



**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN CENTRAL BROMLEY**

CTCB Lent Course 2022

God's Big Picture

6: Exile and Return

To consider before we start...

What are the most important things you have learnt or discovered as a result of doing this Lent course?

What difference if any will it make to your life?

What are the biggest questions which this course has not yet answered?

A key theme of this course has been to see the ways in which Jesus fulfils all the promises of the Old Testament. This is also the theme of the New Testament book of Hebrews, which begins in this way:

Hebrews 1:1-5a

New International Version

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father' [*Psalm 2:7*]?

The final verse includes a quotation from Psalm 2. How many *other* Old Testament books, events and themes can you find referred to in these verses?



St John the Evangelist Bromley
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Bible passages for reflection and discussion

2 Kings 17:5-14

New International Version

⁵The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. ⁶In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the River Habor and in the towns of the Medes.

⁷All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods ⁸and followed the practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before them, as well as the practices that the kings of Israel had introduced. ⁹The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that were not right. From watch-tower to fortified city they built themselves high places in all their towns. ¹⁰They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. ¹¹At every high place they burned incense, as the nations whom the LORD had driven out before them had done. They did wicked things that aroused the LORD's anger. ¹²They worshipped idols, though the LORD had said, 'You shall not do this.' ¹³The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: 'Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.'

¹⁴But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their ancestors, who did not trust in the LORD their God.

Consider what we learn from this passage about:

1. The character of God's people
2. The justice of God
3. The role of the prophets

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

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Ezra 3:11-13

New International Version

¹¹ With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD:

‘He is good;
his love towards Israel endures for ever.’

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. ¹² But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. ¹³ No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

Consider the following questions:

1. What was encouraging and discouraging about the foundation of the second Temple?
2. Why might this help us to see the Old Testament as an unfinished story?

Closing prayer

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Thank you for joining us for God’s Big Picture!
Our summer Bible study series **Life Explored**
will run on Wednesdays from 8th June to 13th July

To register or for further details please contact
Revd Daniel Whiffin curate@saintjohnsbromley.com

Fact File 1: The Exile and the Return

Kings fail

- Solomon's greed (1 Kings 10:26-11:3, cf Deuteronomy 17:16-19)
- The division of the kingdom: a downward spiral with very few exceptions

People sin

- God's word shows the moral inadequacy of his people (eg Amos 7:7-8)

The land is lost

- Military defeat by Babylon
- Before and after: Psalm 48 cf Psalm 137

The exile is God's judgment

- Mirrors the expulsion from Eden
- A reversal of the promise to Abraham

The return

- A new Temple
- A new heart
- An unfinished story

Fact File 2: Jesus – the present kingdom

Matthew 1:1

New International Version

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Mark 1:1-2, 4

New International Version

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way'... ⁴And so John appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 1:31-33

New International Version

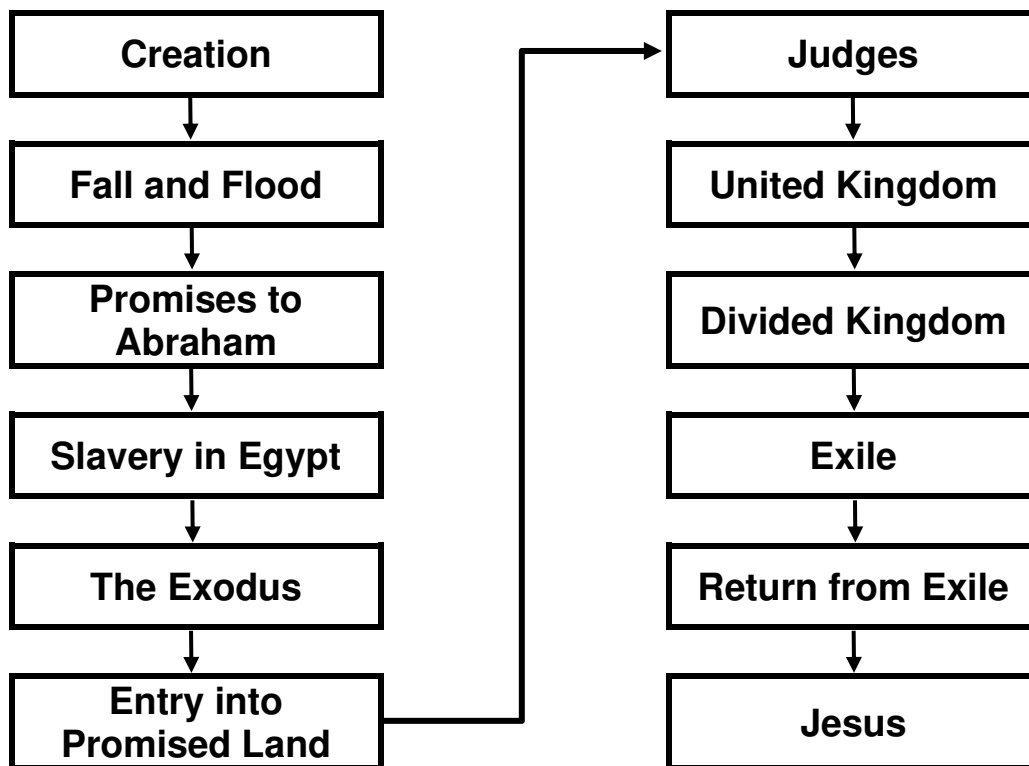
³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

John 1:29

New International Version

The next day John [the Baptist] saw Jesus coming towards him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Simplified timeline of Bible history



Simplified thematic outline of Bible history

THE KINGDOM OF GOD	<i>God's people</i>	<i>God's place</i>	<i>God's rule & blessing</i>
<i>The pattern of the kingdom</i>	Adam and Eve	The garden	God's word Perfect relationships
<i>The perished kingdom</i>	No-one	Banished	Disobedience The curse
<i>The promised kingdom</i>	Abraham's descendants	Canaan	Blessing to Israel and the nations
<i>The partial kingdom</i>	The Israelites	Canaan The Jerusalem Temple	The law and the king
<i>The prophesied kingdom</i>	Remnant of Israel Inclusion of the nations	New Temple New Creation	New covenant New king Great blessing
<i>The present kingdom</i>	<i>Jesus Christ</i> New Adam True Israel	<i>Jesus Christ</i> True Temple	<i>Jesus Christ</i> New covenant Rest
<i>The proclaimed kingdom</i>	The new Israel: Jew and Gentile believers together in Christ	The individual believer The church	New covenant Holy Spirit
<i>The perfected kingdom</i>	Multinational family of God	New Creation New Jerusalem New Temple	Throne of God and the Lamb Perfect blessing

(after Goldsworthy)