

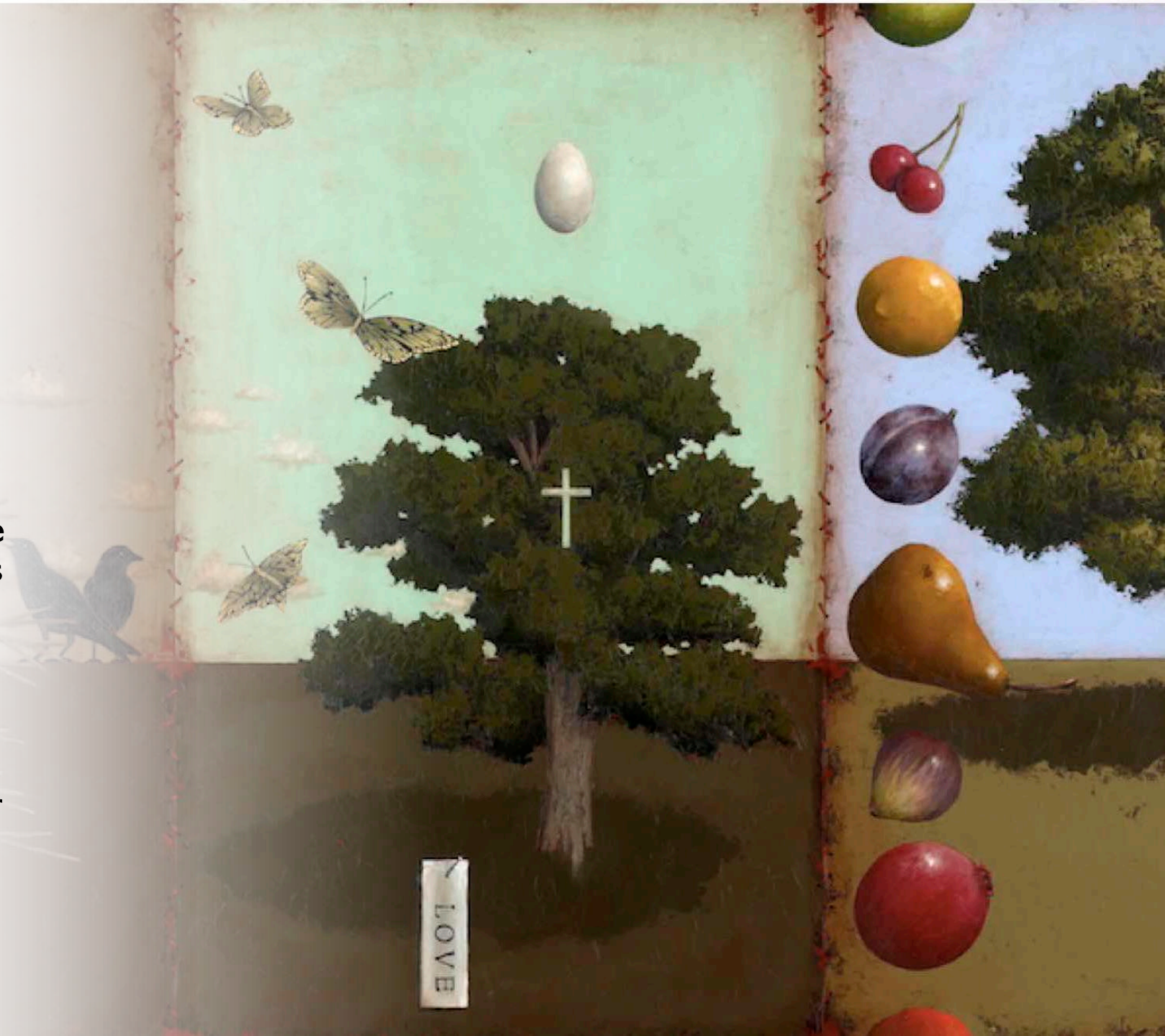


The Story of the Bible

Bible 101
New Life U
Pastor Tim LeCroy

The Bible is a Story

- Some treat the Bible like a source for proof texting beliefs or practices
- Some treat the Bible as a source for spiritually significant insights
- These approaches atomize the Bible as if it were a collection of sayings
- But fundamentally the Bible is a story, THE story that defines our existence in this world



Metanarrative

- Jean-François Lyotard coined the term in 1979 as a post-modern critique of narratives that control our thinking and actions
- Lyotard and other post-modern philosophers like Michael Foucault criticized these narratives and advocated for their identification and rejection
- They believed this would free humanity from the harmful shackles of the past



Metanarrative

- In the 50 years since the development of post-modern thought do we actually see that rejection of grand narratives has worked?
- Or were the old narratives just replaced with new narratives?
- Hasn't this left us in a very disjointed, unmoored, lonely, and morally compromised society?



Metanarrative

- The great advancements of the 20th century were grounded in belief in a grand narrative
- Aren't we ambivalent about the great advancements of the 21st century, questioning their ultimate morality?
- Could it be that we actually need a metanarrative to ground us as persons embodied in this world?
- The Bible claims to be that grand narrative. Instead of critiquing it, we should embrace it.



