

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, primarily on the right side, creating a modern and dynamic feel. The text is centered in a clean, sans-serif font.

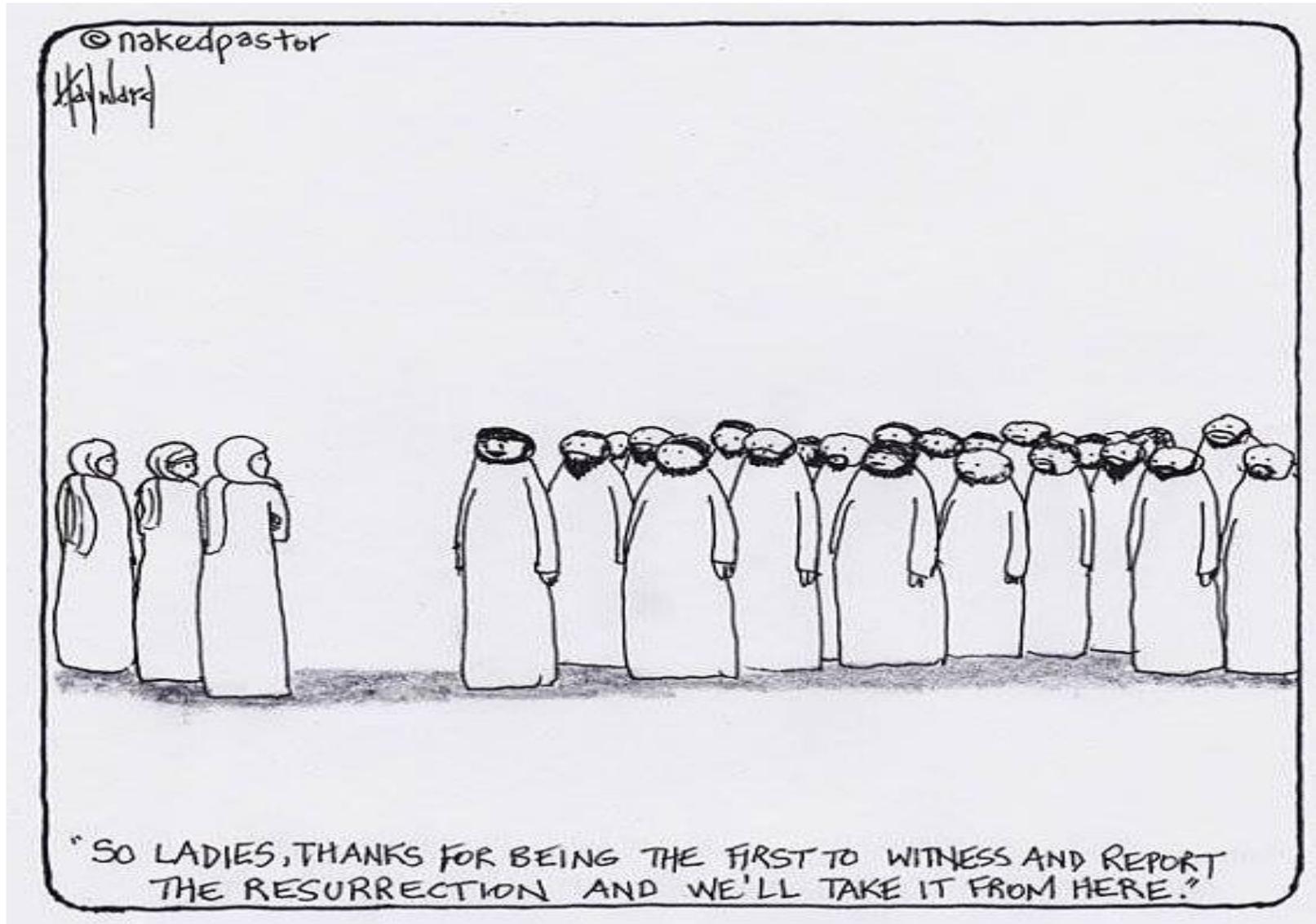
WOMEN, THE BIBLE AND THE CHURCH

WELCOME TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - WOMEN, THE BIBLE AND THE CHURCH

- ▶ As we gather take a note card and pencil from your table and do one or all of the following:
 - ▶ Write down why you think women should/should not be in equal partnership in leadership with men.
 - ▶ Write down a reason someone else has given you why women should/should not be in equal partnership in leadership with men.
 - ▶ Write down any questions you are hoping to have answered in this class.

