

# **Biblical Theology: Reading the Bible as One Book**

## **Covenant Life College**

**Teacher: John Loftness**

### **Session 1**

### **Goal of the Course**

Through reading selected texts in the Bible, listening to lectures, and reading other material, my hope is that each student will have an introductory grasp of the following:

- How the Bible works as one book with one message
- How that message centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ
- How the Old Testament prepares the world to hear and believe the message about Jesus

This course is too brief to survey the biblical material as it unfolds through biblical history and the development of the biblical text. Therefore, we will show how four themes develop from creation in the Garden to the consummation of Jesus' reign in a new heavens and earth.

- **People:** Throughout the Bible, beginning with Adam and Eve, God chooses a people to live in relationship with him under his blessing.
- **Land:** These people need a place to live and to walk with God, a place where they can work and enjoy the fruit of their labors in relationship with each other and with God. That place is a garden in Eden, then the land of Israel, then the entire earth recreated.
- **Law:** After he chooses his people, God establishes covenants with them so that they can live with him under his blessing. These laws promise blessing for those who kept obey God and disciplinary curses for those who chose to ignore Him and his words. They provide a way to overcome the breach in relationship caused by man's sin through making a substitutionary sacrifice.
- **King:** The king's role is to establish justice and righteousness among God's people according to His law and to defend God's people against her enemies.