Proclaiming God's work as people understand it

by Steve Thorngate
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What's the Bible for? We asked dozens of writers to respond to this question in seven words or less, as well as to expand on their response in a few sentences. To see all of the responses together as they are posted, bookmark this page.

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I'm convinced that the Bible is first and foremost for proclamation in worship. Sometimes a critical lens on the text has the effect of diluting its felt power in a worship context: If it isn't simply received holy writ, what exactly are we doing here? But it doesn't need to have this effect. At worship we remember what God has done among God's people—as witnessed and relayed, imperfectly, by those people. Their words shape our faith heritage in their own right, quite apart from whatever relationship they have with the unmediated Divine.