

Dr. Dave Mathewson, The Storyline of the Bible, Session 2, Israel Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Mathewson, The Storyline of the Bible, Session 2, Israel, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dave Mathewson explores the overarching narrative of the Bible, tracing key themes from Genesis through the Pentateuch. **He connects the stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, and David**, showing how each contributes to God's plan for humanity and creation. **Central themes include covenant, land, temple, God's people, and kingship**, all viewed as aspects of God's original intention for a fruitful and blessed creation, ultimately fulfilled through the promised Davidic king. The lecture highlights how Israel's failures mirror Adam and Eve's, setting the stage for future prophetic expectations. The lecture lays the groundwork for understanding the unfolding story of redemption.

2. 13 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, The Storyline of the Bible, Session 2 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Introduction & Languages → Introductory Series → Storyline).



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3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided lecture transcript by Dave Mathewson, focusing on the storyline of Israel within the broader Biblical narrative:

Briefing Document: Mathewson Lecture 2 - Israel

Overview:

This lecture focuses on the story of Israel, particularly within the Pentateuchal narratives (Genesis through Deuteronomy), tracing how themes introduced in the creation account in Genesis 1-3 are developed and continue to unfold through Israel's history. The lecture argues that God's actions and covenants with Israel are all ultimately aimed at restoring His original intention for creation, which was disrupted by the fall of Adam and Eve. It emphasizes that the story is not a series of disjointed events but a single, continuous narrative.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. Restoration of God's Original Intent:

- The overarching narrative is about God's intention for humanity and creation established in Genesis 1-2 which is disrupted by sin and the fall, and how God aims to restore this original intent.
- The calling of Abraham, the formation of Israel, the Mosaic covenant, and the Davidic covenant are all seen as stages in God's plan to restore this intention.
- Mathewson states, "if God isn't going to just scrap the whole project, how is God going to restore his original intention for creation?" This establishes the central question the lecture seeks to answer.

1. Thematic Continuity from Creation to Israel:

- Themes of land, covenant, people of God, temple, and kingship are introduced in Genesis 1-3 and then developed and applied to Israel.

- **Land:** The land is not just territory, but a place of blessing, reflecting the Garden of Eden. The promise of land to Abraham and then to Israel is a crucial aspect of God's restorative plan. "God brings them out of Egypt in order to settle them in the land that, again, that God promised to Abraham...to give the land as a place of blessing, as a gracious gift to his people all the way back in Genesis chapters 1 and 2."
- **Covenant:** God's relationship with both Adam & Eve and Israel are governed by covenants that require obedience. The Mosaic covenant defines the laws and cultic practices that Israel must follow to remain in God's favor. "God elects Israel as his people...their ability to remain in the garden and to enjoy its fruitfulness and blessing was conditioned upon obedience."
- **People of God:** God selects specific people to carry out his purposes, beginning with Adam and Eve, then Abraham, and then the nation of Israel. "Israel, as God's new chosen people, as the means by which God will restore his intention for creation..."
- **Temple:** The Tabernacle and Temple serve as a dwelling place for God's presence with His people, reflecting the Garden of Eden as the initial sacred space. "In a sense, the Garden of Eden was to be understood as God's temple or God's tabernacle."
- **Kingship:** Humanity was initially meant to rule creation as God's vice-regents, starting with Adam and Eve. This is further developed with the Davidic covenant. "The Davidic king is the means by which God fulfills His intention from Genesis 1 and 2 of humanity to rule over all creation...As God's representative, they are God's vice-regent."

1. Israel as a "New Adam":

- Israel's role is similar to that of Adam and Eve: to be fruitful, multiply, and extend God's rule and glory throughout creation. "Now Israel, as God's people, is fulfilling the role of being fruitful and multiplying."
- God's intention for Israel was to restore humanity's original mandate that was lost with the fall. However, just like Adam and Eve, they also fail to fully obey God. "In a sense then, Israel does not fare any better than Adam and Eve do."

1. **The Mosaic Covenant: Blessing and Curse:**

- The Mosaic Covenant establishes that blessings (prosperity, fruitfulness, victory over enemies) are contingent upon Israel's obedience to God's commandments, while disobedience leads to curses (defeat, exile, and scattering among nations). "Refusal to obey will result in the curse and will result in exile from the land."
- The blessings are tied to the land and its fruitfulness, mirroring the abundance of the Garden of Eden. "The Lord will make you abound in prosperity in the fruit of your womb, in the fruit of your livestock, in the fruit of your ground, in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors, Abraham, to give to you."
- The consequences of disobedience, and the curses, included exile. "Just as the Lord took delight in making you prosperous and numerous...so the Lord will take delight in bringing you to ruin and destruction."

