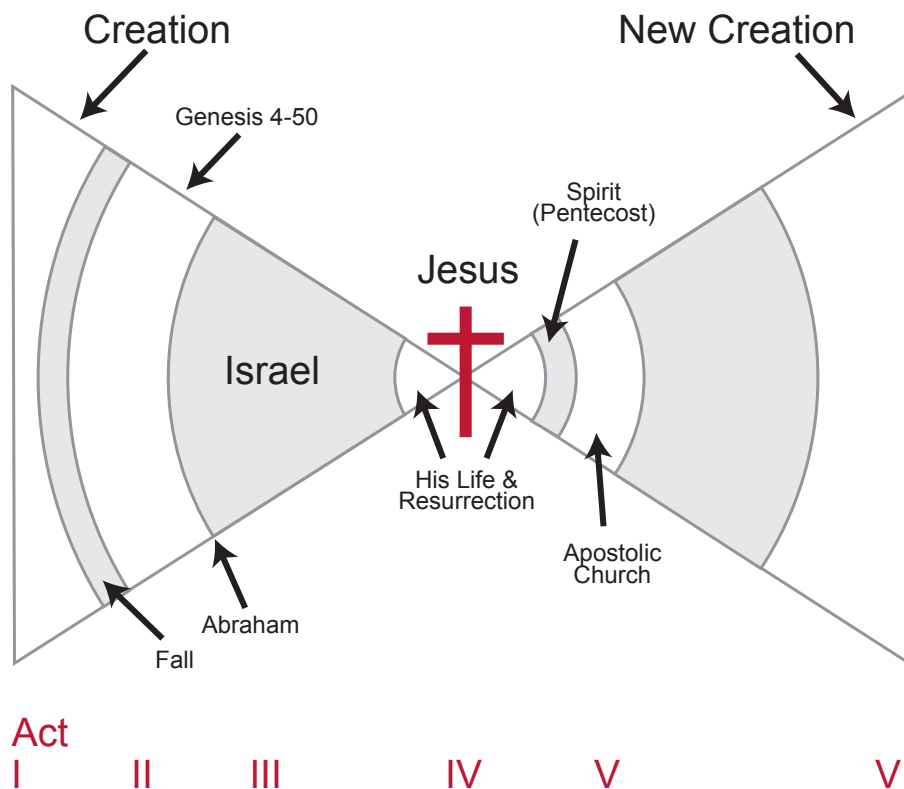




# BIBLETRACK 1

## TALK 1 BIBLE OVERVIEW (PART 2) DR PETER WALKER

### Talk Outline



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- Old Testament: focus on Israel and the temple
- New Testament: Jesus and the church are now the temple
- Jesus is the pivotal point of the biblical narrative
- God's purposes go from creation to new creation
- God will ultimately redeem all creation

## SIX ACTS OF SCRIPTURE

Act I – Creation

Act II – The fall

Act III – Israel (Abraham to Jesus)

Act IV – Jesus

Act V – The Age of the church

Act VI – New creation

- We are now living in Act V

## The Partial Kingdom

### iii. God's place (Numbers – Joshua)

*' "To your offspring I will give this land" ' (Genesis 12:7).*

#### Numbers

- Journey from Sinai desert to Jericho could have taken eleven days
- Instead takes forty years due to Israel's rebellion

*'Today, if only you would hear his voice, "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did. For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest"' ' (Psalm 95:7–11).*

- Israelites abandoned faith in God and so God caused them to wander in the desert
- Census at the beginning and end of book of Numbers
- Hebrews 3–4 appeals to us not to make the same mistakes as Israelites

#### Deuteronomy

- Farewell speech from Moses
- Three speeches: Moses exhorts people to be faithful to God
- Blessings and Curses: Deuteronomy 28

*'But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve' (Joshua 24:15).*

*'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength' (Deuteronomy 6:4–5).*

- Shema: 'Hear O Israel'
- Deuteronomy is foundation charter of Israel

#### Joshua

- Beginning of conquest narrative

*' "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go" ' (Joshua 1:7).*

- Joshua has succeeded from Moses
- 'Then the land had rest from war' (Joshua 11:23).
- Biblical concept of promised land is as a place of rest
- 'When Joshua had grown old, the Lord said to him, "You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over"' (Joshua 13:1)
- Second half of Joshua: further battles and plans for future generations when they will have more of the land

*'So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands. Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled' (Joshua 21:43-45).*

- Fulfillment of promises shows God establishing his rule, over his people, in his place

## **iv. God's King (Judges – 2 Chronicles)**

### **Judges**

- God exercises his rule through a king

*' "he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" ' (Genesis 3:15).*

*'until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his' (Genesis 49:10).*

*'When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," be sure to appoint over you a king the Lord your God chooses. He must be from among your fellow Israelites. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not an Israelite' (Deuteronomy 17:14-15).*

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

- Lack of leadership and bad authority
- Judges shows progression towards realisation of need for a king and illustrates the evil deeds of Israel
- Judges shows that not everything in the Bible is biblical
- 'Negative learning'
- God does not give up on his people

### **1 Samuel – 2 Chronicles**

- Rejection of God as king
- Three rulers: Saul, David and Solomon

*' "The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: 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. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken*

*away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever”* (2 Samuel 7:11–16).

