



THEOLOGY MATTERS

Session 2

Tracing God's Story

“The Bible is not a random collection of moral stories; it is one unified story starring Jesus Christ.”

D.A. Carson

Big Idea: The story of Scripture is about the establishment, loss, and re-establishment of the kingdom of God-through God's presence, with God's people, in God's place, as they live out God's purposes.

Aim: To see God's unified plan of redemption across the whole Bible.





The Story of the Bible • What It's About From Beginning to End



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How to Read the Bible

The Story of the Bible



Watch on  YouTube





DISCUSSION

- What's your current level of familiarity with God's word?
- What are some common obstacles we need to overcome to grow in God's word?



God's Big Picture in Scripture

1. Presence of God- God created the world as a temple for Him and His people.
2. People of God- God's people are designed to live in God's Presence.
3. Place of God- God's people are given a home to experience the presence of God.
4. Purposes of God- God's people are given a place to experience the presence of God to live out their defined purposes that He has called them to.

1. The Original Creation (Genesis 1 & 2)

- GOD (Genesis 1:1 – first 4 words, “In the beginning, God” – “created” (v.5)

- God’s Creation of a Perfect World:

Genesis 1 describes God’s orderly, purposeful creation of the heavens and the earth, culminating in humanity made in His image (Genesis 1:26–27). Everything God made was “very good” (Genesis 1:31). The Garden of Eden in Genesis 2 is the perfect place where God dwells with Adam and Eve, providing for their every need (Genesis 2:8–15).

- God’s Presence with His People:

In the garden, God walked and talked intimately with humanity (Genesis 3:8), symbolizing His personal presence with His people. This presence was the heart of blessing and life.

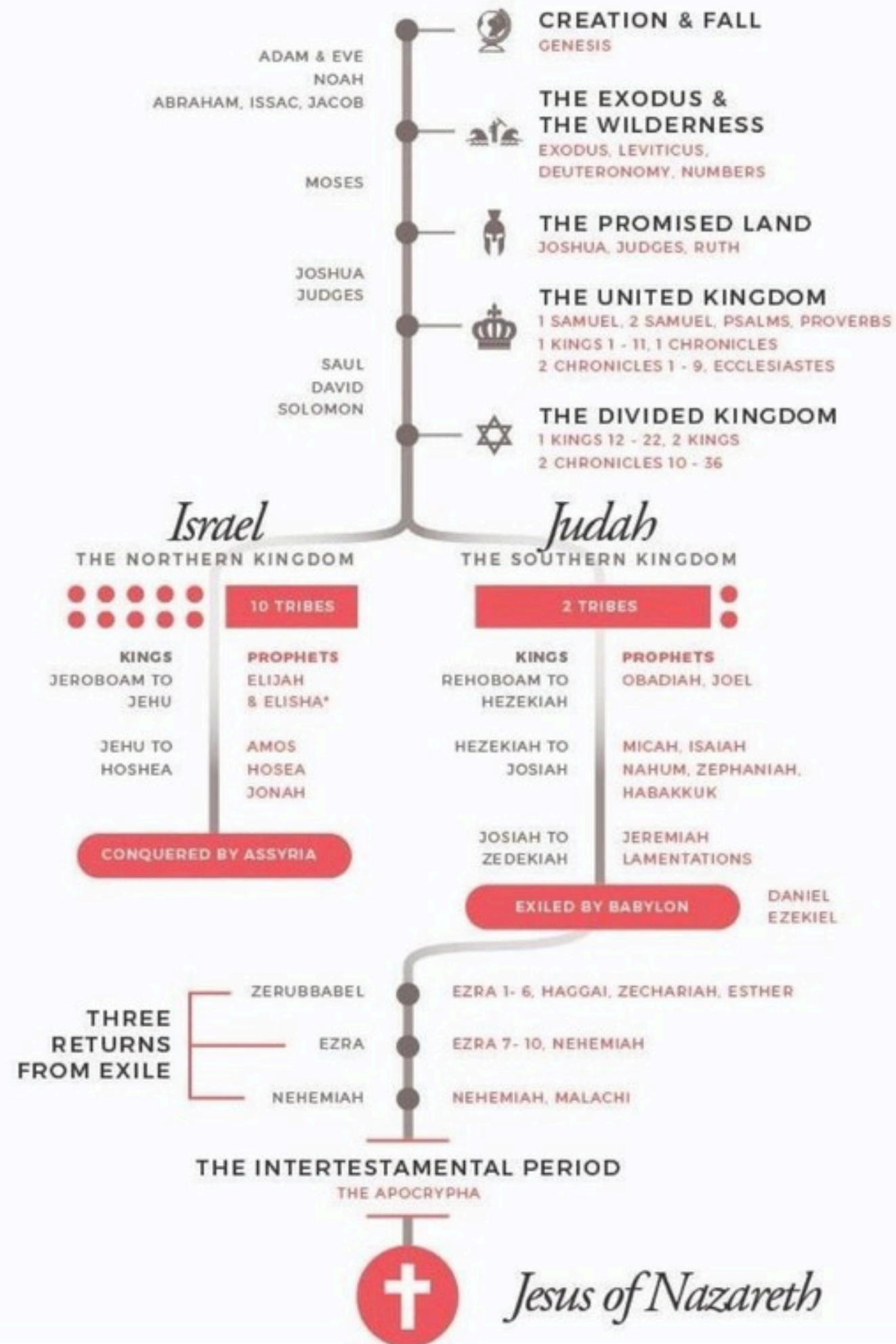
- Purpose for Humanity:

