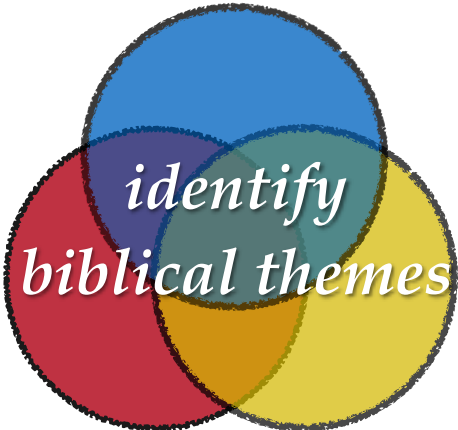
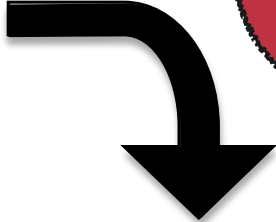




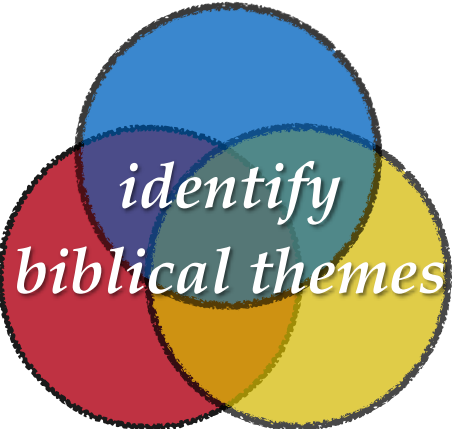
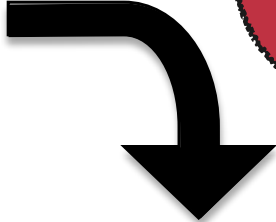
# **A Practical Approach to Biblical Contextualization**

Culture



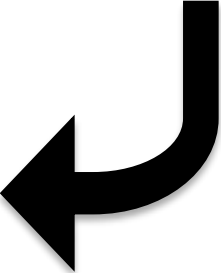
Bible

Culture

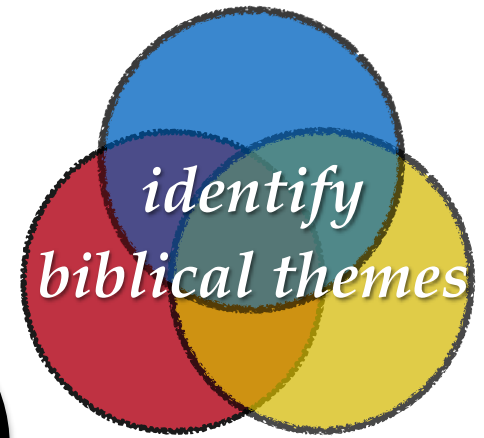
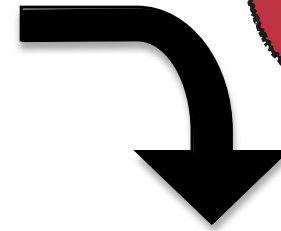


Bible

Culture

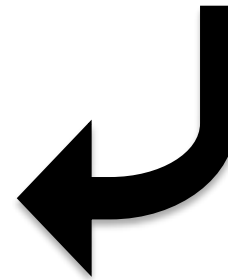
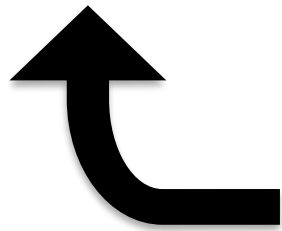


Culture



Bible

Bible

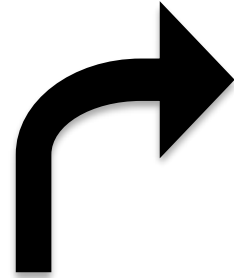


Culture

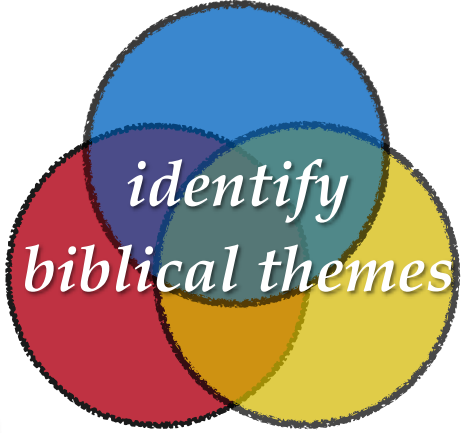
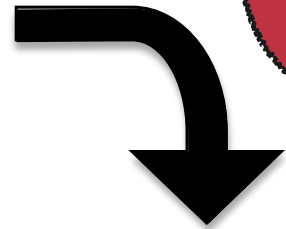
*interpret  
biblical text*



*infer  
cultural significance*

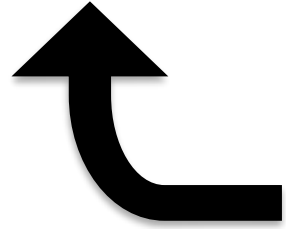


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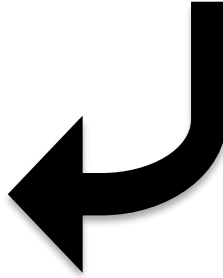


Bible

Bible



Culture

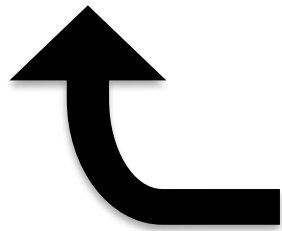


*interpret  
biblical text*

*interconnect  
cultural themes*

# Exegetical Contextualization

Bible

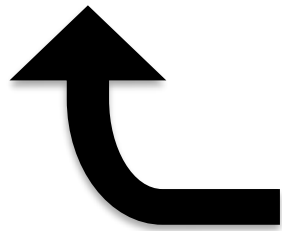


Culture

*interpret  
biblical text*

# Exegetical Contextualization

Bible

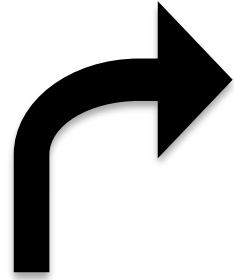


Culture

*interpret  
biblical text*

*infer*

*cultural significance*



Culture

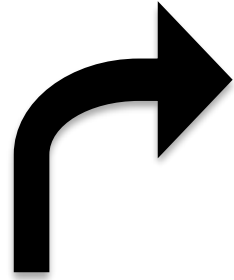
Bible

# Cultural Contextualization



*infer*

*cultural significance*



Culture

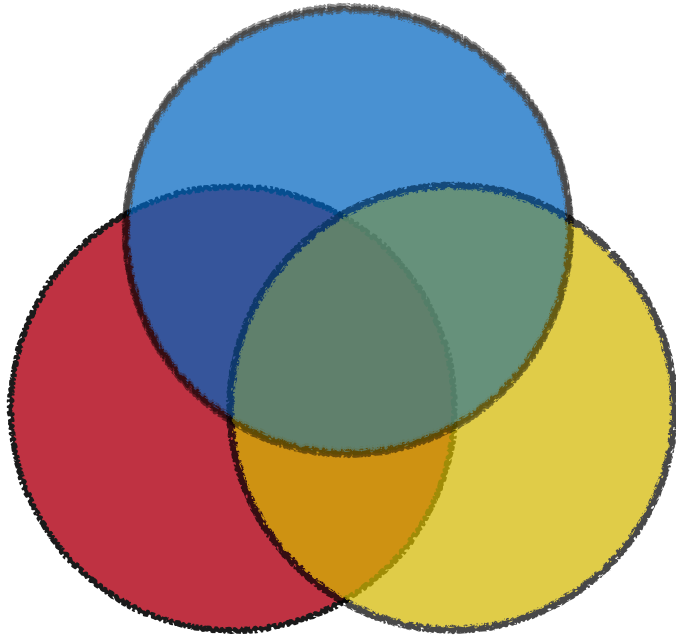
Bible

**Cultural Contextualization**

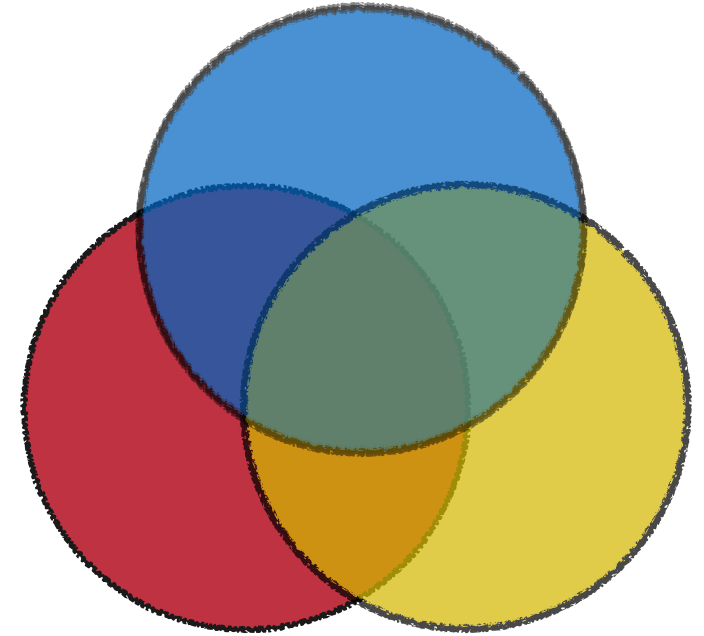
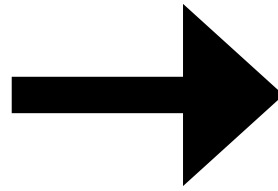


**How do we apply this model?**

**biblical framework**

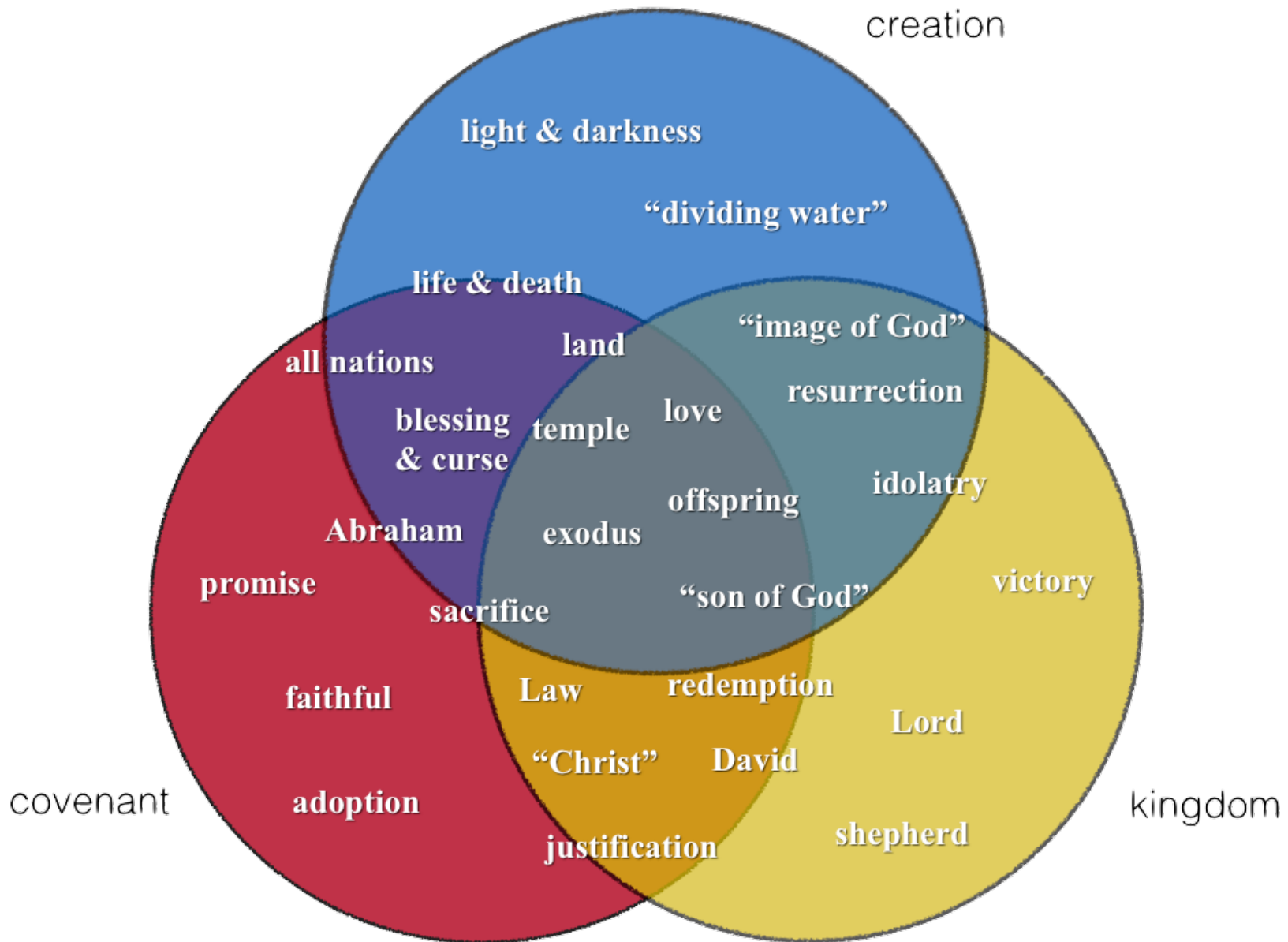


**cultural themes**

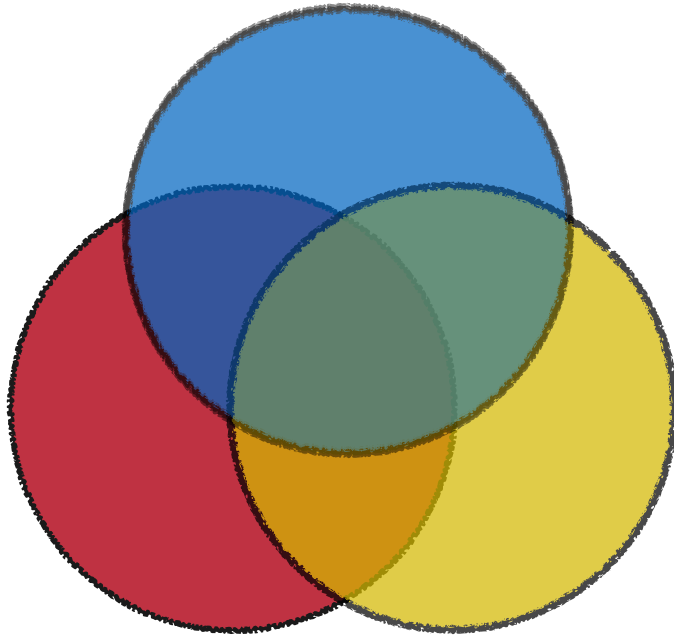


*What cultural themes helps us explain the biblical idea?*

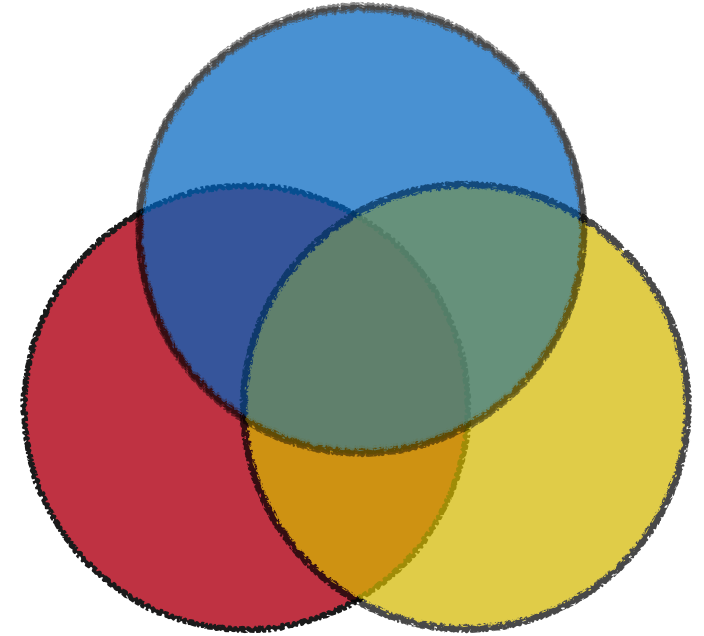
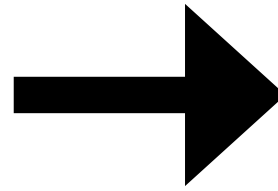
# biblical framework



**biblical framework**

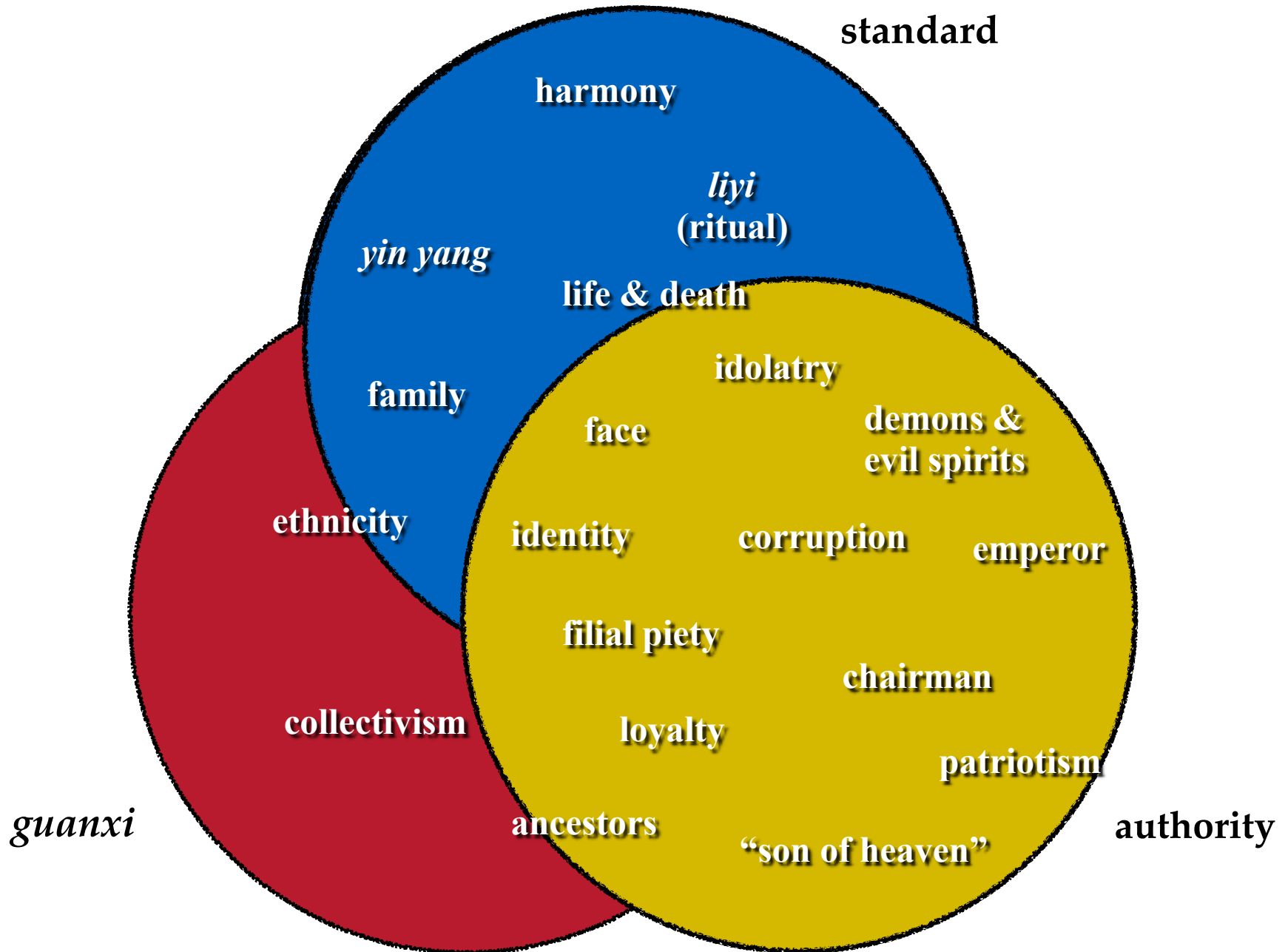


**cultural themes**



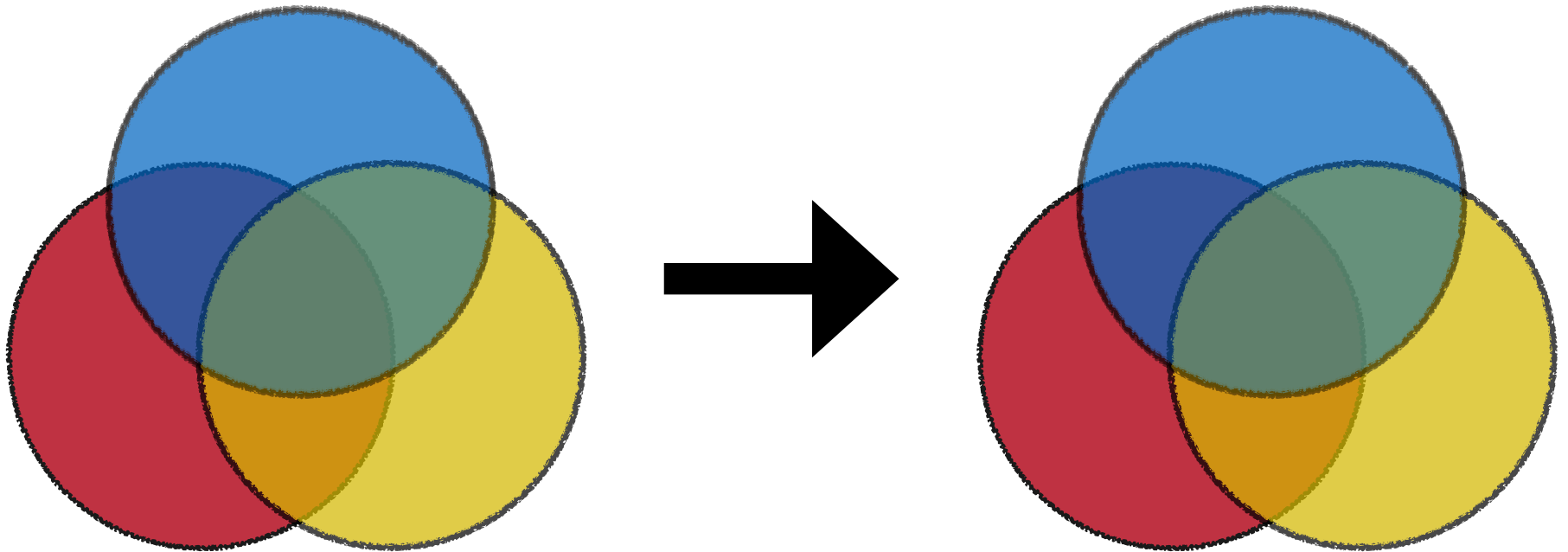
*What cultural themes helps us explain the biblical idea?*

