

New Vision For An Old Story – Why the Bible Might Not Be the Book You Think It Is

By Rev. Anne Robertson

Introduction – What Do You See in the Bible?

The Sears Optical ad – cats vs, racoons. What do you expect from Scripture?

What lens do we use to interpret scripture? What assumptions do we bring to reading/hearing scripture? What does the Bible say? What kind of book is the Bible?

Truth, Love, Wisdom vs Myth, Lies, Poison. Want to be in a video?

Literal book of rules? Science textbook? Or is it “just a story?”

Colin only deals with historical aspects of the Bible. Why has he volunteered to lead this study?

Chapter 1 – The Story Frame – *Invitation to Relationship*

The Bible as story – a collection of stories, “bound together to form one grand story of hope, redemption and restoration.” We accept a novel or movie or the lyrics of a song as a story that explain certain truths of life, relationships and hope. Why not the Bible?

The Stories that Bind Us

Stories are how we form, maintain and define relationships:

Stories not only help us communicate; they shape us: We find “truth” in fictional stories.

Faith stories in Church. Family stories at the table. American and national stories at school.

Secret stories. Stories of other families, nations, cultures, races and religions.

The Dark Side

Our first stories are from our circumstances of birth: Our racial, national, religious, family identities.

But there are other stories. When a story rings true, it reframes our lives. Sometimes with deadly power. Stories may be universal, but never neutral. Justice or genocide. Trust or tyranny.

“To tell any story of the Bible requires removing it from its larger context, a task that is fraught with risk.”

The Family Bible

Bible stories are full of characters. Some we are proud of, others – not so much – like our families. The Bible tells the story of Christians from Jews and Muslims from both.

Is the Bible a biography of someone you would like to know? Or opposition research?

“However you encounter the Bible and for whatever reasons, if you don’t first realize that it is a book of stories about the ways a particular people have seen and responded to the world across time, you will almost certainly misunderstand it.”

The stories of saints and sinners. Righteousness learned by watching its opposite.

Like any good story, we are invited to put ourselves in the story and to learn first hand how hard it is to love God and your neighbor as yourself.

“When the Bible is misused by otherwise good people, it usually means they’ve been reading with lenses made for something else.”