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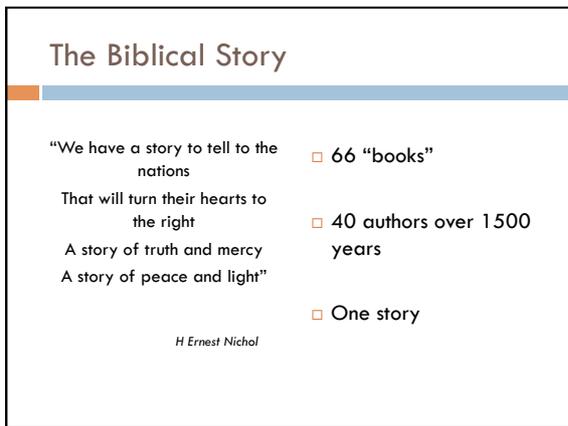
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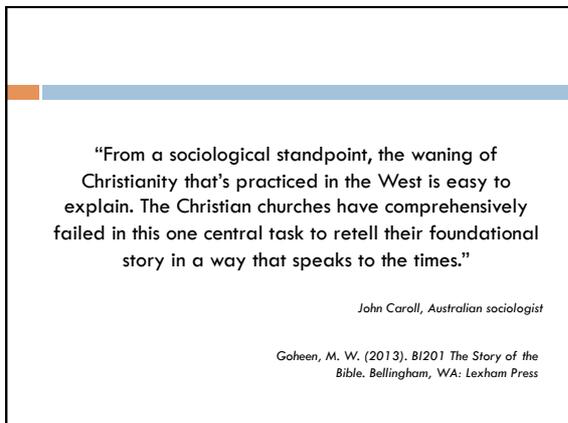
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**Jesus viewed Scripture as an unfolding story**

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

*Luke 24:27*

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**How Jesus viewed scripture**

“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

*Luke 24:44-47*

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**2 Keys to the Biblical Story**

- And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself (*Messianic key*). *Luke 24:27*
- Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” (*Missiological key*) *Luke 24:44-47*

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### What is the biblical story?

Jesus, the Creator, restoring creation to be, once again,  
the Kingdom of God on earth, with Jesus as King

Proclamation of the Kingdom

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### The biblical story in 6 parts

1. Establishing the Kingdom
2. Rebellion in the Kingdom
3. Israel chosen as a display of the Kingdom
4. The King comes to restore the Kingdom
5. Spreading the news of the Kingdom
6. Return of the King

Goheen, M. W. (2013). *BI201 The Story of the Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press

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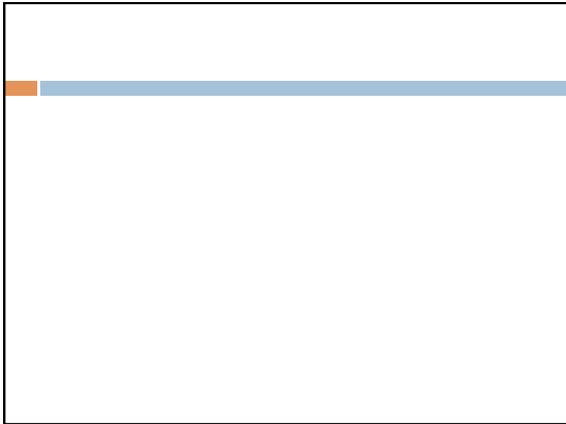
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**1. Establishing the Kingdom**

Introduction: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Creation as a “theatre of God’s glory”

Man unlocks “fruitfulness” of creation

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**First recorded words of God to man**

And God blessed them, and God said to them,  
“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and  
subdue it.”

*Genesis 1:28*

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**Blessing**

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88 times in Genesis

"Empowers" fruitfulness:

- Produce children
- Produce wealth

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**The perfect pattern**

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Harmonious relationships

Work as communion

**Sabbath** to cultivate man's delight in God

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**Delighting in the Lord**

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<p><b>Reflect</b> On the greatness and goodness of God</p> <p><b>Rest</b> God provides; cease striving</p> <p><b>Rejoice</b> You are loved by God, family, friends</p>	<p><b>Isaiah 58:13-14</b></p> <p>"If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and <u>call the Sabbath a delight</u> and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall <u>take delight in the LORD</u>, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."</p>
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## Man's high calling

Man as God's "tselem" (image; idol)

Man represents God before creation

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## BREAK

Crown Him with many crowns

Worthy is the Lamb

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## 2. Rebellion in the Kingdom

Gen 3-11: origin and spread of sin

Sin is "chata", "to miss" (mark, target, way)

Infidelity to God; allegiance to Satan.

Sin has primarily to do with allegiance

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."

"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God (or gods), knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:1, 4-5

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## 2. Rebellion in the Kingdom

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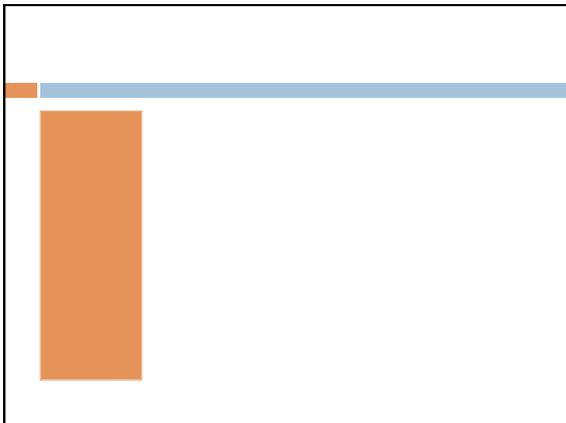
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### “Proto-evangelium”

The first good news of a solution to the sin problem

Mankind divided into 2 lines, based on loyalties

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”  
Gen 3:15

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.  
Rom 16:20

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### What changed as a result of sin?

