

Developing better vision—a biblical worldview



Up until advent our sermon series is a Bible overview designed to help us understand how the Bible fits together as one story. And it is striking that God reveals what he is like in a story. The Bible, unlike the Koran, is not a set of propositions for us to believe, rather it presents us with a narrative by which we can understand our world.

All stories project a landscape and then invite us to inhabit that landscape in order to look at the world from the perspective of that landscape. In other words, a story provides a worldview or a way to view the world. And all of us, whoever we are, interpret the world around us through the perspective of the stories or narratives that we believe. The question is do we believe true stories or false stories? For example, if we believe big pharmaceutical companies are in cahoots with big government to make big money by selling us vaccines that we don't need then we will be suspicious about vaccination programmes and no amount data will persuade us otherwise, especially if this data is provided by the government. In fact, even a lack of data to support this narrative can itself be used as data to support this narrative because the very lack of data demonstrates that research has been suppressed by the government.

If we want to make sense of ourselves, our existence, and the world around us it is important that we perceive the world from the perspective of the right worldview or true narrative. This true story or worldview is provided by the Bible, which means in order to understand our world properly we need to know the story of the Bible.

But the sad reality is, and this is true even amongst many sincere Christians, that the level of biblical literacy is so poor that we are often ill-equipped to deal with the challenges of the modern world. Our biblical worldview is just not robust enough. There was once a time in our country that the biblical worldview was so

prevalent that even those who did not believe in God were “Christian” atheists—the God they did not believe in was the God of the Bible. These days it is almost the opposite; even those who do believe in God are “atheistic” Christians—the god they do believe in is not the God of the Bible.

These days many of our churches, are so steeped in a secular worldview that we critique the Bible according to prevalent assumptions of our day. You may have heard comments like “the Bible cannot be right because in this day and age we believe this...” This attitude reveals a profoundly anti-Christian worldview. A Christian perspective would say, the Bible appears out of kilter with modern society but we must bring our thinking into line with what the Bible says (and not the other way around). We must view the world as the Bible asks us to view the world. In order to do this we must know the story. Hopefully, this series will help us to do this. But once we have understood the story we need to apply it, and that will take courage in our modern world.

The Church of England is currently undertaking a survey into attitudes surrounding sexuality, gender, and identity. The danger is that the church takes a secular worldview (the one that is prevalent in our society) and applies that to the Bible. But what we are called to do as Christians, in every age, is to take the biblical worldview and apply that to society. In other words it is not for society to critique the Bible, it is for the Bible to critique society. If you would like to learn how to do this then do join us for our upcoming Hub course called “A better story” starting on 23 September, where we will seek to apply the true story of the Bible to the very practical issues of gender, sexuality, and identity.

My hope is that as we become more biblically literate we will be better able to engage with the challenging social, ethical, and pastoral issues of our day in a way which brings glory and honour to the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.