THE STORY CHAPTER 13

The King Who Had It All

January 7-8, 2017

Appearing on the Big Screen…

**From the Upper Story**

The promised Messiah will come from the tribe of Judah and sit on the throne of David.

**From the Lower Story**

**Biblical Wisdom:** The skill to consistently apply common sense with a discerning spirit learned from experience or trusted mentors filtered through the Word and Will of God leading to optimal success in life.

We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you once you get your feet on firm spiritual ground, but it’s not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. God’s wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. You don’t find it lying around on the surface. It’s not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene.

*1 Corinthians 2:6-7 MSG*

Honor the Lord with your wealth,

with the firstfruits of all your crops

then your barns will be filled to overflowing,

and your vats will brim over with new wine.

*Pg. 180, Proverbs 3:9-10*

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

*James 1:5*

6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

*James 1:6-8*

THE STORY CHAPTER 13

The King Who Had It All

Randy Frazee

Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, TX

January 7-8, 2017

**To view The Story Chapter 13 video,** [**CLICK HERE**](http://media.oakhillschurch.com/default.aspx?page=3679&item=562)**.**

God has chosen to reveal his will to us in a story. Not hundreds of unrelated stories, but just one grand love story – his love for us. I so desperately want you to see this one story, because you will be struck by just how far God has gone to get you and I back.

For those of you who are new, we are using a special book simply called The Story to guide us week by week through our study. Essentially it is an abridged chronology of the Bible or you can pick up one of our weekly reading guides and use your Bible.

There are five movements to this story. We have created a free app to help you not only see these five movements but memorize them so you can share this amazing, life changing story with others.

*Review instructions for downloading the app.*



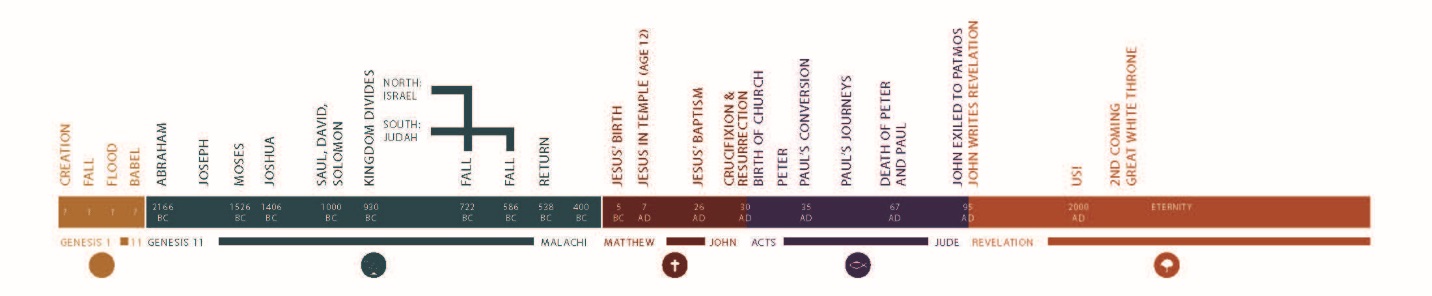
At Oak Hills we are very serious about the discipleship of our students. We want them to know God’s Word and His story like the back of their hand. 318 of students from all of our campuses have joined a discipleship program called “Crew+”. In this program they agree to:

1. Attend 75% of Crew Gatherings and be a part of a Crew Small Group.
2. They commit to reading and completing the Story Study for all 31 weeks
3. They agree to attend seven Crew+ meetings on important topics for their spiritual growth
4. They agree to serve the church (in Host ministry, production, Bibleland)
5. They agree to invite two friends who don’t go to church to a Crew gathering
6. They agree to memorize the five movements.

*Invite two students to recite Movement #1 and Movement #2.*

Movement 2 – The Story of Israel goes from Genesis 12 to the end of the Old Testament (or Malachi). It is divided into two parts – The Story of Israel United, and The Story of Israel Divided.

*Refer to Timeline poster.*

**

The Story of Israel United starts with Abraham and goes to David. The Story of Israel Divided actually starts with Solomon, chapter 13 of The Story, or where we find ourselves today.

**From the Upper Story**

In the Bible there are two stories going on at the same time – The Lower Story and the Upper Story. The Lower Story is how we see the story unfolding from our perspective. The Upper Story is the one God is writing. He weaves all our Lower Stories together to tell his one grand story. The secret to life is to find out the themes of God’s story and where God’s story is going and point your life in that direction.

In Movement 1 – The Story of the Garden, God has a vision of creating the universe and the earth and all living things and then He comes down and does life with us in the garden. That vision was lost by the first two people – Adam and Eve. The rest of the story is God’s plan to get us back.

In Movement 2, he creates a brand new nation from scratch called Israel. It will be through Israel that the solution will come – his name is Jesus. In Genesis 12 God made an unconditional promise to Abraham, the father of this nation, that the Messiah would come from his family. Abraham has Isaac; Isaac has twelve sons. Which of these sons will be the lineage of Jesus?

God reveals this to us when we come to David. God made an unconditional promise to David that the Messiah would come from his line – which is (does anybody know?) – the line of Judah. No matter what humans do in the Lower Story, Jesus will come from the line of Judah, the family of David. Jesus will sit on the throne of King David.

**The promised Messiah will come from the tribe of Judah and sit on the throne of David.**

So, it makes complete sense, when David dies, one of his sons succeeds him on the throne. Now, David had several wives (which we won’t go into right now) and he had several sons. The one God chose to succeed him was not his oldest son but a son named Solomon (1 Chronicles 22:7-10) who was born to him from him and Bathsheba – yes the woman with whom he committed adultery and then subsequently had her husband killed. The firstborn son died at birth as a consequence for David’s sin. You would think God would not choose a son from Bathsheba, but he does. It is a reminder to us that God can take the mess we make and turn it into something beautiful. If we will turn to him like David did, He will do the same thing for you and me.

