

# CAN WE TALK?

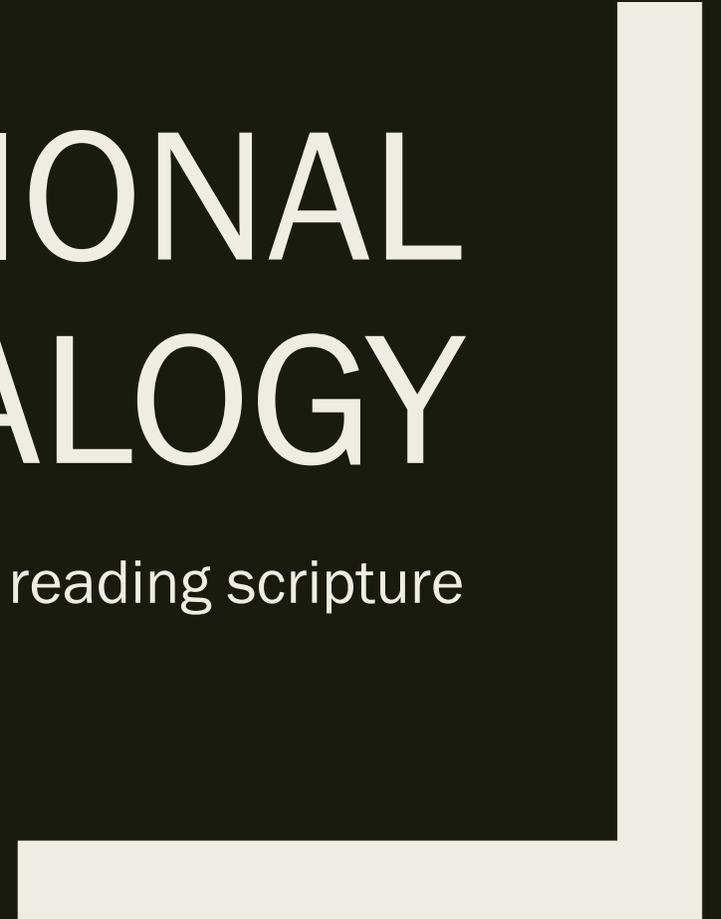
How does an ancient book guide modern life?

# Hypothesis: All Christians pick and choose when we say scripture verses are authoritative for today

- The challenge: how do we “pick and choose” well, without compromising our commitment to a Biblically based life
- Our commitment to generous orthodoxy – posture of humility
  - *Among the doctrines that Third Church has described as “adiaphora” or non-essential include Baptism, The Lord’s Supper, Church Government, Liturgy in worship, Charismata, Women in ministry, Origins, Eschatology etc.*
  - *But this does not mean we do not have a position about what we believe the Bible teaches.*
- Where is our confidence?

# INCARNATIONAL ANALOGY

A way of reading scripture



# The Incarnational Analogy: Marks of God

- God uses words, spoken and written words to communicate with his people; God is present and active through His word
- Inspiration is a shorthand way of saying that God guided by his Spirit the very different writers and editors so that the books that they produced were the books that God intended His people to have
- Thus the Bible reflects the intent of God- it is one overarching story from beginning to end-
- “The whole point of Christianity is that it offers a story which is the story of the whole world. It is public truth.” NT Wright

# The Incarnational Analogy: Marks of its Humanity

- The Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek
- The OT world was a world of temples, priests and sacrifice
- Israel, as well as the surrounding nations had prophets that mediated divine will to them
- Throughout much of its history, Israel was ruled by Kings, as were the nations around it
- Israel's legal system has some striking similarities with those of the surrounding nations.

