5. BIG PICTURE #5: Salvation history: All history can be divided into several major "ages" or "epochs" in salvation history

(not military history or art history or economic history or history of science, but salvation history: how was God relating to mankind at various periods in history?)
a. Therefore –>read every passage of the Bible with a salvation-history time line in your mind, and remember where each passage fits on the time line. (And grow in understanding of what God was doing in each period, how he related to his people at each time.)

	•	NT †	1000 yrs.
Creation Fall Abr	-	-	>
	Moses David Exile	Christ church age	Millennium FJ/ NHNE
	1440 1000 586	AD 30 2005	??

b. Examples:

Lev. 11:7 not eating pigs Lev 2:1-2 grain offering Gen. 15:6 Abraham believed God Gen 9:6 "whoever sheds man's blood..." Matt 10:5-6 go nowhere among the Gentiles Matt 23:23 tithe mint and dill and cumin Matt. 5:43-45 love neighbor Ps 139:21-24 hate God's enemies Josh 6:20-21 Jericho completely destroyed Gen 1:28 fill and subdue the earth; have dominion over it Eph 4:1-3 walk in a manner worthy of your calling Eph 4:25-28 speak the truth; don't steal

c. -> We are at the same point in salvation history as the people in the early church. Therefore there are more differences between the way the Bible applied the church in Corinth or Thessalonica or Ephesus and the Jewish people during Jesus' ministry a few years earlier (Matt 10:5-6; Matt 23:23) than there are between us in 2005 and those firstcentury churches. We are at the same point in salvation history as all Christians have been from Pentecost (Acts 2) until today, and will be until Christ returns.

d. In doing topical studies in the Bible, it is always good to ask what the Bible can tell us about a topic before the Fall (that is, Genesis 1-2) and in the New Heavens and New Earth (after Final Judgment; especially in parts of Revelation, but also some prophetic literature). This helps us filter out the effects of sin and also helps us understand the effects of sin in this present age.

Examples:

subduing the earth technological development wealth and poverty equality of possessions?

6. BIG PICTURE #6: Themes: Because the Bible is a unity (one divine author though many human authors), there are many themes that develop and grow from Genesis to Revelation.

-> Therefore, for each significant element in any text, it is helpful to ask: (a) Where did this theme start in the Bible? (b) How did it develop? (c) Where is it going to end in the Bible?

Theme: ***********************************	******	*****		
Theme: ^^^^	^^^^	~~~~~~		
Theme: ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		~~~~~		
Theme: ###################################				
OT	NT †	1000 yrs.		
		>		
Creation Fall Abr Moses David Exile	Christ church age	Millennium FJ/ NHNE		
BC 2000 1440 1000 586	AD 30 2005	??		
Examples:				
Matthew 2: wise men				

Matthew 2: wise men Matthew 8: stilling of the storm other?

The Witness of the Old Testament to Christ

How does the whole Old Testament point to Christ?

Notes based on Edmund Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1988).

A. How does the whole Bible fit together?

1. One useful approach: summarize its teaching on various topics: "systematic theology"

2. Another useful approach: trace the historical development of themes from Genesis to Revelation:

this is sometimes called "Biblical theology"

3. "Biblical theology"

a. emphasis on the "history of redemption"

b. attempts to understand how God was teaching people through patterns or "types" that looked forward to Christ (see 1 Pet. 1:10-12)

Romans 5:14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over

those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type (tu,poj, typos, "type, pattern, model") of the one who was to come.

Clowney, p. 14: "A type is a form of analogy that is distinctive to the Bible. Like all analogies, a type combines identity and difference."

4. The goal: to view every text in the light of the whole "Genesis-to-Revelation" sweep of the history of redemption

a. The whole of the Bible is God-centered: therefore look in each text for what God is doing, for what it shows us of him (2 Tim 3:16; Rom 15:4)

b. The whole of the Bible is historically structured: therefore look in each text to see how God is gradually unfolding his plan for history

- This will take thought and study: Even those who lived with Jesus during his earthly ministry were slow to understand how the whole of the Old Testament pointed to Christ (Luke 24:25-27)
- B. Examples from the Old Testament
- 1. Adam & Eve: Gen. 1:26-27; Gen 1-2
- son; ruler; image; marriage: exclusive love
- The Fall: Gen 3 temptations mercy promise of an "offspring" (3:15) who would gain victory over serpent
- 3. Cain & Abel: Gen 4:1-8; 25-26
- 4. Noah & flood: Gen 6-9: note fulfillment in 1 Pet 3.18-21 and in final judgment

- 5. Abram: Gen 15:1-6
- 6. Abraham and Isaac: Gen. 17:15-21; Gen. 22 (Clowney, pp. 48-59)
- 9. Joseph sold into slavery: Gen 37:18-29
- 10. Joseph reveals himself to his brothers: Gen 45:1-15
- 13. Water from the rock: Exod 17: 1-7; but: Num 20:7-13 (Clowney, 120-126); also 1 Cor 10:4
- 20. Jericho: Josh 6
- 21. Samson: Judges 13-16; see 15:9-17; also Judg. 16:1, 4, 23-31
- 22. David: 1 Samuel 16 1Kings 2
- 23. Solomon
- 24. Jonah
- 25. Psalms several kinds (see Clowney, p. 163): they foreshadow Christ as: Suffering servant of Lord (Ps 22); King (greater than David); Shepherd (Ps 23); the Lord who is both Creator and Redeemer (Ps 102:25-28); the Second Adam, true Son of Man (Ps 8:4-6); the Lord of Glory (Ps. 24)
- C. New Testament passages: look back to find the fulfillment of Old Testament themes and look forward to find the completion of those themes in God's final plans for history
- 1. The wise men: Matt 2:1-12
- 2. Healing: Matt. 8:14-17
- 3. Stilling the storm at sea: Matt. 8:23-27
- 4. Feeding the 5000: Matt. 14:13-21
- 5. The Transfiguration: Matt. 17:1-8
- D. What are the benefits of this approach?

All of the class lessons and outlines are posted on the class website http://www.christianessentialssbc.com.