# cultural themes



**biblical framework**

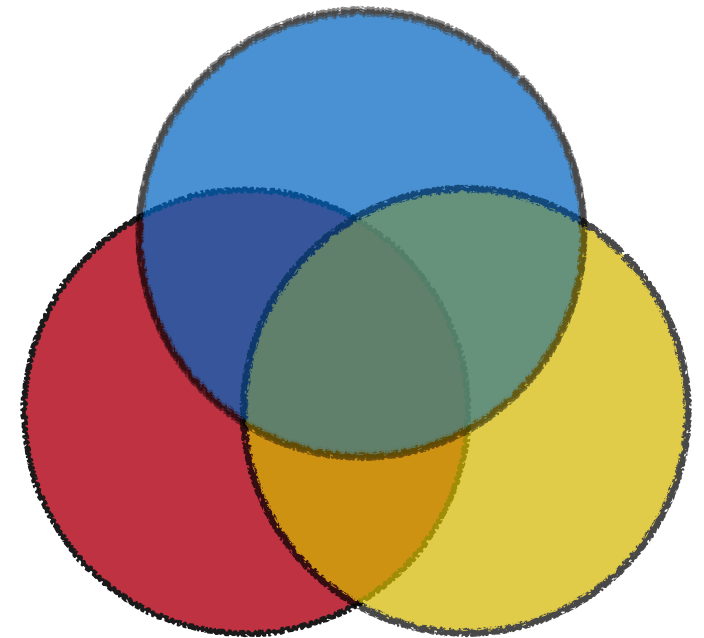
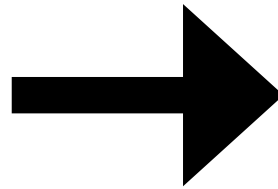
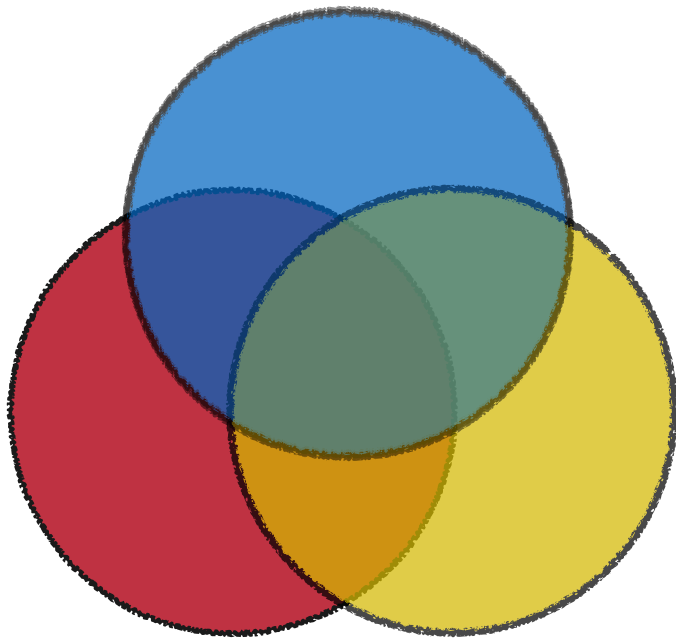
**cultural themes**



*What cultural themes helps us explain the biblical idea?*

**biblical framework**

**cultural themes**



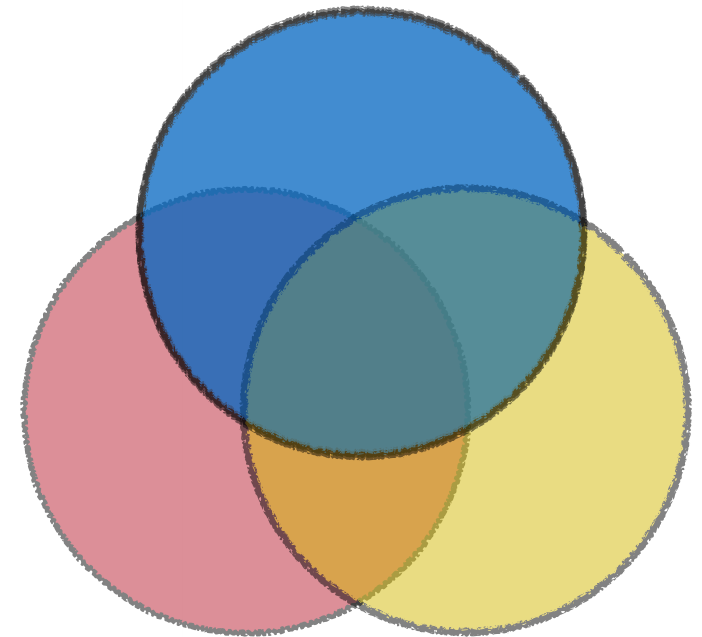
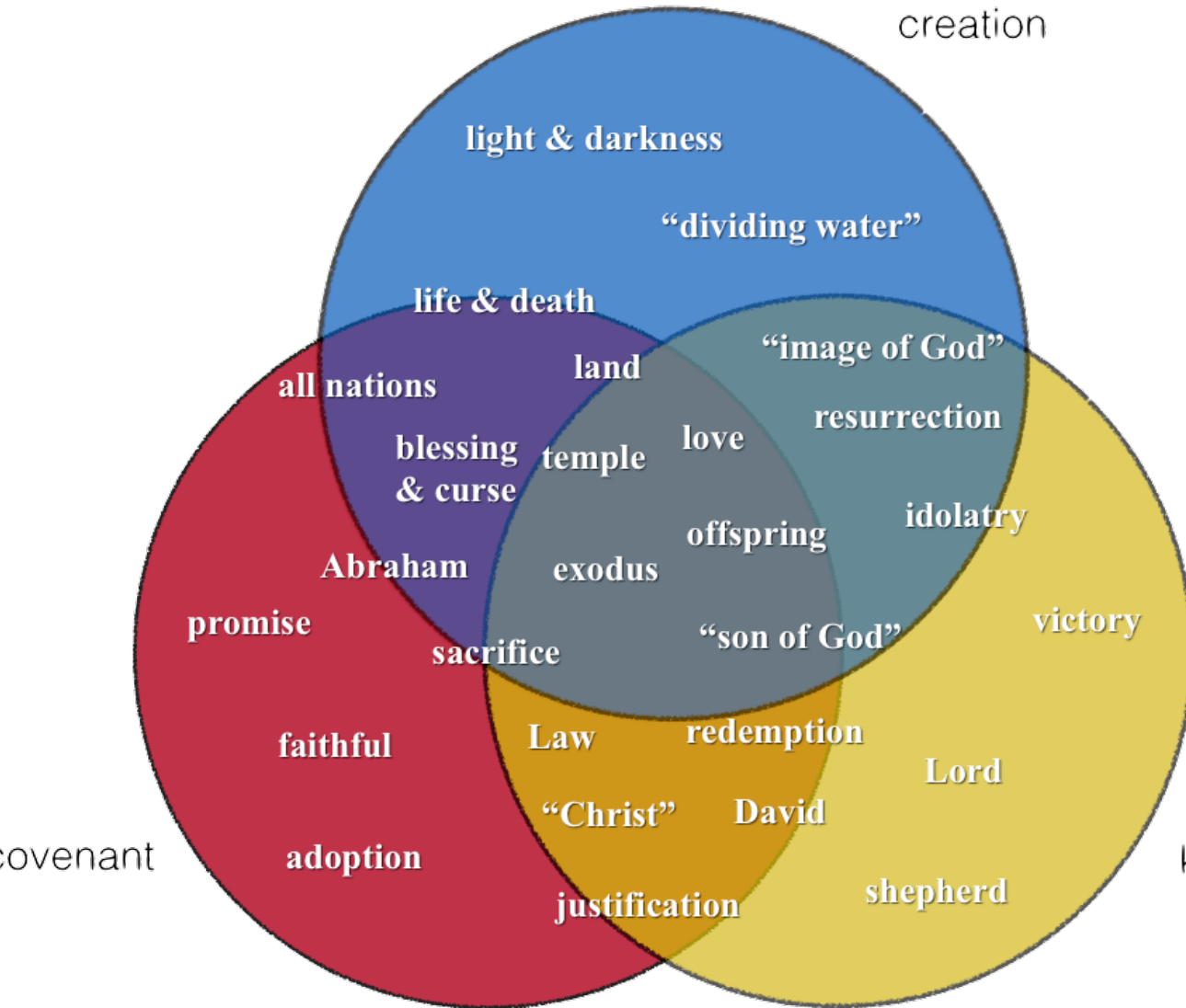
*How should we explain...*

*...the significance of the **Law** (circumcision, Sabbath, etc.)?*



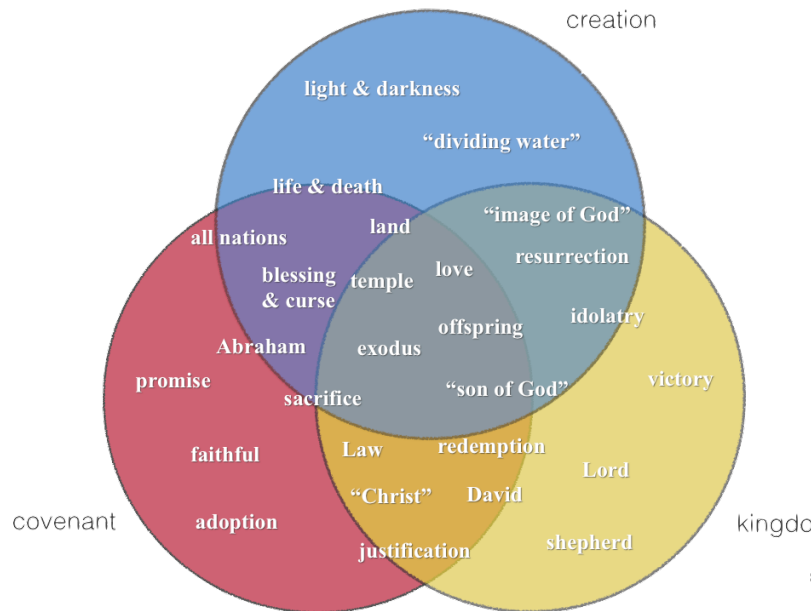
# biblical framework

# cultural themes

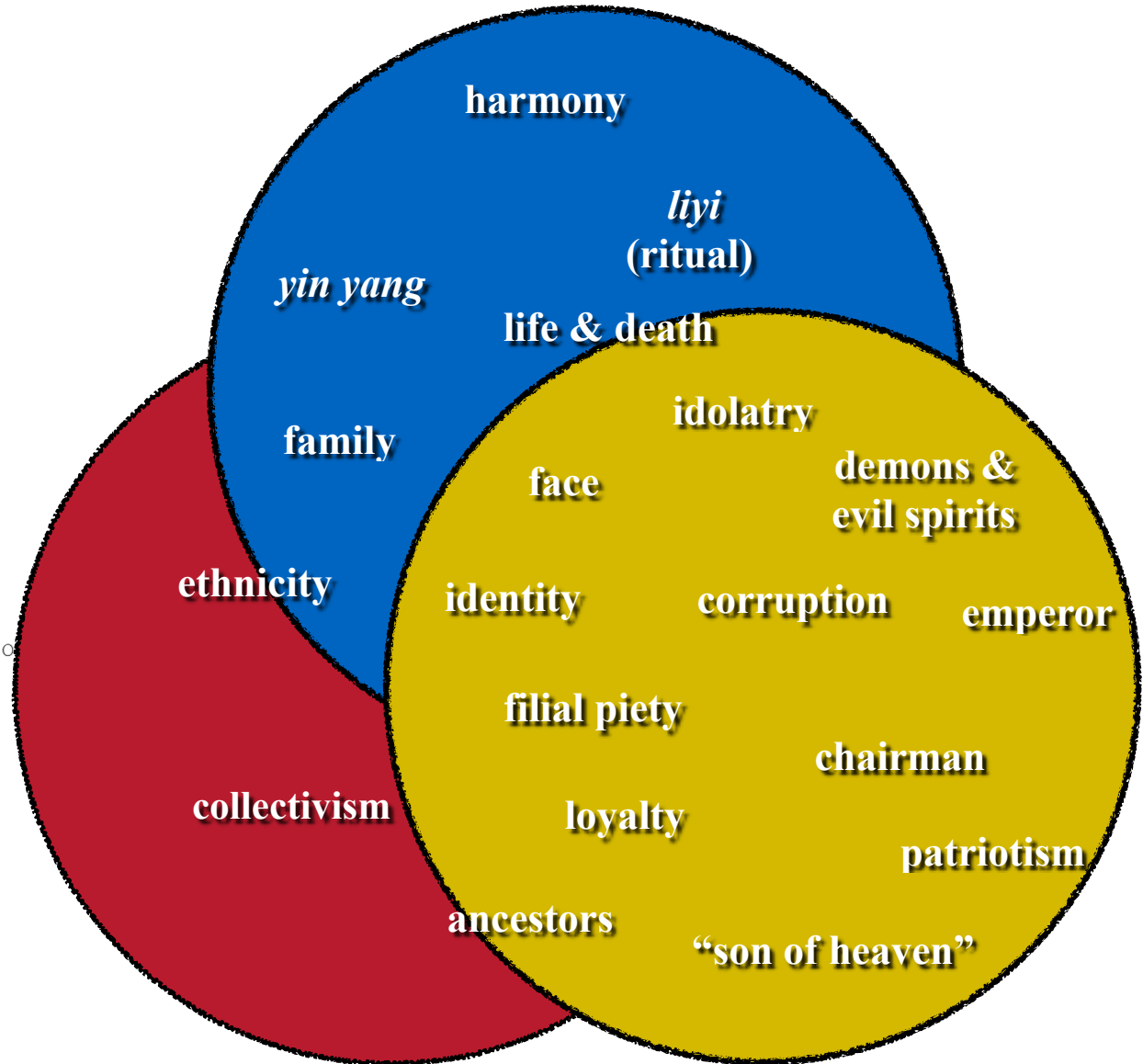


*...the significance of the **Law** (circumcision, Sabbath, etc.)?*

# biblical framework



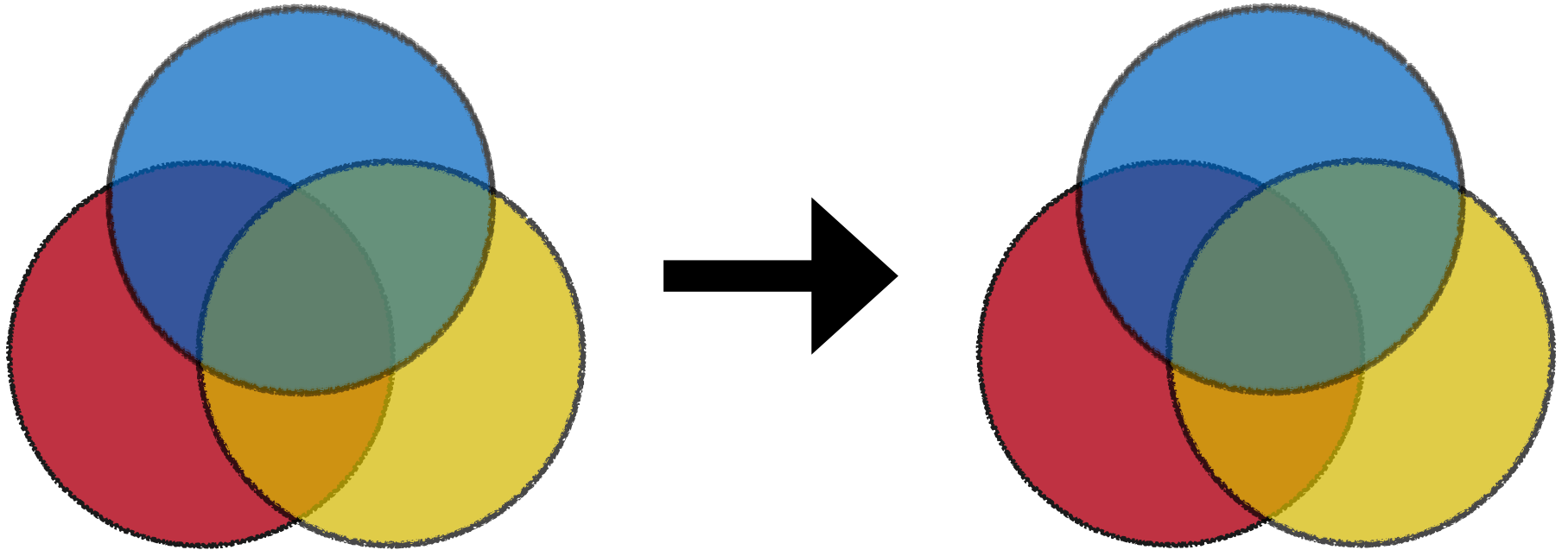
# cultural themes



...the significance of the **Law** (circumcision, Sabbath, etc.)?

