



**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN CENTRAL BROMLEY**

CTCB Lent Course 2022

God's Big Picture

4: Land and King

To consider before we start...

“Christians can safely ignore the Old Testament, because everything we need is found in the New Testament. In fact I don't know why we bother to read the Old Testament at all. It's like keeping the scaffolding up around a building that's complete.” Do you agree? Why / why not?

The apostle Paul often encouraged Christians to study and learn from the Old Testament. In this passage from one of his New Testament letters, how many reasons does Paul give the Corinthians for doing this? Which of these reasons are still relevant for Christians today?

1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 11

New International Version

¹ For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.[...]

¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

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Numbers 14:1-9

New International Version

¹ That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, 'If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?' ⁴ And they said to each other, 'We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.'

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, 'The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.'

Consider what we learn from Numbers 14 about:

1. The dangers of taking over the Promised Land
2. The opportunities offered by the Promised Land
3. Israel's hopes of possessing the Promised Land

Discussion questions for 2 Samuel 7:

1. How many of God's promises in this passage were fulfilled in the life of Solomon?
2. How many of the remainder were fulfilled in Jesus?
3. The New Testament begins like this:

"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1).

What point is Matthew making when he links Jesus to King David at the start of his Gospel? Can you think of any other times in the Gospels when a similar link is made?

2 Samuel 7:11b-16

New International Version

The word of the LORD came to King David by the prophet Nathan, saying:

¹¹ “The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² when your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall endure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.”

Closing prayer

Psalm 23 (A Psalm of David)

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;

For you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Fact File 1: The Land

Promised Land

- Abundant blessing
- Belongs to God

Joshua

- A type for Jesus

Blessing

- Prosperity
- Security
- God's own presence
- Pointing ahead to Revelation 21

Fact File 2: The King

Judges

- The Judges cycle: sin → judgment → crying out → saviour raised up
- Kingless chaos: Judges 18:1, 19:1, 21:25

In those days Israel had no king. (Judges 18:1)

In those days Israel had no king. (Judges 19:1)

*In those days Israel had no king;
everyone did as they saw fit. (Judges 21:25)*

David

- A type for Jesus

Blessing

- Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7)
- Fulfilment of Abrahamic promises (1 Kings 4:20-25)
- *The summit?*