THE ISRAEL STORY IN THE BIBLE

Posted on March 20, 2009 by Eddie

Category: Observations

> *It is a recurring deficiency of many Protestant evangelical readings of the biblical narrative that it can be told without the inclusion of Israel at all! An over-individualistic concentration on the Fall... results in a stunted engagement with the biblical text which almost inevitably leads to an interpretation that individual salvation was the whole purpose of God's creative act. Consequently, we quickly jump from the Fall episode to the coming of the Messiah whose death and resurrection fixes the personal sin question - and hey presto! we're back on track!... To the contrary it is really only when we get into the Israel story that all our interlocking overtures sound forth with a new vitality and vibrancy, mainly because this story consumes so much of the overall narrative. (Metavista: Bible, Church and Mission in an Age of Imagination (Faith in an Emerging Culture) (Faith in an Emerging Culture) (p.122)*

What do you make of this statement? I have to say that I recognise some of my own attitude to the Biblical narrative here; it is oh so easy to leap from the fall to the incarnation and to play down the bits in between. I'm having to rethink a number of my presentations on the nature of the Bible in the light of these thoughts - it's challenging stuff.