**biblical framework**

**cultural themes**

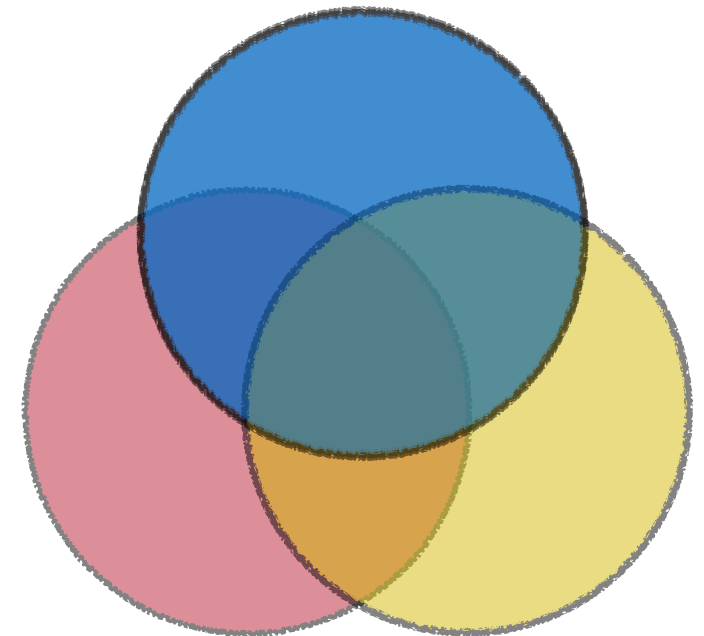
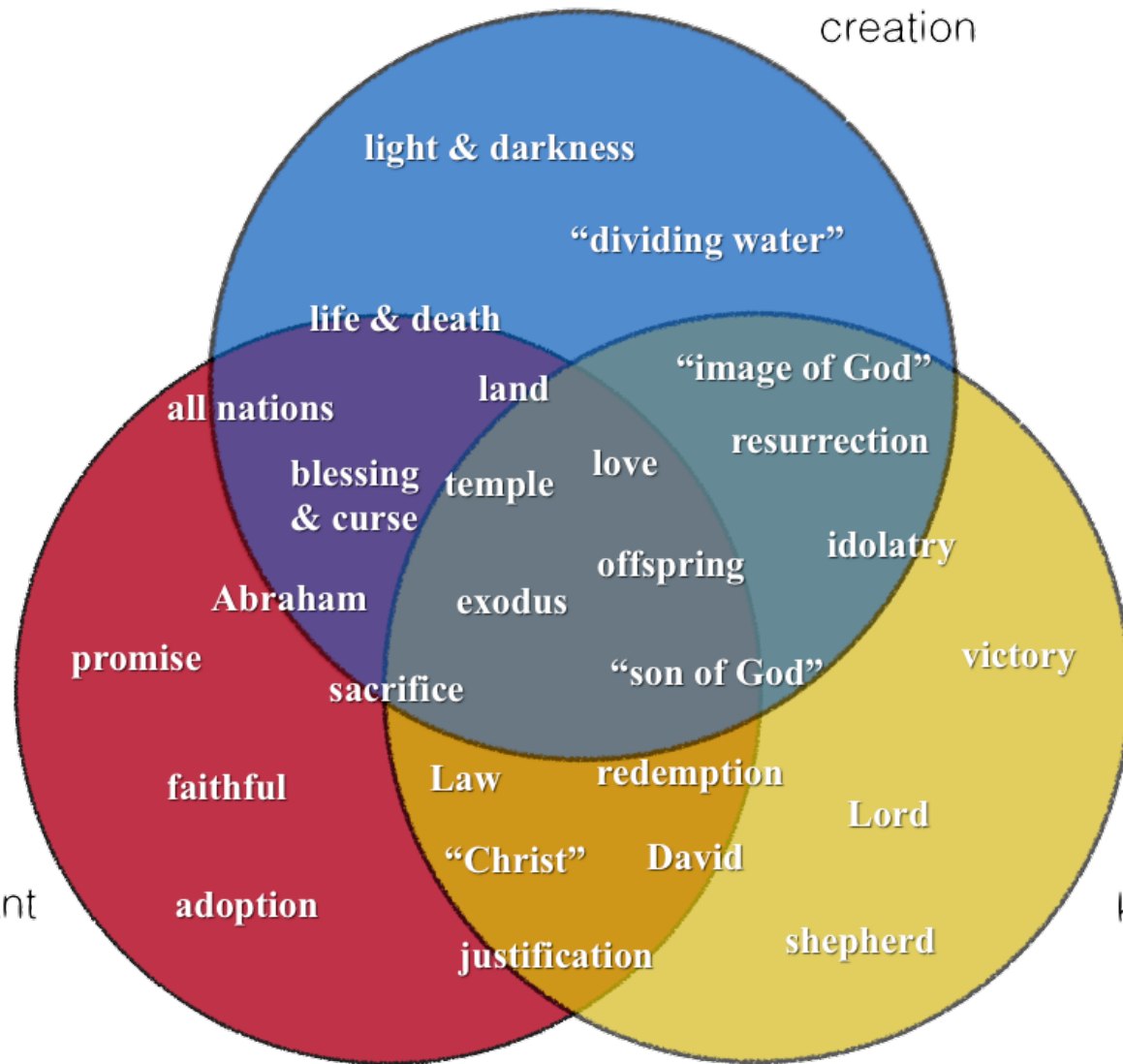


*How should we explain...*

*the meaning of “son of God”?*

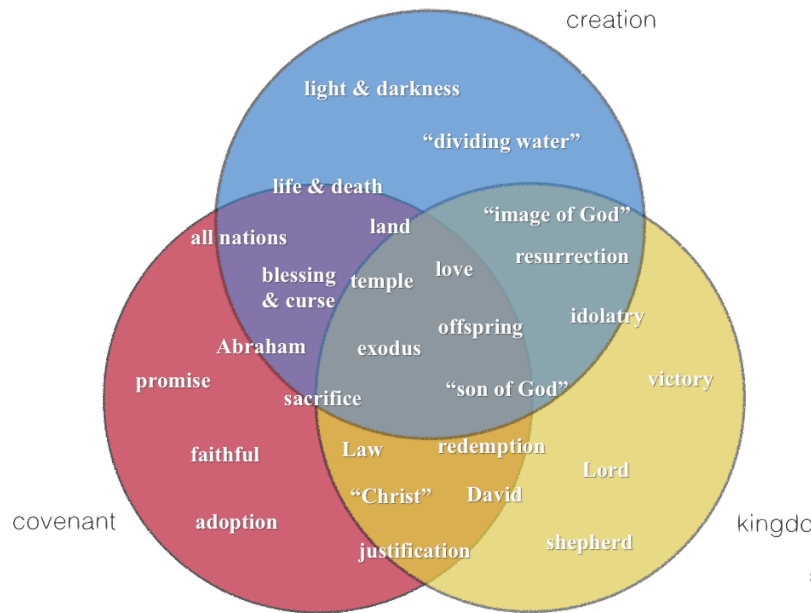
# biblical framework

# cultural themes

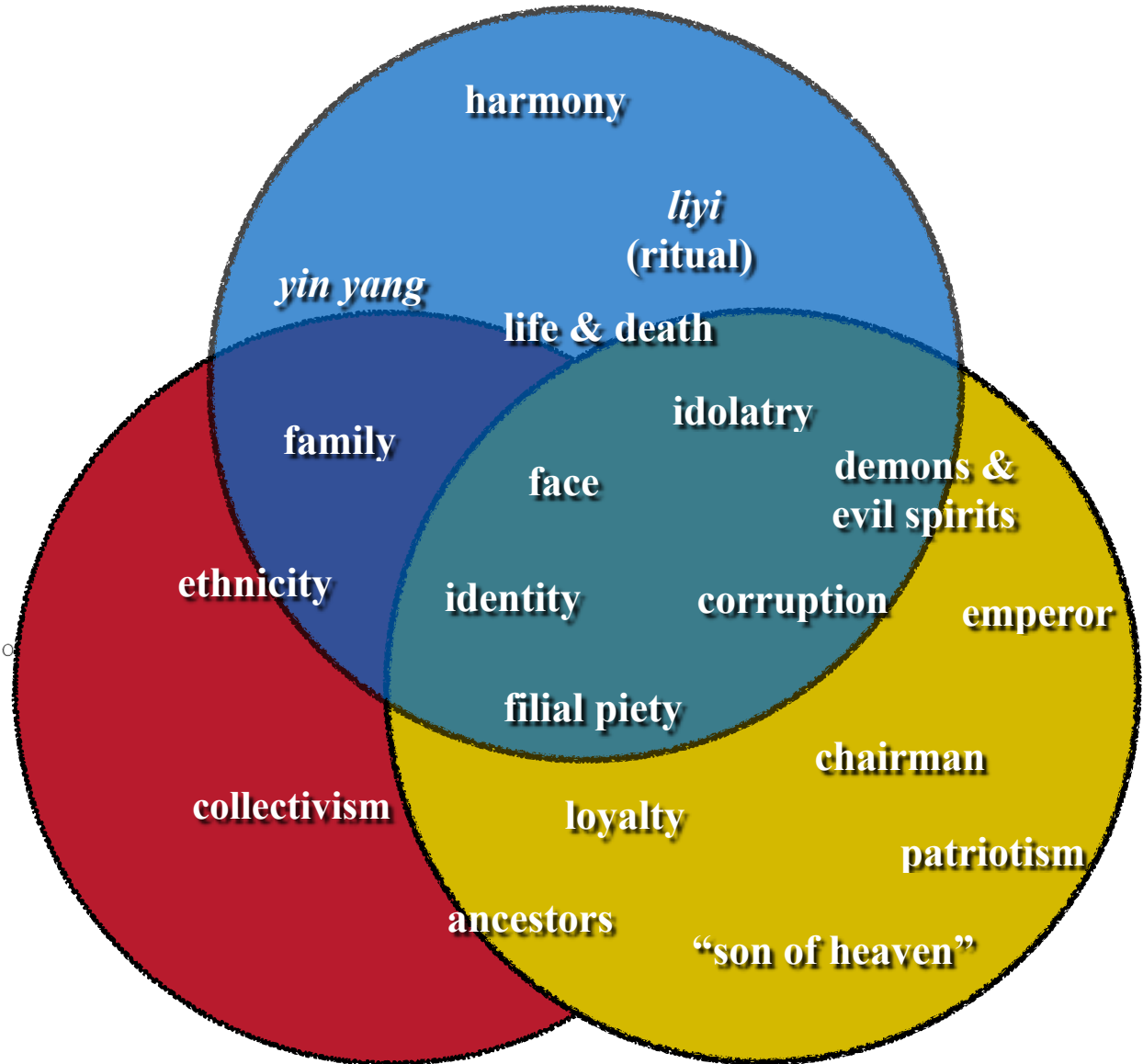


*the meaning of "son of God"?*

# biblical framework



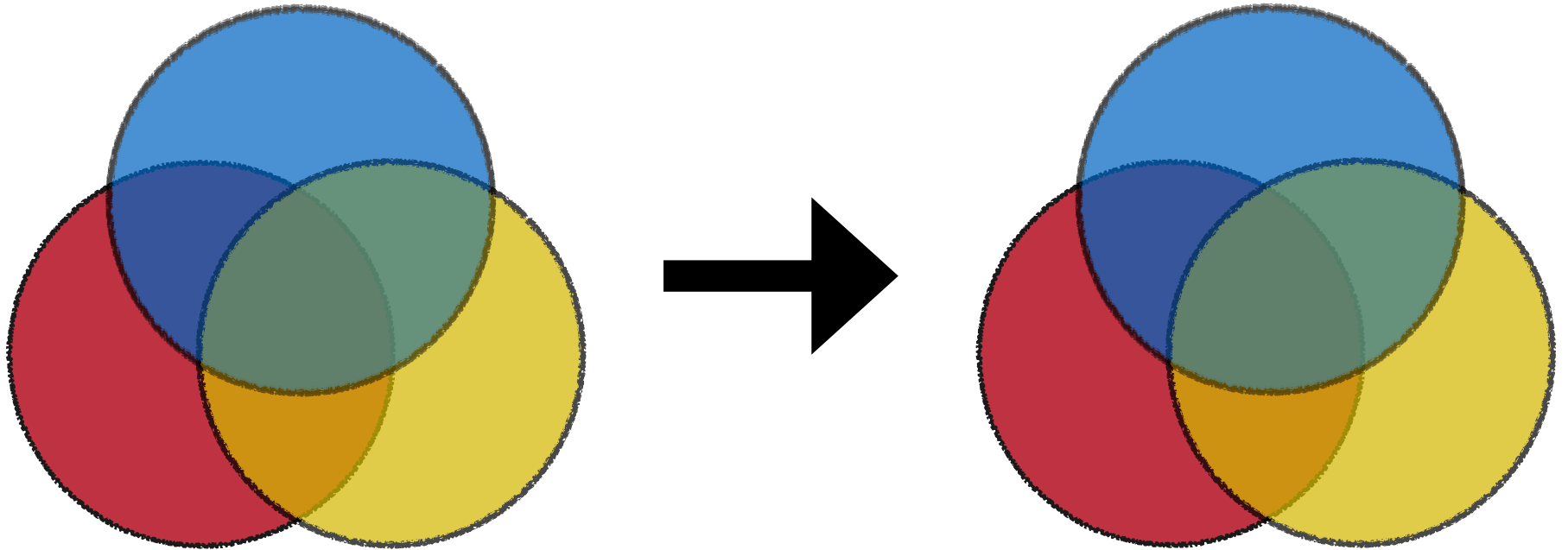
# cultural themes



*the meaning of "son of God"?*

**biblical framework**

**cultural themes**

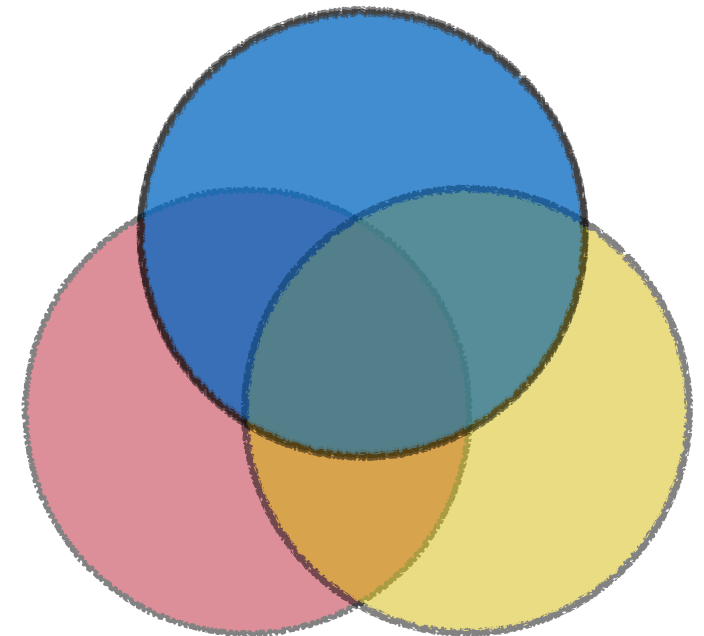
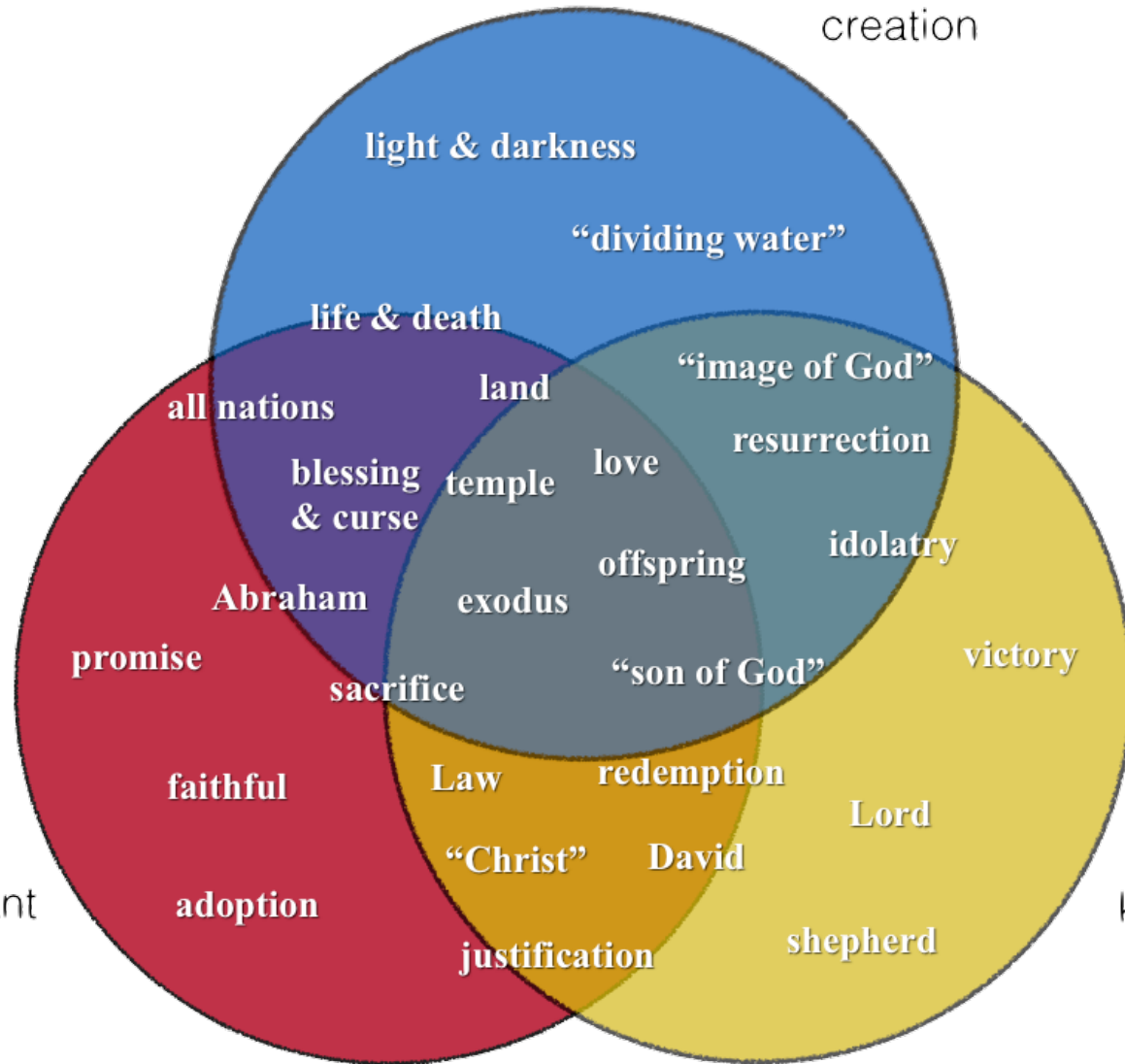


