

The story of the Bible is told in the person of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament is a story of faith and obedience that leads to the coming of the Messiah. The Gospels announce that Jesus, the Christ, has arrived for all to hear, know, and obey. The remainder of the New Testament proclaims that our Savior is coming again.

This second coming is not to give salvation, but to take the faithful home for eternity in heaven. When I think of these three parts of the Bible (the Old Testament, and in the New Testament, the Gospels and the Letters) three distinct passages come to mind.

In the OT, I remember the 23rd Psalm that so eloquently speaks of the God the Father as the loving Shepherd. Perfect provision and protection is seen when we are His sheep. Certainly, we want to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

In the Gospels, a favorite passage is Matthew, chapters 26-28 which reveal the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. What a gripping story of love and self-sacrifice. Even when so many of Jesus' closest friends betrayed and left him, He remained faithful to the end and died that perfect death.

In the Letters, I see the great faith of the apostles and the New Testament church. In 1Corinthians 13, Paul writes about love, and says of faith, hope, and love the greatest of these is love (1Cor. 13:13). If anything should be characteristic of Christians today, it should be our love for God and His Son, love for each other, love for the lost, and our love of Christ's second coming (2Tim. 4:8).

As we get to know one another over the next several weeks I would appreciate your sharing some of your favorite passages of Scripture with me. I know I will be built-up and encouraged! See you on Nov. 2nd!

-gls