1. **Tabernacle and Temple as Replicas of Eden:**

- The Tabernacle and later the Temple are presented as miniature replicas of the Garden of Eden, sacred spaces where God's presence dwelled among His people. "The temple and tabernacle were meant to be replicas of the Garden of Eden... kind of a picture, a snapshot, a portrait in miniature of what God intended for the entirety of His creation."
- Architectural details like gold, cherubim, and plant carvings, evoke the imagery of Eden. "Why is the temple engraved with carvings of cherubim, these angelic beings, palm trees and open flowers? Probably because they are reflecting the fruitfulness of creation in Genesis 1 and 2."
- The presence of the Ark of the Covenant with cherubim guarding it mirrors the cherubim who guarded the entrance to the Garden after the fall. "The two cherubim that guard the Holy of Holies where God's presence is particularly manifest, probably reflect the two cherubim, the angelic beings that guard the entrance to the Garden of Eden."

1. **The Davidic Covenant and the Messianic King:**

- The Davidic covenant is God's promise to establish an eternal dynasty, with a descendant of David on the throne forever. "I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body and I will establish His kingdom."

- The Davidic king is seen as God's representative on earth, fulfilling the vice-regency role that was originally given to Adam and Eve. "The Davidic king is the means by which God fulfills His intention from Genesis 1 and 2 of humanity to rule over all creation."
- This king is intended to extend God's rule to all nations, mirroring God's original intention to spread his glory throughout creation. "Ask of me and I will make the nations your heritage and the end of the earth your possession."

1. Israel's Failure and the Need for Redemption:

- Despite God's covenants and promises, Israel fails to uphold its end of the agreement, committing idolatry and other sins, and is ultimately exiled from the land. "Because they failed to obey and keep the covenant relationship with God, they again are exiled from the land."
- This failure mirrors Adam and Eve's disobedience and raises the question of how God will ultimately restore His original intention for creation and for humanity. "The question then, the question at the end of Israel's history remains, how then will God restore His original intention for all humanity, and for all creation?"

1. Looking Towards the Prophets and the New Testament:

- The lecture concludes by stating that the prophetic texts will begin to anticipate God's plan to restore His people and His plan for all of humanity.
- The question of how God will restore Israel to their land, restore the temple, and restore God's rule is still open at this point.
- The lecture sets the stage for understanding how the themes of people of God, covenant, land, temple, and kingship would ultimately find their fulfillment in the New Testament, specifically in the person of Jesus Christ and the new covenant. "We'll see how ultimately then the expectations as articulated in the prophetic text will ultimately get fulfilled in the New Testament, in the person of Jesus Christ..."

Key Takeaways:

- The story of Israel is not an isolated event, but an integral part of God's overarching plan to restore creation after the fall.
- The themes introduced in Genesis 1-3 (land, covenant, people, temple, kingship) continue to be central to the narrative through the Pentateuch and provide a framework for understanding the rest of the Biblical story.
- Israel's failure, despite God's covenant with them, highlights humanity's inherent tendency to sin and the need for divine redemption.
- The lecture sets the expectation for the coming of a Messiah, a Davidic king who will ultimately fulfill God's original intentions for humanity and creation.

This briefing document should provide a comprehensive overview of the main ideas and themes presented in the lecture. It also highlights the strong continuity of themes throughout the story and sets the stage for the prophetic and New Testament literature to address the problem of how God will restore his original intention for creation.

4. Mathewson, The Storyline of the Bible, Session 2, Israel

Israel: A Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. How does the multiplication of the Israelites in Egypt relate to God's original intention for humanity?
2. What is the significance of the land flowing with milk and honey in the context of the promises made to Abraham and Moses?
3. How does the Mosaic Covenant function as a means to fulfill God's intention for creation?
4. What conditions are placed on the Israelites for their enjoyment of blessing in the land according to Deuteronomy?
5. How do the tabernacle and temple serve as replicas of the Garden of Eden?
6. What role does the presence of gold and cherubim play in the symbolic connection between the temple and the Garden?
7. In what ways was Israel intended to be a kingdom of priests?
8. How does the Davidic Covenant further the fulfillment of God's intentions for creation and humanity's role within it?
9. What ultimately leads to Israel's exile from the land, and how is this similar to the story of Adam and Eve?
10. According to the lecture, what questions remain after Israel's exile, and what are the two main problems that God must address?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The multiplication of the Israelites in Egypt mirrors God's original intention in Genesis 1 and 2 for Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, showing how God's intentions for humanity will continue to be fulfilled in Israel as his chosen people. The Israelites' multiplication demonstrated God's plan being revived despite the initial failure of humanity.