- No natural love for God
- Propensity to commit sins
- Battle against principalities and powers

Adapted Johnson, R., Sanders, C., & Heiser, M. S. (2013). TH103 Introducing Bible Doctrine III: Humanity, Sin, and Salvation. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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“You will say that these are very small sins, and doubtless like all you young tempters, you’re anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that the cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the light and out into the nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed, the safest road to hell is the gradual one. The gentle slope soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

CS Lewis, Screwtape letters  
Johnson, R., Sanders, C., & Heiser, M. S. (2013). TH103 Introducing Bible Doctrine III: Humanity, Sin, and Salvation. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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### Results of the fall (Gen 3-11)

- Fear, shame, broken communion (3:8)
- Marital disharmony (blame) (3:12)
- Pain (3:16)
- Ground is cursed; work is burdensome (3:17-18)
- Physical death (3:22-23; whole of chap 5)
- Murder (4:8)
- Vengefulness (4:23)
- Total corruption of evil & wickedness (6:5)
- Defiant rebellion (11:4)

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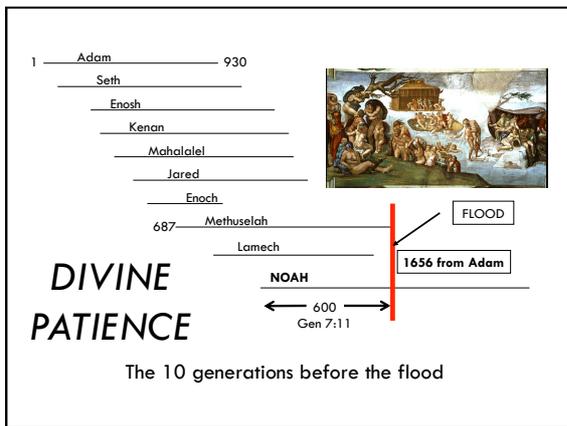
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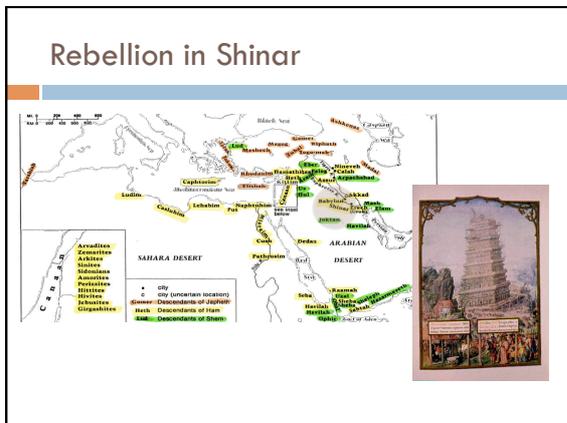
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### Rebellion in Shinar




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### God's response to evil

Judgment  
Restoration  
    "covering" for shame  
    God will "crush" evil

**What was God's plan?**

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### Questions

1. Blessing is to "empower for fruitfulness and abundant life". In what areas of life do you seek His blessing? Share and pray for one another.
2. We are created to be God's "tselem", to represent Him to all creation. How can you return to your high calling as God's "tselem" in your work and family life? Pray for one another.
3. CS Lewis - "The only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the enemy. ....Indeed, the safest road to hell is the gradual one. The gentle slope soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts." Are there areas in your life that are separating you from God? Pray for deliverance and for the power of the Holy Spirit to help you resist the devil.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR  
RESTORATION OF CREATION

Session 2

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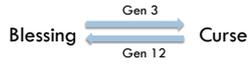
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### 3. King chooses Israel

#### "Theological Blueprint" for Restoration

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you, I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Gen 12:2-3




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### Why Abraham?

Faith (Rom 4:3)

Barren, past child bearing age.

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### The way of blessing

For I have chosen him, **that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice**, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.

Gen 18:19

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### “Fruit” of God’s Empowerment

How one man (Jacob) became a nation

Abraham – Isaac – Jacob – a “people”

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### Exodus – Rescue, Relationship

<p>How God rescued a people, brings them into a special relationship with Him, and makes them a nation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ He rescued them from Egypt by breaking the power of Pharaoh over Israel (Ex 1-18)</li> <li>□ He brings Israel into covenant relationship with Himself (Ex 19-50)</li></ul>
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### Motivation for rescue

Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey...."

*Exodus 3:7-8*

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### The LORD is greater than Egypt

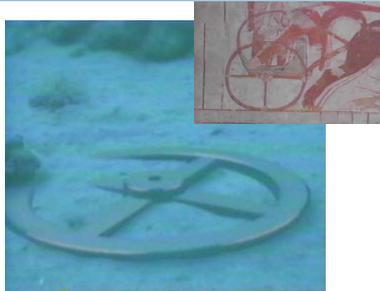
Exodus 6:2-8

"I am the LORD....."

I am the LORD.....

I am the LORD....

I am the LORD"



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### Message of rescue

"The Lord will reign for ever and ever"

*Exodus 15:18*

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### Route of the Exodus

First to Sinai

Establish covenant relationship

Law

Tabernacle

Sacrificial system



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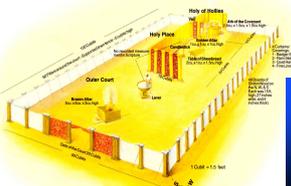
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### The King dwells among His people



**Israelite Camp & Tabernacle**

*North*

Asher Dan

West Dan East

Manasseh Levites Issachar

Benjamin Ephraim Tabernacle Judah

Rueben

Simeon

Gad *South*

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## Message of the Tabernacle

Moses' Tabernacle  
Exodus 25

75'

Not drawn to scale 150'

Represented heavenly realities; heaven on earth (Ex 25:8-9; Heb 9:23)

Signifies God's desire to dwell among men; teaches us how man can approach God

Sacrificial system is a "copy" of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus

The sacrifice of Jesus made it possible to birth a "new nation" 50 days later under a new covenant

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## Throne of Grace

In relation to man, God chose to portray Himself as merciful

Mercy seat – "cover for sin"

What is being covered?  
Rebellion (law, manna, Aaron's rod)

Despite our rebellion, we can receive mercy, and find grace

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.  
Heb 4:14-16

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## Covenant relationship

- A binding relationship, initiated by God as King
- Binds God and Israel in a loving commitment
- Expression of love – God blesses, Israel is loyal
- Goal – to draw all men into covenant relationship
- Associated with the covenant relationship is the covenant vocation

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### Covenant vocation

- Heart of the covenant – Ex 19:3-6
- 3 roles for Israel
  - Treasured possession – a special relationship for a special task (salvation)
  - Holy nation – a nation that displays God's character (righteousness and justice)
  - Priestly kingdom – a nation that mediates blessings of the King for all creation

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### How can Israel fulfill her calling?

