

Bible Overview 3: The mini-story. Israel – God’s prototype

Question: Why build a model?

Introduction: A fresh start - Genesis 12:1-7

People

Place

Presence (Blessing)

The promise to Abraham gets re-stated again and again. To Abraham (Genesis 15:5,7; 17:1-8 and 22:17-19), to Abraham’s son Isaac (Genesis 26:3-4) and then to his grandson Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15 and 35:11-12). The rest of the Bible is the account of this promise coming true.

1. People (Genesis 12 – Exodus 19)

By Exodus 1:5 Abraham has 70 descendants

Exodus 1-2 Pharaoh versus God

So, at the start of Exodus the “people” side of the promise is looking good.

2. Place (Exodus – Joshua)

Exodus 1 – in the wrong place and enslaved. Rescue required in order to get to the Promised Land.

Salvation from judgment

Exodus 12: The Passover

Salvation through judgment

Exodus 14-15: Enemies destroyed at the Red Sea. Party time!

Sadly, not a happy ending. The people rebel (Numbers 14). The first generation do not make it to the Promised Land. But God's promise remains!

Joshua 1:1-3

Joshua 21:43-45

By the end of the book of Joshua the "place" side of the promise is looking good.

Application: Hebrews 3-4

"Don't harden your hearts".

3. Presence/Blessing (Exodus 19 – 1 and 2 Kings)

3 requirements for a relationship with God to work – a prophet, a priest and a king.

a) Prophet

In order to relate to God properly we need Him to speak to us.

The giving of the Law (Rule) Exodus 19 - Deuteronomy

Exodus 20 – the 10 Commandments

Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 - Covenant blessings and curses.

b) Priest

In order to relate to God properly we need someone to go into God's presence and make atonement for our sin.

The Tabernacle and sacrifices (Exodus 25-31 and 35-40; Leviticus)

Exodus 40:34-36 God is with His people.

c) King

In order to relate to God properly we need a king to rule us rightly, to lead us in God's will and keep us from going astray.

Judges: the need for a king. "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." (Judges 21:25)

Ruth – 2 Samuel: The search for a king

The people need a king who will follow God's rule! Is it David?

2 Samuel 7

People

Place

Presence

A wonderful promise. A King in David's line who will rule over God's people for ever. Is it Solomon?

1 Kings 1-10. The proto-type complete.

1 Kings 4:20-21

1 King 8:10-11; 8:20

In these early chapters of 1 Kings the "presence" aspect of the promise is looking good

Promises fulfilled?

“Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.” (1 Kings 8:56)

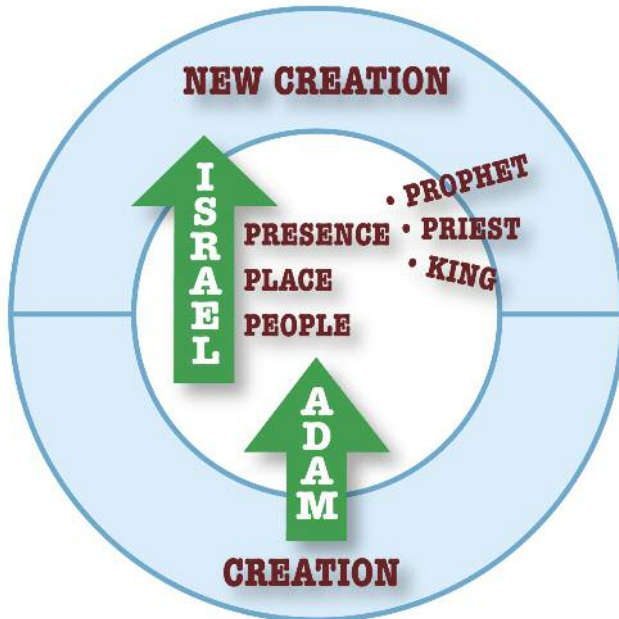


Diagram 7

Application: God is faithful to His promises. Listen to Him. Trust Him.