2. The description of the land as "flowing with milk and honey" harkens back to the fruitfulness and abundance of the Garden of Eden, emphasizing that the land is a place of blessing and God's gracious provision for His people, fulfilling the original intention of the land as a gift to his people.
3. The Mosaic Covenant establishes the legal and cultic framework for how Israel will fulfill God's original intention for creation, conditioning their blessing in the land upon their obedience and serving as a means to restore God's plan for humanity after the failure of Adam and Eve.
4. According to Deuteronomy, the Israelites' enjoyment of blessing in the land is directly tied to their obedience to God's commandments; if they diligently observe God's laws, they will experience fruitfulness, abundance, and victory over their enemies, mirroring the conditions for Adam and Eve in Eden.
5. The tabernacle and temple are designed to be miniature versions or replicas of the Garden of Eden, serving as sacred spaces where God dwells with His people, highlighting the significance of God's presence and recalling the original intent for all of creation to be such a dwelling place.
6. The presence of gold in both the Garden of Eden and the temple connects them as sacred spaces, while the cherubim carvings and sculptures are meant to recall the cherubim guarding the entrance to the Garden, further establishing the temple as a symbolic representation of God's presence.
7. Israel was intended to be a kingdom of priests to reflect God's intention for humanity to rule over creation and spread His glory throughout the entire world, reflecting their role as representatives of God to all the nations, echoing Adam and Eve's role as God's vice-regents in the garden.
8. The Davidic Covenant further develops the role of a vice-regent, with the king ultimately ruling over all creation in accordance with God's intentions, restoring the intended human role of dominion from the creation narrative in Genesis. The Davidic king also serves as a tangible representation of God's rule.
9. Israel's exile from the land results from their disobedience to God and the Mosaic Covenant, their failure to uphold their end of the covenant relationship, mirroring how Adam and Eve's disobedience caused their exile from the Garden. Both events demonstrate the consequence of disobedience and a failure to fulfill God's mandate for creation.

10. After Israel's exile, the main questions are how God will restore His original intention for humanity and creation and how God will restore Israel from sin and death. God has two problems: the broader issue of all creation and humanity's sin, and the specific issue of the nation of Israel's sinfulness as they were intended to be the means of salvation for the world.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer each question in a well-structured essay format.

1. Discuss the significance of land as a theme throughout the narrative of Israel, from its connection to the Garden of Eden to the promised land, and how it reflects God's intentions for his people.
2. Analyze the covenantal relationship between God and Israel, exploring how the Mosaic Covenant relates to the Abrahamic Covenant and the conditions for blessing and cursing.
3. Compare and contrast the stories of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and the nation of Israel in the Promised Land, highlighting the parallels in their creation, their covenant relationship with God, and their eventual exile.
4. Explore the symbolic significance of the temple and tabernacle as representations of the Garden of Eden, discussing the implications of this connection for God's presence and His relationship with His people.
5. Examine how the Davidic Covenant integrates the themes of land, people, and kingship, and what it contributes to the overall story of God's intention for humanity and creation, focusing on the idea of God's vice-regent.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abrahamic Covenant:** The covenant God made with Abraham, promising him land, descendants, and blessings, forming the basis for God's relationship with Israel.
- **Covenant:** A formal agreement or contract between God and his people, establishing terms, promises, and obligations.
- **Davidic Covenant:** The covenant God made with David, promising that his line would continue to rule over Israel forever, connected to the concept of kingship and God's vice-regent.
- **Exile:** The forced removal of a people from their homeland, often as a consequence of disobedience, exemplified by the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden and Israel from the promised land.
- **Garden of Eden:** The original dwelling place of Adam and Eve, representing a sacred space where God dwells with humanity and a place of blessing and fruitfulness.
- **Kingdom of Priests:** The designation given to Israel, indicating their role as representatives of God to the nations, meant to spread his glory and presence, and to rule over creation.
- **Land:** The physical territory promised to Abraham's descendants and connected to God's blessing and their role in creation.
- **Mosaic Covenant:** The covenant God made with Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai, outlining the laws and stipulations that governed their relationship with God and their life in the promised land.
- **Tabernacle:** A portable sanctuary that accompanied Israel during their wanderings, symbolizing God's presence among them.
- **Temple:** A permanent structure in Jerusalem, intended to be the dwelling place of God on earth and a replica of the Garden of Eden.
- **Vice-regent:** A person who represents or acts on behalf of a ruler, often to manage or govern a territory, as is the intention of the relationship between God and humanity as exemplified in Adam and Eve and the Davidic king.