Holiness - live according to God's law

Law defines righteousness and justice

God's law was Israel's constitution

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### How to remain holy?

Leviticus

□ Key text: Lev 19:1-2

□ Key theme: Holiness  
(152 X in Leviticus)

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### Approaching God

Involves death – sacrificial system;  
Concept of “scapegoat” for the atonement of sins

Needs a mediator – high priest

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### Preparation for war

Installing God as King

Worship of the King

Consecrated to serve the King

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## Numbers

Journey to the  
promised land  
as God's instruments  
of judgment

- Testing in the wilderness
- Israel's failures – complaints, rebellion
- God's faithfulness

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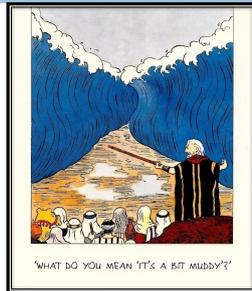
## Human failings

### Complaint stories

Taberah 11:1-3  
Kibroth Hattaavah – 11:4-35  
Miriam and Aaron – 12:1-2

### Rebellion stories

Spies – 13:1-14:45  
Korah – 16:1-50  
Meribah – 20:2-13  
Arad – 21:4-9  
Peor/ Shittim – 25:1-18



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## Divine faithfulness

### Through Moses' interventions:

12:13 – Miriam's restoration, Moses' prayer  
16:46-48 – after Korah's rebellion, Aaron's censer  
21:7-9 – After Arad, Bronze snake

### Through Balaam's blessings:

21:1-24:25 - Bless occurs 14 times

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## Structure of Deuteronomy

### Moses' 3 sermons to Israel:

Sermon 1 (1-4) – Gratitude based on God's past grace

Sermon 2 (5-28) – God's law for life in the land

Sermon 3 (27-30) - Choose life, rather than death

Joshua commissioned, Final blessings (31-34) – Hope based on God's future grace




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## God's love made explicit in Deut

God's love for Israel is all over Deuteronomy

Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, *Deut 4:37*

But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers... *Deut 7:8*

Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, .... *Deut 10:15*

However, the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam but turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you. *Deut 23:5*

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## Message of Deuteronomy

Loyalty – no other gods  
*Dt 5:7*

Love – love God, obey Him  
*Dt 11:1*

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**Sh'ma or V'ahavta**

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Foundational confession of faith	Hear O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
Faith comes from hearing and knowing who God is we and who we are in relation to God	
Which leads to love	<i>Deuteronomy 6:4</i>

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**Sh'ma or V'ahavta**

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Foundational confession of faith	Hear O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
Faith comes from hearing and knowing who God is we and who we are in relation to God	
Which leads to love	<i>Deuteronomy 6:4</i>

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**Questions**

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1. God blesses a life of righteousness and justice. What does righteousness and justice mean to you and how can you and your group spur one another towards a life of righteousness and justice?
2. 1 Pet 2:9-10 spells out covenantal relationship we have with God. Examine whether your life reflects the covenant relationship we have with God. How can we help one another be more faithful to God's covenant.
3. Paul warns us in 1 Cor 10:11-12 against the danger of "back-sliding" like the children of Israel in the wilderness. How can we help one another guard against back-sliding in our Christian walk?
4. In which areas of our lives do we need to complain less and trust more?

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RISE AND FALL OF THE NATION

Session 3

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Israel ready to take the land

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Ezekiel 5:5 – This is what the Sovereign LORD says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with the countries all around her.

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## Joshua

Theme: God's faithfulness

Conquering, Distributing and Living In the land

Covenant renewal

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## Conquest of Canaan



Impossible task

Start with the most difficult

Use unconventional strategy

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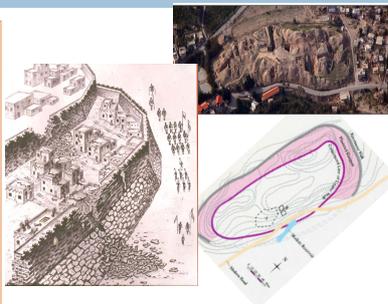
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## Jericho is the world's oldest city

The battle is the LORD's

Submit to God's plans, rather than rely on your strength



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### Joshua's strategy

31 kings subdued in less than 7 years

IT WAS THE LORD'S BATTLE

#### Israel's Basic Strategy in Taking the Land

Scale: 0 10 20 mi / 0 10 20 km

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### Tribal allotments & unconquered land

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### Judges, incomplete obedience