*How should we explain...*

*the meaning of the “sin” and “faith”?*

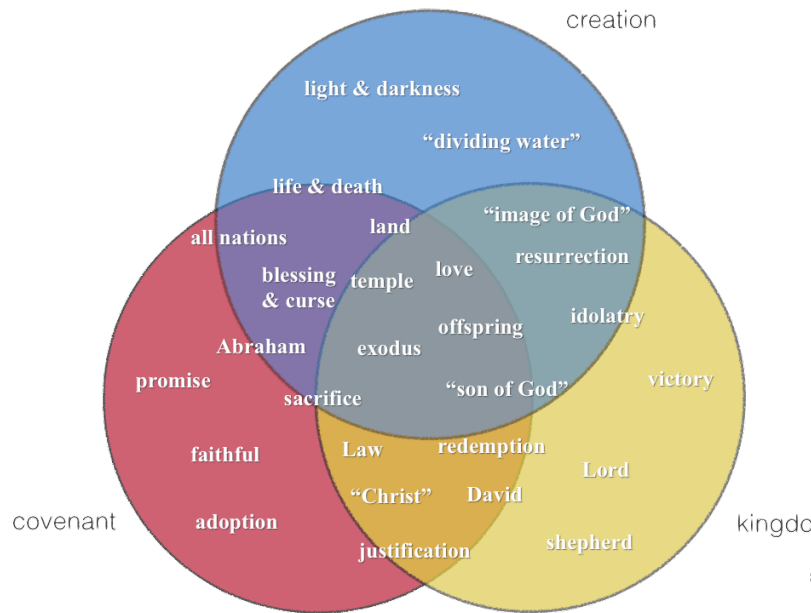
# biblical framework

# cultural themes

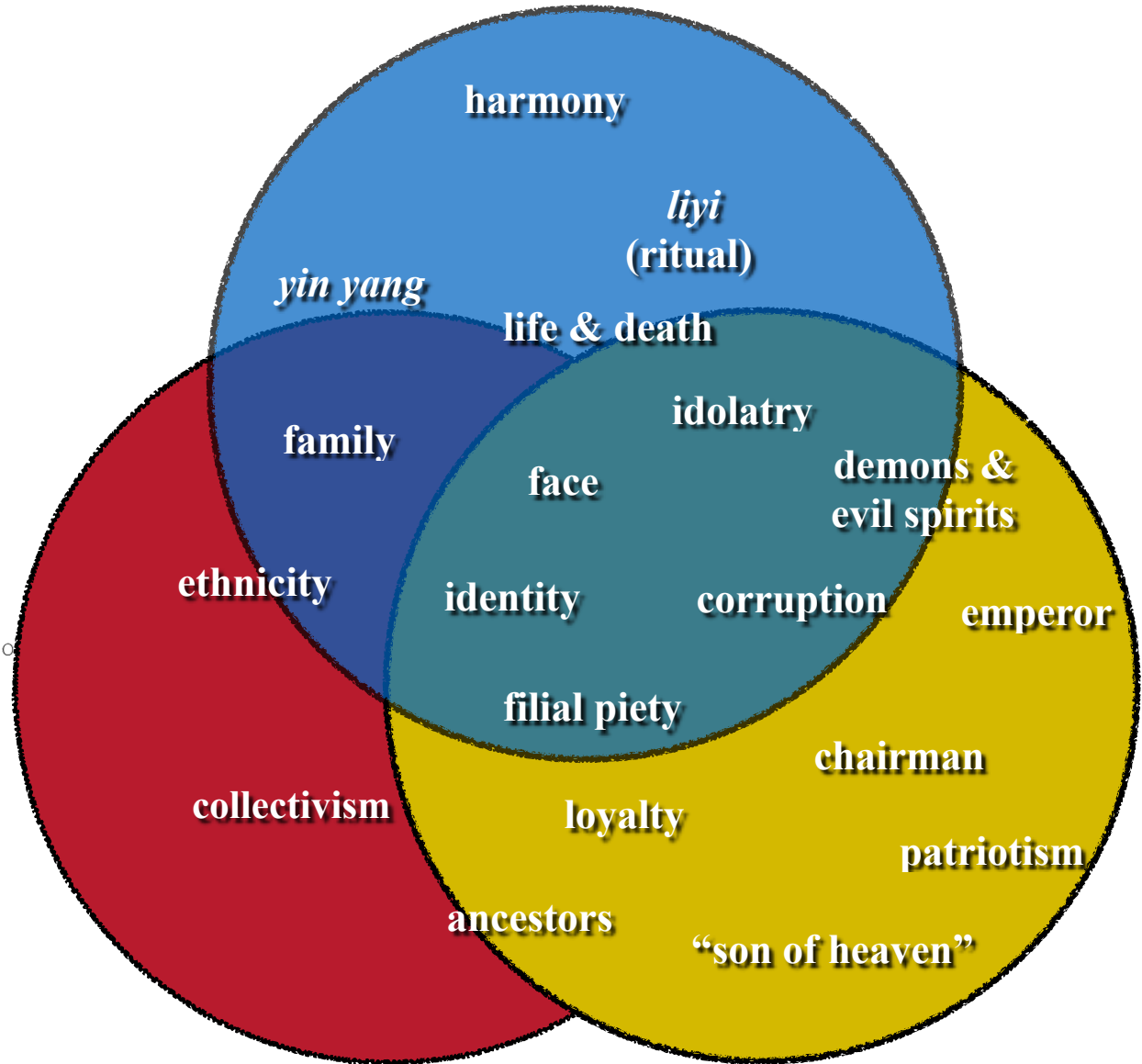


*the meaning of the “sin” and “faith”?*

# biblical framework



# cultural themes

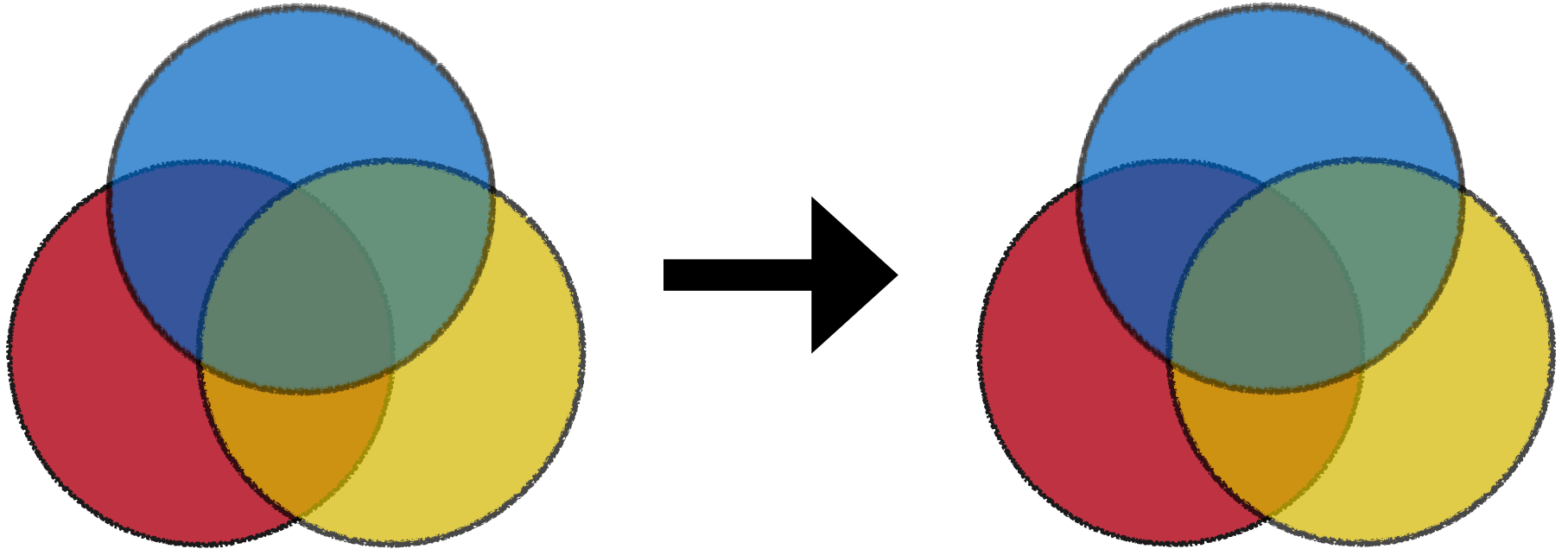


*the meaning of the "sin" and "faith"?*



**biblical framework**

**cultural themes**

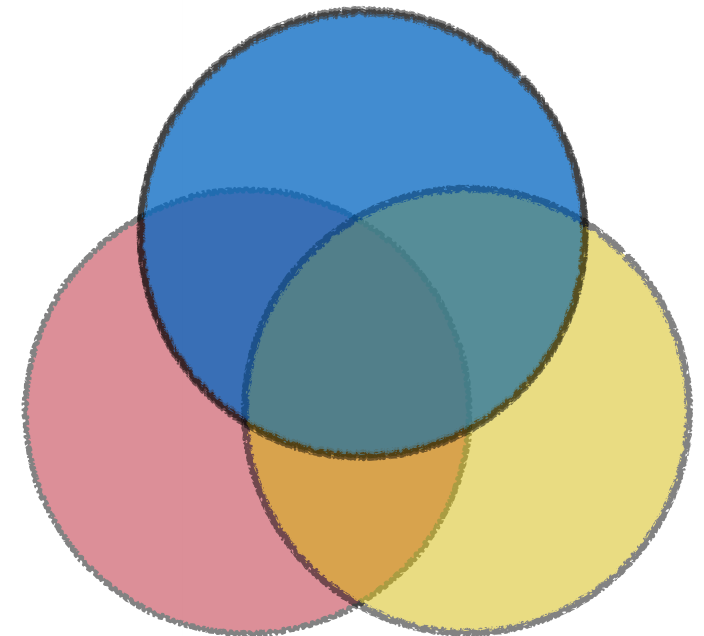
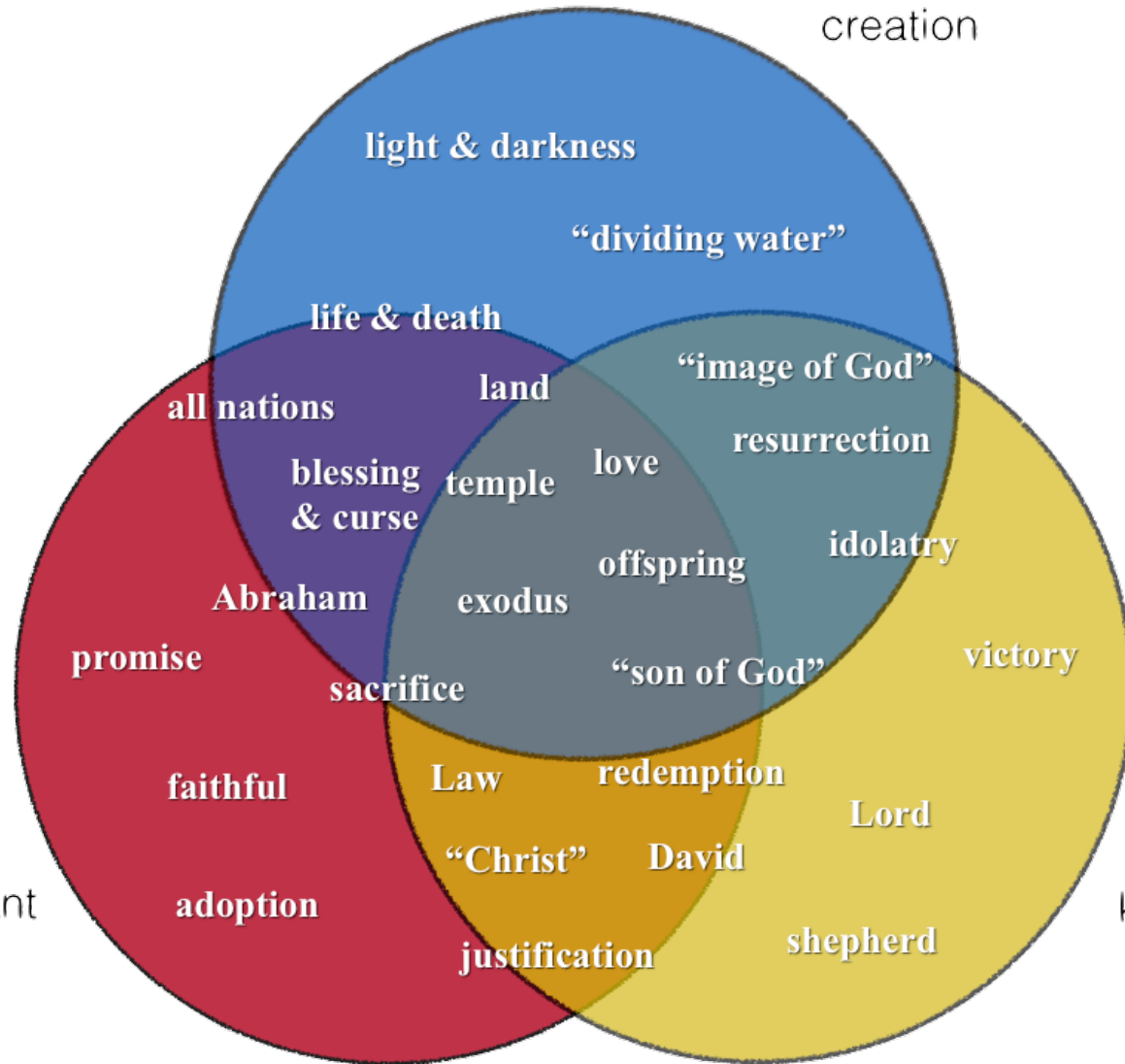


*How should we explain...*

*the Abrahamic covenant?*

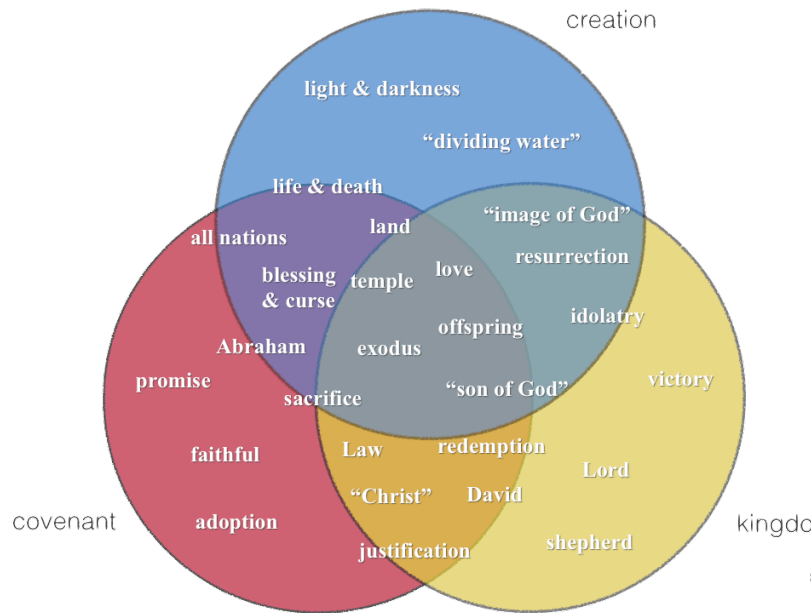
# biblical framework

# cultural themes

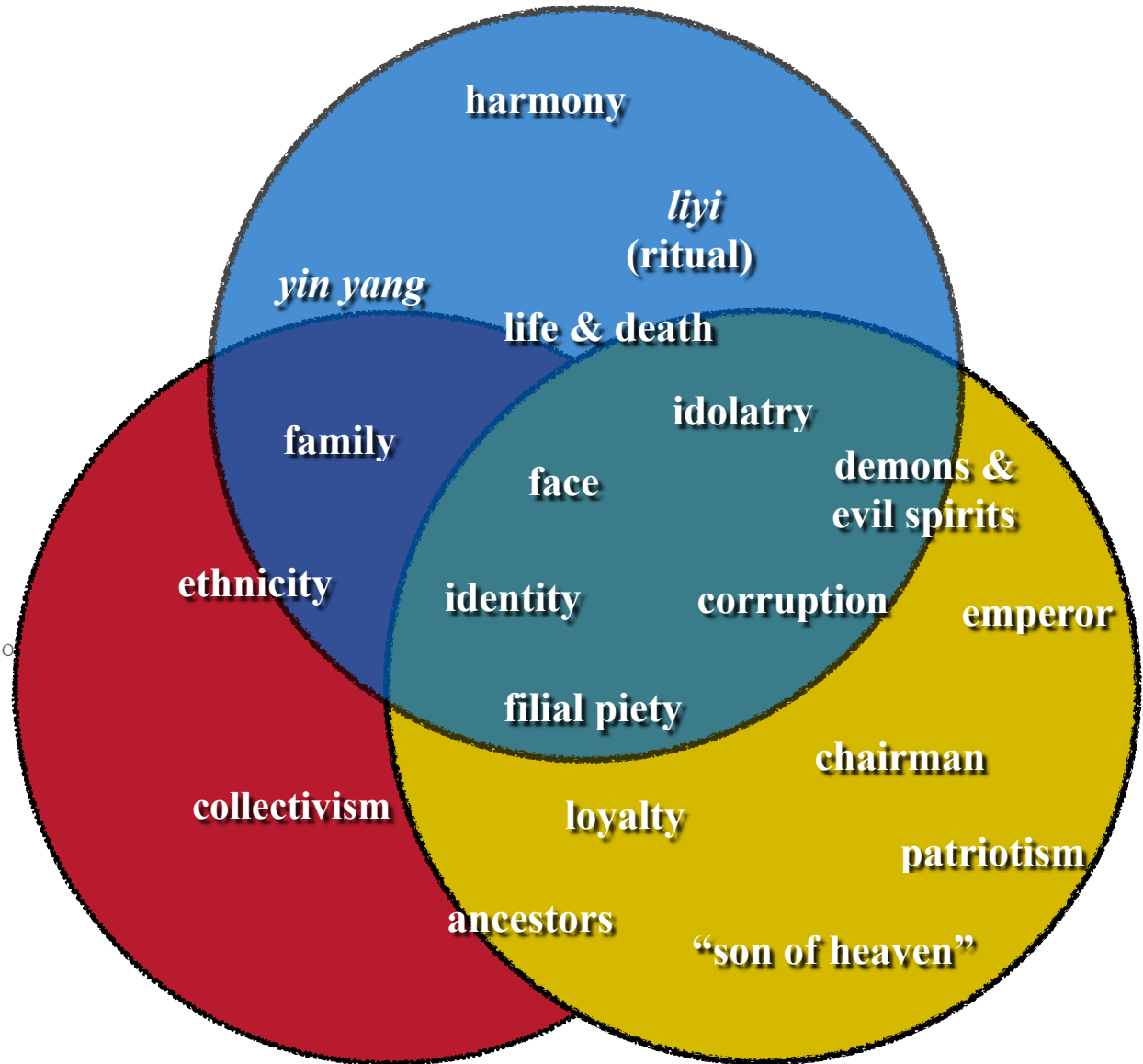


*the Abrahamic covenant?*

# biblical framework



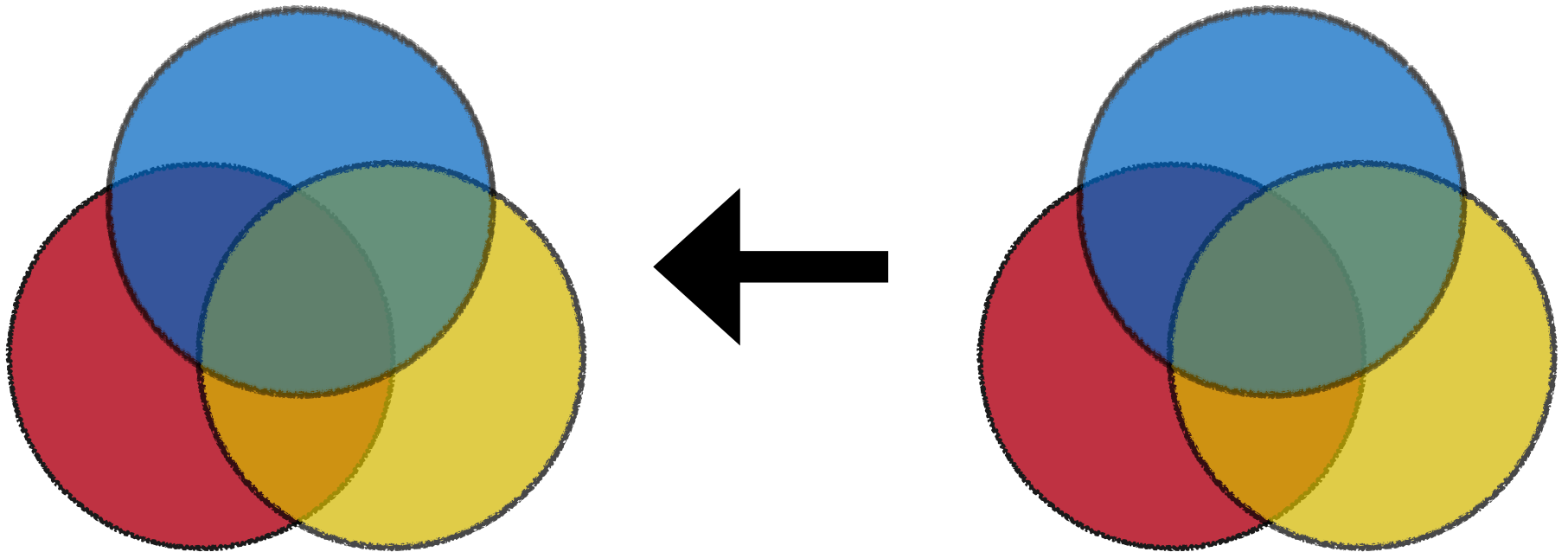
# cultural themes



*the Abrahamic covenant?*

**biblical framework**

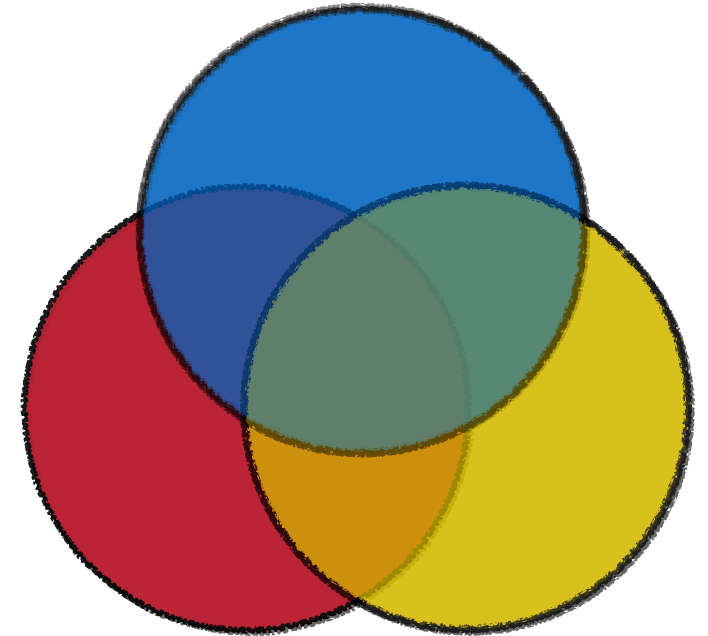
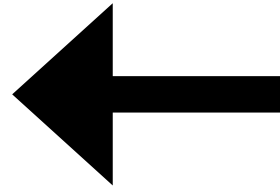
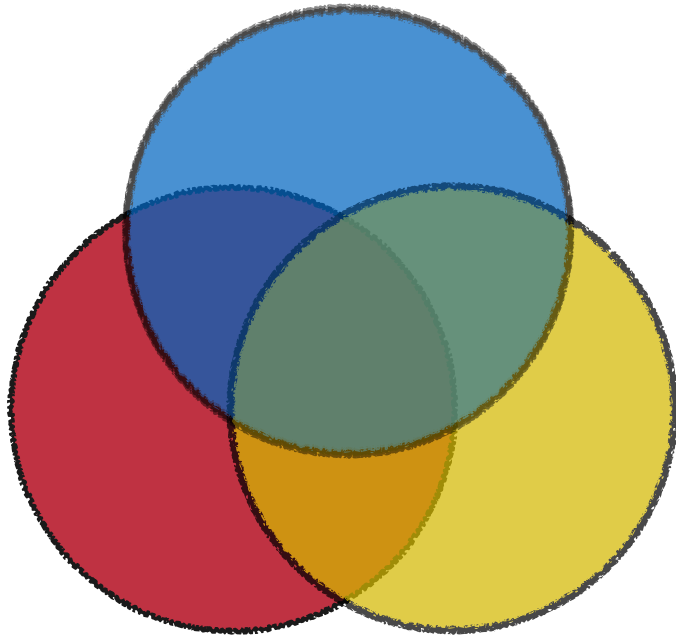
**cultural themes**



