

Don't lose the plot! (5): The Prophets and Jesus, the Real Thing

1. The prophets and a future hope: The prophets not only warn of judgment to come but hold out the hope of salvation. They speak not only of the failure of Israel but of a future for Israel.

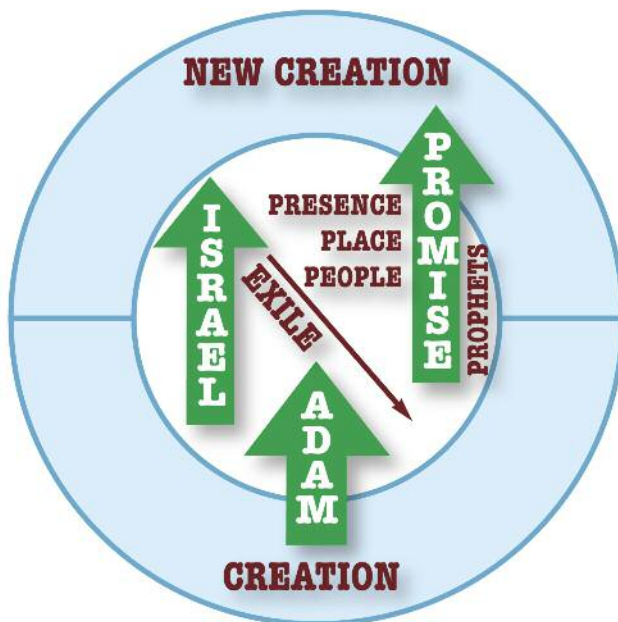


Diagram 9

People: Micah 4:1-4; Isaiah 49:6 – including Gentiles!

Place: Isaiah 65:17-18 – a new heavens and a new earth

Presence: Deuteronomy 18:18-19, Malachi 3:1 - a great Prophet

Psalm 110 – a Priest for ever

Isaiah 9:6-7, Jeremiah 23:1-8; Micah 5:1-4 – an eternal King
(who is God)

The prophets look forward to salvation from sin's penalty (pardon for disobedience)

Eg Jeremiah 31:34 *"I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*

How? Through substitution – Isaiah 53. Not an animal but a man!

The prophets look forward to salvation from our sinful nature (power for obedience)

Eg Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:26

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)

The Prophets speak of a perfect people living in a perfect place enjoying perfect relationship with God.

2. The end of the Exile?

The people return to the land. (the books of Ezra and Nehemiah)

But an anti-climax. A huge gap between the promise and the reality.

Ezra 3:11-13. The older generation weep. Not the temple Ezekiel had promised. Smaller than Solomon's.

Nehemiah 13. Nehemiah laments that God's law is disobeyed. The people do not have new hearts.

Still waiting for the promises to be fulfilled

3. Jesus – the Real Thing

Matthew 1 – The King is here. The Exile is over.

Jesus is the fulfilment of the whole story.

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus is the fulfilment of the big story – the new Adam.

Jesus is the fulfilment of the mini-story – the new Israel

Jesus is the fulfilment of **the people, place and presence** promises and types.

People (Colossians 1:15; Galatians 3:16; Hebrews 2:5-13)

Place (John 14:2-3; Hebrews 11:16)

Presence

Prophet (John 1:1,14; Hebrews 1:1)

Priest – temple, sacrifice and priest (John 1:14,29; John 2:19-22; Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 5:5-10; 10:11-14)

King (Luke 1:30-33, 2:11; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 1:2, 8-13)

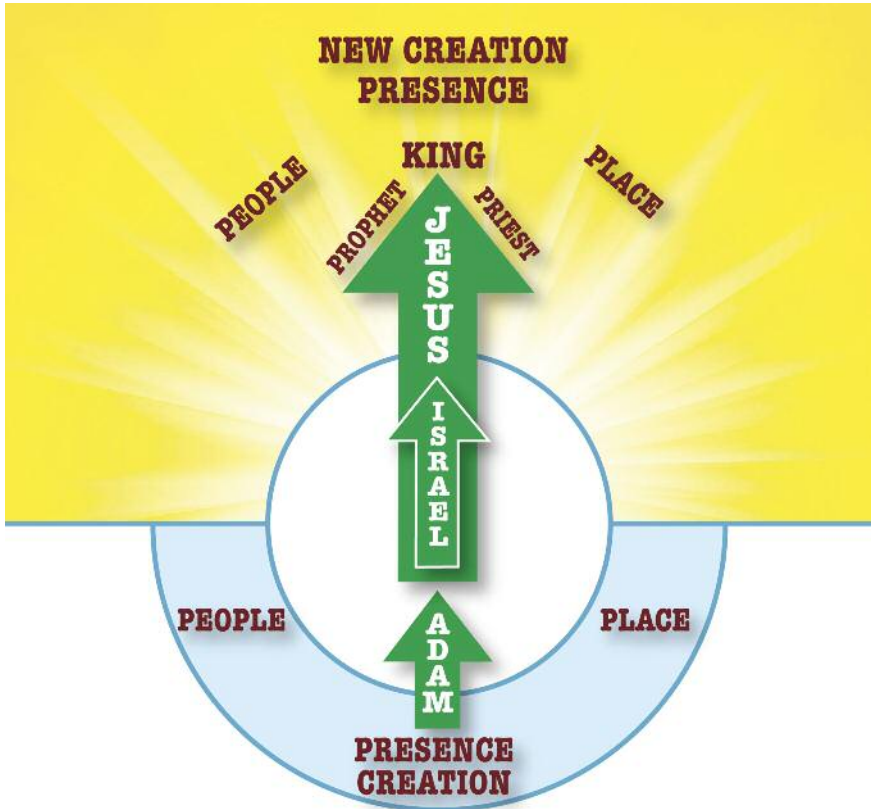


Diagram 10

Conclusion: Jesus is everything.

Jesus is the only One who can save us from the mess we have made and transform us into God’s perfect people and take us to God’s perfect place where we will enjoy God’s perfect presence forever.

Don’t lose the plot! Trust Him! Worship Him! Love Him.

“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:24)