Israel's unfaithfulness, stark contrast to God's faithfulness

Reason for failure: Judges 1:27 – 2:3

Israel went around in circles because they didn't fully obey

Israel needed a King

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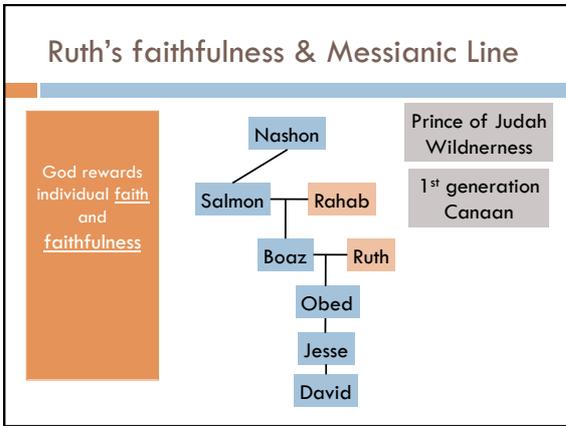
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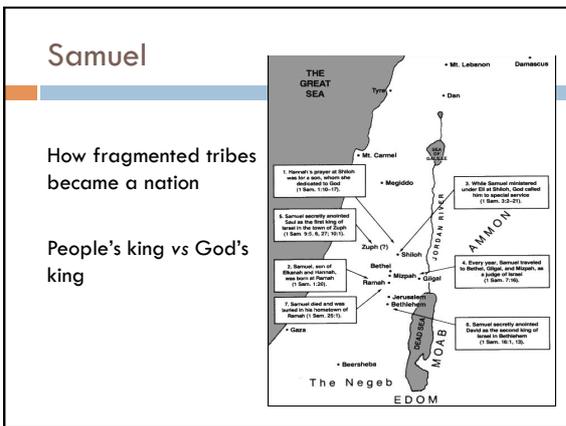
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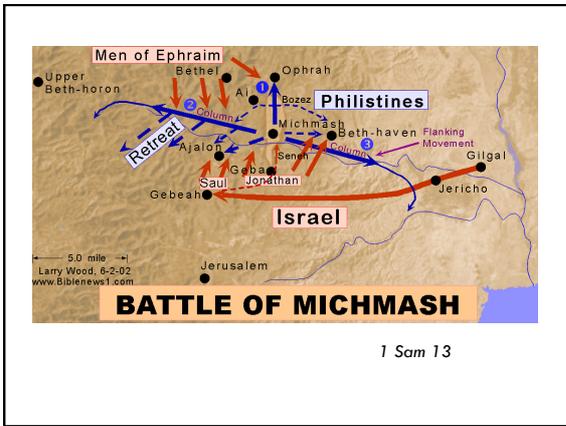
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### Disobedience

He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came.

*1 Sam 13:8-10*

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### Incomplete obedience

But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.

*1 Sam 15:9*

Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.

*1 Sam 15:22*

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Seven horizontal lines for writing.

David as covenant mediator

- He knew his role
- He was teachable
- He was passionate to honor God

Seven horizontal lines for writing.

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Seven horizontal lines for writing.

### Davidic covenant

David's descendants will rule a kingdom forever

A perfect King will come from David's line

The kingdom is a universal, everlasting

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### 1 and 2 Kings

Written during the exile

Why was Israel exiled?

History from a covenant perspective

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### Historical overview of Kings

United kingdom (1080 – 931 BC)  
(1 Kings 1-11)

Divided Kingdom (931 – 722 BC)  
(1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17)

Southern Kingdom (722 – 586 BC)  
(2 Kings 18-25)

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### Hosea 3

God's love was the motivation for Israel's discipline

Then the Lord said to me, "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that **the Lord still loves Israel**, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them." vs1

So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine.

Then I said to her, "You must live in my house for many days and stop your prostitution. During this time, you will not have sexual relations with anyone, not even with me."

This shows that **Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols!**

But afterward **the people will return and devote themselves to the Lord their God and to David's descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the Lord and of his goodness**

*Hosea 3:1-4, New Living Translation*

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### Jeremiah

- Warning and pleading – Jer 26:12-13
 

"for my people have committed two evils:  
they have forsaken me,  
the fountain of living waters,  
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,  
broken cisterns that can hold no water."  
  
*Jeremiah 2:13*
- Revealing God's heart – Jer 2:11-13; 23-25
- Consolation – Jer 25:1-14 (I will punish, I will restore)
- Hope – 23:5-6 (the Righteous Branch)

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### Idolatry today

- Idolatry is "loving the world" *1 John 2:15*
- "Exchanging high possessions to satisfy basal lusts"

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### God disciplines

God's discipline is always redemptive, out of love

It was to cure her of her "spirit of prostitution"



The Babylonian Empire  
605-539 BC  
Daily Bible Study  
[www.kjvway.ca](http://www.kjvway.ca)

Whoever spares the rod **hates his son**, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. *Pr 13:24*

Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on **putting him to death**. *Pr 19:18*

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and **save his soul from death**. *Pr 23:13-14*

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### Hope of restoration

Jehoiachin's release from prison in Babylon

1 Kings 8:46-51 – prayer of Solomon

Dt 30:1-10 – Moses' sermon to Israel

The prophets voice of hope

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## Questions

1. God began to give the land to Israel by asking them to do something impossible – take Jericho. What impossible tasks is God asking you or the church to do? How are you responding?
2. Idolatry is "loving the world", rather than God. What are some examples of idolatry in our lives?
3. What does it mean for us today to remain faithful to God? What may be some consequences for us if we have a divided heart?
4. God disciplines those he loves. How can we recognise and respond to God's disciplines in our lives?

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## PROPHETIC HOPE

Session 4

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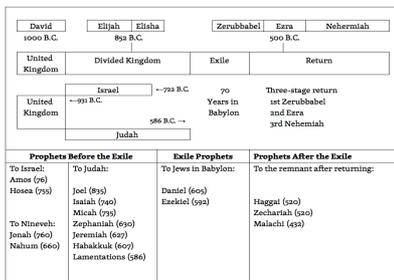
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## Timeline of prophets



From Nelson's book of charts and maps

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## Earlier writing prophets

Prophets Preceding the Fall of Samaria					
Date	Prophet	Propheesied to:	Contemporary Rulers in:		
			Israel	Judah	Assyria
845	Obadiah	Edom	Joram	Ahaziah	Shalmanezar III
835	Joel	Judah	Jehu	Athaliah	Shalmanezar III
782	Jonah	Nineveh	Jeroboam II	Amaziah	Shalmanezar IV
760-720	Hosea	Israel	Jeroboam II to Hoshea	Uzziah to Hezekiah	Tiglath-pileser III & Ashur-dan III
760	Amos	Israel	Jeroboam II	Uzziah	Ashur-dan III
739-685	Isaiah	Judah	Peiah to Hoshea	Uzziah to Manasseh	Tiglath-pileser III, Shalmanezar V, Sargon, Sennacherib
737-690	Micah	Judah	Peiah to Hoshea	Jotham to Hezekiah	Same as Isaiah