Man and woman were created for relationship with God, each other, and the rest of creation, called to steward and multiply God’s blessings (Genesis 1:28; 2:15)

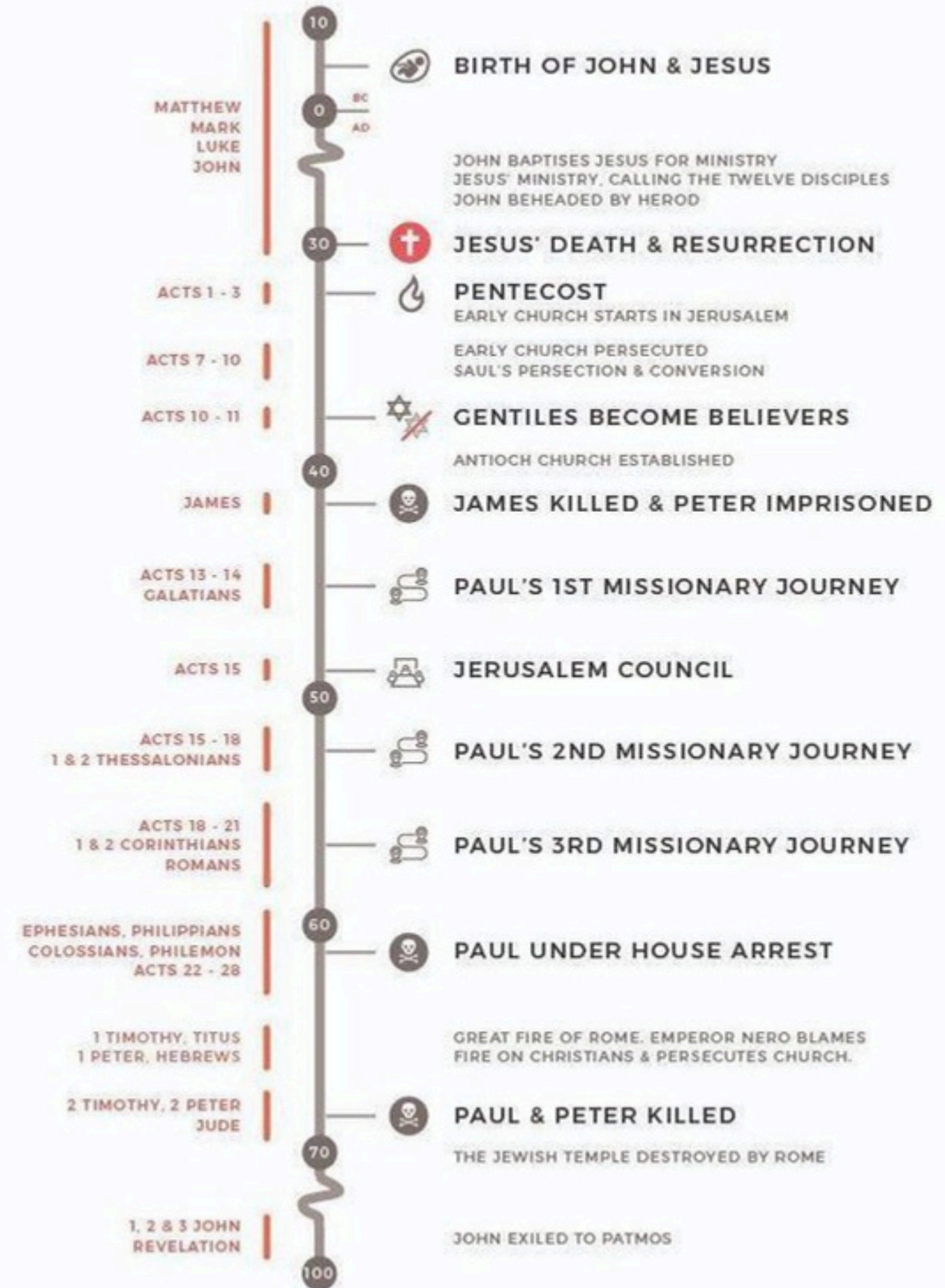
2. The New Creation & Fulfillment (Revelation 21 & 22)

