

Seeing the parts and the whole

You can't make sense of the parts without understanding the whole

- **"bank"**
 - I took my money to the **bank**
 - I sat on the **bank** of the river
- "Losing an argument" to gain a friend
- The death of Jesus
- The birth of Jesus
- Our lives

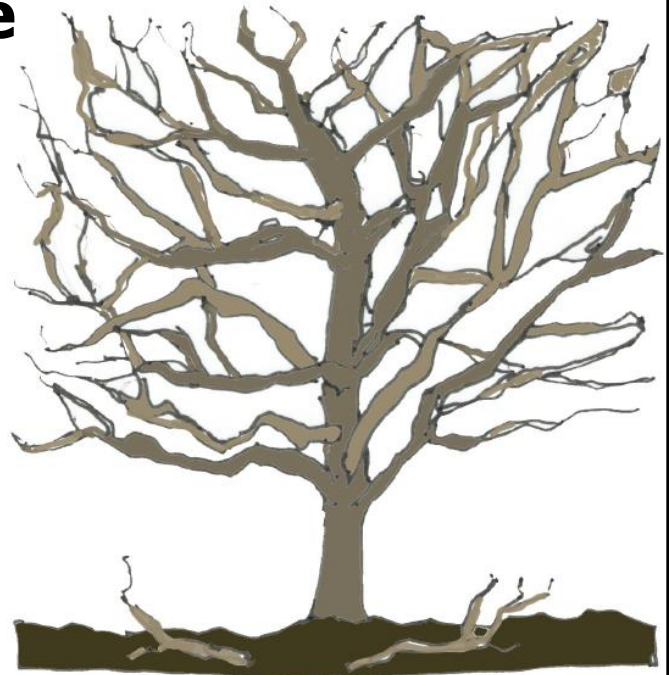


1

God's Big Picture

Luke 24:44-53

ref.ly/Lu24;niv

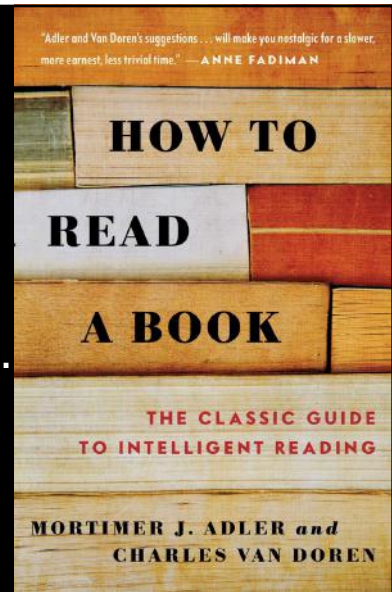


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How to read a non-fiction book in 30 minutes and *actually* understand it!

Don't: Read page 1, then 2, then 3...
Rather, read ...

- the final chapter
- the last paragraph of each chapter
- the back and inside cover
- THEN keep reading (if it is worth it)



3

How to understand the birth of Jesus

We have to understand the whole of Jesus' life

So read Jesus' conclusion in Luke 24

Then view each part of His life
through His summary

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Luke 24:44-49

44 [Jesus] said to [his disciples], "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything **must be fulfilled** that is written about me in **the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**"

45 Then **he opened their minds** so they could **understand the Scriptures**

Jesus fulfilled the whole of the Scriptures

What do the Scriptures say about Jesus?

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46 He told them, "This is what is written:

- ① The Messiah will **suffer**
- ② and **rise from the dead** on the third day,
- ③ 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 You are **witnesses** of these things.

49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but **stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.**"

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Luke 24:50-53

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

⁵¹ While he was blessing them, **he left them** and was taken up into heaven.