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## Later writing prophets

Date <i>(pre-exilic)</i>	Prophet	Propheesied to	Historical Setting
650 B.C.	Nahum	Nineveh	Manasseh in Judah; Ashur-banipal in Assyria
640	Zephaniah	Judah	Josiah in Judah
627-580	Jeremiah	Judah	Josiah to Zedekiah; kings; and Gedaliah, governor in Judah
609	Habakkuk	Judah	Josiah and Jehoahaz, Judah; Necho (Egypt) defeated by Assyria
<i>(exilic)</i> 605-536	Daniel	Babylonian kings	Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus the Persian
597-570	Ezekiel	Jews in exile	Jehoiachin and Zedekiah in Judah; Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon
<i>(post-exilic)</i> 520	Haggai	Returned exiles	Zerubbabel, governor of Judah
520	Zechariah	" "	Darius I of Persia
432-400	Malachi	" "	Same as above; Probably Nehemiah, governor of Judah, and Darius II of Persia

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## Message of the prophets

Pre-exilic - WARNING, hope

Exilic – CONSOLATION; HOPE

Post-exilic – ENCOURAGEMENT; HOPE

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## Ezekiel

- 2<sup>nd</sup> deportation, 597 BC; about 25 years old
- Began ministry 5 years later; about 6 years before fall of Jerusalem
- Vision of the Sovereignty of God – 1-3
- Message: God is in control; the key message is that they may know that I am LORD (70 times)
- Who is the “they”? Both Israel and the Gentile nations (the world)

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## How are they to know?

- Punishment of Israel – Eze 9-24
- Judgments on the Gentile nations – Eze 25-39
- Preservation and restoration of Israel – Eze 40-48

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## Messages of the 3 visions

- Vision 1 – (1-3) God's transcendent glory; God overrules in sovereign government
- Vision 2 – (8-11) God intervenes in judgment; glory departs
- Vision 3 – (40-48) God restores in grace; glory returns

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### “That they may know I am LORD”

God is more powerful than the most powerful nations of the world

God is faithful and will restore Israel

#### Powers of the world:

- Egypt (2500-858 BC)
- Assyria (858-612 BC)
- Babylon (612-536 BC)
- Medes/Persia (536-333 BC)
- Greece (333-323 BC)

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### “That they may know I am LORD”

God broke the power of Babylon and restored Israel as prophesied

“God gives the kingdom of men to whom He wishes”




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### God is sovereign over nations (Dan 2, 7)

#### Daniel 2

GOLD	Babylonian Empire 605 B.C.
SILVER	Media-Persia 536 B.C.
BRONZE	Greek Empire 330 B.C.
IRON	Roman Empire 27 B.C.
IRON / CLAY	Endtimes

Rock will smash at the feet of iron and clay. Dan 2:34

so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men." Dan 4:17

Message sent to "peoples, and men of every language, who live in all the world" Dan 4:1

#### Daniel 7



Son of Man given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him. Dan 7:14

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### History of Israel pre-written in Dan 11

Daniel 11:2-35 covers "history" concerning Israel, Syria and Egypt from Alexander (333 BC) to the desecration of the temple (168 BC)

- 11:6 – Some years later, an alliance will be formed between the king of the north and the king of the south. The daughter (Berenice) of the king of the south (Ptolemy Philadelphus) will be given in marriage to the king of the north (Antiochus Theos) to secure the alliance, ....
- 11:21 - The next to come to power will be a despicable man (Antiochus Epiphanes, 175 BC) who is not directly in line for royal succession. But he will slip in when least expected and take over the kingdom by flattery and intrigue.
- 11:29f – Then at the appointed time he will once again invade the south (Egypt), but this time the result will be different. For warships from western coastlands (Rome) will scare him off, and he will withdraw and return home. But he will vent his anger against the people of the holy covenant. His army will take over the Temple fortress, polluting the sanctuary, putting a stop to the daily sacrifices, and set up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration....

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### God is faithful

A remnant will return and be restored

The Messiah will come and lead the nation

Salvation will be extended to the Gentiles

In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God. **Is 10:20-21**

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **Is 53:5**

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **Jer 33:15**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. **Is 9:6-7**

Indeed He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth." **Is 49:6**

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### Return from exile



Cyrus cylinder  
536 BC

80 year gap

←-----→

456 BC      445 BC      400 BC

Return under Zerubbabel (decree of Cyrus)

Return under Ezra (decree of Artaxerxes)

Nehemiah rebuilds Jerusalem

Malachi

60 year gap

←-----→

20 years

Ezra 1-6

Ezra 7-10

Nehemiah

20 years

←-----→

Haggai (520 BC)

Zechariah

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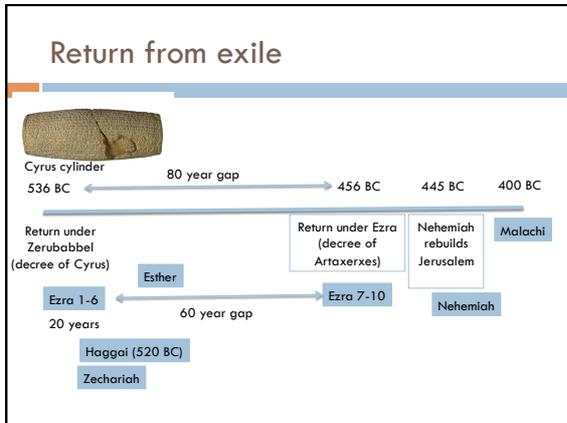
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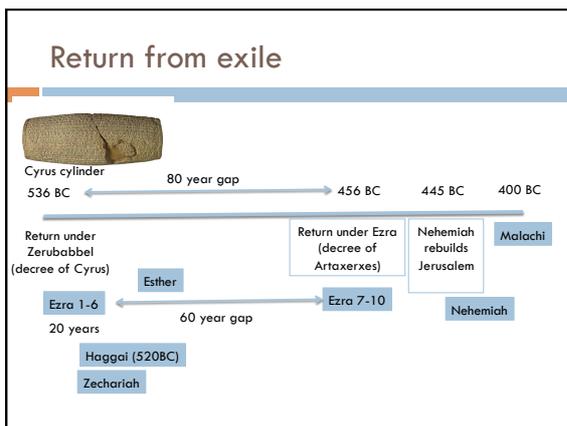
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## Chronicler's history