*What biblical idea helps us  
address a cultural issue?*

**biblical framework**

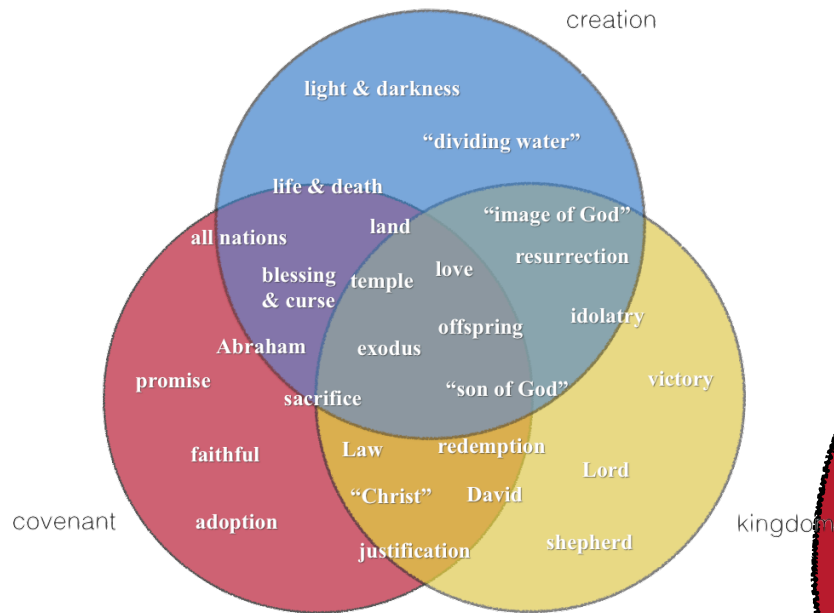
**cultural themes**



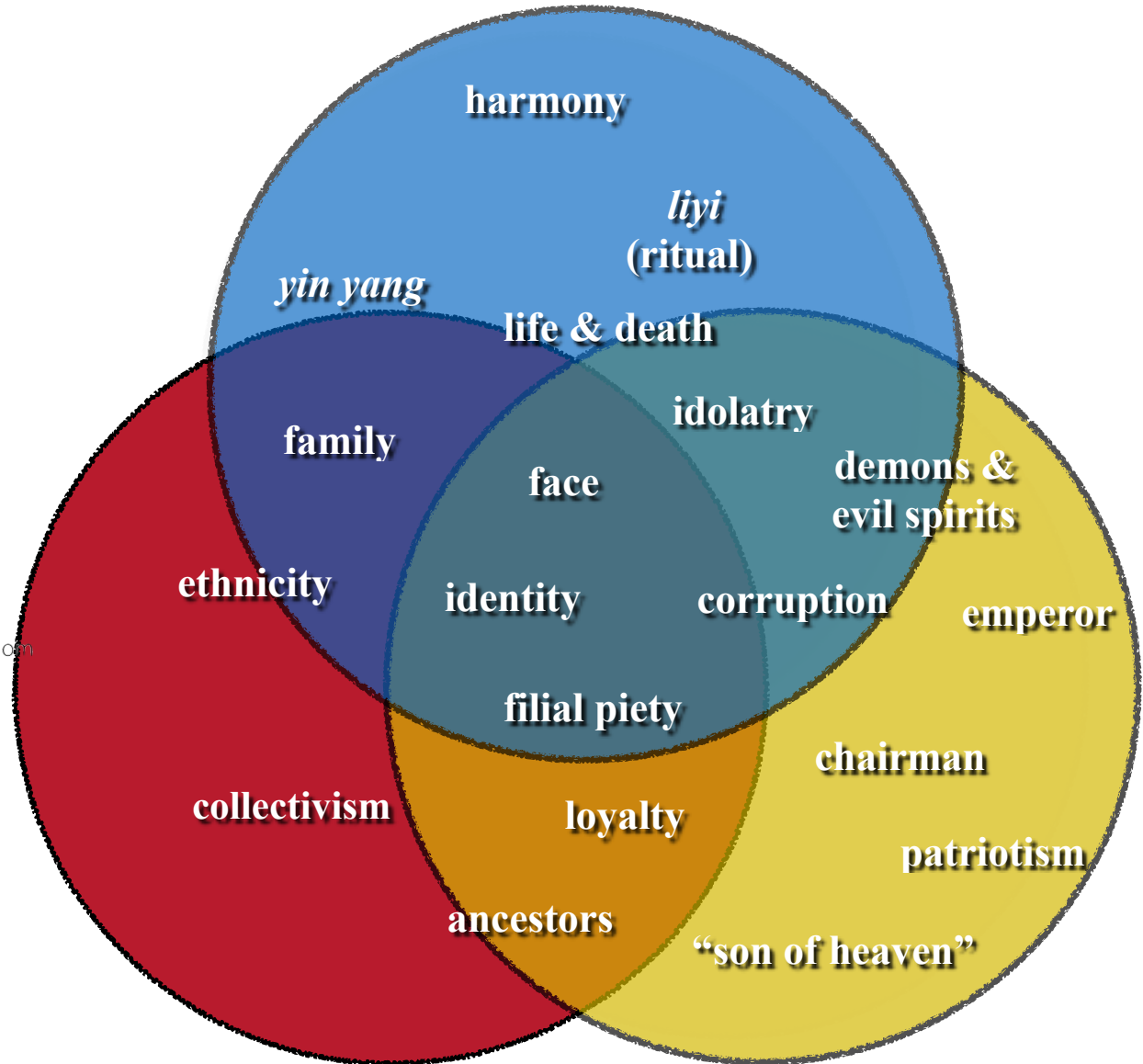
*How should we explain...*

*the significance of ethnocentrism?*

# biblical framework



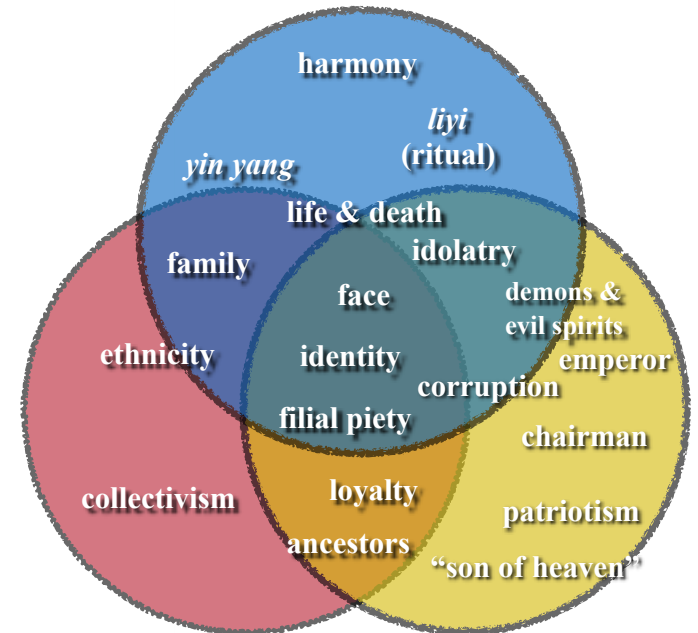
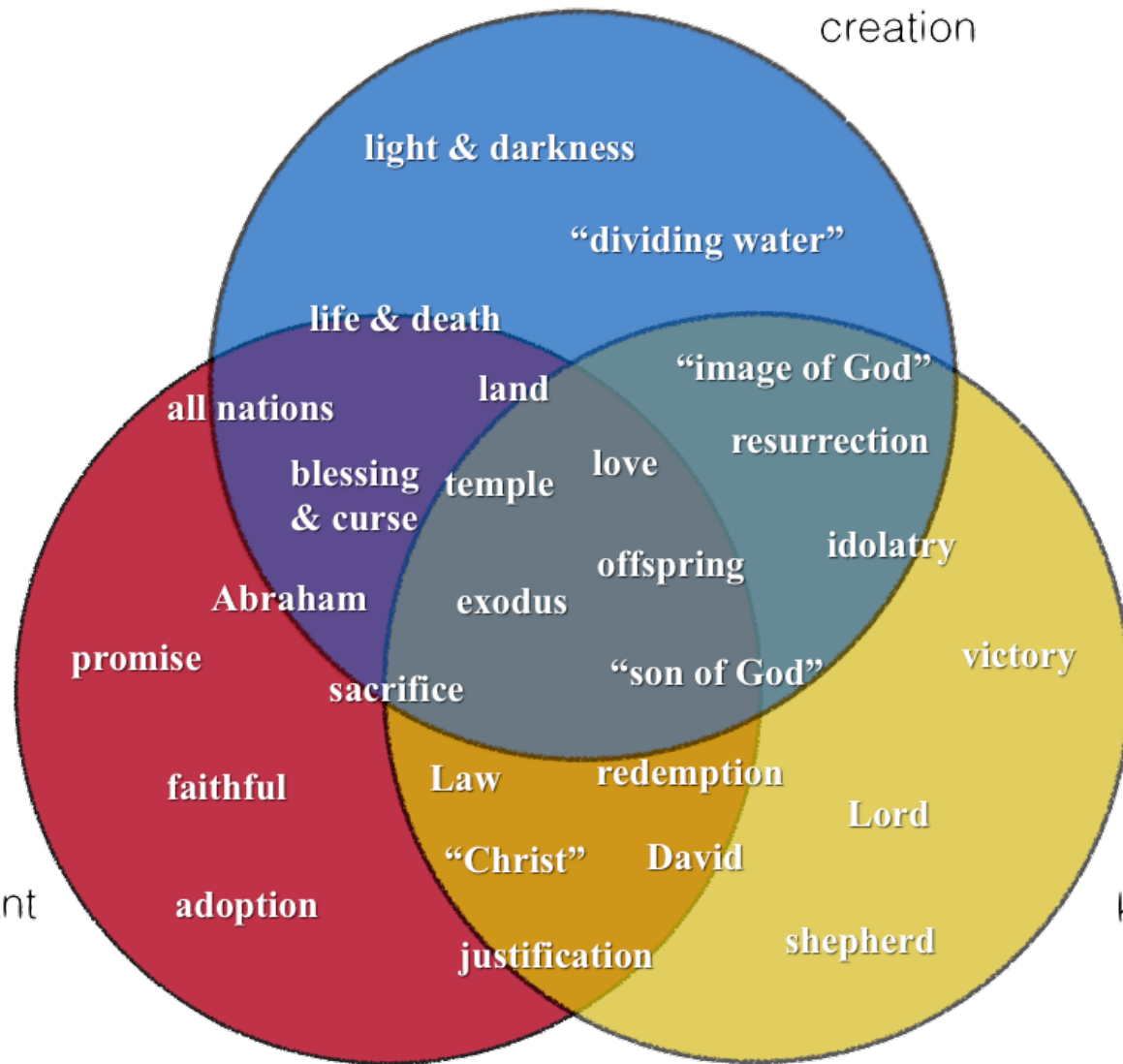
# cultural themes



*the significance of ethnocentrism?*

# biblical framework

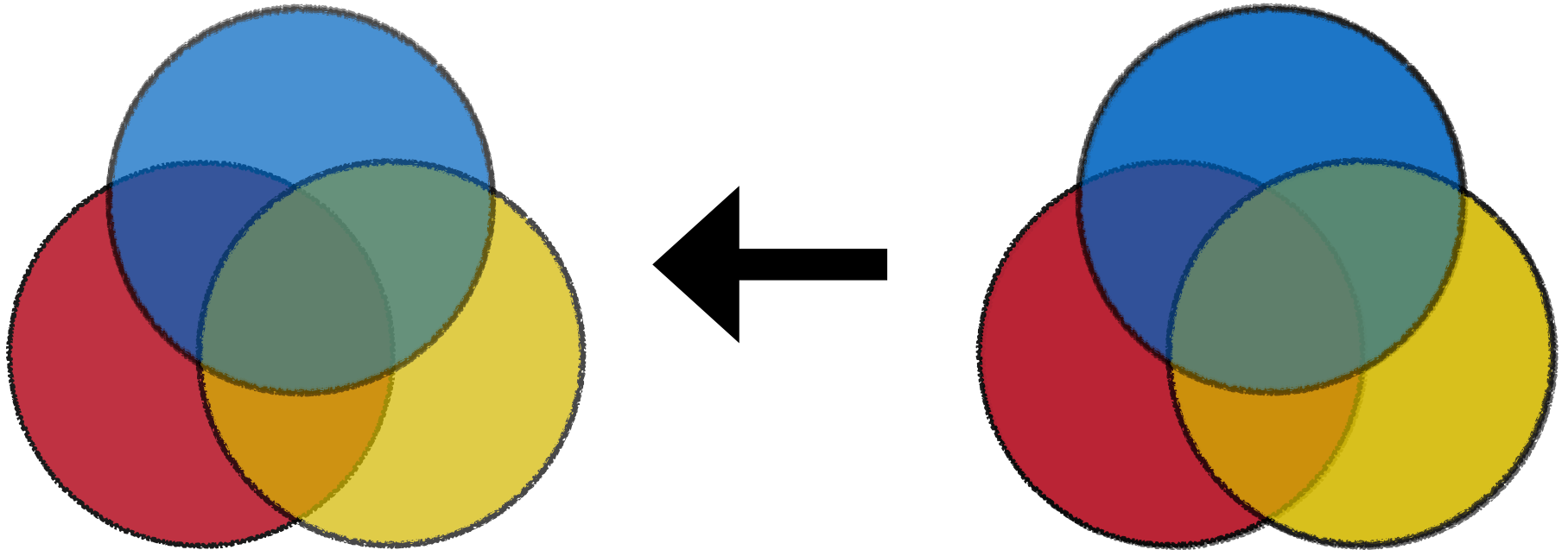
# cultural themes



*the significance of ethnocentrism?*

**biblical framework**

**cultural themes**

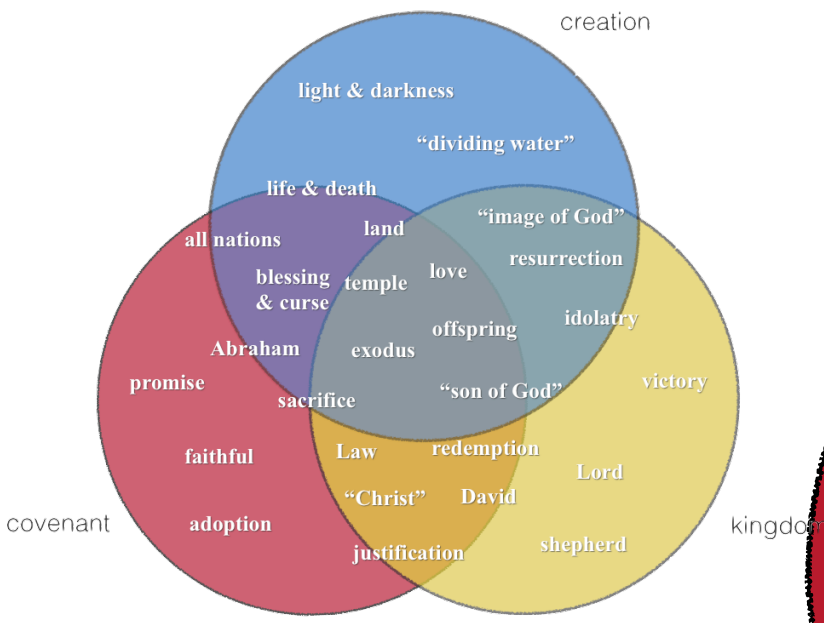


*How should we explain...*

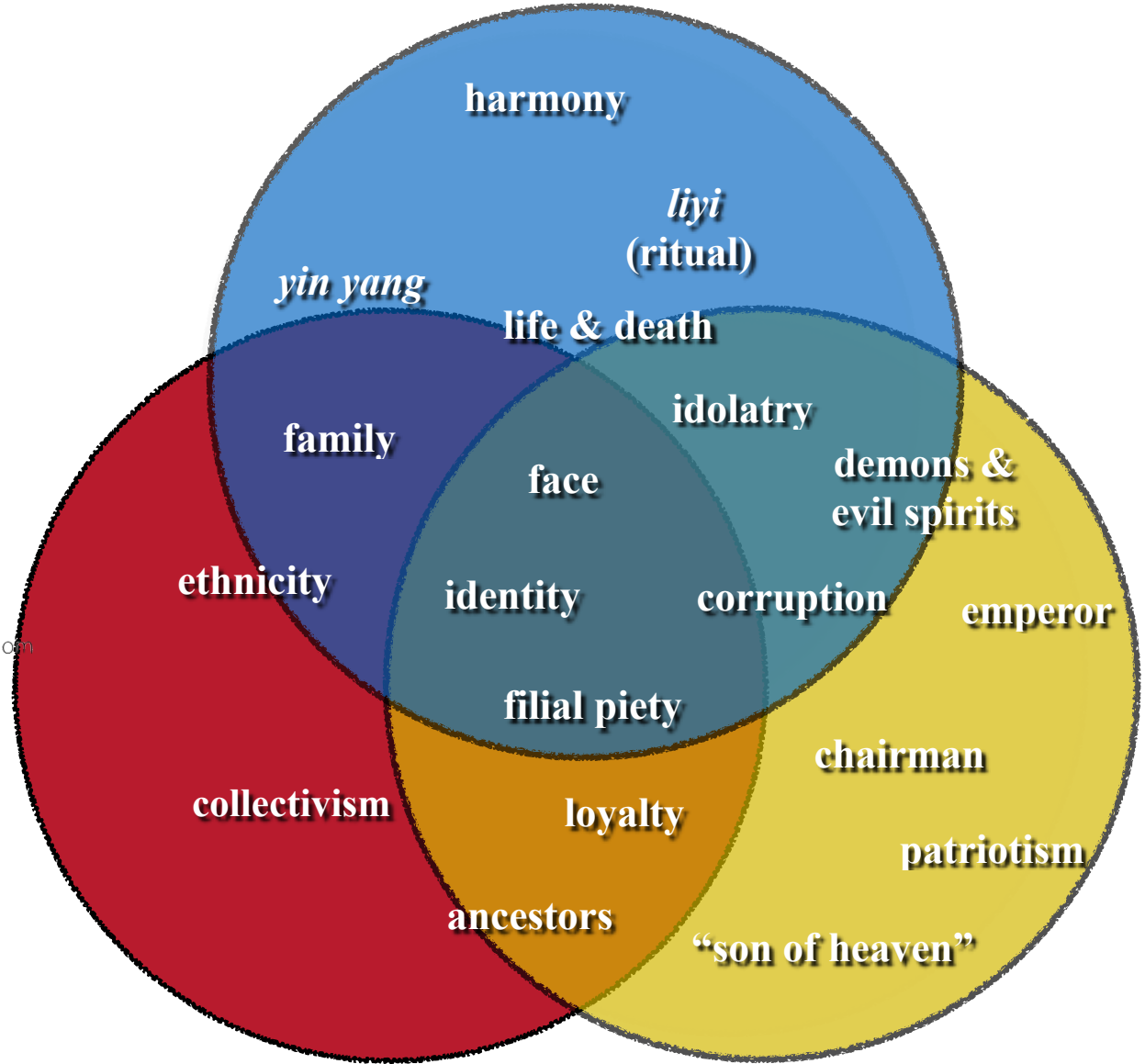
*the excesses of filial piety?*



# biblical framework



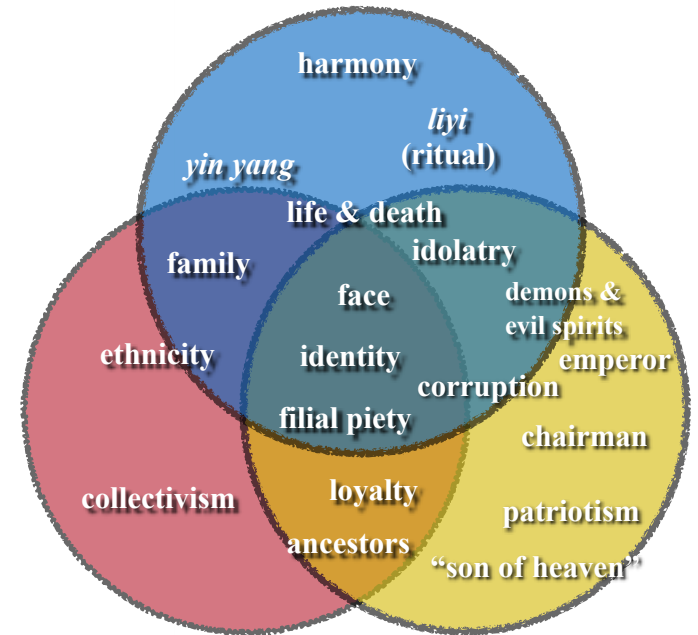
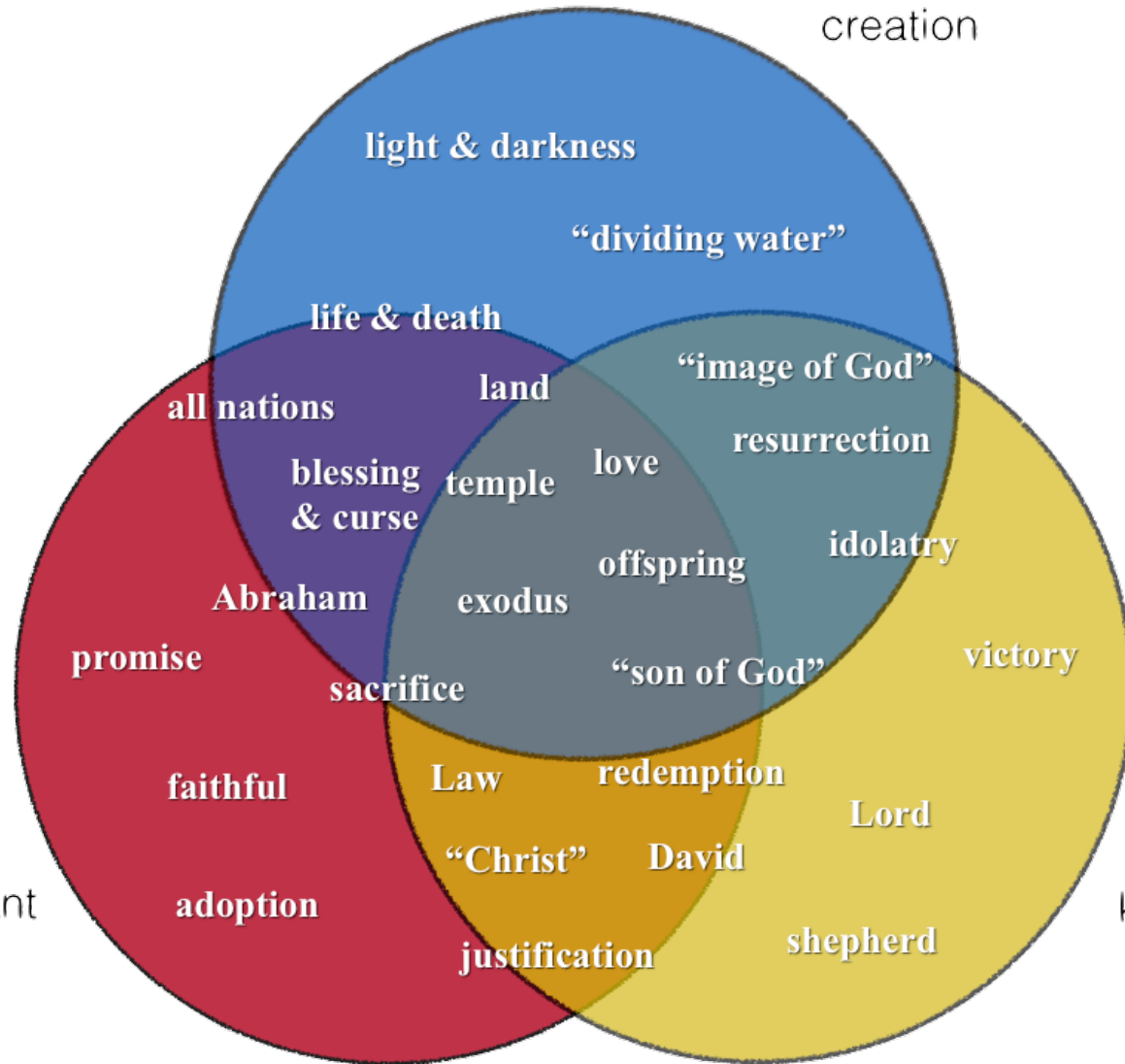
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*the excesses of filial piety?*

