

# The Truth Project

## Lesson 6 - History: Whose Story?

### Introduction

History provides us with indispensable insights into the meaning of existence and God's plan and purpose for the ages. God is absolutely in control, and history is His story. The details of our lives are mere threads in the great tapestry of His overarching plan.

Hence we are enjoined to "remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 46:9). If we do not recall what He has done, we run the risk of becoming myopic, proud, and clueless when we try to put our lives in perspective.

### Quote Unquote

What did they say? Fill in the blanks as you watch this presentation.

1. In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, ... having undertaken for the glory of God, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, ... a voyage to plant the first colony ... — *Mayflower Compact*
2. If you can rewrite the \_\_\_\_\_, you can make people believe whatever you want in the \_\_\_\_\_. — *Del Tackett*
3. He who \_\_\_\_\_ the past, \_\_\_\_\_ the future. — *George Orwell*
4. We have a tendency to \_\_\_\_\_ the things we're supposed to \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ the things we're supposed to \_\_\_\_\_. — *Del Tackett*
5. If you don't have a certain knowledge of history, then you can't understand anything about the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. — *Theodore Dalrymple*
6. Those who don't know history have no sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and no sense of \_\_\_\_\_ as they explore where they're gonna go. Without history, we're lost. — *Os Guinness*
7. Be careful that you do not \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your God, failing to observe His commands, His laws and His decrees that I am giving you this day. — *Deuteronomy 8:11*
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord stand firm forever, the \_\_\_\_\_ of His heart through all generations. — *Psalms 33:11*
9. Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity towards \_\_\_\_\_. — *Jean-Francois Lyotard*

# Notes or Questions

*While watching the video, use these lines to record your thoughts, any facts you want to remember, questions that arise, etc.*

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*Remember the former things,  
those of long ago  
I am God, and there is no other.*

— Isaiah 46:9

## Truth 1 - History Matters

*Knowing what happened in the past helps us understand the present and then act accordingly.*

1. What would you do if you woke up tomorrow morning and couldn't remember anything about your past? Really try to imagine having amnesia. How important is your personal history?

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2. How would you rate your knowledge of history in general? Of Western civilization? In what ways might a better understanding of the past help you in life?

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3. Which sources of historical information appeal to you most? Books? Video documentaries? Biography? Historical fiction? Letters? Other original documents?

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## Truth 2 - Time to Rewrite?

*Revising history and casting doubt on God's Word are old tactics of those who oppose us.*

1. What book, textbook, or video documentary seems to rewrite a part of history? How best can you alert others to all the misinformation out there?

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2. Why do you think the Bible's historical accuracy is always being challenged? Have those attacks in any way diminished your confidence in Scripture? What do we know about the formation of the Bible that should give you great comfort?

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# Truth 3 - Join in God's Story

*Life is not about us but about God's sovereign plan for redeeming mankind. We should remember His past actions and participate in His grand purpose."*

1. Whether out loud or in writing, try telling the entire story of the Bible, from beginning to end, in your own words. If you find that too difficult, which parts of "salvation history" do you need to brush up on?

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2. How would you rate your knowledge of what God has done through His people in the centuries that followed Jesus' time on earth? How would you like to improve your understanding of church history? How would that be helpful to you?

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3. Are we living out mostly our own stories, or are we participating in God's larger story? What might that mean in practical terms? What is He calling us to do?

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# Wrap Up

From beginning to end, Dr. Del Tackett's message in this tour is that "it's not about you." As Jesus put it, "He who seeks to save his life will lose it." If, instead, life is all about God, we need to know what He has been up to over the millennia.

But according to Os Guinness, "Many Christians have an abominable view of the past" — meaning that they don't grasp the importance of knowing what has gone before. Is this a weakness in your life? Are you living out of context? Few things matter more than becoming part of God's larger story.

# What Is What?

*Here's an exercise to try on your own. Draw a line from each term in the first column to its definition in the second column. Terms are taken from the lecture.*

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1. metanarrative          | a. reinterpreting the past to change views of the present |
| 2. historical revisionism | b. philosophy or worldview that seeks to explain reality  |
| 3. natural myopia         | c. sweeping plan to bring out God's eternal purposes      |
| 4. paradoxical            | d. having supreme authority or power                      |
| 5. sovereign              | e. governor of Plymouth Colony                            |
| 6. larger story of God    | f. governor of Judea in first century A.D.                |
| 7. free agents            | g. seemingly absurd or contradictory but possibly true    |
| 8. William Bradford       | h. wisdom, guidance, and control provided by God          |
| 9. Pontius Pilate         | i. individuals who make independent choices               |
| 10. providence            | j. focusing on our own life, ignoring larger world        |

# Check It Out

*For your reference and further review, here are some of the key Scripture passages that were mentioned in the video you just watched.*

Joshua 4:1-7

Isaiah 46:8-11

Numbers 15:38-39

Matthew 28:11-15

Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:4-12; 8:10-20

Ephesians 1:11

Psalms 33:10-11