*Encourage people to check out Psalm 51.*

So, God’s Upper Story is completely intact and unfolding according to God’s timetable.

Now, let’s dive into the Lower Story for a few minutes and look at how Solomon chose to live his life and the decisions he makes.

**From the Lower Story**

Right off the back young King Solomon is faced with a decision from God. Let me tell you the story. It is found on page 176 of your Story book or 1 Kings 3 beginning in verse 4.

**4**The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. **5**At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

**6**Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

**7**“Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. **8**Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. **9**So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

**10**The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. **11**So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, **12**I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. **13**Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. **14**And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” **15**Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

*Pg. 176, 1 Kings 3:4-15*

What a remarkable encounter!

Solomon asks for wisdom. In Hebrew (the language of the Old Testament) the word is *hokmah.* In Greek (the language of the New Testament) the word is *sophia.*  We name our daughters Sophia but seldom do we name them Hokmah. One of you could be the first.

What was Solomon asking for? Or, what is biblical wisdom?

**Biblical Wisdom: The skill to consistently apply common sense with a discerning spirit learned from experience or trusted mentors filtered through the Word and Will of God, leading to optimal success in life.**

* Wisdom is a **skill**. It is not just about knowing the best thing to do; it is actually doing it.
* **Consistently** – The benefit comes through perpetually making good decisions. It is like compounding interest. A lifetime of wise decisions produces great fruit.
* It is **common sense** that you either learn from your own life experience or better from carefully selected **mentors** – people you look up to – people you know personally, people you listen to or read about. If I ask you, who are your mentors? Would you have an answer? And…would I be impressed by your selection? More importantly, would God give you the nod for your choices?

*Randy describes his current mentors.*

Cut baby in half – a great example of this in Solomon’s life is found on page 177 of The Story or 1 Kings 3 beginning in verse 16. Two prostitutes come before King Solomon. They lived in the same building and both of them had babies just three days old. The first claims that the other lady accidently smothered her baby in the middle of the night and got up and switched babies and now claims the alive baby as hers. Who is Solomon to believe? He wasn’t there. He applied common sense with a discerning spirit. He ordered one of his men to cut the alive baby in half and give each woman an equal portion. One of the mothers said, “Ok”. The other mother said, “Don’t kill the baby, give the baby to her.” Solomon discerned from this the identity of the real mother who would rather give the baby up than see the baby die. (This gives us insight for the option of adoption over abortion)

* But, Biblical wisdom is more than simple common sense. It is **filtered through the Word and Will of God**. What does that mean? This is very important – listen carefully.

God’s ways are higher than our ways. He knows how life works. He created it and wired it a certain way. He has values and a vision he wants us to be in tune with. His will is found in his word. So, the wise guy tethers himself or herself to this book. There is a difference. Listen to 1 Corinthians 2:6-7:

We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you once you get your feet on firm spiritual ground, but it’s not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. God’s wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. You don’t find it lying around on the surface. It’s not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene.

*1 Corinthians 2:6-7 MSG*

Let me give you an example from Solomon’s wisdom writings in Proverbs. On page 180 of The Story or Proverbs 3:9-10 -

Honor the Lord with your wealth,

     with the firstfruits of all your crops

then your barns will be filled to overflowing,

     and your vats will brim over with new wine.

*Pg. 180, Proverbs 3:9-10*

Let me ask you – How could giving away the very first cut of the income you receive, even before you pay your bills, leave you with more in the end? It is not common sense if I give away my money, I will have more in the end. The one who leans on worldly wisdom alone discounts the God factor. God watches how we honor him with the money and resources he gave us and he intervenes on our behalf. This is a spiritual wisdom that sets it above conventional wisdom of the world. Which leads us to the last part of the definition -

* If you live this way you put yourself in the best position to **experience success in life**. Anyone interested in a little success in life? Keep in mind, God’s success is holistic. It includes success in business and finances but it extends to success in marriage and family, success in happiness, contentment and peace. It includes success in the things that matter most to God.

Young person – you do not want financial or business success at all costs. I have been around a ton of people who are uber-successful financially and their lives are a wreck. I would rather be rich and miserable than poor and miserable but neither is a good option. God calls his people to set their sights on something higher – complete success in all areas.

Keep in mind there is a condition. God told Solomon this would all work out as long as he walked in it. And he did for the first part of his reign. But he got off track and lost it.

First, he kept adding wives to his haram. On the bottom of page 191 of the Story or 1 Kings 11:3, we are told he had 700 wives and 300 concubines (which are essentially legal mistresses). That is like 999 too many. But that is not the real problem. From a human or worldly perspective this seemed wise because Solomon was forming political alliances with other nations. You marry another king’s daughter and you can secure some great favors, right? Right! However, these foreign woman worshiped other gods and eventually talked Solomon into building temples for them and allowing them to worship them. This is a violation of the first commandment – “you shall have no other gods before me.” God warned him of this very thing personally. When it comes to biblical wisdom, this is foolish. And as we will see next week, it is going to divide the nation of Israel.

**Conclusion:**

One more thing. This brand of wisdom is something you must ask for from God. It is not automatic. Solomon asked for it and God gave it to him. And it served him very well in all aspects of his life.

The same invitation is open to us.

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

*James 1:5*

So, as we begin a new year, why not start this one out on the right foot? Ask God for his wisdom to make decisions this year. But if you are going to ask him, you have to be all in with your commitment and belief. It is the only way he will give it to you. The next verses tell us:

**6**But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7**That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8**Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

*James 1:6-8*

Do you want stability in your life this year to face whatever comes your way? Then ask him for his wisdom.

*PRAY*