



PEOPLE OF THE LAND

A Biblical Exploration

EVERY SUNDAY

With Conversation
Circles every Tuesdsy

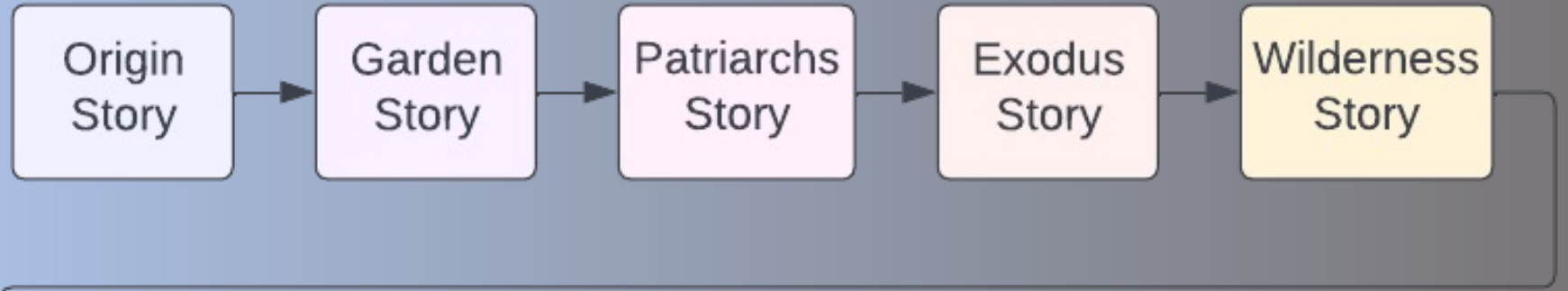
Week 1: Origin Story

Week 2: From Slavery to Wilderness

Week 3: From Exile to New Land

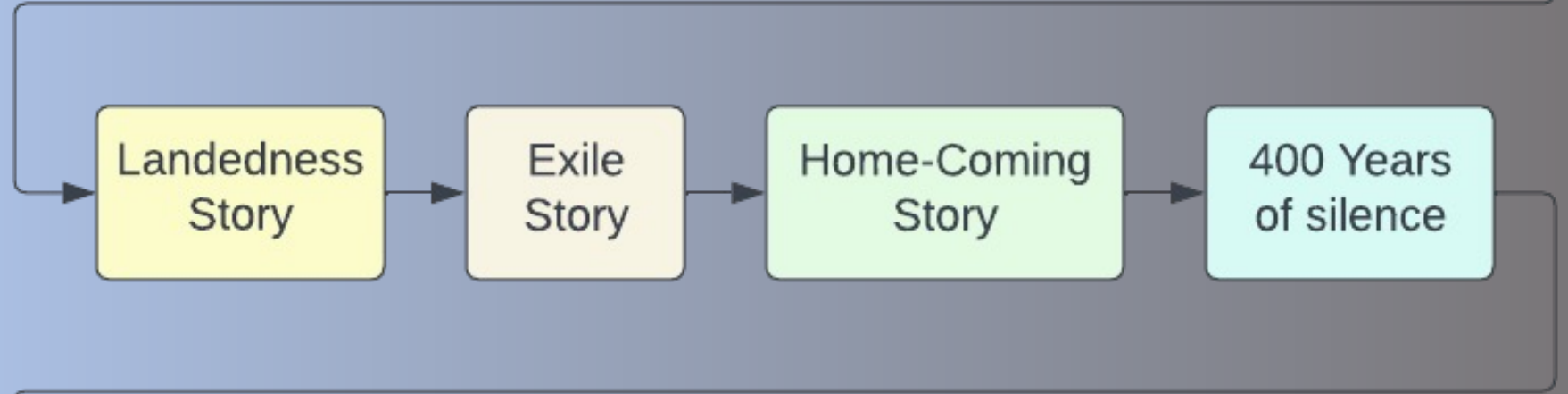
**Week 4: Jesus Christ
& the Year of Jubilee**