READING THE BIBLE AS  
GOD'S TRUE STORY



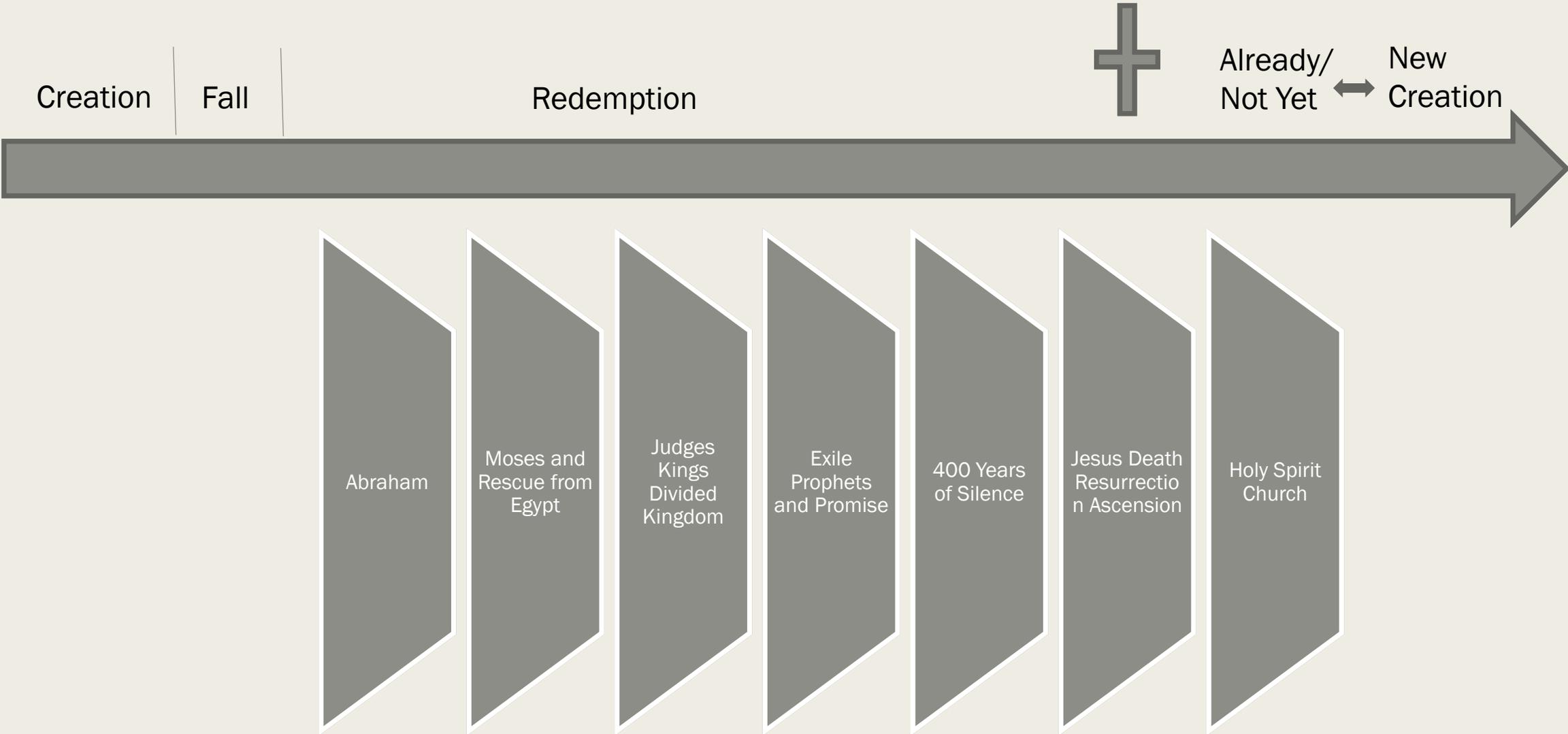
# Human Beings Inhabit Stories: And Stories Shape How We See the World



# Just another story?

- A true picture of reality that answers four basic questions:
  - *What's the point? Who are we?*
  - *What went wrong?*
  - *How will it get fixed?*
  - *Where are we going?*
- “The stories in God’s word offer us a place in the story, invite us to participate in something larger than ourselves and our own stories. They’re an invitation to participate in God’s ongoing story, and when we do, we realize it’s about God and not about me.” Eugene Peterson
- Goal: if we are going to live in God’s story we have to know the story
  - *Know the story*
  - *Love the story*
  - *Live in the story*

# The Plot of the Biblical Narrative



# Benefits of Paying Attention to the Story

- A reminder that we live in a story that is directional - source of great hope that shapes how we live now
- Enlarges our perspective when we interpret Scripture
- An example of how the story helps us interpret Scripture
  - *The nature of salvation*
- It gives us insight into what it means to say that Scripture is authoritative

NEXT WEEK: GOD'S TRUE  
STORY INCARNATE IN  
HUMAN WORDS