⁵² Then they **worshiped him** and returned to Jerusalem with **great joy**

⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, **praising God.**

**When Jesus left, they had great joy and they praised God
Because of how it fit in the big picture**

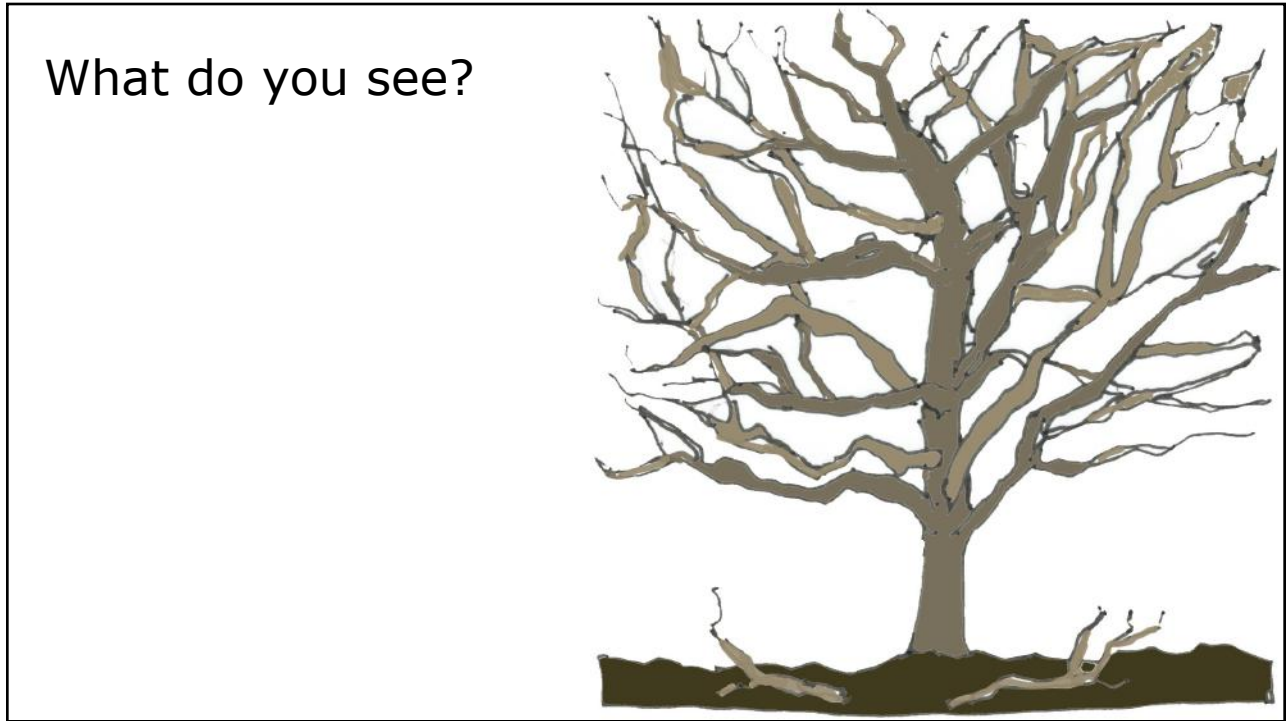
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The Big Idea

