



**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN CENTRAL BROMLEY**

CTCB Lent Course 2022

God's Big Picture

1: Introduction and Creation

To consider before we start...

Have you ever read something in the OLD TESTAMENT and found it confusing, bizarre, foolish, inconsistent, embarrassing or just plain wrong? What was the passage and why did it provoke negative thoughts or feelings?!

Course outline

Session 1	Tuesday 8 th March	<i>Introduction and Creation</i>
Session 2	Tuesday 15 th March	<i>Fall and Abraham</i>
Session 3	Tuesday 22 nd March	<i>Exodus and Law</i>
Session 4	Tuesday 29 th March	<i>Land and King</i>
Session 5	Tuesday 5 th April	<i>Wisdom and Prophets</i>
Session 6	Tuesday 12 th April	<i>Exile and Return</i>

Recommended reading

Whitney T Kuniholm, *Essential 100: Your way in to the heart of the Bible*
Paperback: 160 pages, Scripture Union (2005)
ISBN-10: 184427103X

Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Story-Line of the Bible*
Paperback: 160 pages, InterVarsity Press (2003)
ISBN-10: 0830853642 / ISBN-13: 978-0851112985

G Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*
Paperback: 320 pages, InterVarsity Press (2002)
ISBN-10: 0830826963 / ISBN-13: 978-0830826964

N Beynon and A Sach, *Dig Deeper! Tools to Unearth the Bible's Treasure*
Paperback: 160 pages, Inter-Varsity Press (2005)
ISBN-10: 1844741036 / ISBN-13: 978-1844741038



St John the Evangelist Bromley
www.saintjohnsbromley.com



Bible passages for reflection and discussion

Luke 24:13-16, 25-27

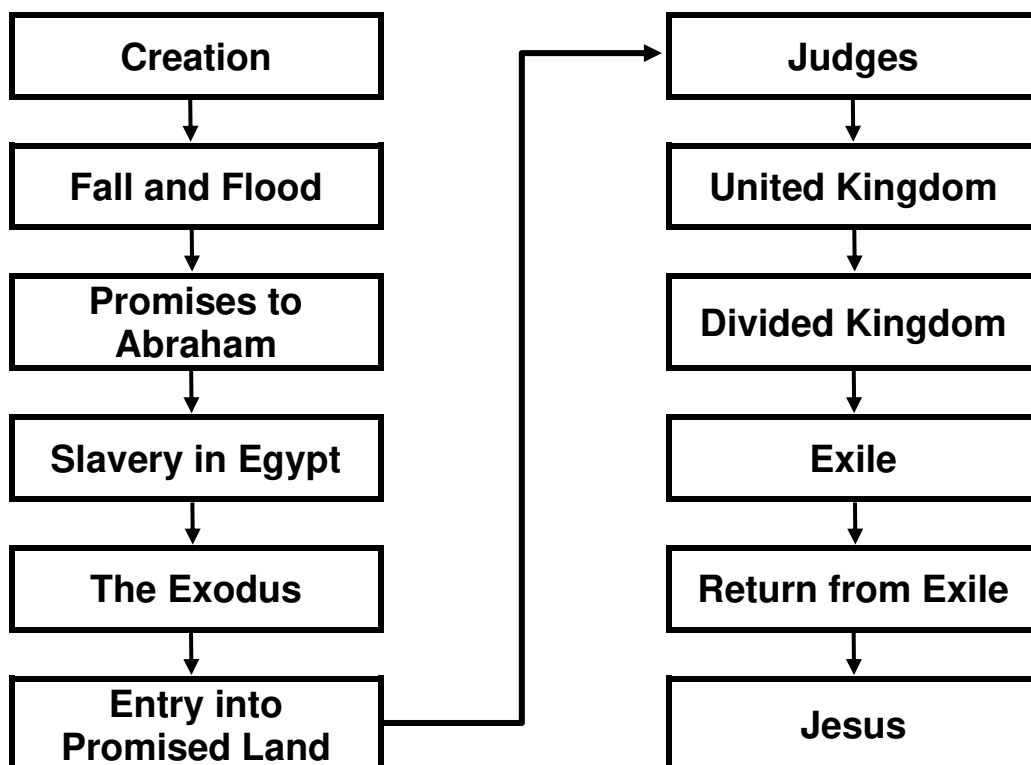
New International Version

¹³ Now that same day [*the day of Jesus' resurrection*] two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognising him. [...]