# biblical framework

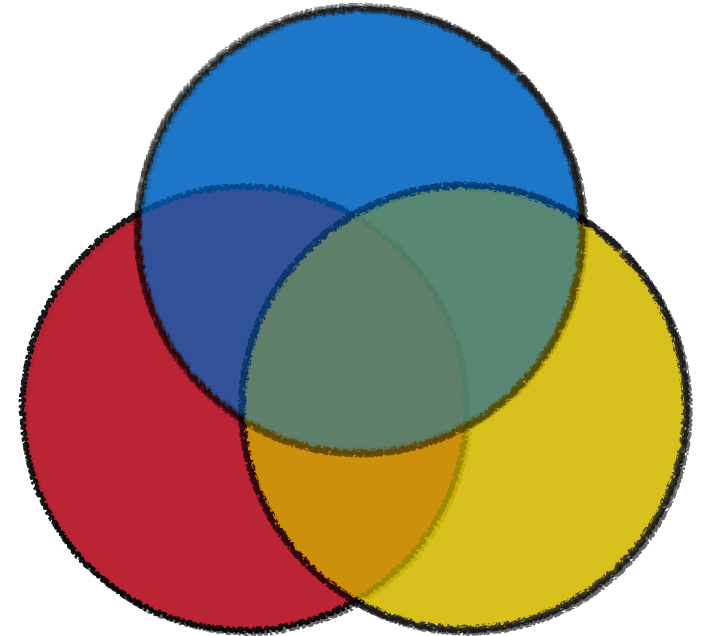
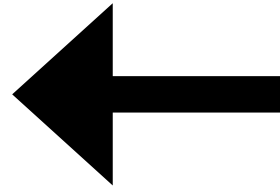
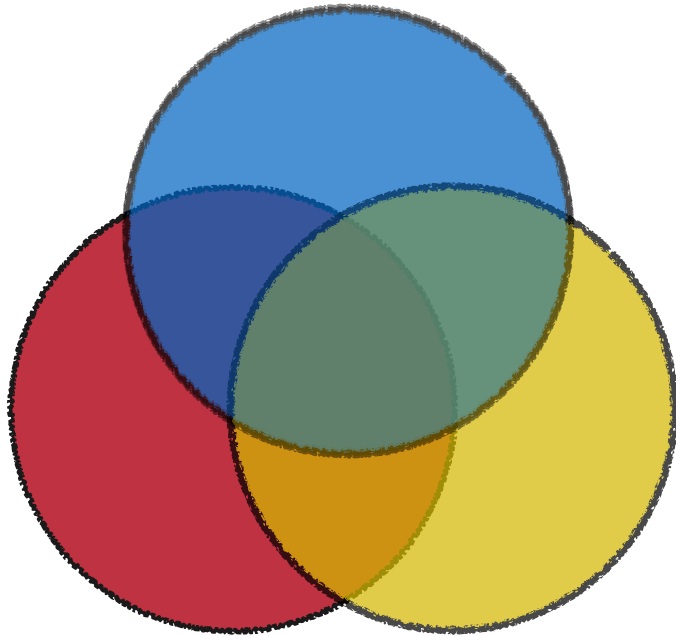
# cultural themes



*the excesses of filial piety?*

**biblical framework**

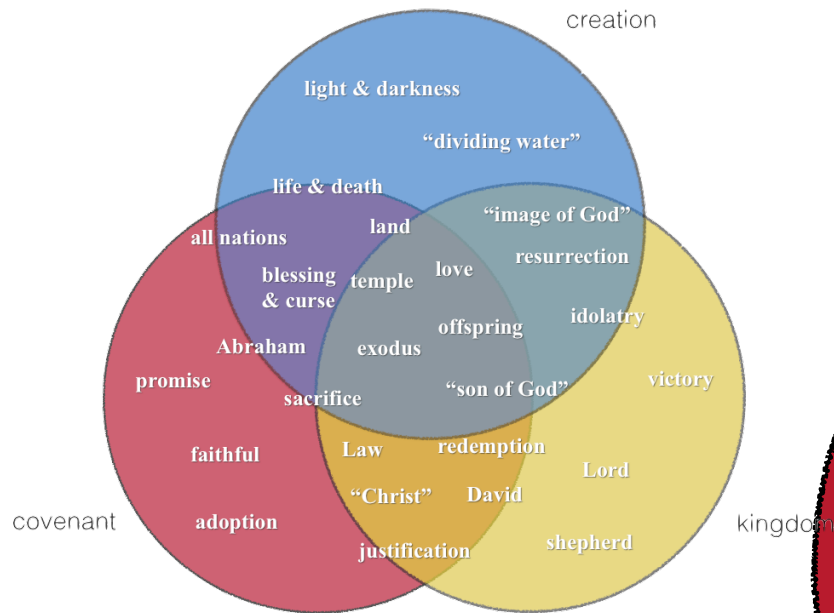
**cultural themes**



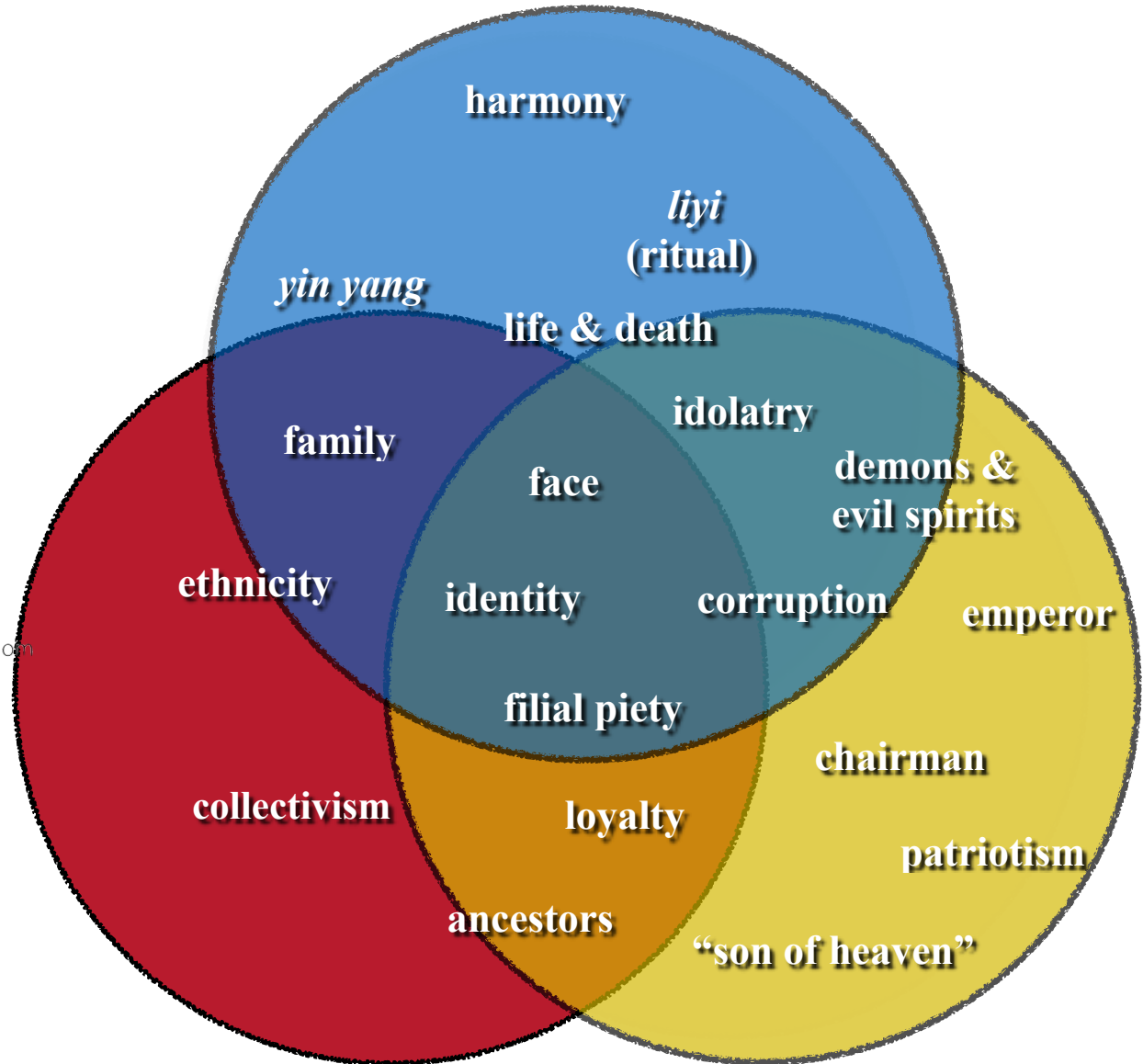
*How should we address...*

*the issue of “seeking face”?*

# biblical framework



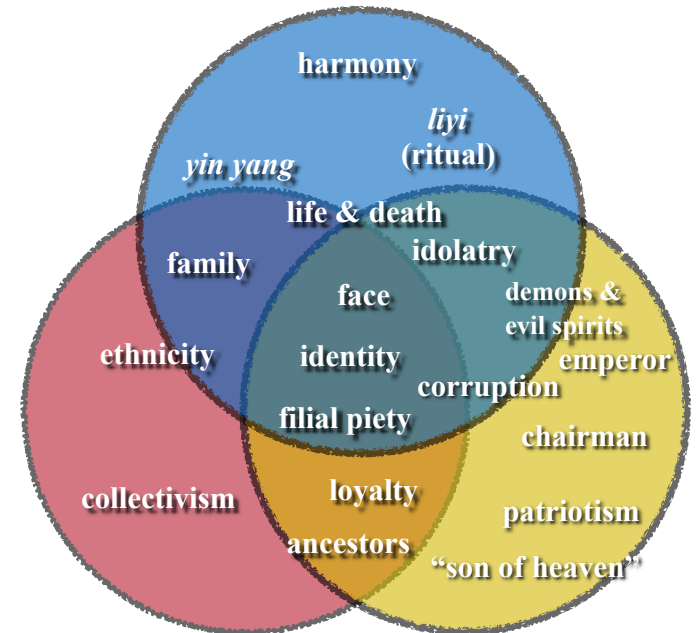
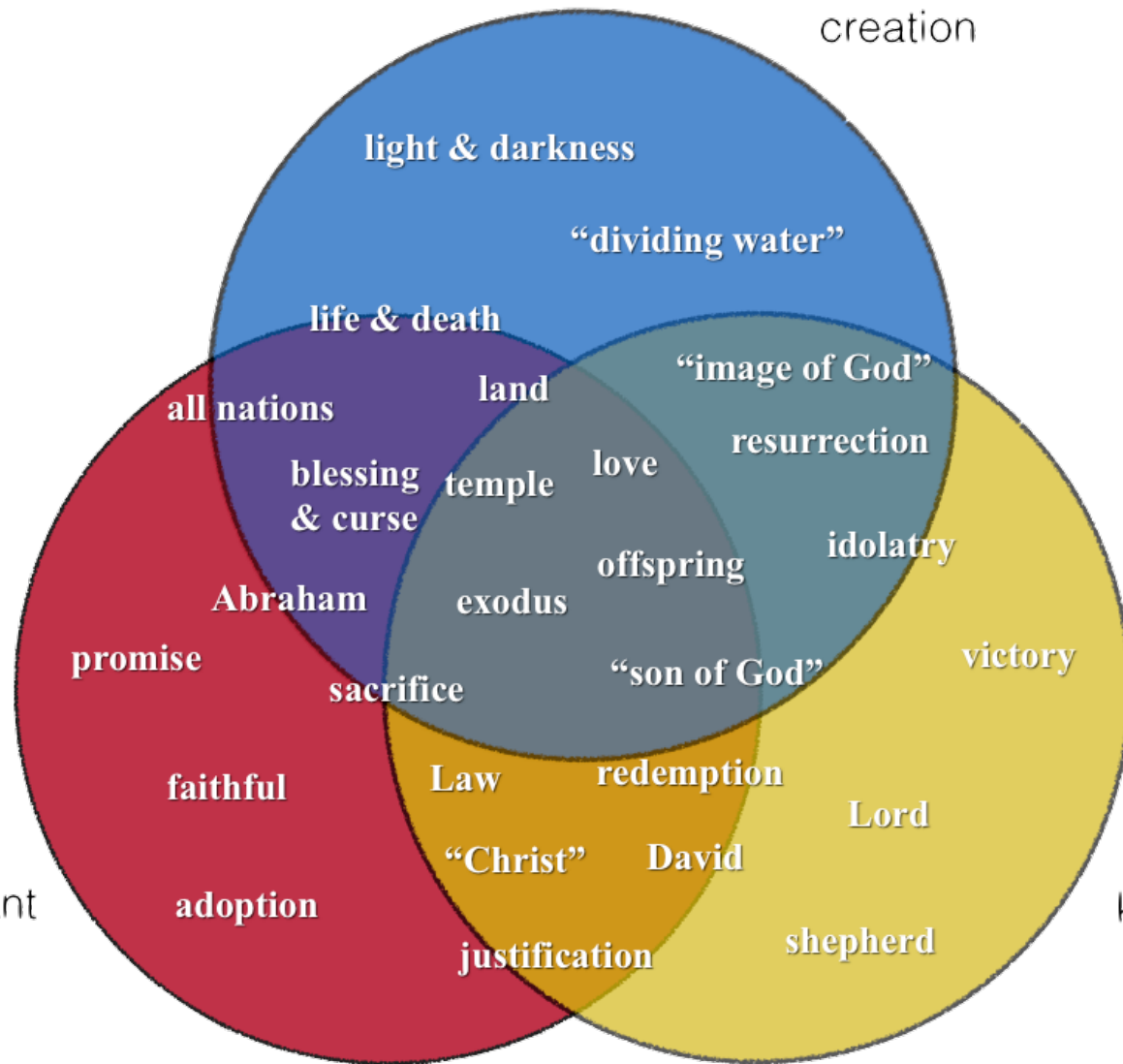
# cultural themes



*the issue of "seeking face"?*

# biblical framework

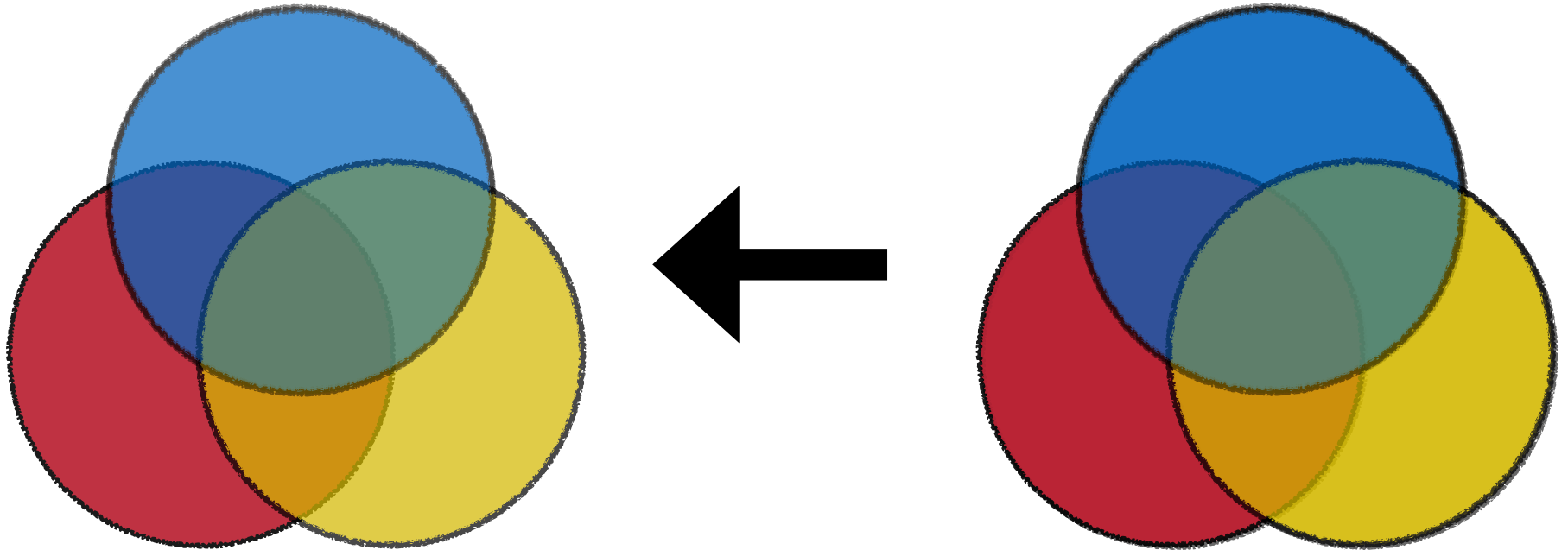
# cultural themes



*the issue of "seeking face"?*

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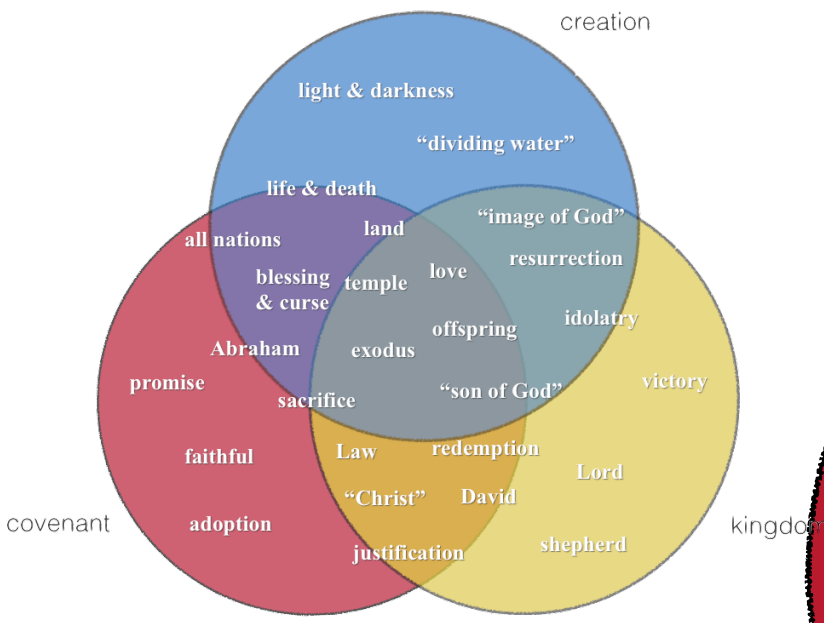
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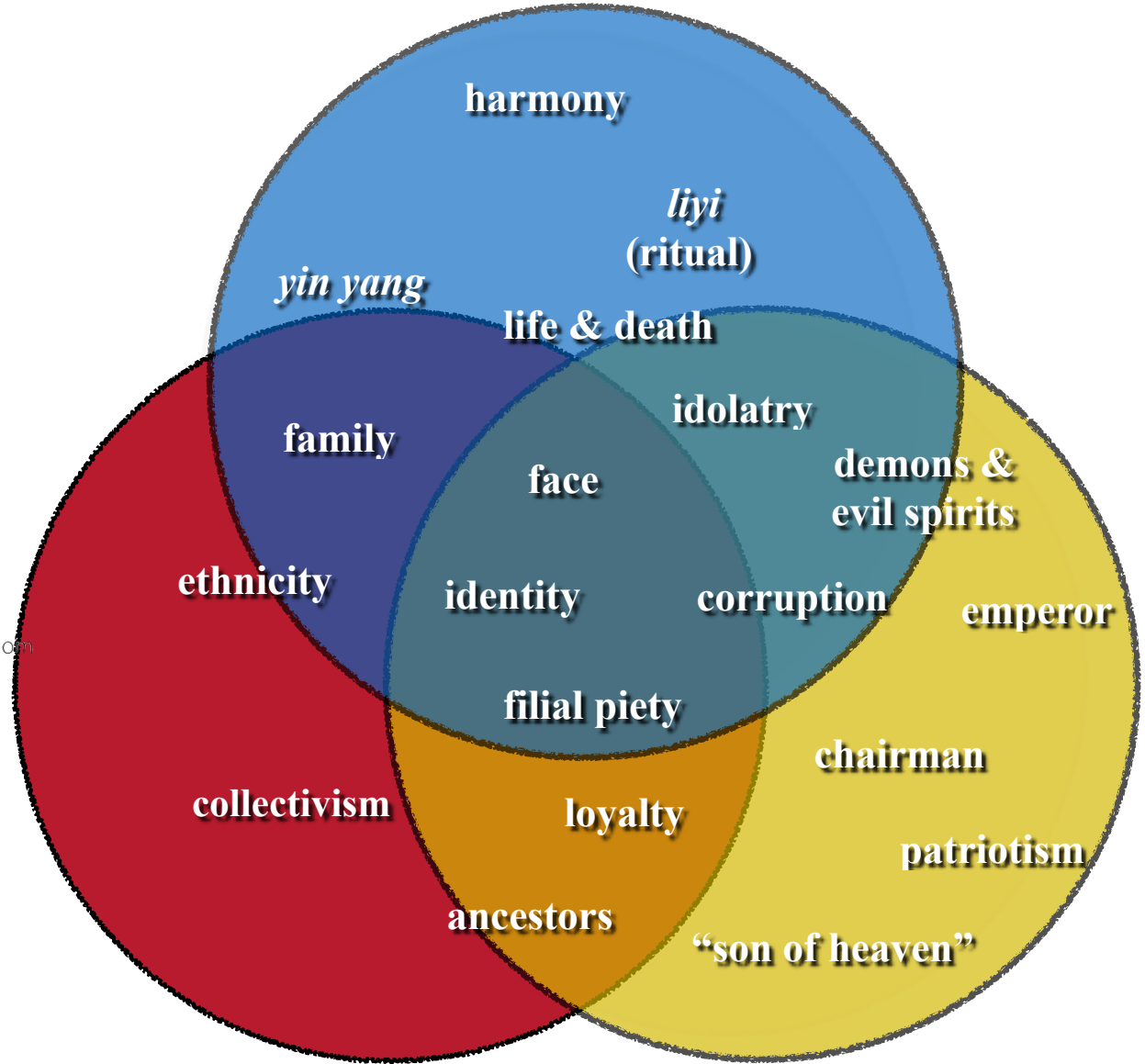
*How should we address...*