People

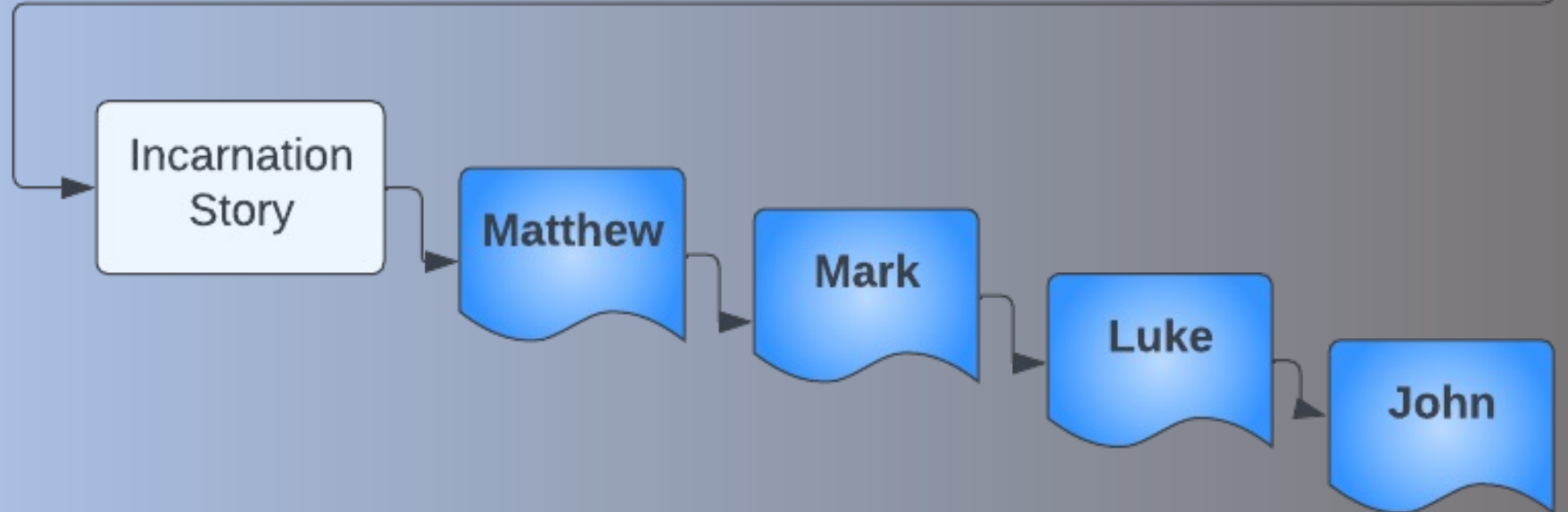


of the

Land



Stories



Jesus was born into the ancient and ongoing struggle of discerning two radically different worldviews and social orders.

He knew clearly which side God was on.

He went forth from his baptism proclaiming one of these traditions to be the true “word” and “way” of God, and the other a diabolic counterfeit.

Wes Howard-Brook “Which Side Are You On? Sojourners magazine Dec 2011

Which side are you on?

Matthew = *Promise – Fulfillment*

“All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’)”.

Matthew 1:22-23 (*quoting* Isaiah 7:14)

How does this link back
to the Garden of Eden Story?

Mark = *The King Has Come*

*“Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.
15 ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come
near. Repent and believe the good news!’”*

Mark 1:14b-15

How did the Roman Leaders,
Jewish Leaders & disciples view
this declaration from Jesus?

Luke = Jesus' Messianic Manifesto

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour (Year of Jubilee).”*

Luke 4:18-19

What is the Year of Jubilee?

Is it still relevant for us today?

Three Axioms for the call to Sabbath & Jubilee

1. The world as created by God is abundant, with enough for everyone—provided that human communities restrain their appetites and live within limits;

2. Disparities in wealth are not “natural” but the result of human sin, and must be mitigated within the community of faith through the regular practice of wealth redistribution;

3. The prophetic message calls people to the practice of such redistribution, and is thus characterized as “good news” to the poor.

Luke = *Jesus' Messianic Declaration*

“Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’”

Luke 4:20-21

Luke = *Responses of People to Jesus*

“All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.”

Luke 4:28-30

“After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. ‘Follow me,’ Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’

Jesus answered them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.’”

Luke 5:27-32

What is the significance of Jesus' Manifesto and *who* He chooses to hang out with?

Can you identify a couple of Jesus' actions, or stories he told, that illustrate His choices?

John = *The Light Shines in the Darkness*

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood it...”

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him.”

John 1:5 & 9-10

Why doesn't the darkness and the world comprehend the light?

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Wes Howard-Brook “Which Side Are You On? Sojourners magazine Dec 2011

Which side are you on?

Two World-Views

The Creation Narrative	The Empire Narrative
➤ God is beyond but amongst	➤ "gods" are above and dominant
➤ Benevolent	➤ Capricious
➤ Abundance	➤ Scarcity
➤ Forgiveness	➤ Condemnation
➤ Praise and thanksgiving	➤ Pride and entitlement
➤ Communal Land as gift	➤ Controlled Land as acquisition
➤ All people have equal worth	➤ Some are more "equal" than others
➤ Land belongs to God – we are custodians	➤ Land belongs to the rich/powerful – exploitation
➤ Value of the "least"	➤ Value of the "elite"
➤ Non-violent	➤ Violent
➤ Love your enemies	➤ Destroy your enemies

The Creation Narrative

Which side is Jesus on?

Which side are you on?

The Empire Narrative

Communion



Jesus said: *"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"*

*"Do this as often as you meet together so that you don't forget me
and what I have done for ALL people groups"*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8-BT6y_wYg

**Go into this week
and shine the Light!**