

THE STORY

TRUE & BETTER

From Tim Keller's talk at the 2007 TGC conference

Is the Bible basically about me and what I must do, or is it basically about Jesus and what he has done?

- **Jesus** is the true and better **Adam** who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is imputed to us.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Abel** who, though innocently slain, has blood now that cries out, not for our condemnation, but for acquittal.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Abraham** who answered the call of God to leave all the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void not knowing wither he went to create a new people of God.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Isaac** who was not just offered up by his father on the mount but was truly sacrificed for us. And when God said to Abraham, "Now I know you love me because you did not withhold your son, your only son whom you love from me," now we can look at God taking his son up the mountain and sacrificing him and say, "Now we know that you love us because you did not withhold your son, your only son, whom you love from us."
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Jacob** who wrestled and took the blow of justice we deserved, so we, like **Jacob**, only receive the wounds of grace to wake us up and discipline us.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Joseph** who, at the right hand of the king, forgives those who betrayed and sold him and uses his new power to save them.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Moses** who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Rock of Moses** who, struck with the rod of God's justice, now gives us water in the desert.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Job**, the truly innocent sufferer, who then intercedes for and saves his stupid friends.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **David** whose victory becomes his people's victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Esther** who didn't just risk leaving an earthly palace but lost the ultimate and heavenly one, who didn't just risk his life, but gave his life to save his people.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Jonah** who was cast out into the storm so that we could be brought in.
- **Jesus** is the real **Rock of Moses**, the real **Passover Lamb**, innocent, perfect, helpless, slain so the angel of death will pass over us. He's the **true temple**, the **true prophet**, the **true priest**, the **true king**, the **true sacrifice**, the **true lamb**, the **true light**, the **true bread**.

The Bible's really not about you—it's about **JESUS**.