*spirit worship?*

# biblical framework



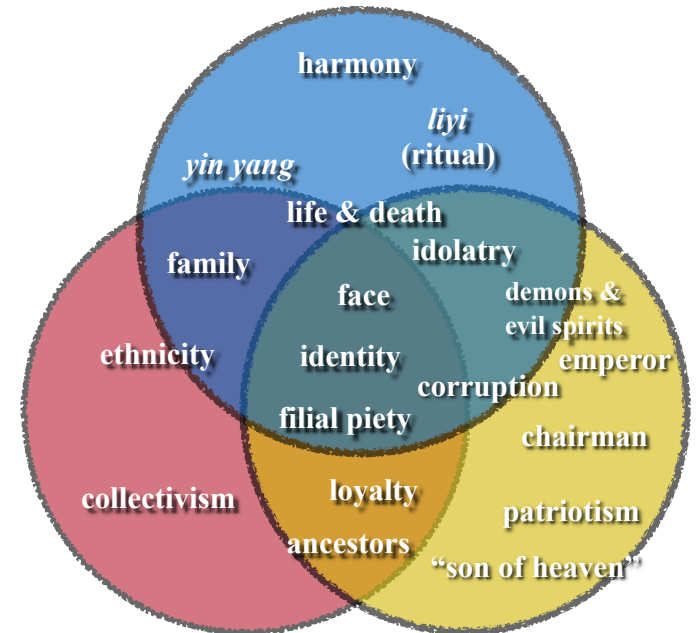
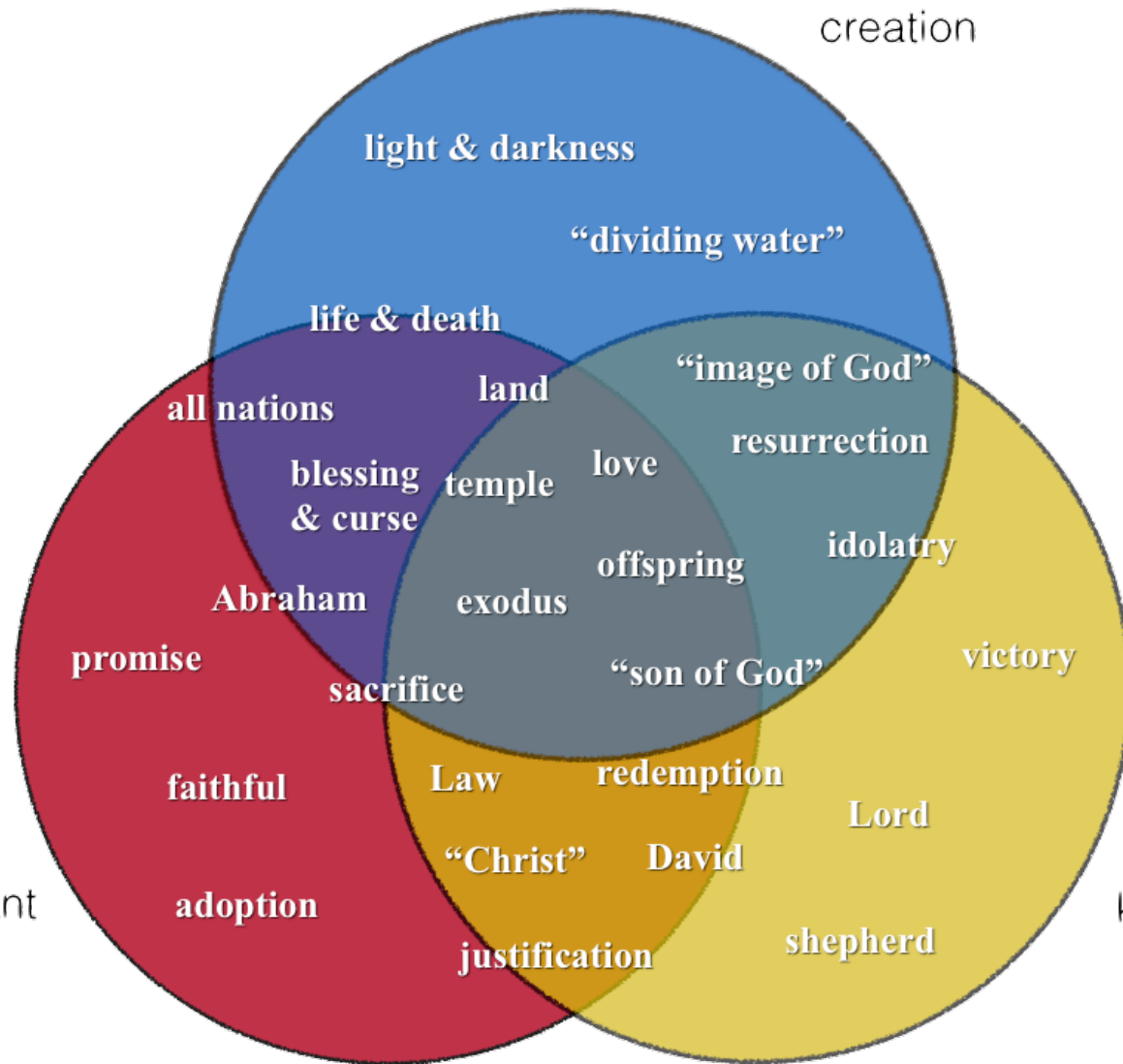
# cultural themes



*spirit worship?*

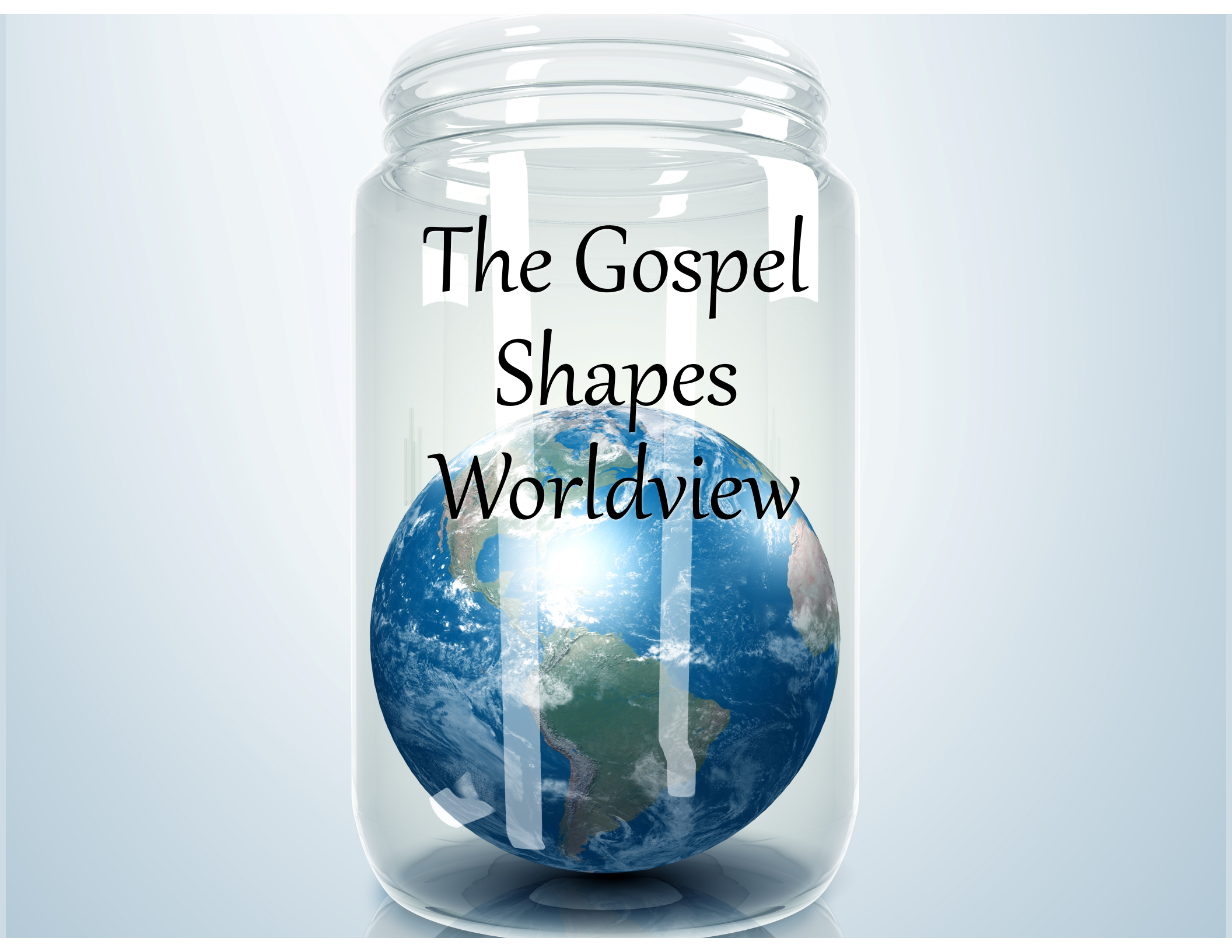
# biblical framework

# cultural themes



*spirit worship?*



A clear glass jar is shown against a light blue background. Inside the jar, a realistic globe of the Earth is visible, showing continents and oceans. The text "The Gospel Shapes Worldview" is written in a black, serif font across the center of the globe. The jar has a wide mouth and a slightly flared rim.

*The Gospel  
Shapes  
Worldview*

**Gospel  
Themes**

**An Honor-Shame Perspective**

**Creation**

**“Standard”**

**Holiness**

**Purity**

**Covenant**

**“Social”**

**Harmony**

**Promises**

**Kingdom**

**“Sovereign”**

**Hierarchy**

**Power**



*Creation*

*Biblical  
Implications*

*The Creator is the world's only God.*

*The Creator is King*

*The Creator-God created all nations.*

*He is our Father of all nations.*

*God's human family consists of all nations*

He provides all of our needs.

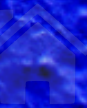
He determines how the world works.

God gives life and honor. Therefore,  
human death and shame are not God's desire.

The Creator-God deserves all praise, loyalty, and love.

Creation

Cultural  
Implications



All other so-called “gods” are false gods

We must not worship created things, i.e. idols.

- When people worship these so-called “gods”, they worship demons (not true gods)

Created things (like demons, spirits) have limited power.

God can overcome evil in his creation.

God wants the entire world to be His sacred space, His “Temple.”



*All nations are equal before God.*

*All humans should be humble.*

*Sin disrupts harmony and relationships in the world.*

*“In people’s worldview, what is the assumed problem with the world?”*





Practical

# Call to repentance

How do people express repentance?

## Cost

In the local culture, what are the costs of following Christ?

What biblical promises help people to be willing to pay the cost?



# Purity





God purifies His people of shameful impurity

God's grants us His Holy Spirit

The Bible also calls God's people "a Temple."

We should not think buildings  
– like physical Temples.

All of life should be reckoned worship



Believers have a calling.  
They form a royal priesthood

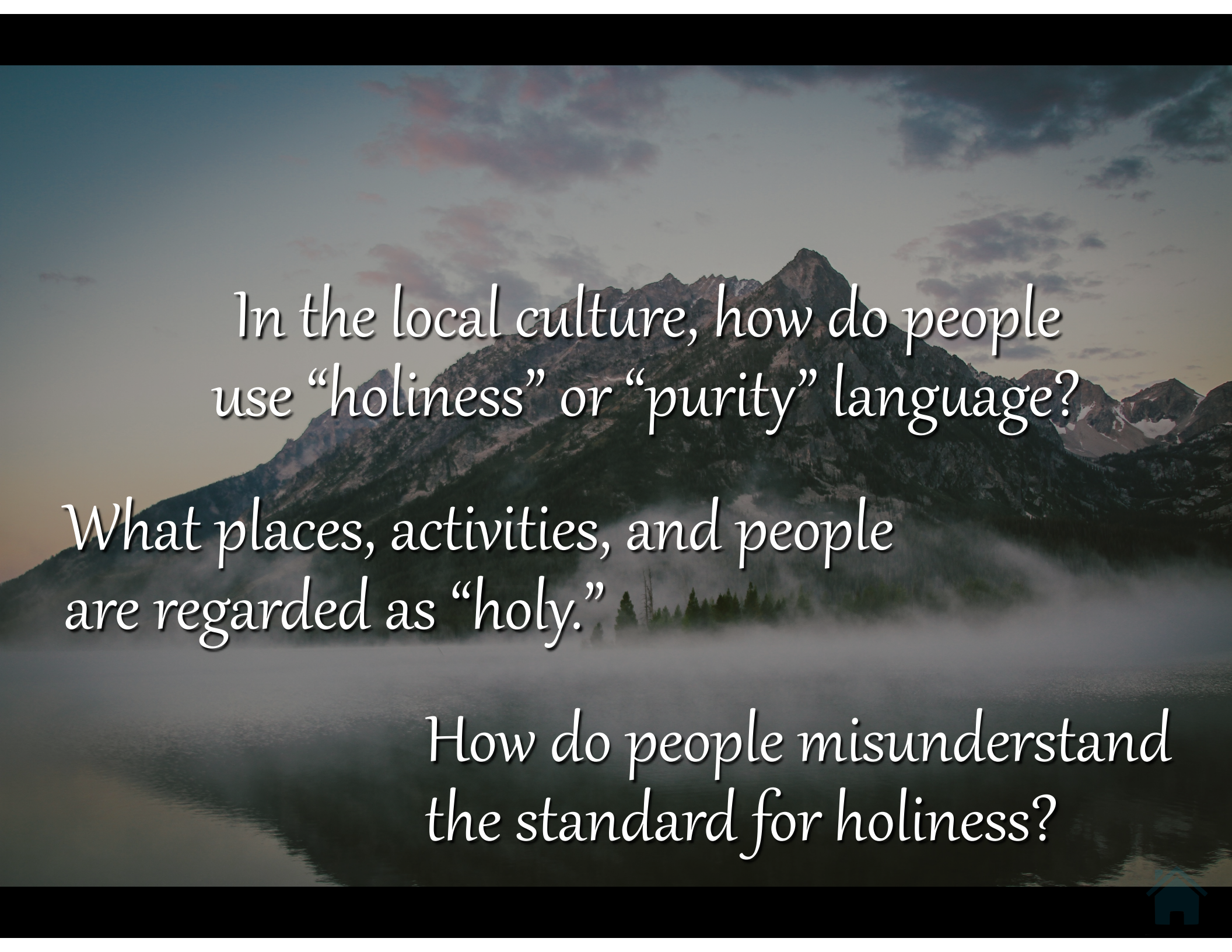
All believers have responsibility

Our pure manner of life  
should reflect God's presence

Protect God's sacred space.

Resist all evil and all shameful evil.





In the local culture, how do people use “holiness” or “purity” language?

What places, activities, and people are regarded as “holy.”

How do people misunderstand the standard for holiness?





In the church, what behaviors make the church look impure?

How might we use this this “purity” and “holiness” theme to preach the gospel, communicate biblical truth, and train the church?



# Biblical Implications

Covenant





Covenants primarily concern relationships.

# Biblical Implications

allegiance, faithfulness, and loyalty

promises & obligations

death and life

collective identity

signs & traditions



# Cultural Implications

## Identity

1. How do people define “insiders” and “outsiders”?
2. How do people become “insiders” or “outsiders”?
3. How do people prioritize social relationships?



# Cultural Implications

4. Who do people want to please? approval? acceptance?
5. With whom do people identify?
6. In the group, what are its common, uniting values?
7. How do people express loyalty?



# Cultural Implications

## Tradition

8. Boundary markers? (Circumcision? Holidays? Rituals?)
9. How do people express their history, values, and hierarchy?
10. According to local culture, what is the best way to solve the world's main problems? sense of purpose and mission?





A textured, yellowish-brown wall with a vent and a hole. The wall has a rough, stucco-like texture. In the upper left, there is a rectangular vent with horizontal slats. To the right of the vent, there is a jagged hole in the wall, revealing a dark interior space. The overall lighting is warm and slightly dim.

Kingdom

Biblical  
Implications

The background is a textured, yellowish-brown wall. In the upper left, there is a white, rectangular vent cover with horizontal slats. To the right of the vent cover is a jagged, irregular hole in the wall, revealing a dark interior. The wall has a rough, stucco-like texture with some peeling and cracking, particularly on the left side.

The one true Creator God is the  
world's King of Kings

God commands our allegiance  
to Him. We owe God honor.

Idolatry is regarded  
as treason

Human authorities  
are subordinate to God

God through Jesus  
defeats His enemies

In Christ, God demonstrate and commands  
counter-cultural authority

A textured, yellowish-brown wall with a vent and a hole. The wall has a rough, stucco-like texture. In the upper left, there is a rectangular vent with horizontal slats. To the right of the vent, there is a jagged hole in the wall, revealing a dark interior space. The overall lighting is warm and golden.

Kingdom

Cultural  
Implications







1. In context, who has authority?

Formal? (In)formal?

The most ability to influence?



A textured, yellowish-brown wall with a white vent and a jagged hole. The vent is located in the upper left quadrant, and the hole is to its right. The wall has a rough, stucco-like texture with some peeling and cracking. The lighting is warm, creating a golden-brown hue.