- Promise to Solomon and his descendents that God will establish a dynasty forever
- Solomon fulfills the Lord's commands to begin with
- 1 Kings 8: Dedication of temple
- From this point onwards in history of Israel there is a downhill slide into apostasy and disobedience
- Solomon has many wives and encourages Israel to be idolatrous

## **The Prophesied Kingdom**

### **The prophets' role and context**

- Prophets appointed by God
- Dual role of warning Israel and promising God's faithfulness
- God's mouthpiece to the people

*'This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord'* (Jeremiah 7:1).

- Context: split between the divided kingdom of Israel in north and Judah in south
- Elijah and Elisha in northern kingdom
- Amos comes from southern kingdom but travels north to preach
- Early prophets detect that God will take His people into exile
- Northern kingdom of ten tribes of Israel go in to exile in 722 BC when Assyrians invade – never properly repatriated
- Two tribes of Benjamin and Judah go in to exile in Babylon in 586 BC
- 1 and 2 Kings: from time of Solomon to exile of king of Jerusalem
- Jeremiah is prophet for the thirty years leading up to exile of Judah

*'But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name, his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!"* (Jeremiah 20:9–10).

- Amos predicts 200 years earlier that the Assyrians will take the northern kingdom into exile

### **The prophets' message: Judgement and hope**

- Israelites are a chosen people but must keep their part of the covenant to escape judgment

*'"You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins"'* (Amos 3:2).

- 'The book of restoration': Jeremiah 31–34

- God will judge his people but then bring restoration
- Prophectic points of future hope

*'Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow'* (1 Peter 1:10–11).

- Prophets had to use language about future which had meaning in the present
- Projecting from the past on to the future
  - New Exodus
  - New David
  - New Covenant
  - New Temple
  - New Creation

*'“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more”'* (Jeremiah 31:31–34).

- New temple: Ezekiel 40–48
- Some prophecies not fulfilled literally – use of metaphor to describe profound spiritual reality
- Jesus refers to Ezekiel's imagery of the new temple (cf. Ezekiel 47):

*'“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them”'* (John 7:38).

- Jesus as new temple and therefore fulfilling prophecy
- New Testament is fulfillment of the Old Testament but often in unexpected ways
- 400–500 years between Old and New Testament with no prophecy
- At the time of Jesus God's people are under Roman rule

## The Present Kingdom

On to this stage arrives:

- John the Baptist proclaiming the word of God
- A Galilean preacher

*'“The time has come, and the kingdom of God has come near,” he said. “Repent and believe in the good news”'* (Mark 1:15).

- New Testament proclaims Jesus as king of the kingdom
- Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God but also brought it into existence

*' "Hosanna to the Son of David!" ' (Matthew 21:9).*

- 'Son of David' means king
- Messiah or Christ means 'anointed one'
- Jesus is seen as fulfillment of the Old Testament

*'But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it' (Matthew 13:16–17).*

*'These are the very Scriptures that testify about me' (John 5:39).*

*'For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God' (2 Corinthians 1:20).*

- Four Gospels give different but complementary pictures of Jesus

## **i. Mark**

- Jesus portrayed as suffering servant who calls us to suffer too
- Two halves:
  - Who is this Jesus?
  - How do we follow him?

*'But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but merely human concerns" ' (Mark 8:33).*

*' "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" ' (Mark 10:45).*

## **ii. Matthew**

- Emphasis on Jesus being fulfillment of Old Testament
- Formula quotations – 'This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet' (Matthew 21:4)
- Genealogy at beginning of Matthew
- Jesus is new Israel
- Matthew is for Jewish Christians

## **iii. Luke**

- Jesus: the Saviour of the world
- Luke was only Gentile writer
- Probably a medical doctor living in Philippi
- Luke portrays Jesus as inclusive of all people
- Male / female doublets

## iv. John

- Jesus: the Son of God who gives eternal life

*'But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name' (John 20:31).*

## The Preached Kingdom

- The age of the church: Act V
- New Testament teaches that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- John 1, Colossians 1 and Hebrews 1 teach on who Jesus is

*'Jesus Christ is Lord' (Philippians 2:11).*

- Person of Holy Spirit comes to dwell in believers
- Holy Spirit makes God real in our lives and changes and equips us
- Romans 8: tension between the now and not yet

*'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 8:35-39).*

- Some things have not yet been fully fulfilled in Jesus

## The Perfected Kingdom

GENESIS	REVELATION
Adam and Eve under curse	No more curses
Garden of Eden: Paradise	City of God: New Jerusalem
Barrier between humans and God	God dwelling with humans

*'And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God"' (Revelation 21:3).*

- Revelation shows picture of something new and better than Garden of Eden in Genesis

*'... "I am making everything new!" ' (Revelation 21:5).*

- Renewal of Creation

	<b>THE PREACHED KINGDOM</b>	<b>THE PERFECTED KINGDOM</b>
GOD'S PEOPLE	All those in Jesus Christ	Every tribe and tongue gathered round throne in Revelation
GOD'S PLACE	People of God are His temple	No temple as all will know God's presence
GOD'S RULE	Under Christ's rule	Christ's rule perfectly manifested in our lives

## Acknowledgments

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