The Greatest Story Ever Told

- Creation
- Primeval History
- Patriarchal History
- Exodus
- 40 Year Wandering
- Conquest
- Pre-Monarchy
- Monarchy
- Exile
- Empire
- Jesus
- Acts and Paul
- John



The Greatest Story Ever Told

- Creation to Monarchy – Lesson One
 - Creation
 - Primeval History
 - Patriarchal History
 - Exodus
 - 40 Year Wandering
 - Conquest
 - Pre-Monarchy
- Monarchy – Lesson Two
- Exile to Jesus – Lesson Three
 - Exile
 - Empire
- Jesus – Lesson Four
- Apostolic Era – Lesson Five
 - Acts and Paul
 - John



Creation to Monarchy

- The Torah – Five Books of Moses
 - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth



Creation

- In the beginning God created
- Genesis 1 describes the creation of the universe over six days
- There are various views of Genesis 1 that remain faithful to the biblical text
- The point of the text is not to give a precise scientific “how” of creation, but the existential “why” of creation, the theological “what” of creation: its meaning, its purpose, its moral value



Man and Woman

- The Special creation of Adam and Eve (Gen 2)
- Made in God's Image
- Given dominion (both of them!)
- Told to subdue the Earth
- Given a special place to meet with God (Garden of Eden)
- Given a moral code
- Given sacraments



The Fall

- Tempted by an evil being, Adam and Eve fell by disobeying God's law and rebelling against his commandment
- Their eyes were opened and evil came into the world
 - Adam and Eve now possessed a fallen nature, distinct from their created nature: marred and broken and only able to sin.
- God's punishment involves creation itself. Creation becomes deadly and unwieldy



Humanity's Evil Grows

- Adam and Eve's first son, Cain, kills his brother Abel
- Humankind continues to grow in population and spread out over the Earth.
- Their evil grows until life on Earth is unsustainable
- But a faithful remnant is preserved through Adam and Eve's son Seth and his descendants



The Flood

- Seth's line dwindles to one last faithful descendant: Noah
- God decides to destroy the Earth with a flood
- He chooses to save Noah and his family to restart humanity through them
- Noah builds an Ark on which his family is kept safe
- After the flood, God restricts humanity's evil and promises never again to disrupt the natural processes of his creation



The Tower of Babel

- Once again, humanity rebels against God
- Refusing to spread out and fill the Earth, they gather at Babel and build a tower
- God disrupts the building by confusing their languages
- Unable to communicate with one another, humanity now spreads out over the earth



Creation to Monarchy

- ~~Creation~~
- ~~Primeval History~~
- Patriarchal History
- Exodus
- 40 Year Wandering
- Conquest
- Pre-Monarchy



