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14)***.

God is the mover of history, and all that happens in history is according to His will. So even while we genuinely choose all our actions (***“choose this day whom you will serve ...” — Josh. 24:15***) —

“Only a sovereign and righteous God can enable the genuine freedom of sinners to choose according to their will and still hold them morally culpable for all their actions”.

(Adapted from Richard P. Tolson. Professor at Cedarville University. “History and the Biblical Worldview” https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1167&context=history_and_government_publications)

Below is some great information adapted from Diana Waring at <https://www.dianawaring.com/biblical-worldview>

Three Levels in History In regard to a Biblical Worldview

Biblical Worldview Level 1: Connecting Chronology

“The first step is interweaving secular and sacred events. Have you ever wondered what impact the Exodus had on the Egyptians? What happened the night of Belshazzar’s feast? Who was King Cyrus, whom God specifically names in the book of Isaiah?

These questions and others point us to the reality that Biblical stories took place within the pages of real history. Putting Bible stories within their historical context makes them come alive! It is one of the most exciting parts of uncovering the connection between the Bible and history. Continuing on through history, the events of the historic church are interwoven with secular events.

Setting the development of the church in the context of history will enable you to see the impact of the historical church on the surrounding culture and vice versa.

As you see the spread of the gospel—the growth of missions, the controversies and divisions, the great revivals, and more—in light of contemporary events in history, you will finally be able to connect the dots and get a glimpse of the bigger picture of God’s work in the world.

Questions :

How do Bible stories like those of Joseph, Daniel, and Esther fit into the pages of history?

How did the developments of the Greek and Roman empires pave the way for the spread of the gospel?

What impact did the early church have on western civilization?

What is the significance of the missionary movements and revivals which are often overlooked in secular history”?

(Diana Waring)

Biblical Worldview Level 2: Tracing Ideas

“This level seeks to lead us to analyze how ideas do have consequences. Let’s consider “how our view of the Bible influences the way we see government, justice, social development, art, music, education? What we believe impacts everything we do. That holds true for every religion, philosophy, and culture.

Tracing ideas through history allows us to examine their impact on people and events, discovering that “ideas have consequences.” (Diana Waring)

“For example, when we consider the French Revolution, it is important to understand how the powerful ideas being discussed in French cafes deeply influenced the events which followed.

And, just as the Bereans of the New Testament, we seek to evaluate these ideas in light of the Scriptures. In essence, we use the grid of a Biblical worldview to analyze changing and developing philosophies and beliefs in history.

Questions:

What philosophies or ideas lay behind this historical event?

Does this particular event, though it is labeled “Christian,” truly reflect a Biblical worldview?

How have secular ideas impacted the Church?

How have Biblical ideas impacted the surrounding culture”? (Diana Waring)

Biblical Worldview Level 3: Seeing God's Heart

"The third looks for God's faithfulness to all peoples throughout the ages, providing A chance to see God's character, His faithfulness, love, and mercy displayed in the pages of history

God has a purpose that is greater than the plans of man. And ultimately it is HIS-story!

Therefore, this level of Christian history seeks out the evidences of God's heart—revealed in revivals, missions, and mercy ministries—and how that has affected the world.

For example, when we see the incredible timing of the powerful Pyongyang revival of 1907 in Korea and realize that it occurred within the brief, 5-year window of peace between the Russo-Japanese War and the Japanese occupation of Korea (which lasted 35 years), we begin to glimpse a measure of God's faithfulness, compassion, wisdom, and grace".

Questions to consider:

Where, even in the darkest moments of history, do we see God?

How was God preparing His church through these events?

How did God use this event for the spread of the gospel?

How did God demonstrate His faithfulness in this area of history?

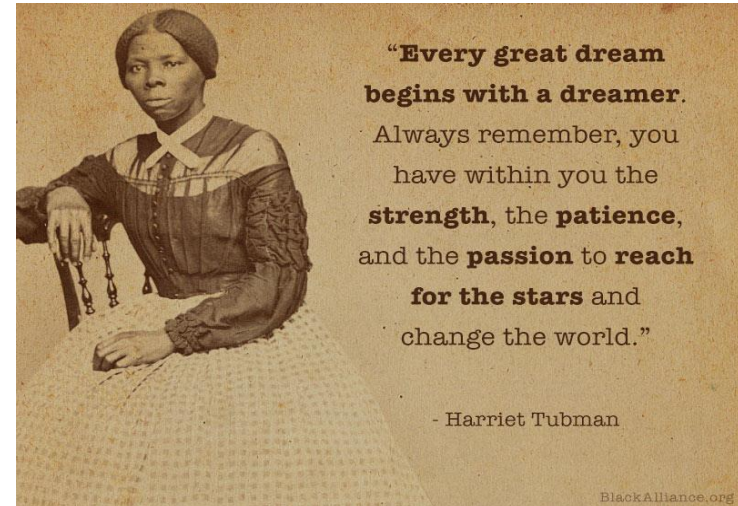
How does this glimpse of God's character affect my life?

(Adapted from Diana Waring:

<https://www.dianawaring.com/biblical-worldview>

We are making History this very moment...

What will the history books say about you?



Let's Be the Change Agent to the World

Let's Walk in Truth, Walk in Love Truth & Love

VICTOR OR VICTIM?

It's your history to write...

Write a Victorious One!

A Faithful One!

A Christ-Honoring One!