



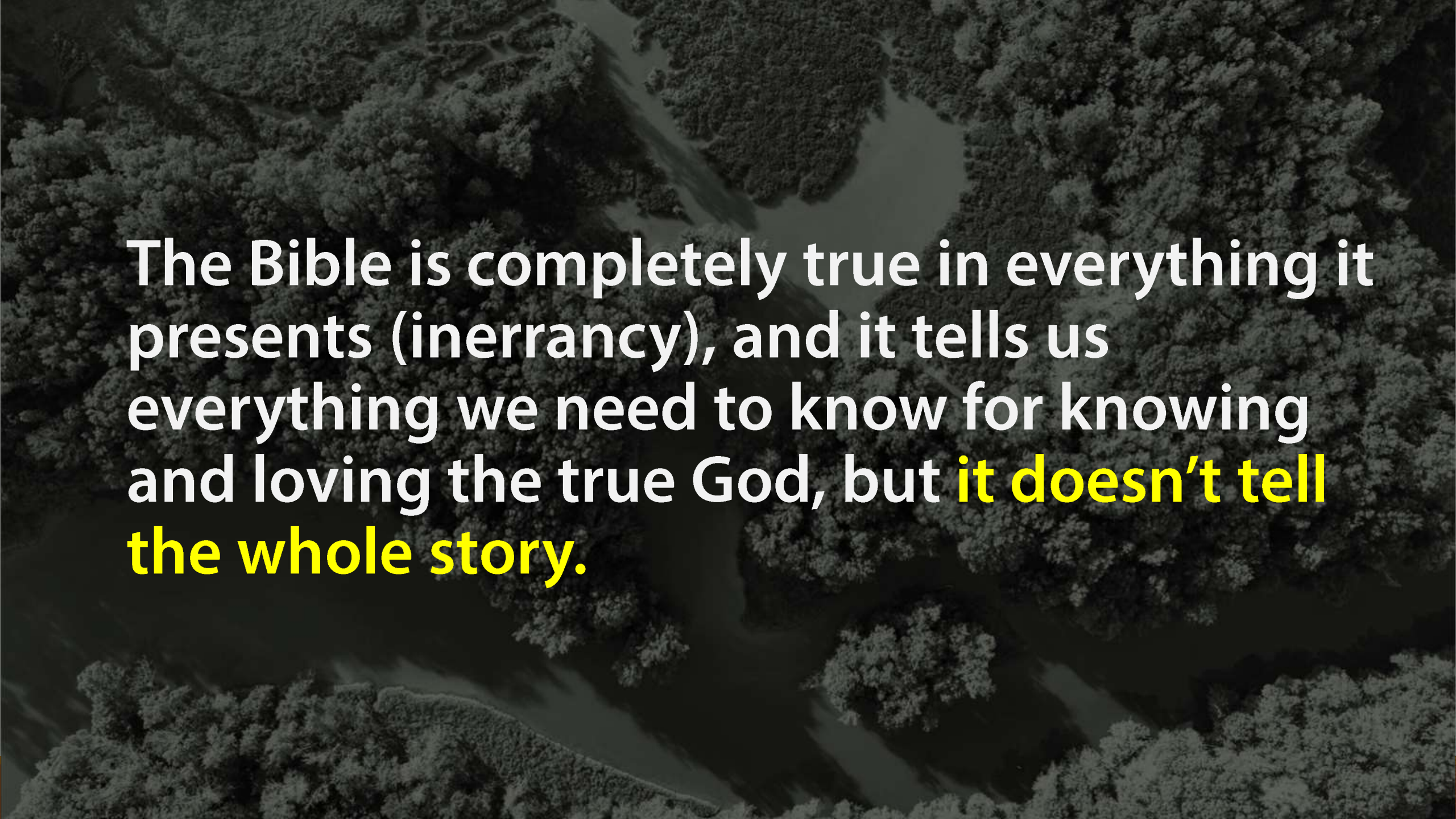
exploring the big picture

over

of the bible

view

from genesis to revelation

An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a winding river or stream cutting through it. The image is dark and has a semi-transparent black overlay. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

The Bible is completely true in everything it presents (inerrancy), and it tells us everything we need to know for knowing and loving the true God, but **it doesn't tell the whole story.**

When we finish Genesis 11, we're halfway through the history recorded in the Bible.

