THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NARRATIVE OF SCRIPTURE

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> *One advantage of thinking in terms of narrative is that it allows us to speak of the unity of Scripture. Despite the variety of literary material in the Bible - psalms, law, parables, prophecies and so on - the Bible tells one overarching story from creation to consummation. A second great advantage of narrative is that it is well suited for articulating a person's identity. Human or divine, a person's identity comes into focus more sharply not by listing various attributes or character traits but rather by recounting typical things that the person has done. "Only the telling of the whole story delivers the truth of the person." No other story correctly identifies God or authoritatively testifies to what God was doing in Christ.*

From The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical-linguistic Approach to Christian Theology by Kevin Vanhoozer (p.93). Be warned, this book is hard going, though rewarding. It is also far more orange than any book should ever be, but at least you won't lose it on your bookshelves.