The title of this book accurately reflects its purpose and contents. The “Kingdom of God” theme is here employed in a comprehensive study of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation in establishing the biblical foundations of missionary thought, commitment, and practice. Neither the excellence, nor the focus, of this book come as a surprise to those acquainted with the work and writing of its author and his colleagues. Glasser has been a major figure in world missions in many capacities for more than half a century commencing with service in China in 1947, director of the North American Overseas Missionary Fellowship, and subsequently dean (now emeritus) of the School of World Mission at Fuller. He was one of the leaders in the formation of the American Society of Missiology, which, together with its journal *Missiology*, was established with the purpose of broadening the academic base of mission studies and facilitating a connection with the Council for the Scientific Study of Religion for doctoral studies in Missions.

The consistent theme running through the book like a *leitmotiv* is that of the rule of God underlying all history, and the function of the people of God in announcing His kingdom. This is reflected in the title of the opening chapter “The Whole Bible is a Missionary Book” (in which seven axioms underlying the study are explained) and reaffirmed in the last, “The Whole Bible Announces God’s Rule.” The basic approach is that of *heilsgeschichte* coupled with detailed exegesis.

As the study progresses from Genesis to Revelation, seeking to uncover the purposes of God in human history and the responses of his people, lessons relevant to the contemporary practice of mission are drawn, but not in a simplistic manner. Arguments pro and con regarding critical issues such as contextualization and syncretism, evangelism and social responsibility, the relationship of Christianity to members of other religions, spiritual gifts, signs and wonders, power encounter, the church and its work are spelled out, with brief cita-
tions where relevant, but the context of each situation, past and present, is critically examined.

This book is the product of many years of classroom teaching on the Biblical Foundation of Mission and everything about it is admirably adapted to this use. Each of the 23 chapters, which are grouped in 6 “Parts,” commences with a focused Introduction and closes with an equally clear concluding Summary. Works cited, either by reference or brief citation, cover the spectrum of significant biblical, theological, and practical studies on mission of the past half century. The indexes are full and helpful.

Reading the whole amounts to a fresh view of both Bible history and critical issues in missions. There are surprises and gems on page after page. Lessons are drawn which lead one to ask why did I not see, or think, of that? Perhaps its greatest contribution is its systematically holistic approach—human history and endeavor is given meaning by the grand story of the divine purpose. Biblical studies and theology, belief and practical application, personal commitment and corporate missionary responsibility, are all held together. It is highly recommended as a seminary classroom text, but also as essential reading for all bible students and missionary-minded persons.

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Each one of us has a worldview that influences our thoughts, decisions, and acts. Even the way we read the Bible is influenced by our worldview. Living in the Western world, influenced by a humanistic worldview that goes back to the Enlightenment, Westerners are in danger of losing sight of the unity of the Bible. As a consequence of the Enlightenment, the Bible is treated as a collection of stories, laws, and poetry that have no connection to each other.

This shattering of the Bible into little pieces is seen even in today’s churches or in their apologetic works. Theologians, evangelists, and preachers look for biblical support for their doctrinal views, and so they pick and choose verses out of their natural context. The Bible is often reduced to propositional statements according to the reader’s preferred theology. In The drama of Scripture, Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen have decided to take a step back and rediscover the big picture, the great perspective in which all the elements and pieces of the Bible fit together.