

Hymns: 58 Rock of Ages 8 Great is Thy Faithfulness
Scripture: Psalm 105:37-45

Guess what I did this past week? It's tiring, and the more stuff you have, the harder it gets. If you haven't figured it out yet, it's moving (for me at least, and likely for most people) it's disruptive and stressful. Thankfully, we got it done without injury or accident. We were blessed to have honest and careful movers. Nothing was broken or lost. Of course, our new place remains a jumble of boxes with lots of unpacking still to be done, but the worst of it is behind us.

In my lifetime this is the 15th move. While, I'm not in the military, I did work for IBM. You may have heard that IBM stands for *I've Been Moved*. The funny thing is, although the IBM years did include a few local moves, none of those were prompted by my job as **it** was always located in this area.

To summarize, I moved just three times growing up and really lived in only two places that I could call home. During my career years, there were four moves with 25 years in the same house while my son grew up. But since then, **I've moved ten times in a span of eight years!** Our previous move from Virginia to Cary, just a year ago today actually, was what you might consider **of the nightmare variety**.

Thankfully, this latest move was one of our better ones. We're anticipating **another** about six months *down the road*, but that one will be into a new house nearby. If we stay there more than a year and a half, Betsy and I will break a record. Hopefully, things will calm down a bit at that point. This endurance race is a testimony to God's strength and power through adversity.

Speaking of moving, we're moving on to **a new series of messages today**. Before we do, let's recap what we've covered so far in the nine months we have been together:

1. Bible and Creator God Is Our Foundation
2. Holidays from a Biblical perspective:
 - Halloween
 - Thanksgiving
 - Christmas
 - Valentine's Day

1. Topics
 - Problem of Evil
 - In the Garden
 - Discouragement
 - Our Final Appointment

1. Heaven three-part series
 - Perfect
 - Jewel
 - Praising God
 - Its light comes from the LORD

1. Most recently we toured the Book of Isaiah (our first book of the Bible we reviewed)
2. The Big Picture
 1. Paradise Created and Lost
 2. Redemption provided through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 3. Paradise Restored

The Big Picture was looking at the Bible from a very broad view – like gazing at earth from outer space. Now we want to move in and pick up some more details about what the Word of God, the Bible, has to say.

Do you remember writing your resumé? You know, that record of your education and employment history? It was pretty simple in the old days. You could almost just fill in a template. My wife, Betsy, has been studying the topic recently, and apparently things have changed dramatically in that regard. The style of my old resumé is sarcastically called, “the obituary.”

Experts in this field claim that **each resumé** must be *tailored* to the *particular position* and *company* to which you are applying in order to even get noticed. In addition, it must be limited to one page and start with a sentence that contains many of the key words from the description of the position. Finally, it must boldly emphasize specific accomplishments.

To begin this study, we're setting out looking for good summaries (resumés if you wish) of the Bible itself. You've heard this from me before. The best commentary on the Bible is (drum roll): the Bible of course. Not surprisingly, the best place to find summaries of the Bible is also the Bible. Note a summary **is not** the first description of the event (like the Genesis creation account) and **it is not prophesy** (like the description of the Great Tribulation period in Revelation).

Now, it's quite possible that this analysis may have missed some Bible summary passages, but as you will see, we have a good selection. The idea is that we want to start to zoom in a little closer but not too close. We're going to take these summary passages and merge them to create a composite summary.

When you were in school, no doubt you learned of Cliff's Notes or Monarch Notes. The idea was you could buy those booklets written in plain, understandable terms, and save the hours and pain and study of the likes of Shakespeare or Chaucer. While we know “all scripture is profitable,” and we certainly do not want to discourage doing the hard work of reading the Bible through, these summaries, like Cliff's Notes, can provide us a road map, and outline, and **a window of understanding** as we face the daunting task of trying to understand the Bible.

Moving Example

I mentioned my move earlier. Let's take a few minutes now and consider a famous move from the Bible to get a better idea how this composite summary from the Bible actually works. The Bible is literally filled with accounts of people moving. Can you think of a famous move described in the Bible?

Here's a list of ten:

1. Adam cast out of the Garden of Eden
2. Noah, his family, and the animals moved from the land to the ark and back to dry land
3. Mankind scattered from the Tower of Babel
4. Abram called by God to leave his land

5. Jacob and his family moving out of (actually fleeing) Laban's house
6. Joseph sold into slavery and ending up in Egypt
7. Moses moved from Egypt, to Midian, back to Egypt, wandered forty years in the wilderness, and finally saw the Promised Land
8. Jonah told to go to Nineveh, and another direction before God used The Great Fish Moving Company to move him.
9. Joseph and his family with the baby Jesus fled to Egypt and eventually returned to Galilee
10. The apostle Paul took multiple missionary journeys and eventually went as a prisoner to Rome

Abram Example

Here's the original account from Genesis:

Genesis 11

[31] And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

Genesis 12

[1] Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

[2] And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

[3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

[4] So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Here are the accounts of this event from three Bible **summary** passages:

Nehemiah 9

[7] Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;

Acts 7

[2] And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

[3] And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

[4] Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

Hebrews 11

[8] By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive

*for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
 [9] By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

And as with Cliff's notes, sometimes the summary passage actually expands upon and gives insight into the event it is recounting.

Resumé

Another important point to keep in mind is that these summaries vary based on the context in which they were given. If you were asked by a perspective employer for a summary, you would give an employment and education history. If you were asked by a friend, you might respond with a list of interests and details about your family. If you were asked by your pastor, you likely would include highlights of your spiritual journey. When you were a child, your life summary would be far different from when you were a teen, a young adult, or mature adult. So it is with the Bible, some summaries were made at an earlier time and each was made with a different theme. As we go through these, you'll get the idea.