Second history – Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah  
Post-exilic

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### What Chronicler's history addresses

The post-exilic crisis of faith

The temple that they built was nothing like Solomon's temple – disappointment in view of Deut 30

There was no abundance and no prosperity  
Israel was not a worldwide kingdom

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### How the writings fit into the story

Gathered after the exile into final literary form

Reached final form later than Torah and the Prophets

Writings functioned as resources for a community living through difficult times during post-exilic days

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### Writings – how to remain faithful

- **Psalms** – expressions of covenant commitment and guides worship
- **Proverbs** – how live according to God's order
- **Ecclesiastes and Job** – how to navigate through maze of life, meaning of life, suffering and remain faithful
- **Esther and Ruth** – seeing God's sovereign providence through the eyes of faith (even when they didn't know it; even when they were under foreign powers)

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**Malachi**

- Idolatry cured
- Presumptuous
- Righteousness and justice not established
- Book of remembrance of a "remnant"

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Malachi 4:5-6  
(end of OT)

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**Question**

1. God never leaves His people without hope. God is faithful. God is always ready to restore, whenever we are ready to return. What are you hoping that God will restore for you? Pray for one another.
2. **"There is a cross in the way to every crown that is worth wearing."** Baxter What challenges are you experiencing in serving God? Pray for strength and grace for the task.
3. The people in Malachi's days were "careless in their living" and "callous in their relationship" with God. What does that look like today for Christians? How can we guard against this?

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THE KING COMES

Session 5

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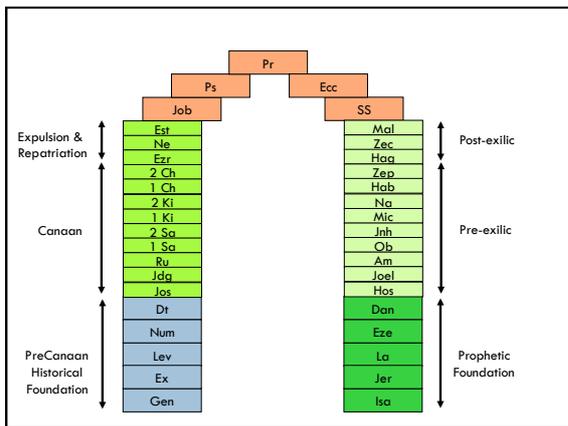
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### Inter-Testamental period

- Israel still under pagan rule
  - Persians (536 - 333BC)
  - Greeks (333-323 BC)
  - Ptolemies, Egypt (323-204 BC)
  - Seleucids, Syria (204-165 BC)
  
- Independent from 165 - 63 BC, until Pompey (Roman) conquered Jerusalem

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### Key developments

#### Hellenization

Antiochus Epiphanes, a Seleucid ruler, desecrated temple

Sparked the Maccabean revolt,  
25 Dec 167 BC

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### Maccabean Revolt

- Led by Maccabeus family (Matthias then Judas)
- Established the Hasmonean dynasty (165 – 63 BC)
- Feast of Dedication to celebrate cleansing of the temple 25 Dec 165 BC

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### End of the Hasmonean dynasty

- Internal squabbling between 2 brothers
- Allowed Rome to subjugate Jerusalem in 63 BC
- Antipater, Herod's father, was appointed procurator of Judea
- Herod was made king of Jews 40 BC

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### The 4 groups

- **Essenes** – withdrew, nothing more to do with the temple, which they saw as compromised. Just waiting for the kingdom to come, praying for it to come
- **Pharisees** – focused on the law, setting up untenable demands, all in the name of “holiness”
- **Sadducees** – strategic compromise; compromise with the ruling powers; carve out an area you can continue to be faithful; compartmentalization of faith
- **Zealots** – violent revolt; take up the sword and fight

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### Birth of “Judaism”

- Jewish religious system based on Law and Messianic hope
- New system to teach law – adopted as national constitution and individual way of life (Ezra and Nehemiah)
- Synagogue established, and with it the scribes

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### Messianic longing

- Promised Son of David, rule Israel rightly and righteously forever, eternal kingdom
  
- Expectations of a Messiah
  - Political freedom, overthrow Roman imperial rule
  - Religious renewal, corruption in the temple
  - Peace to the land, everyone sitting under their own fig tree, own vine

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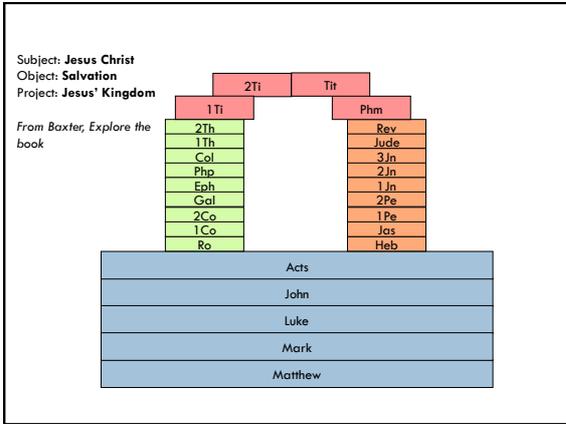
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### 4. The King Comes

*Gospels – 4 portraits of the King*

Matthew – Messiah King, reign and rule (lion)  
 Mark – Jehovah's Servant, serve and suffer (ox)  
 Luke – Son of Man, share and sympathise (man)  
 John – Son of God, reveal and redeem (eagle)

*Meekness and Majesty, Manhood and Deity*

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### John announces the King

John the Baptist's central message is  
 "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

Jesus' central message is that "the kingdom of God has come"

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### Jesus announces the arrival of the Kingdom

- "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." *Mark 1:15*
- "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose" *Luke 4:43*

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"The central theme of Jesus' message, as it comes down to us in the Synoptic Gospels, is the coming of the kingdom of God."

