
How to Read (and Love) the Old Testament

The Roots

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

17 And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

19 And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.

24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” 25 And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent."

So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:13-35

Today's Roadmap

- Metanarrative of the Bible
 - General tips of how to read the OT
 - Addressing specific pain points
 - How to love the OT
 - What fruit does this lead to?
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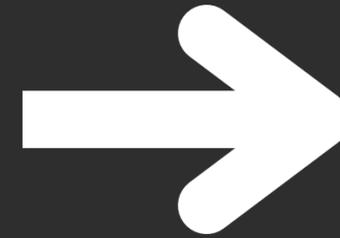
**The Bible is one story
about God and his
kingdom.**



Creation



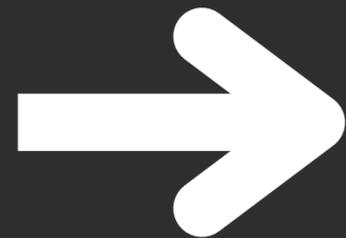
Garden "Temple"



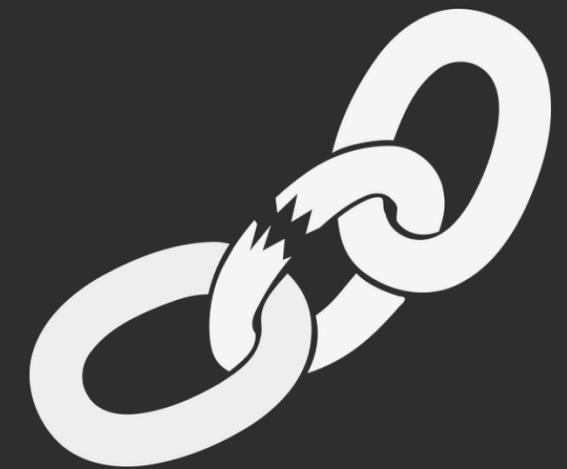
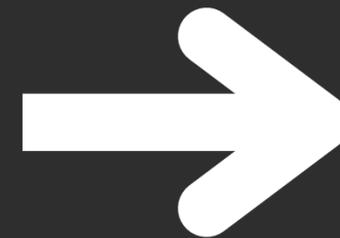
Vice-Regents



Sin and Exile

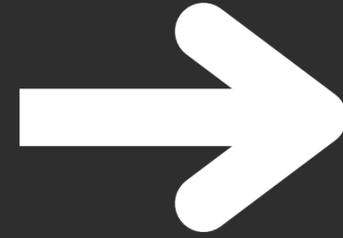
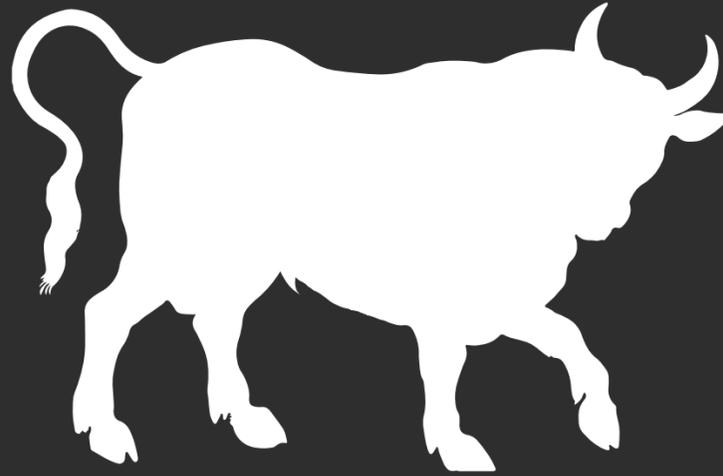
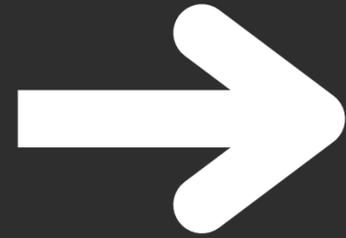


Covenant



Deliverance

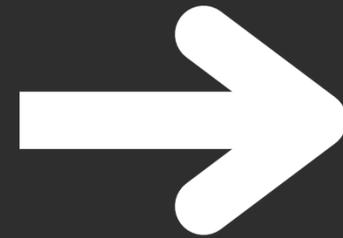
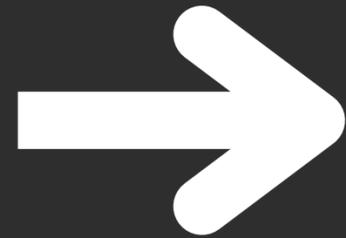




