



## The Truth Project Study Aid Harbor of Grace Church Winter 2021

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### Week Seven Study Aid – History

Where we have come from and what has happened in the past directly impacts our present. Over and over in Scripture we see God telling the children of Israel to remember and to tell their children of the ways God provided, delivered or instructed. How important is it in our own lives to memorialize these same kinds of encounters with God? It is important to teach our children to do the same. As we saw in this week's lesson: what we believe about the past directly impacts what we believe in the present. This can be used for either a positive or a negative outcome. It can be used to help memorialize the good and true things of God or it can be used to cause doubt or mistrust.

One of the key ideas in this week's lesson was the concept of history revisionism. The idea that there is an effort to intentionally leave out or change facts about the past in an effort to change how the past is understood, which is used to directly shape how the present is understood as well. If the past can be edited in that some things are ignored or intentionally changed it will have a direct impact on what we believe in the present. Take for example the Mayflower compact. Was it not interesting to hear of the reason and purpose the pilgrims were willing to be mere stepping stones? Leaving out that kind of information certainly changes our understanding in the present of the intention and heart of the Pilgrim's in the past.

How about our understanding of who Jesus was and is? It should be no surprise that there is often new attempts to uncover or show some evidence that Jesus was not who we think he was, or that there is a difference between the historical Jesus and the Jesus of Christianity. If it can be shown that Jesus was not who the Scriptures claim him to be in the past then it directly undercuts our understanding of who he is in the present. This is such an important topic for us to understand. We must be students of history. Not just to debate and convince people of our views, but to have a firm understanding of who we are and where we are headed. We must ask ourselves: is there a metanarrative? Is there a true sense of meaning and purpose? Is history pointing to something in the future? Can we really talk about progress if there is no line connecting creation to completion? Christianity is unique in that it proposes there is real progress and meaning in history whereas many world religions think of history being cyclical rather than progressive and intentional. Think about that for a minute.

Consider the following questions:

1. Where did everything begin?
2. Where is everything headed?
3. Is all of history working towards fulfilling God sovereign plan?
4. Do you see your life as having purpose and meaning in God's plan?
5. What work ought the Church be doing in this period of history that future generations might look back on and say we missed it?



I pray that this study has been helpful and that God allows you to use these truths to share your faith this week.

-Pastor Rob Lewis