OUR STORIES - LJ, Gina and Nan

OUR STORIES



UNDERSTANDING WOMEN IN MINISTRY IN LIGHT OF ECO'S VALUES

▶ ECO CORE VALUES

- ▶ **Biblical Integrity:** We believe the Bible is the unique and authoritative Word of God, which teaches all that is necessary for faith and life. The prominence of God's Word over our lives shapes our priorities, and the unrivaled authority of the Bible directs our actions to be in concert with Christ's very best for our lives.
- ▶ **Egalitarian Ministry:** "We believe in unleashing the ministry gifts of women, men, and every ethnic group."
<https://vimeo.com/205493908>
- ▶ Third Church - committed to egalitarian ministry.
- ▶ Generous, humble orthodoxy.

What is the Bible? How does an ancient text speak to a 21st CENTURY Church?

- ▶ We all pick and choose - we all make interpretive decisions
 - ▶ Cut and paste - Ignore the parts we don't like or that seem irrelevant to our modern world
 - ▶ Wooden literalism - but we don't do everything they did
 - ▶ Cultural transposition - discern what is permanent and what is cultural
 - ▶ How do we pick and choose well?
- ▶ **INCARNATIONAL ANALOGY**
 - ▶ Scripture bears the marks of the God who inspired it and the humans who wrote it

