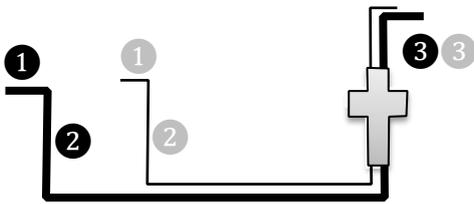


The Bible Overview Part 2: RESCUE

The story of Israel and the story of the world are the same



Adam
in Eden
with God's command
which he broke
and so was evicted
awaiting a second Adam
who would rescue

Abraham
in the Promised Land
with God's law
which they broke
and so were exiled
awaiting a second Israel
who would rescue

The Israel story begins with a word of promise

A promise to Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob
(Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 26:3-5, 24; 28:14-15)

A promise of many descendants

- 'I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.' (Genesis 13:16)
- 'And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be.'" (Genesis 15:5)
- 'I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.' (Genesis 22:17)

In a land of sticky toffee pudding

- 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.' (Genesis 15:18-21)
- 'a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.' (Exodus 3:8)

Which sounds like a restoration of what was lost in Eden!

But is clearly impossible from a human point of view, because Sarah can't have children (e.g. Genesis 11:30). Abraham must simply trust what God says (Genesis 15:6).

The Israel story is the gospel story (Romans 4:13-25; Galatians 3:13-17, 28-29)

The Israel story continues with an incredible rescue

Despite appearances, God hasn't forgotten his promises (Exodus 1-2, CONTEXT TOOL)

He announces his plan from a burning bush! (Exodus 3, WHO AM I?! TOOL)

All ten plagues have a purpose (Exodus 7:5, 17-18; 8:10-11; 9:14; 10:1-2, LINKING WORDS TOOL)

But the rescue comes at the Pass-over (Exodus 12:21-32)

Through the devastating plague, God rescued Israel from the tyranny of Pharaoh

Through the blood of the lamb, God rescued Israel from the wrath of God

The Israel story is the gospel story (e.g. John 19:31-37)

The Israel story continues when they possess the land, but soon afterwards forfeit it

(More on this tomorrow)

The Israel story continues as the prophets foretell a second rescue to come

A substitute for sinners (Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12)

... ushering in a new creation (Isaiah 65)

A heart transplant for sinners (Ezekiel 36:22-32)

... ushering in a new creation (Ezekiel 40-48)

The Israel story is the gospel story (e.g. 1 Peter 2:24-25 applying Isaiah 53; John 3:1-8 applying Ezekiel 36)

The Israel story becomes the story of the church

Jew and Gentile are now united as one new people in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Together, we are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession' (1 Peter 2:9, quoting from Exodus 19:6)

What about the Law?

- It was given to a rescued people, not as a means of rescue (Exodus 20:1)
- It was a revelation of how to love God and love one's neighbour (Mark 12:28-34)
- But it brought a curse on those who disobeyed, showing Israel's need of a Saviour (Deuteronomy 30; Galatians 3:10-14; 21-26)