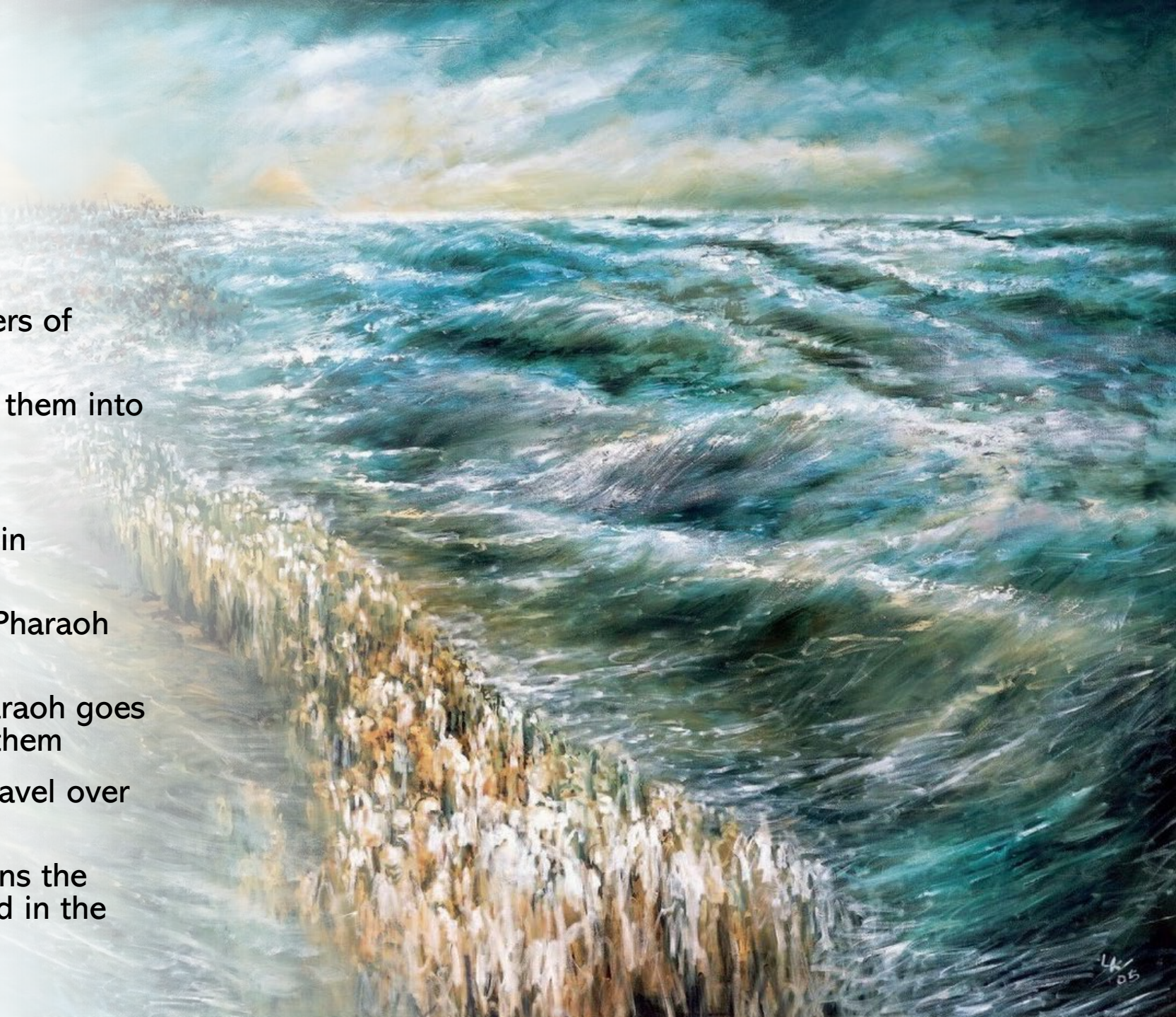
God's Chosen Family

- God chooses Abram, a descendent of Noah's son, Shem, of a royal heritage in the land of the Chaldeans, to be his chosen family through which his promised redemption would come.
- God makes a covenant with Abram and changes his name to Abraham
- God promises the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants
- Abraham's second son Isaac is chosen by God
- Isaac's second son Jacob is chosen by God
- Jacob has 12 sons and God changes his name to Israel
- Israel moves down to Egypt to escape hunger during a famine. His son Joseph has become Governor of all Egypt



Captivity and Freedom

- Israel's good relationship with the rulers of Egypt sours over time.
- The Pharaohs enslave Israel and force them into hard labor
- Israel cries out to God for deliverance
- God chooses Moses, a Hebrew raised in Pharaoh's house to be their deliverer
- God sends 10 plagues on Egypt and Pharaoh agrees to let God's people go
- They travel to the Red Sea, where Pharaoh goes back on his word and rides to attack them
- God parts the Red Sea so Israel can travel over on dry ground
- Pharaoh's army follows, but God returns the water so he and his hosts are drowned in the Sea.



God's Law

- The people travel to Sinai where God appears to Moses on the Mountain and gives him the 10 Commandments on stone tablets.
- The people of Israel agree to be the people of God and to follow him and keep his laws
- God also shares many other laws with Moses and plans to build a place of worship, which Moses writes down (Exodus and Leviticus)
- The Tabernacle is constructed and the people prepare to enter the Land God promised them



40 Years Wandering

- When the people discover the size and military might of the Canaanites, they are afraid and refuse to enter the Land
- God punishes them for their lack of trust in him, sentencing them to wander in the desert for 40 years
- During the time of their wandering, God gives them a heavenly food called Manna to eat
- At the end of 40 years all the people of the unfaithful generation have died
- Moses finishes the book of Numbers



Creation to Monarchy

- ~~Creation~~
- ~~Primeval History~~
- ~~Patriarchal History~~
- ~~Exodus~~
- ~~40 Year Wandering~~
- Conquest
- Pre-Monarchy



The Conquest of Canaan

- Moses delivers a set of sermons to prepare the people to enter the Land (Deuteronomy)
- Joshua (Jesus) is chosen to lead the people into the Land.
- Moses dies on the borders of Canaan at the age of 120 and the Lord buries his body
- The people cross the Jordan on dry land like they did the Red Sea
- They conquer many cities, but some Canaanites remain



The Time of Judges

- Joshua dies and there no one to rule Israel
- “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes and there was no King.”
- The people would sin, get into trouble and cry out to God for deliverance
- The Lord would then raise up a deliverer, called a Judge, to save them and govern them
- When the Judge died the cycle started over again
- This happens repeatedly until the time of the Kings



A Promised King

- The story of Ruth gives the promise of a new era, where God's chosen King will reign in a great time of peace and prosperity
- Eli and Samuel are the last of the Judges of Israel



Creation to Monarchy

- ~~Creation~~
- ~~Primeval History~~
- ~~Patriarchal History~~
- ~~Exodus~~
- ~~40 Year Wandering~~
- ~~Conquest~~
- ~~Pre-Monarchy~~





The Story of the Bible

Bible 101
New Life U
Pastor Tim LeCroy