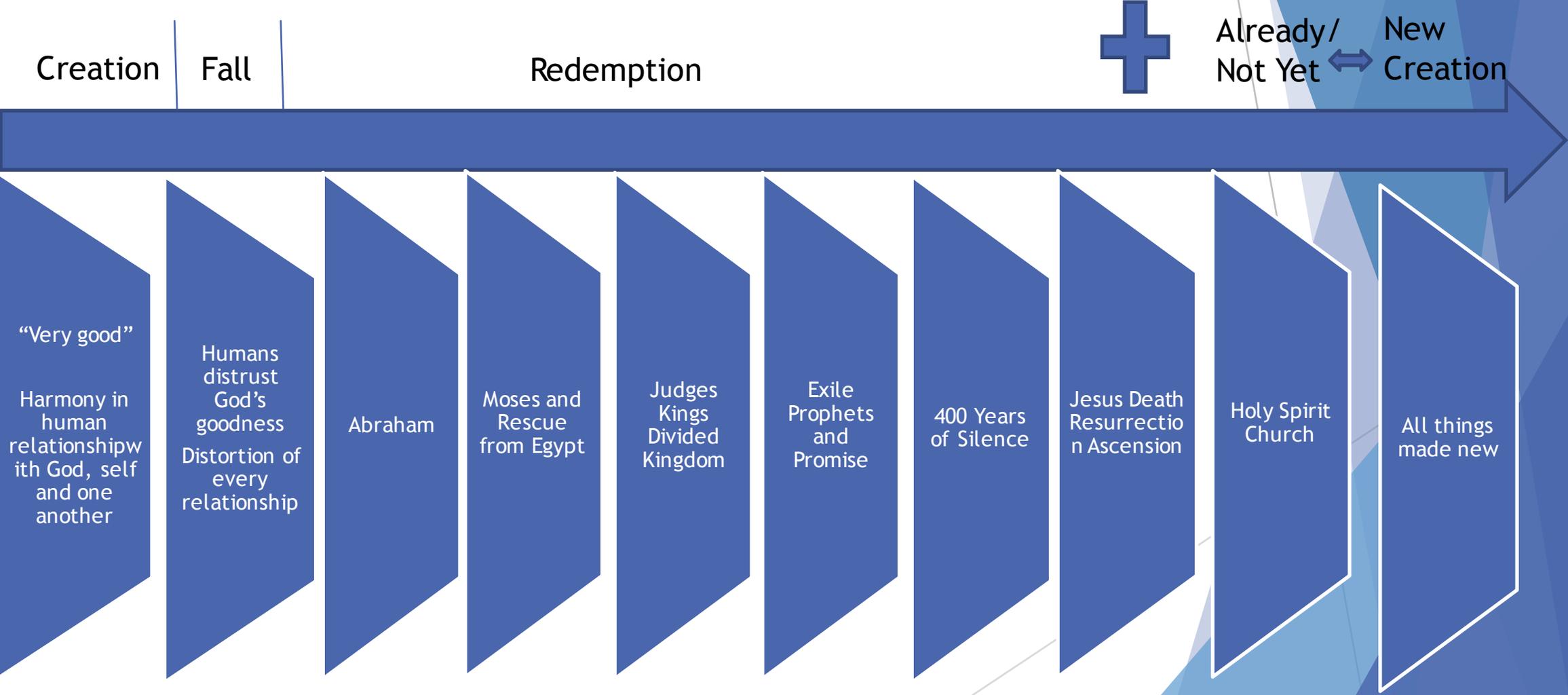
INCARNATIONAL ANALOGY: THE MARKS OF THE DIVINE AUTHOR

- ▶ 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
- ▶ The Bible reflects the intent and purposes of God- it tells one overarching story from beginning to end

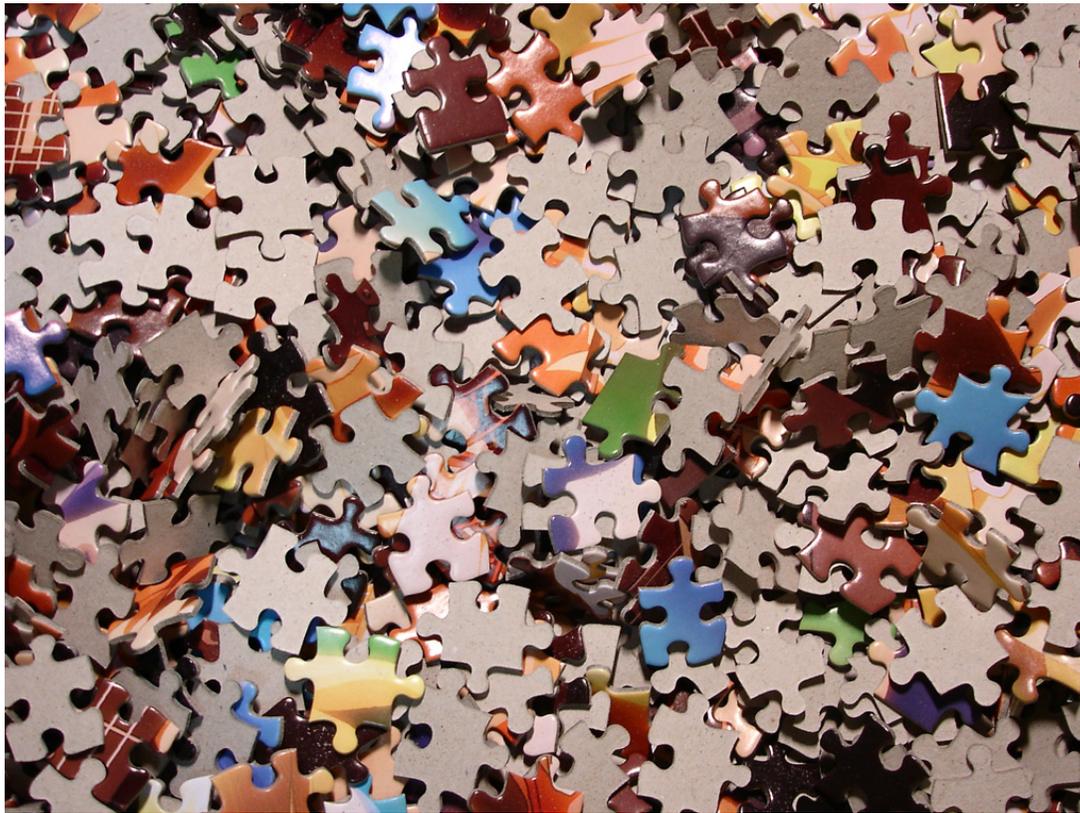
Just another story?