*Herman Ridderbos*

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### Jesus' Kingdom Mission

"The only significance of the whole of Jesus' activity is to gather the eschatological (*end-time*) people of God."

*Joachim Jeremias*

Central to what Jesus was doing was to fulfill what OT prophets has promised; that Israel would be gathered together so that it can receive the blessings of God

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### Eschatological shepherd

- "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel", a shepherd King fulfilling *Zech 10:8ff*
- 12 disciples - symbolic of the 12 tribes – the new eschatological Israel
- Time has come for Israel to be gathered, to be renewed and the Gentiles to be brought back to God

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### Significance of Jesus' baptism

- Identification with Israel
- Fulfills prophecy of outpouring of Spirit
- Anointing for the work

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### Significance of the 3 temptations

#### Temptations to be the wrong kind of Messiah

- The populist Messiah* - turning stones into bread
- The wonder working Messiah* – jump from the temple
- The violent Messiah* – Satan's way of conquest of the kingdoms of men

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### Jesus' Kingdom work

Announce the kingdom

Authenticate the kingdom

Gather the kingdom community  
correcting misconceptions  
forming a people

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### Announcement that demands response

Repent – turn from their wicked and hateful ways

Believe – the kingdom has come

Follow - learn a whole new way of life

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### Authenticating the kingdom

“Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

*Luke 7:22-23*

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## 2 misconceptions of the kingdom

Coming all at once

Exclusive to Jews

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## An already but not yet kingdom

- The Messiah has come; the Kingdom has arrived
  - ▣ The power of the Spirit's renewing work is present
- But the old age – sin, death, evil, Satan, sickness, suffering, pain all remain
- 2 kingdoms engaged in battle over the whole of God's creation

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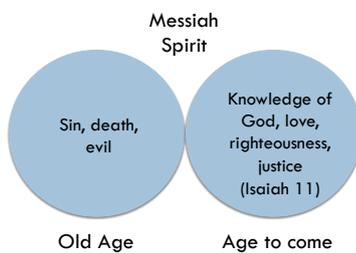
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## Rabbinic expectations



From Goheen, M. W. (2013). *BI201 The Story of the Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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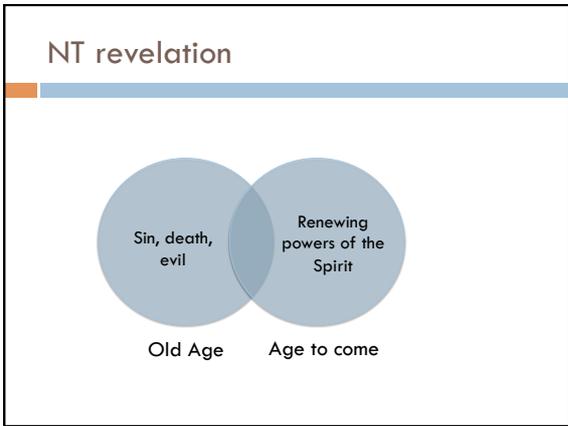
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### An inclusive kingdom

Jesus accepted the socioreligious outcasts of the day into the kingdom

*He healed them*

*He dined with them*

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### The kingdom through parables

40 parables in the gospels

Corrects wrong notions of the kingdom

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### Parable of the sower

- Mt 13
- Kingdom does not come in immediate irresistible power
- Messiah is not a militaristic figure coming with a sword
- He is the humble sower of seeds
- The "seeds" is the gospel of the kingdom

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### Parable of the Weeds

- Mt 13
- For now, the kingdom exists side by side with the Tares
- Resistance to the kingdom is not to be overcome by violence but tolerated until the final judgment

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### Parable of the lost sheep, coin, son

- Luke 15
- The kingdom of God comprises those recognise they are lost and repents of their ways
- Corrects the misconception that the marginalised, the lost have no place in the kingdom
- It highlights heaven's joy when a single sinner repents

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### Parable of the banquet

- Luke 14
- Explains the reason for this delay between the coming of the kingdom and its final consummation
- The reason for the delay is so that more might be gathered into the kingdom to enjoy that banquet

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### Jesus' Kingdom work

- Announce the kingdom
- Authenticate the kingdom
- Gather the kingdom community
  - correcting misconceptions
  - forming a people

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### Forming the kingdom community

- The way of discipleship, recovering missional calling
- Washing the disciples feet
- Sermon on the mount

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### Way of God's Kingdom

"It was a way of love of enemies instead of their destruction,  
a way of unconditional forgiveness instead of retaliation,  
a way of readiness to suffer instead of using force,  
a way of blessing for peacemakers instead of hymns of hate and  
revenge."

*Hans Kung*

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### Jesus embodies Kingdom life

- Abba relationship with the Father
- Empowered by the Spirit
- Joy and peace
- Total obedience to the Father
- Justice – in solidarity with the marginalised

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### Meaning of the Cross

- Conflict between kingdoms - victory
- Sacrifice for guilt and sin – once for all
- Reconciliation – peace between God and man
- Redemption of slaves – saved from slavery to sin

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### Meaning of the resurrection

- Inauguration of the new kingdom
  - Jesus is the firstborn from the dead – Rev 1:5
  - Jesus is the firstfruits – 1 Cor 15:20
  - Rest of creation will follow

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### 3 stages of resurrection

- Firstborn – Jesus
  
- Present “resurrection life” – Rom 6
  
- Final resurrection – Rom 8

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### Questions

“The way of discipleship is not just about personal living, it is also about recovering the original missional calling.”