Let's take a look at them in the order of their age:

Our first Bible summary passage comes from Psalm 78.

It's interesting to note that the Book of Psalms is the National Hymn book of Israel

Where	Jerusalem
When	About 1000 B.C.
How	Hymn
What	Compassionate, miracle-working covenant keeper
Who	Asaph (a contemporary of David)

Psalm 105 (one of the most comprehensive summaries)

Where	Jerusalem
When	About 1000 B.C.
How	Hymn
What	God the great, faithful, redeemer
Who	David or Asaph

Nehemiah 9:6-38

Where	Jerusalem – re-building the wall
When	440 B.C.
How	Prayer of confession
What	God the merciful, gracious, covenant keeper

Who	Nehemiah
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From here we move on to summary passages in the New Testament:
The first is Acts 2:14-36

Where	Jerusalem
When	33 A.D.
How	Sermon
What	Jesus Christ the crucified and risen Son of God
Who	Apostle Peter

Acts 7:2-60 (also a very comprehensive Bible summary)

Where	Jerusalem
When	33 A.D.
How	Sermon
What	Israel rebelled against God repeatedly
Who	Stephen

Acts 13:2-53

Where	Antioch in Pisidia
When	44 A.D.
How	Sermon
What	God Israel's redeemer through faith in Jesus Christ
Who	Apostle Paul

Then there's that familiar first chapter passage from the Gospel of John verses 1-14

Where	Ephesus?
When	90 A.D.
How	One of the Gospels
What	God our redeemer through faith in Jesus Christ
Who	Apostle John

I Corinthians 15:3-8

Where	Ephesus
When	59 A.D.
How	Letter
What	Gospel message, Jesus the risen Savior

Who	Apostle Paul
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Hebrews 11:3-12:2

Where	Italy
When	Before 70 A.D.
How	Letter
What	Heroes of faith
Who	Apostle Paul?

- Creation (3)
- Abraham call (3)
- Abrahamic covenant **(4)**
 - Blessing the world through him
 - Land of the Middle East
 - Multiply his offspring as stars of heaven and sand of the sea
 - Circumcision is a sign
- Moses (3)
- Plagues and signs in Egypt **(4)**
- Parting of the Red Sea (3)
- Walking on dry land (3)
- Cloud and pillar of fire (3)
- Giving of the Law through Moses (3)
- Forty years in the wilderness (3)
 - Manna from heaven (3)
 - Water from the rock (3)
- **Gave them the promised land (5)**
- David chosen (3)
- Israel delivered into captivity (3)
- Jesus
 - Humanity (3)
 - Crucified (3)
 - **Raised from the dead by God (5)**

Do you see the trend here. God provides. He sends redemption. He gives the bread of life.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Revelation 22:17)

So there you have it, the most referenced events from the summary sections of the Bible. From here, we will dig deeper in future weeks.

Bible Summary

06/30/2013

Isaac blessed his sons								20	1
Abrahamic covenant		9	8			5	17		4
Covenant affirmed Isaac		9							1
Joseph		17							1
Sold into slavery		17				9			2
Placed in prison		18							1
Released		20				10			2
Made ruler		21				10			2
Died in Egypt								22	1
Famine in Israel		16				11			2
Jacob		10				14			2
Covenant		10							1
Family of 75 to Egypt						14			1
Died in Egypt						15		21	2
Buried in Abram's field						16			1
Egyptian prosperity		24				17	17		3
Children killed in Egypt						19			1
Egyptian 400 yr. slavery			9			6			2
Moses		26	14	17					3
Exceedingly fair						20			1
Redeemed 3 mo old						20		23	2
Son Pharaoh's daughter						21			1
Schooled in Egypt						22			1
40 yr. killed Egyptian						24		25	2
Fled to Midian 40 yrs						29			1
Burning bush at Sina						30			1
Sent to Egypt						34			1
Plagues / signs in Egypt	43	27	10			36			4
Darkness		28							1
Waters into blood	44	29							2
Fish killed		29							1
Flies	45	31							2
Lice		31							1

Bible Summary

06/30/2013

Frogs	45	30								2
Caterpillar	46	34								2
Locust	46	34								2
Hail and lightening	48	32								2
Firstborn smote	51	36						28		3
Silver and gold given		37								1
Health given		37								1
Parting of the Red Sea	13		11			36			29	4
Walking thru on dry land	13		11						29	3
Cloud and pillar	14	39	12							3
Giving of the law		45	13	17						3
Aaron		26								1
Made golden calf						40				1
Bread from heaven	24	40	15							3
Water from the rock	20	41	15							3
Disobedient Israel	10		16			39				3
Molten calf			17							1
Lust for meat	27	40								2
God slew men for lust	31									1
Forty years in wilderness			21			42	18			3
Possessed promised land	54	44	24			45	19			5
Chose Judah	68									1
Chose Zion (Jerusalem)	68									1
Time of Judges 450 yrs.							20			1
Jerico									30	1
Rahab									31	1
Gedeon									32	1
Barak									32	1
Samson									32	1
Jephthah									32	1
King Saul for 40 yrs.							21			1
Chose David	70						22		32	3
Line of Messiah							23			1

Bible Summary

06/30/2013

Temple built					47				1
Delivered to enemies	61		27		43				3
Jesus				22					1
Deity			1						1
Son of God			13			33			2
Savior			4						1
Gave of grace and truth			17						1
Of Nazareth				22					1
Man			14	22					3
Approved of God				22					1
Signs and miracles				22					1
Crucified				23		28	3		3
Buried						29	4		2
Raised from the dead				24	56	30	4	12:2	5
Resurrection witnessed				32		31	6		3
Christ				36					1
Lord				36					1
John the Baptist			6			24			2