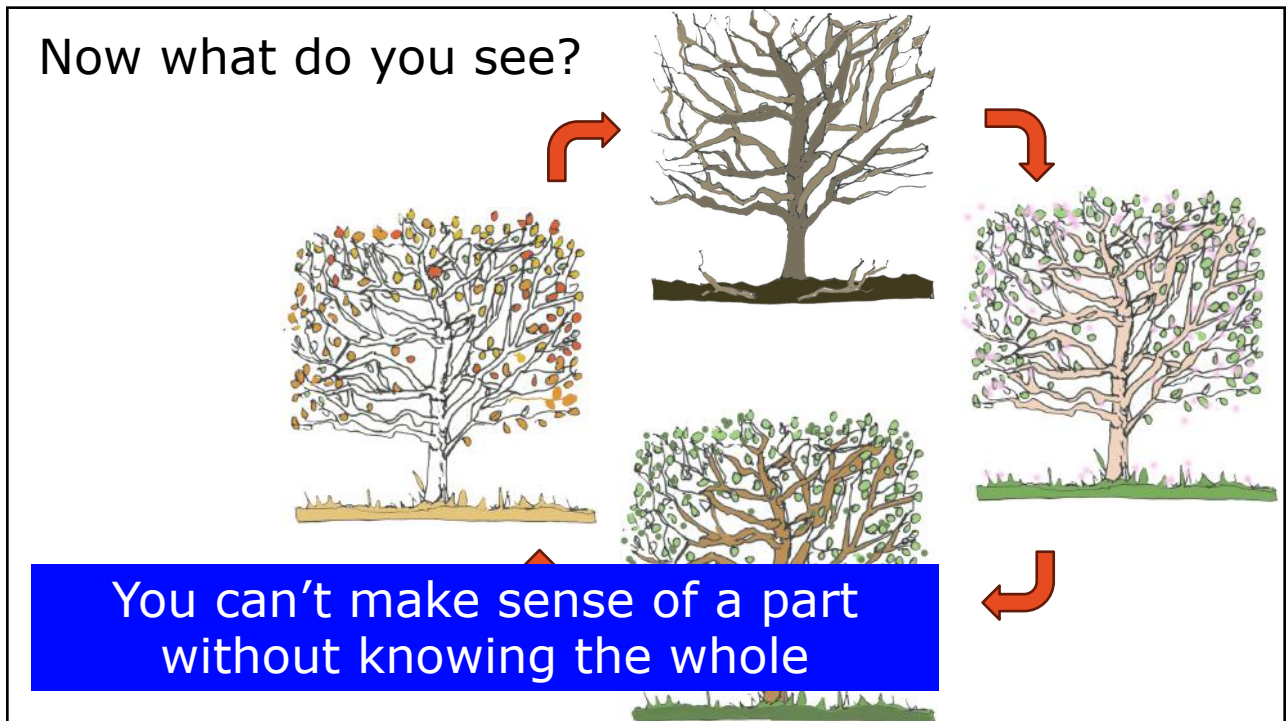
and the departure of Jesus and His return
The birth of Jesus is an essential part
of God's determined purpose
to bring salvation to the peoples of all nations
through Spirit-empowered witnesses

**We rejoice in Jesus' birth
because it brought about God's full plan
of salvation to all peoples**

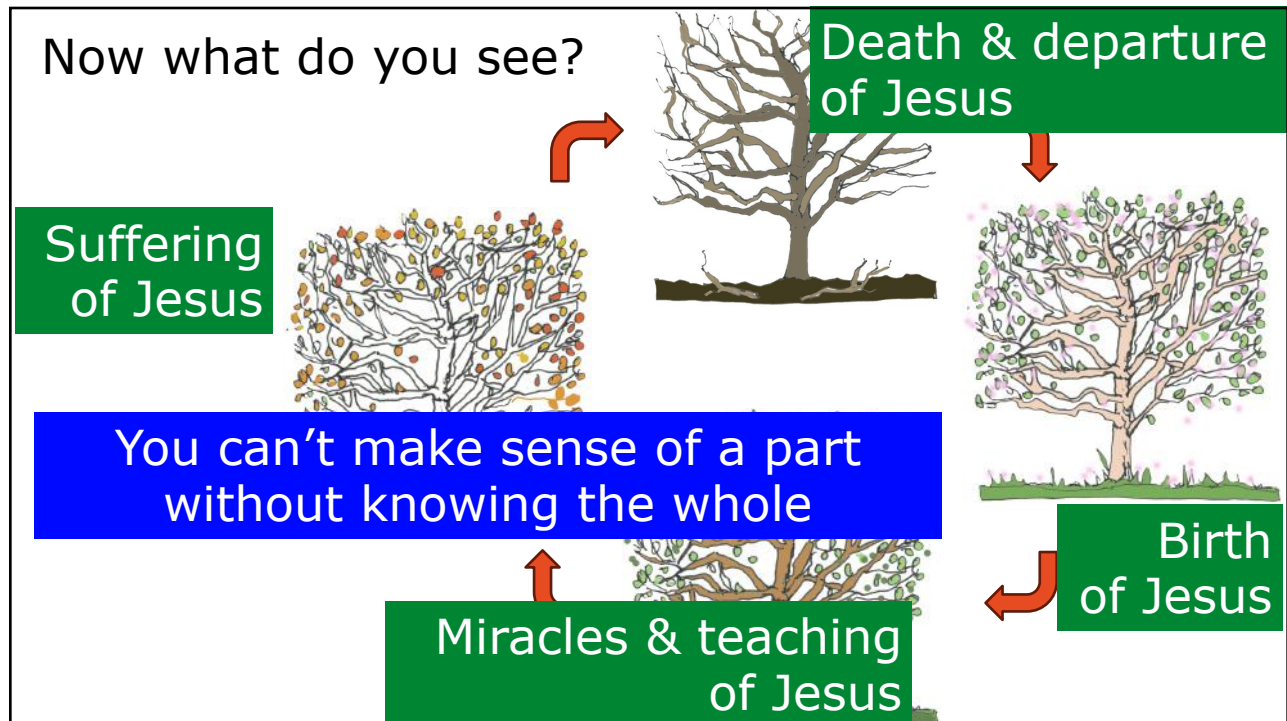
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The Big Picture of Human History in Christianity