- God Restores the Perfect Creation:
revelation 21:1 announces “a new heaven and a new earth,” indicating God’s complete restoration of all things. The “first heaven and first earth” have passed away, undoing the effects of sin and fall.
- God Dwelling Fully with His People:
Revelation 21:3 echoes Eden by declaring, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.” God’s presence is no longer mediated but immediate and permanent. There is no more separation, pain, or death (Rev 21:4), fulfilling the original intimacy of Eden.
- The Tree of Life Restored:
Revelation 22:2 references the tree of life from Genesis, “bearing twelve kinds of fruit,” symbolizing eternal life and healing for the nations. Unlike in Eden, access to this life-giving tree is now fully restored to God’s redeemed people.
- The People of God Serving and Knowing God Fully:
God’s people live in perfect fellowship, “his servants will worship him” and “they will see his face” (Rev 22:3, 4), fulfilling human purpose and worship that began in Eden.

THE TIMELINE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



THE TIMELINE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT



GENERAL STRUCTURE FOR SCRIPTURE

1. CREATION: GOD'S GOOD DESIGN

- a. God Creates Everything by His Word
 - Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
 - Psalm 33:6 – “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made...”
- b. Humanity Made in God's Image
 - Genesis 1:26–27 – “Let us make man in our image... male and female he created them.”
 - Colossians 1:16 – “All things were created through him and for him.”
- c. Purpose: Relationship, Stewardship, and Blessing
 - Genesis 2:15 – “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”
 - Psalm 8:4–8 – “You have crowned him with glory and honor.”
- d. Creation is Very Good
 - Genesis 1:31 – “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”
 - Revelation 4:11 – “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power...”

2. FALL: SIN, BROKENNESS, AND EXILE

a. The Temptation and Choice to Sin

- Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
- Psalm 33:6 – “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made...”

b. The Immediate Consequences

- Genesis 3:7–13 – Shame, hiding, and blame enter human experience.
- Romans 5:12 – “Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin...”

c. Broken Relationships: God, Each Other, and Creation

- Genesis 3:16–19 – Pain, toil, conflict, death.
- Isaiah 59:2 – “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God...”

d. Exile and Need for Redemption

- Genesis 3:23–24 – Adam and Eve are driven out from Eden.
- Romans 8:20–22 – “The creation was subjected to futility... the whole creation has been groaning...”

3. PROMISE: COVENANT AND HOPE OF REDEMPTION

a. A Promise of Defeat for Evil

- Genesis 3:15 – “He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
- Romans 16:20 – “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

b. God's Covenant with Abraham

- Genesis 12:2-3 – “I will bless you...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
- Galatians 3:8 – “And the Scripture...preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham...”

c. Covenant with Israel: Law and Sacrifice

- Exodus 19:5-6 – “You shall be my treasured possession among all peoples... a kingdom of priests.”
- Leviticus 17:11 – “The life of the flesh is in the blood...”

d. The Promise of a Deliverer, a New Covenant

- Isaiah 9:6-7 – “Unto us a child is born...”
- Jeremiah 31:31-34 – “I will make a new covenant... I will put my law within them...”

4. REDEMPTION: JESUS CHRIST, THE SAVIOR

- a. The Incarnation of Jesus, God With Us
 - John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”
 - Matthew 1:21-23 – “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
- b. The Cross: Substitution and Sacrifice
 - Isaiah 53:5-6 – “He was pierced for our transgressions...”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “He made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- c. Resurrection: New Life and Victory
 - Luke 24:6-7 – “He is not here, but has risen.”
 - Romans 6:4 – “...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”
- d. Redemption Offered to All Nations
 - Matthew 28:18-20 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”
 - Revelation 5:9 – “You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language...”

5. FULLNESS: NEW CREATION AND GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM

a. Return of Christ and Final Judgment

- Acts 1:11 – “This Jesus... will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
- Revelation 20:11-15 – “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it...”

b. Restoration: New Heavens and New Earth

- Revelation 21:1-5 – “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth ... ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”
- Isaiah 65:17 – “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth...”

c. God Dwells with His People Forever

- Revelation 21:3-4 – “He will dwell with them, and they will be his people... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes...”
- Ezekiel 37:27 – “My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

d. End of Sin, Eternal Joy for the Redeemed

- Revelation 22:3-5 – “No longer will there be anything accursed... they will see his face... and they will reign forever and ever.”
- 2 Peter 3:13 – “We are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

DISCUSSION



WHAT IS ONE THING THAT “CLICKED” FOR YOU TONIGHT?

HOW MIGHT THAT PRACTICALLY HELP YOUR READING OF
GOD’S WORD THIS WEEK?

HOMEWORK

- Read Genesis 1-3 and Revelation 21-22.
- Write one or two sentences on how/when/where you've seen God at work in each of the 5 aspects of the Bible's structure in your life (Creation, Fall, Promise, Redemption, Fullness).

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the Gospel Coalition.