- ~2100 years (Genesis 1-11)

The genealogies in Genesis give us a creation date of approx. 4175 BC

- ~2200 years (Genesis 12 – Revelation 22)

Genesis 12 occurred approx. 2100 BC;
Revelation was written about AD 96

When we finish Genesis 11, we're halfway through the history recorded in the Bible.

- **The creation of everything (ch 1-2)**
- **The Fall into sin (ch 3-5)**
- **The Flood (ch 6-9)**
- **The tower of Babel and nations (ch 10-11)**
- **Once God calls Abraham, the story slows WAY down (ch 12)**

Four periods in Old Testament history

1. Formation of Israel (**Gen, Ex, Num, Josh**)
2. Theocracy (**Judges**)
3. Monarchy (**1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings**)
4. Exile & Restoration (**Ezra, Nehemiah**)

Four periods in Old Testament history

1. Formation of Israel (**Gen, Ex, Num, Josh**)

- Took ~700 years (c. 2090–1400 BC)
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua
- From Gen 47 to Exodus 3, Israel grew from a family of 75 to a nation of 2–3 million

Four periods in Old Testament history

1. Formation of Israel (**Gen, Ex, Num, Josh**)

- **Ex:** Rescued from Egypt; received their civil and spiritual orders at Mount Sinai
- **Num:** Explored Canaan but refused to follow God in taking it
- **Josh:** Took 5-7 years to take the land, conquered 31 kings and 7 strongholds

Four periods in Old Testament history

2. Theocracy (Judges)

- God did not replace Joshua; human government was not God's design
- Judges 1:28 is the key problem
- If the people, priests, and Levites had obeyed, the judges would not have occurred

Four periods in Old Testament history

2. Theocracy (Judges)

- Judges 2:11-19 summarizes the book and period
- In Lev 26 and Deut 28, God warned two generations of Israel about their rebellion; the punishments in Judges were not sudden

Four periods in Old Testament history

3. Monarchy (1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings)

- Saul became first king in 1 Sam 10 (1050 BC) followed by David (1010 BC) and Solomon (971 BC)
- They were the only kings over all 12 tribes

Four periods in Old Testament history

3. Monarchy (1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings)

- Saul feared man but not God
- David was Israel's best king
- Solomon gave Israel her Golden Age of everything but the worship of the true God

Four periods in Old Testament history

3. Monarchy (1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings)

- Solomon died in 931 BC and the kingdom divided into Israel (north) and Judah (south)
- Israel and Judah each had 20 kings (only 8 good out of 40); Israel fell to Assyria in 722 BC and Judah to Babylon in 586 BC

Four periods in Old Testament history

4. Exile & Restoration (**Ezra, Nehemiah**)

- Persia conquered Babylon in 539 BC (Daniel 5)
- King Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Israel; most did not go because they were born in exile (**Esther**)


Four periods in Old Testament history

4. Exile & Restoration (**Ezra, Nehemiah**)

- **Return #1** – Zerubbabel (539 BC); 50,000 people, rebuild the Temple
- **Return #2** – Ezra (458 BC); 1,500; spiritual
- **Return #3** – Nehemiah (445 BC); unknown, political

An aerial photograph of a dense, green forest with a winding river or path cutting through it. The image is dark and serves as a background for the text.

The history God chose to record is not **better** or **more factual** than other world history. But it is the **most important** part of ancient world history, and it puts God's faithfulness on full display.

An aerial photograph of a dense, green forest. A winding river or stream flows through the center of the forest, creating a meandering path. The trees are thick and cover most of the landscape, with the water providing a clear contrast in color and texture.

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