Creation: a completely good world

Fall: the downward spiral

Redemption: the rescue

Re-creation: an even better world

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The story of redemption through Jesus

Birth of Mighty God

Isaiah 9:6-7

Bringing good news to the needy

Isaiah 61:1-2

Suffering and dying to bring life

Isaiah 53:4-9

Yet He **came to life again**

Psalm 16:10

Forgiveness & repentance proclaimed to all nations

Genesis 12:1-3

The real reason to celebrate Jesus' birth is because He brought salvation to peoples of all nations

Isaiah 49:6

Joel 2:28-32

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The Big Idea

The birth of Jesus is an essential part of God's determined purpose to bring salvation to the peoples of all nations through Spirit-empowered witnesses

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Application

Joyfully proclaim as witnesses the Good News that Jesus brings **salvation to all peoples**

- Not...
 - to certain languages or cultures or nations or tribes
 - to the wealthy, educated, or successful
 - to good people
- He brings salvation **to peoples of all nations who know their need** (the "sick") and **cry out to Jesus** for rescue
- There are no second-class citizens in Christ!

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Application

Joyfully proclaim as witnesses the Good News that Jesus brings salvation to all peoples

- **Each one of us is loved fully by God as His own**
- "Jesus loves me, this I know... **I** am weak, but He is strong"
- "The Spirit himself testifies with our [my] spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:16

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Application

Joyfully **proclaim** as witnesses the Good News that Jesus brings salvation to all peoples

- The determined will of God: that this Good News is authoritatively proclaimed to the peoples of all nations

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Application

Joyfully proclaim **as witnesses** the Good News that Jesus brings salvation to all peoples

- He sends His people to proclaim His grace
 - Being loved by God when I deserve judgment
- As those who **rejoice in firsthand knowledge**

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Levels of Speaking

Lying: saying what I know isn't true

Lifeless: information going from the instructor's notes to the student's notes without ever entering either mind

Well-meaning: saying what I believe is true without the power of firsthand knowledge

Witness: speaking with the conviction of firsthand, life-altering experience

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Levels of speaking

"To this I hold: my sin has been defeated. Jesus now, and ever, is my plea."

Is this statement...

- lifeless?
- well-meaning?
- faith seeking Spirit-empowered conviction?
- as a witness...speaking with the conviction of first-hand life-altering experience?

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Application

Joyfully **proclaim as witnesses** the Good News that Jesus brings salvation to all peoples

- Witness **to God** in worship
- Witness **to God's people** in praise
- Witness **to the world** in evangelism
- **Pray for the Spirit's conviction and power to be witnesses of God's grace in Jesus**
- **Together**

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Application

Joyfully proclaim as witnesses **the Good News** that Jesus brings salvation to all peoples

- **The darker the world,
the brighter the Light should shine!**

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The Big Idea

The birth of Jesus is an essential part
of God's determined purpose
to bring salvation to the peoples of all nations
through Spirit-empowered witnesses

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
The Savior reigns!
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
He makes the nations prove the wonders of His love