²⁵ He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

1. According to Jesus' words in verse 25, what is the disciples' problem? Do you think Christian disciples experience this problem today? Do you?
2. Which parts of the Bible does Jesus select to explain to the disciples? Why might people today find that surprising?
3. From this passage can we work out whether Jesus considered the Old Testament to be consistent? What lesson can we learn from this?

Simplified timeline of Bible history



Genesis 1:26-28, 31

New International Version

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.' [...]

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

1. "God treats human beings as superior to everything else in all his creation." What clues can we find in these verses to back up this statement?
2. How do human beings relate to one another and to God in this passage?
3. What privileges and responsibilities do you think humans have as a result of being made in God's image?
4. What do you make of the plural ("us") in verse 26?

Closing prayer

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the Love of God
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.

For further details about this course or other events please contact:
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Fact File 1: Is there *really* a Big Picture?

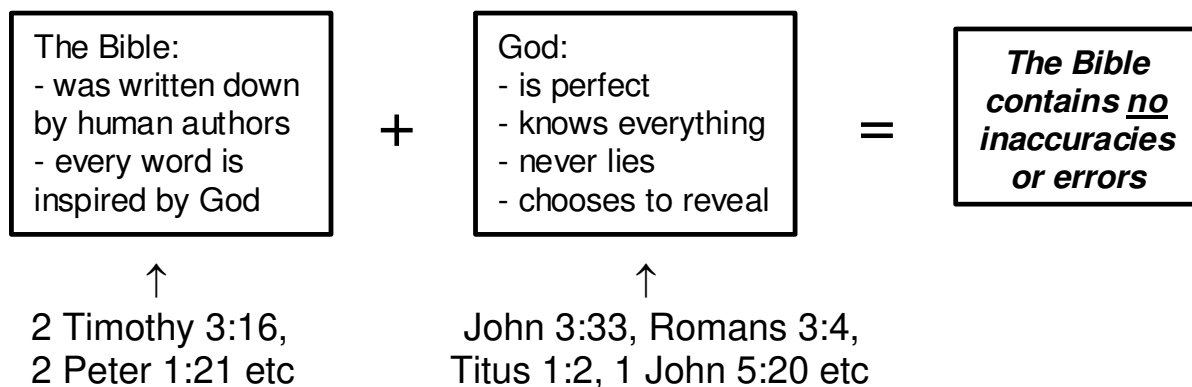
Sixty-six books, one story (Luke 24:25-27, John 5:37-40)

- The whole Bible talks *about* the same *themes*
- The whole Bible *says the same things* about those themes
- The Bible's *metanarrative* (=overarching story) is the unfolding of God's Kingdom in the person of Jesus Christ

The Thirty-Nine Articles (for Anglicans and friends!)

- "In the name of the holy Scripture we do understand those Canonical Books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church" (*Article VI*)
- "The Old Testament is not contrary to the New: for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to Mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and Man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard, which feign that the old Fathers did look only for transitory promises..." (*Article VII*)

The Doctrine of Biblical Inerrancy: scriptural and logical basis



Fact File 2: Creation (Genesis chapters 1 & 2)

God

- Trinity
- Creates by speaking
- What God makes is good

Man and woman

- The pinnacle of God's creation
- Together reflecting God's image
- Complementarity

Creation

- A good world reflecting God's goodness
- An ordered world with its own rhythms and patterns