5. FAQs on Mathewson, The Storyline of the Bible, Session 2, Israel, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Key Themes in the Story of Israel

1. **What is the central storyline of the Bible according to this lecture, and where does it begin?** The central storyline of the Bible, as discussed in this lecture, is about God's intention for creation and humanity, established in Genesis 1-2 with the creation of Adam and Eve. This intention included a covenant relationship with God, a land of blessing, and the mandate for humans to be fruitful, multiply, and act as God's vice-regents to spread His rule and glory. The story then traces how this intention is developed and challenged through Israel's history.
2. **How does the story of Adam and Eve connect with the story of Israel?** The story of Adam and Eve serves as the initial template for God's relationship with humanity. They are given a covenant, land (the Garden of Eden), and a mandate but fail to uphold their end of the covenant, resulting in their exile. Israel, as God's chosen people, is meant to be a means of restoring God's original intentions for creation, essentially re-trying what Adam and Eve failed to do, establishing a covenant with God and receiving a land. Like Adam and Eve they also fail through disobedience and they are also exiled.
3. **What role does the concept of 'land' play in the narrative?** Land is a central theme that runs throughout the narrative. It is presented as a gracious gift from God, a place of blessing, and a manifestation of God's presence. The initial land is the Garden of Eden, then the promised land of Canaan. The promise of land is tied to covenant and obedience, and exile from the land is a consequence of disobedience. Ultimately, the land reflects God's initial intention of a fruitful and blessed creation.

4. **What is the significance of the Mosaic covenant and how does it relate to the Abrahamic covenant?** The Mosaic covenant, established with Moses and the nation of Israel, is the means by which God intends to fulfill his covenant promise to Abraham. It also is meant to fulfill God's intentions going all the way back to creation. It provides specific laws and stipulations for how Israel was to live in covenant with God. Obeying the Mosaic covenant was meant to bring blessing and continued habitation of the land. Disobeying it was meant to bring a curse and exile from the land. The Abrahamic covenant promised land, offspring, and blessing, while the Mosaic covenant provided a structure for Israel to fulfill this promise.
5. **What is the significance of the tabernacle and the temple in the story of Israel?** The tabernacle and temple are significant because they are meant to be replicas or representations of the Garden of Eden, the sacred space where God dwelt with His people. They were symbolic of God's presence among Israel. The descriptions of both structures are filled with imagery that connects them back to the creation account (e.g. gold, trees, cherubim, luminaries, a river of life). The temple is meant to be a miniature, or snapshot of what all of creation was meant to be like with God's presence permeating everything.
6. **How does the concept of kingship fit into the overall storyline?** Kingship becomes a key theme, particularly with the Davidic covenant. Israel was to be a "kingdom of priests," and the Davidic king, an offspring of David, would rule as God's vice-regent, fulfilling the role that Adam and Eve were meant to play. The Davidic king's rule was not only over Israel but meant to extend to all nations, bringing God's rule and blessing to all creation. The Davidic king is meant to restore the initial intentions set out in creation.
7. **Why is the concept of "obedience" so central to the narrative?** Obedience is the condition for continued blessing and habitation in the land and covenant. Like Adam and Eve, who were exiled for disobedience, Israel's fate was tied to their faithfulness to the covenant. Disobedience leads to exile from the land, destruction of the temple, and failure to fulfill God's intentions for them. This theme of obedience underscores that the relationship with God is not simply about divine power but also human responsibility.

8. **How does the failure of Israel impact the overall narrative, and what does this lecture suggest for the future?** Israel's failure to obey and their subsequent exile raises the question of how God will ultimately restore His original intention for humanity and creation. The failure of Israel mirrors the failure of Adam and Eve, highlighting humanity's inherent sinfulness. This sets the stage for the prophetic expectations in the Old Testament for a future restoration and a messianic figure who will ultimately solve this problem, and bring about God's intention for creation.