“At the heart of our missional calling is the self-giving and self-sacrificing love towards others”

“It is the way of loving our enemies instead of seeking their destruction, a way of unconditional forgiveness instead of retaliation”

1. Are there people who have hurt and disappointed us that we we need to pray for and forgive? Share and pray for one another.
2. Reflect on how God has led our church to demonstrate self-giving and self-sacrificing love towards others. How can you be a part of this?

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5. SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KING & RETURN OF THE KING

Session 6

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Acts – fulfilling the Abrahamic covenant

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.  
Acts 1:8

The start of fulfilling the Abrahamic covenant




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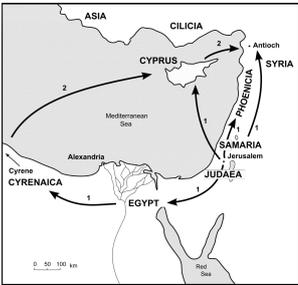
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Response of the Jews

First rejection – crucified the Messiah

Second rejection – Acts 1-12

Rejection of Jews in dispersion – Acts 13-28




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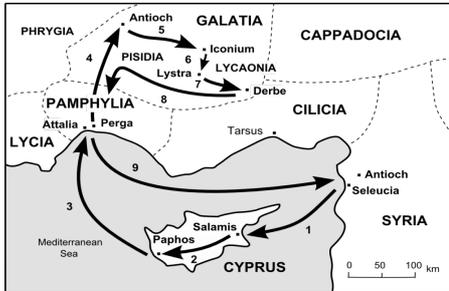
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### Paul's first missionary journey



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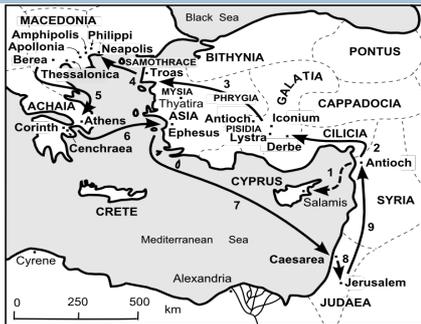
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### Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey



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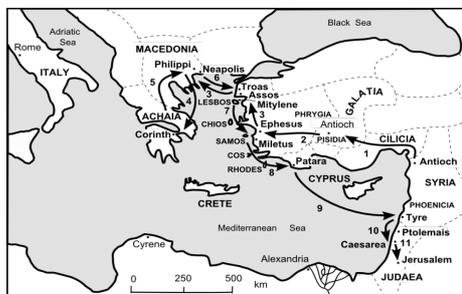
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### Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey



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### End of Acts

We are invited to take our place in the history to bring the good news to the ends of the earth, beyond Rome

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### Mission of the Church

- Mt 28:18-20 – make disciples
- Mk 16:15 – preach the good news
- Luke 24:48 – be witnesses
- John 20:21 – continue Jesus' mission

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### Empowerment for the work

- Exalted Christ – All authority has been given to Christ
- Outpouring of Spirit – anointing for the work

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### Model of restored community

- Jerusalem community is devoted to 4 things:
  - Teaching
  - Fellowship
  - Prayer
  - Lord's supper
  
- These are the "means of grace" that nourish love for the Lord and mediate the life and blessings of the King into the community

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### Factors for church expansion

1. Attractive life of the community
  
2. Spontaneous evangelism
  
3. Intentional church planting

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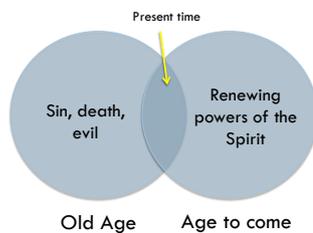
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### Paul's theology

"The whole content of Paul's preaching can be summarized as the proclamation and explication of the eschatological day of salvation, inaugurated with Christ's advent, death, and resurrection."  
*Herman Ridderbos*



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**6. Return of the King**

“the whole of the biblical story has been moving toward this one thing: the restoration of the whole creation and the whole of human life to again live under the reign and rule of God. In other words, the coming of the kingdom of God. The renewed, restored, reconciled creation.”

*Goheen, M. W. (2013). B1201 The Story of the Bible. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.*

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**How it will end**

- Christ, the King returns
- Dead resurrected
- Final judgment
- Renewed kingdom of God on earth

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### When will it end???

Olivet discourse  
Daniel  
Thessalonians  
Revelation

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### The final "week" of Daniel

1 "week" = 7 yrs  
Rev 6-18

Establish covenant      Break covenant      Great Tribulation      RETURN of CHRIST (Rev 19:11-16)

1 Th 4:16-17  
1 Cor 15:50-54

Millennial Reign Of CHRIST

Dan 7:25; 12:7  
Zech 12  
Mt 24:15-28  
Rev 12:14

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." Dan 9:27

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### Zechariah 12

"I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. v2-3

On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem. v9

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. v10

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### Matthew 23:37-39

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’”

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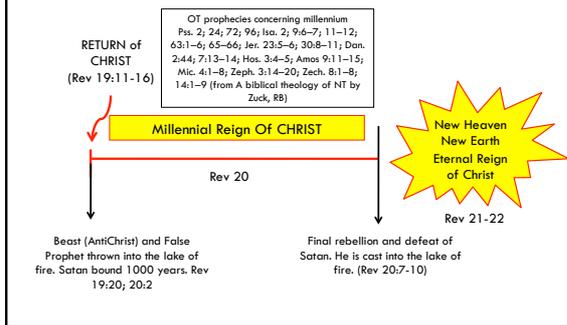
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### How it will end (Rev 20-23)




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### Restored Kingdom of God on earth

- Resurrected bodies
- Renewed creation
- Restored to fullness of life (blessing)
- Reign and dwelling of God

“Come Lord Jesus, come quickly!”

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## Questions

1. Share with one another key lessons you have learnt in the course and how they may have helped you walk more faithfully with God, in love and service.
2. How does the hope of Christ's return affect the way you live? In what ways do I need to realign my life in light of Christ's return?

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