- ▶ The true story of the whole world
 - ▶ Who are we? Why are we here?
 - ▶ What went wrong?
 - ▶ How is it going to 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
- ▶ Challenge: to live in God’s story we have to
 - ▶ Know the story
 - ▶ Love the story

The Plot of the Biblical Narrative



READING THE SMALLER STORIES IN LIGHT OF THE LARGER STORY





HELPS:

- The Jesus Story-Book Bible
- The Drama Of Scripture
- NIV Books of the Bible

READING THE SMALLER STORIES IN LIGHT OF THE LARGER STORY - WHERE AM I IN THE STORY?

- ▶ Creation narrative - sets the trajectory for the whole story
- ▶ Abraham and the Hebrew midwives
- ▶ Ruth - only makes sense in the context of the larger story
- ▶ Old Covenant/New Covenant - fulfillment in Jesus
 - ▶ Israel as a distinct polity/the church as people embedded in polities throughout the world

INCARNATIONAL ANALOGY: THE MARKS OF THE HUMAN AUTHORS

- ▶ Language - Hebrew and Greek
 - ▶ Literature
 - ▶ Genre
 - ▶ Theological perspective
- ▶ Culture: Between two worlds
 - ▶ Accommodation
 - ▶ Every culture has its own cultural river or cognitive environment

CULTURAL RIVER - THE BIBLICAL WORLD

- ▶ Identity within community
- ▶ comprehensive and ubiquitous control of the gods
- ▶ movement of celestial bodies as communication of gods
- ▶ divination; reality of spirit world and magic
- ▶ centrality of temple; mediatorial role of images
- ▶ role of kingship - ultimate authority
- ▶ agro-pastoral economy
- ▶ creation - ordering universe - who and why?

CULTURAL RIVER - THE 21st CENTURY

- ▶ Human rights, freedom; individualism
- ▶ capitalism, globalism, market economy
- ▶ democracy, patriotism; postmodernism; postcolonialism
- ▶ separation of church and state
- ▶ scientific naturalism, empiricism, rationalism
- ▶ creation - expanding universe, genetic engineering, evolution - how?
- ▶ social media
- ▶ How do we navigate between these two worlds?

Navigating Between Two Worlds

- ▶ A NEW DIET FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS: SKIP THE CUPCAKES!
 - ▶ A sport steeped in tradition, college football historically celebrates the dawn of each new season, by trotting out cream puffs to get ritualistically mutilated by the games top programs. This year marks a radical - and almost anyone would say welcome - departure, with many of the sport's big boys picking on opponents their own size for a change in the first week.

NAVIGATING BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

▶ HELPS

- ▶ Commentaries
- ▶ Manners and Customs of the Bible
- ▶ Dictionary of Biblical Imagery
- ▶ NIV Cultural Background Bible
- ▶ John Walton
 - ▶ The Lost World of Genesis
 - ▶ The Lost World of Adam and Eve
 - ▶ The Lost World of the Flood
 - ▶ The Lost World of the Israelite Conquest
- ▶ Goal - enter into their world and hear the text as they would have heard it

OUR STRATEGY MOVING FORWARD

- ▶ Pay attention to the overarching story and where a text is in the story and how that impacts our interpretation
- ▶ Pay attention to the way God communicates to and through the human authors - language, genre, literary conventions, cultural expressions
- ▶ **Next week** - Genesis 1-3 and reflect on the following questions:
 - ▶ What does Genesis 1 and 2 teach us about who humans are and why we are here?
 - ▶ What does Genesis 3 teach us about what went wrong in God's good creation? Where do you see hope in this story?