



**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN CENTRAL BROMLEY**

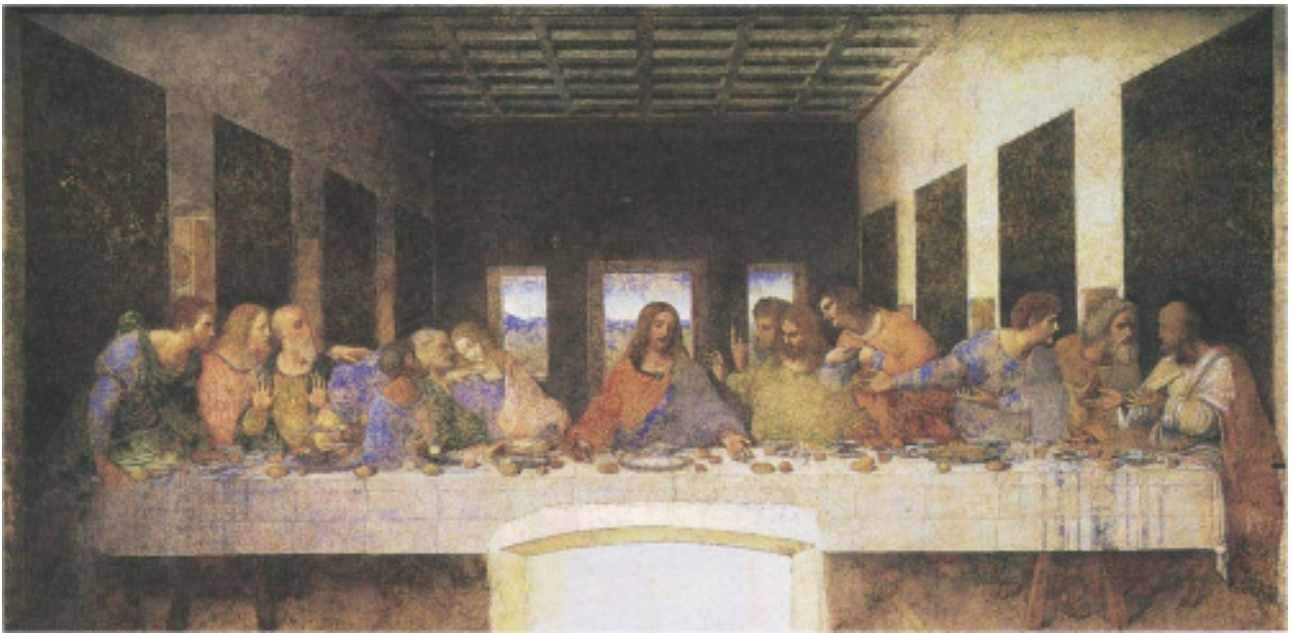
CTCB Lent Course 2022

God's Big Picture

2: Fall and Abraham

To consider before we start...

Have you ever seen an amazing work of art and then seen the artist's preliminary sketches? Or seen a major building being constructed from the ground up, so that you could admire the foundations before seeing the finished structure? How do these experiences change our perception of the completed master work? Why might these be good analogies for reading the Old Testament?



St John the Evangelist Bromley
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Recap from Session 1

- 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 (Luke 24:25-27, John 5:37-40)
- There are hints of this story even in the very first chapter of the Bible (Genesis 1) with the Creation narrative

Bible passages for reflection and discussion

Genesis 3:14-15

New International Version

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the snake, 'Because you have done this,

'Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.'

1. This is part of a longer passage which describes the consequences human beings suffer as a result of our sin. One consequence is enmity between us and Satan. How did Jesus experience this in Luke 4 (see below)?
2. The last two lines of verse 15 tell us about a violent interaction between the snake's offspring and Eve's offspring. Which of them comes off worse?
3. Christians have seen verse 15 as a prediction of the death of Jesus. Can you see how the verse can be understood in this way? How does this link help us to understand more fully the impact of Jesus' death?

Luke 4:1-4

New International Version

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."'

Genesis 12:1-4

New International Version

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² 'I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.'

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

1. What does God offer Abraham?
2. What does God ask of Abraham?
3. What do we learn from this passage about God?

Closing prayer

(The General Thanksgiving from *An English Prayer Book*)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and all mankind.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and the hope of glory.
Give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be sincerely thankful,
so that we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

For further details about this course or other events please contact:

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Fact File 1: The Fall (Genesis chapter 3)

Satan

- A created being
- Strategy:
 - Doubt God's truthfulness
 - Doubt God's goodness
 - Doubt God's judgment

Sin and judgment

- Cursed: the serpent, the ground, the relationship between man and woman
- Sin spreads out from the Fall: Cain and Abel, Noah's generation, Babel, Calvary

Is there any hope?

- Pattern of sin → judgment → grace
- Promise of the serpent-crusher (Genesis 3:15)

Fact File 2: Abraham (Genesis 12ff)

God's sovereign grace

- God promises of his own free will
- Abraham still subject to the Fall

God's promise of blessing

- Picks up Genesis 3:15
- Looks ahead to Jesus

The response of faith

- Makes fulfilment possible
- Does not negate grace
- Models response for us