Kingdom of Priests

Sin

Brought to the land



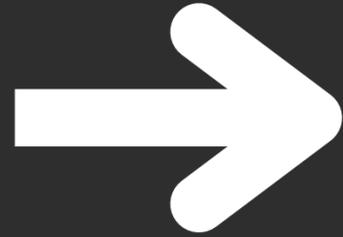
Sin

God gives them a king

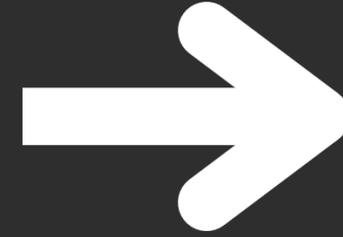
...more sin



Jesus



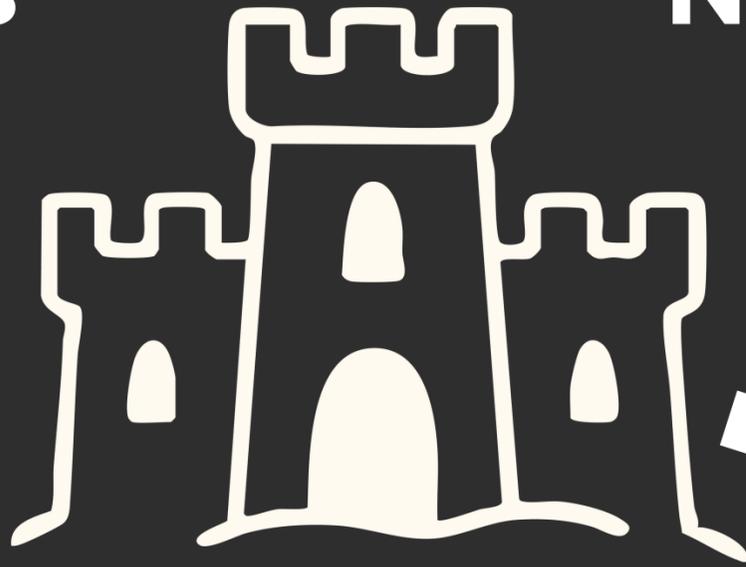
New Covenant



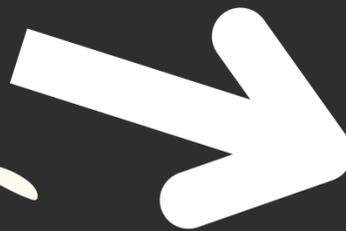
Kingdom Ambassadors



(Now/Not Yet)



Coming Kingdom



**New Heavens
New Earth**

Metanarrative of the Bible

- Have you ever thought of the Bible that way? (surely, it's not the only way to think of it)
 - Acts 7, Acts 13
 - Paul says the gospel was preached to Abraham!
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How to Read the Old Testament

- Heart Posture
 - Curiosity
 - Expectancy
 - Patience

How to Read the Old Testament

- Understand the Context
 - Genre (what are the rules?)
 - Narrative
 - Prophecy
 - Poetry
 - Etc.
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How to Read the Old Testament

- Timeline
 - Narrative of the story
 - Metanarrative of the Bible

How to Read the Old Testament

- Culture
 - Ancient Near East (ANE) writings
 - Do not underestimate how foreign the culture is to your own
 - Just because it is recorded does not mean it is endorsed
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How to Read the Old Testament

- Foreshadowing and Anticipation of Christ
 - Luke 24:25-27, 44
 - 1 Peter 1:10-11
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Addressing Pain Points

- How to understand the Law
 - The Mosaic Law was for the people of Israel, and now Jesus has fulfilled it, meaning it is not intended to be followed by the NT believer
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Addressing Pain Points

- How to understand the Law
 - That being said, the law was...
 - Holy, righteous, good
 - A grace
 - Full of glory
 - A stepping stone to a better way
-

Addressing Pain Points

- How to understand the Law
 - Yet...
 - Not the fullness of God's will
 - NC brings greater grace
 - NC brings greater glory
 - Temporary
-

Addressing Pain Points

- How to understand the Law
 - So...
 - It is useful for revelation
 - It is useful for seeing God's redemptive story
 - It is useful for learning about God
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Addressing Pain Points

- How to understand the violence
 - We underestimate how evil these societies were
 - We underestimate how important holiness is/how destructive sin is
 - Ancient war language
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Addressing Pain Points

- How to understand attitudes toward women
 - Matthew 19:8
 - We see many women in prominent roles of power, renown, and heroism
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Addressing Pain Points

- How to be edified by the OT (and not bogged down by how dark it can be)
 - See God's goodness through the story
 - Let it build anticipation of the gospel
 - Did you know you can preach the whole gospel using only the OT?
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Addressing Pain Points

- How to see the bigger picture/chronology of the OT
 - Chronological Bible
 - BibleProject
 - Experience and study are irreplaceable
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Addressing Pain Points

- How to know if a prophecy has already been fulfilled or is meant for the future
 - Study each particular passage
 - Some prophecy is conditional
 - Some prophecy is archetypal or multi-level
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How to LOVE the OT

- Check your heart posture again!
 - Keep the big view in mind
 - How does it point to Jesus?
 - Psalm 19 and 119 (among others)
 - Just keep going! The more you learn, the more hungry you will become.
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What fruit does this lead to?

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

What fruit does this lead to?

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

What fruit does this lead to?

- Encouraged
 - Endurance
 - Filled with hope
 - Understand the gospel
 - Righteousness
 - Equipped for ministry
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Response

- *God, what practical takeaways do you have for me to study the OT more effectively? What fruit will this lead to in my life?*
 - *Lord, let your Scripture cause a fire to burn in my chest!*
 - Practice sharing the gospel through only the OT.
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