2. *What do authorities require? How do people express loyalty to leaders?*

3. *How do people decide social hierarchy? (based on what?) Economics? Ethnicity? Education? Age? Gender? Others?*





4. How do people use power?

5. What are symbols of power? (flag? staff?  
clothing? etc.)







*Honor and shame are intrinsic to gospel*

Creation

(Reorients Purity/Holiness)



Covenant

(Promises Harmony)



Kingdom

(Redefines Power and Hierarchy)



CREATION



*Purity*

COVENANT



*Harmony*



Kingdom



*Sovereign*

## Biblical Themes

## Honor-Shame Cultures

*Creation*

*Sanctuary*

*Holiness*

*Purity*

**Biblical Themes**

**Honor-Shame Cultures**

**Creation**

**Sanctuary**

**Holiness**

**Purity**

***Covenant***

***Salvation***

***Harmony***

***Promises***

## Biblical Themes

## Honor-Shame Cultures

**Creation**

**Sanctuary**

**Holiness**

**Purity**

**Covenant**

**Salvation**

**Harmony**

**Promises**

*Kingdom*

*Sovereignty*

*Hierarchy*

*Power*

# MEASURING "SUCCESS" IN CONTEXTUALIZATION



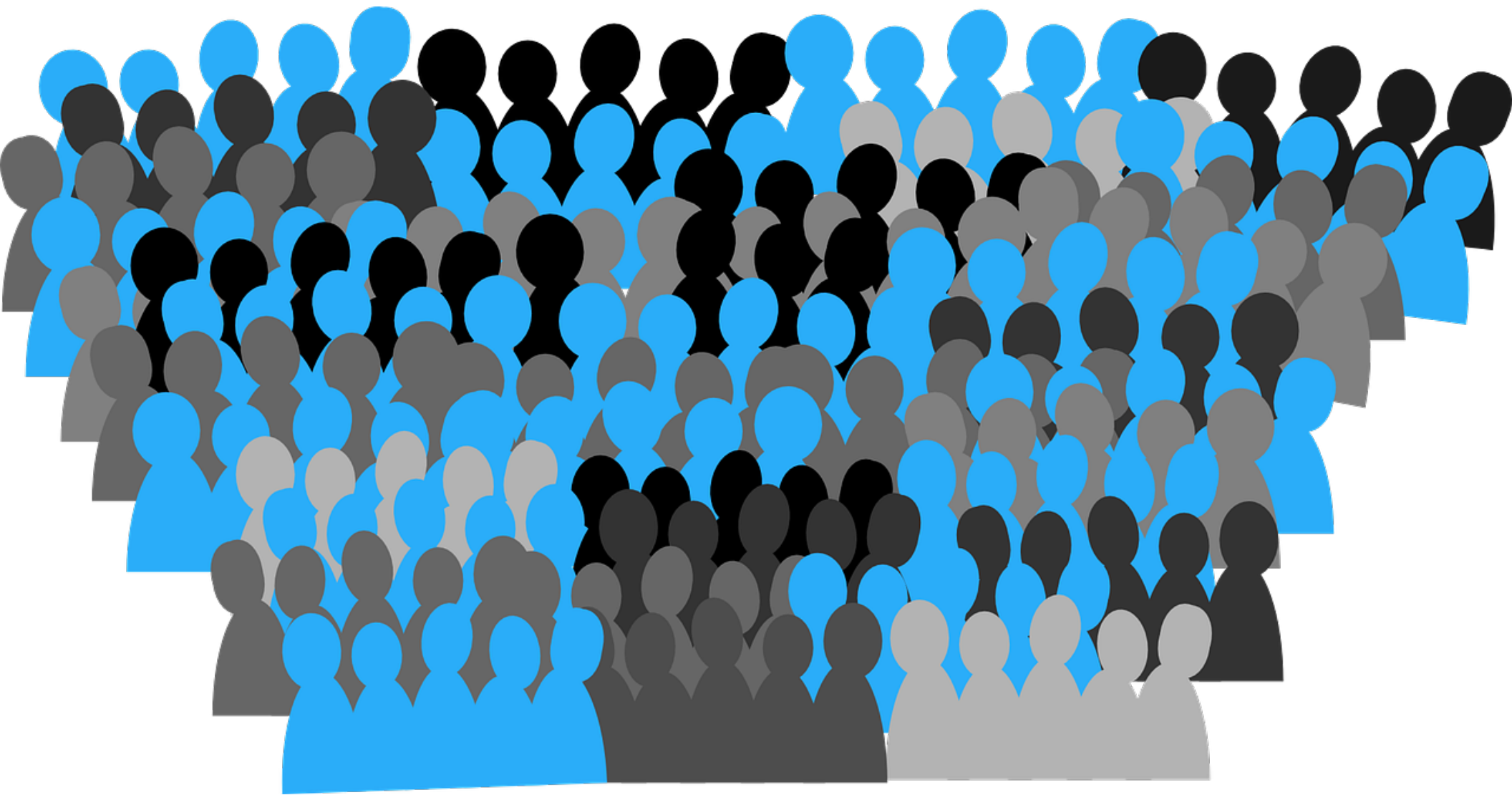


The background of the image is a dense stack of papers. Each paper has the word "NO" printed on it in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The papers are slightly offset from each other, creating a sense of depth and repetition. The overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of gray and black.

**decrease false professions & easy-believism**

**decrease confusion**

**decrease syncretism**







**increases clarity & meaning**

**increases motivation to obey**

**increases longevity or endurance of faith**

**increases character fruit**

S T A T S

SUCCESSFUL  
CONTEXTUALIZATION  
MAKES DISCIPLES

A BIBLICALLY FAITHFUL AND  
CULTURALLY MEANINGFUL WITNESS



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large bunch of dark, ripe grapes. The grapes are clustered together and have a slight sheen. The person's hands are visible, with fingers gently gripping the bunch. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue-grey color.

clarity

conviction

character

calling

community

LISTENING?

ARE PEOPLE PAYING ATTENTION?

LONGEVITY?

HOW DOES ATTRITION AFFECT CHURCHES?



# Storying the Gospel





*the goal of evangelism?*





Using Story



Hi! → ...



The Bible's Grand Story determines

what we emphasize



God inspired emphasis



John 9:1-10:5

# John 9:1-10:5

<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, **he was to be put out of the synagogue.**)

<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

# John 9:1-10:5

9:34 They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they **cast him out**.

10:2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has **brought out all his own**, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

# John 6, 12

6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me **I will never cast out**.

12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be **cast out**.<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”<sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

12:42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be **put out of the synagogue**;<sup>43</sup> for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

# John 16:2

<sup>16:1</sup> “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. <sup>2</sup> They will **put you out of the synagogues**. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

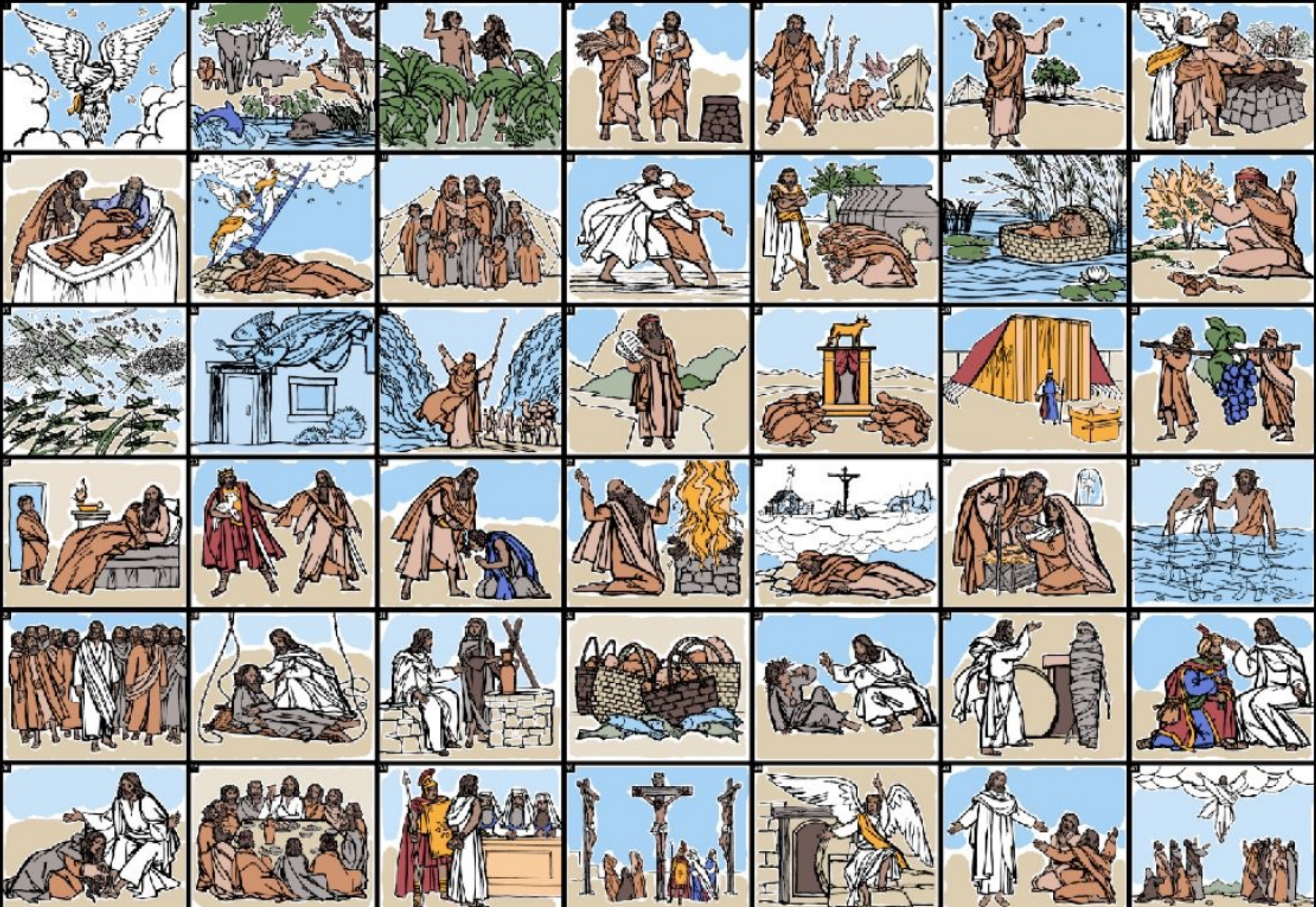
He makes clear what he  
wants to emphasize

He provides an mechanism  
for retelling the story

The Bible's Grand Story determines

what we emphasize

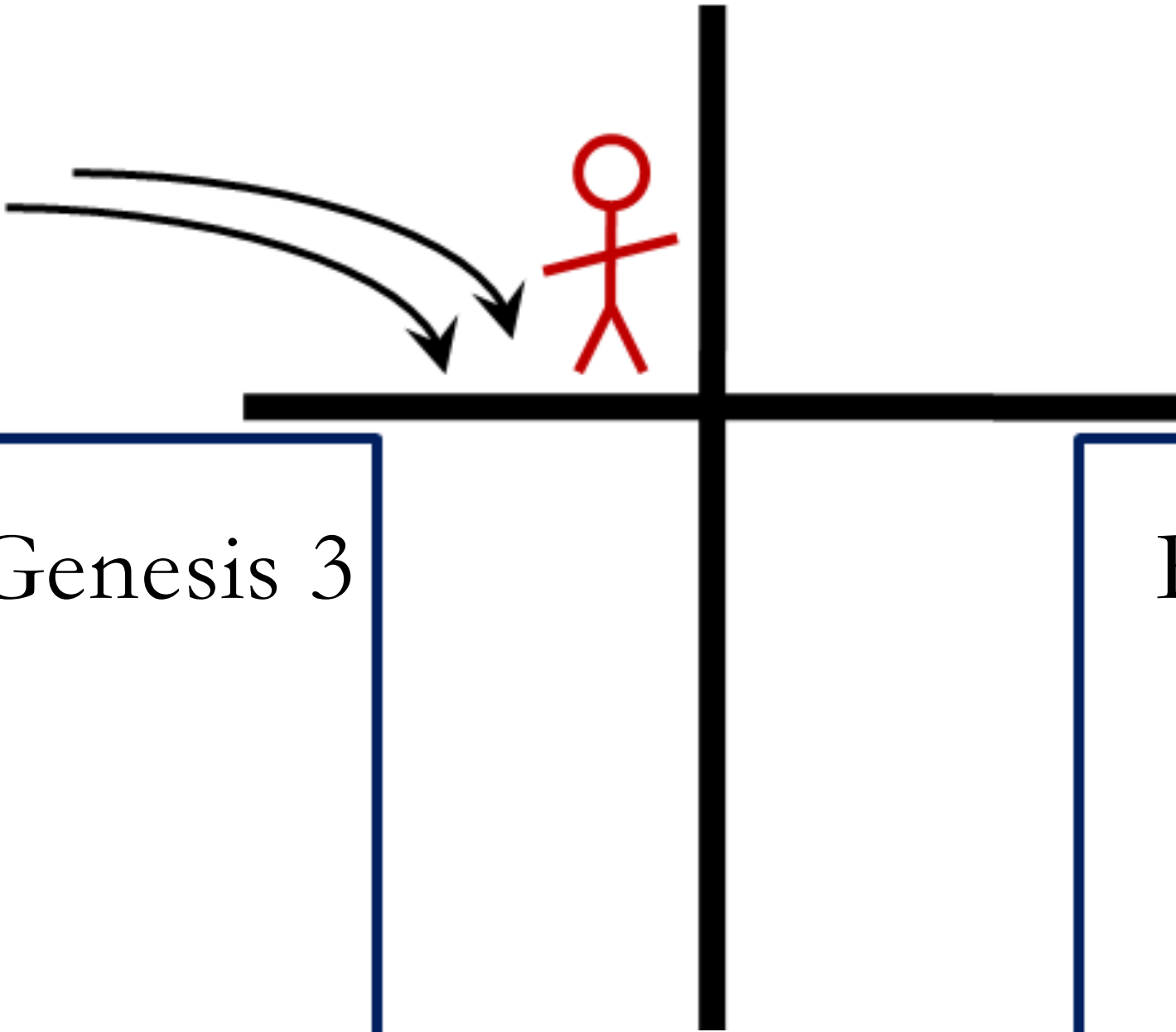
the stories we select





Genesis 3

Romans 3



Abraham?

Israel?

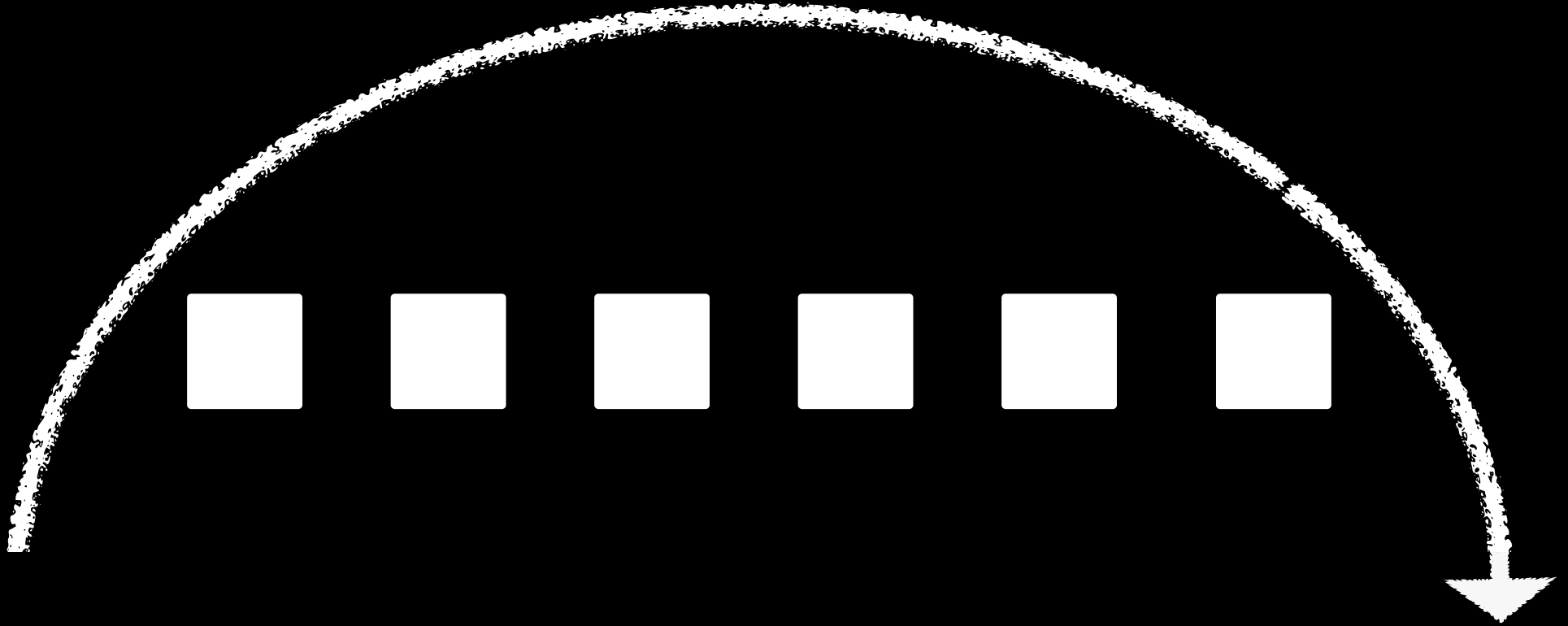
Moses?

David?

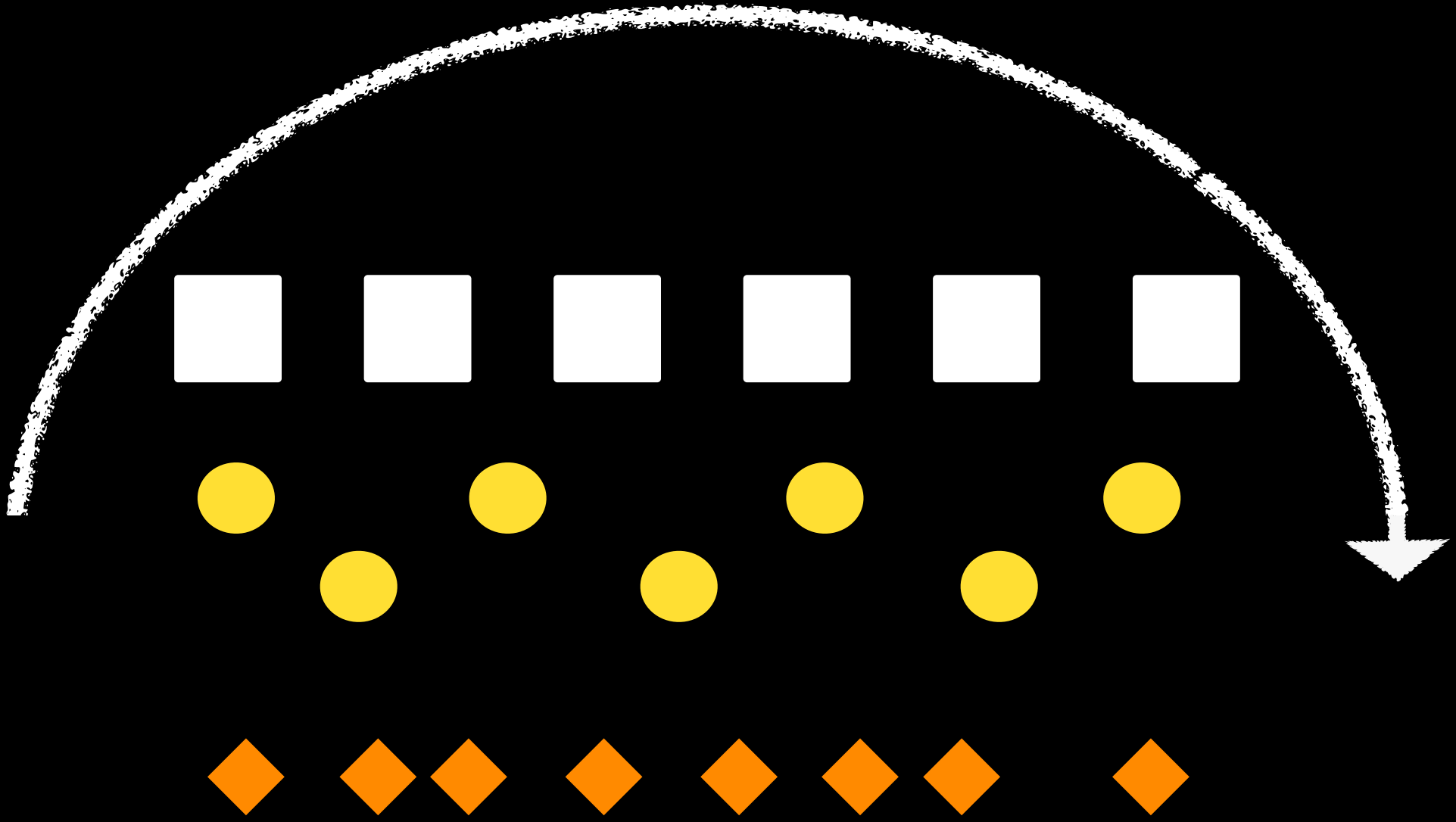
Ancient  
Israel



Modern  
Gentiles



Foundational Story



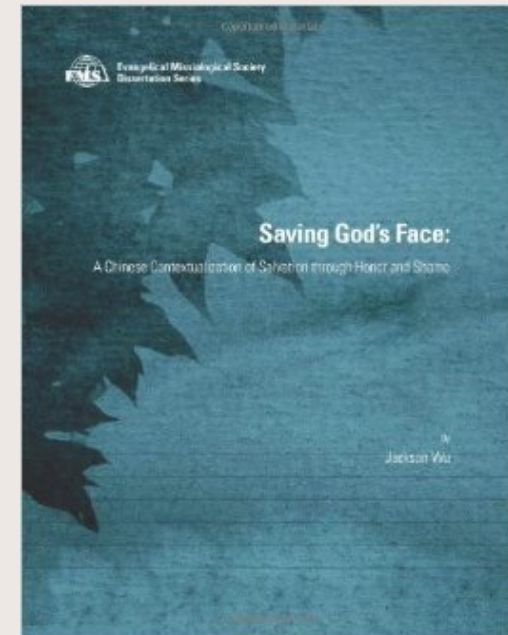
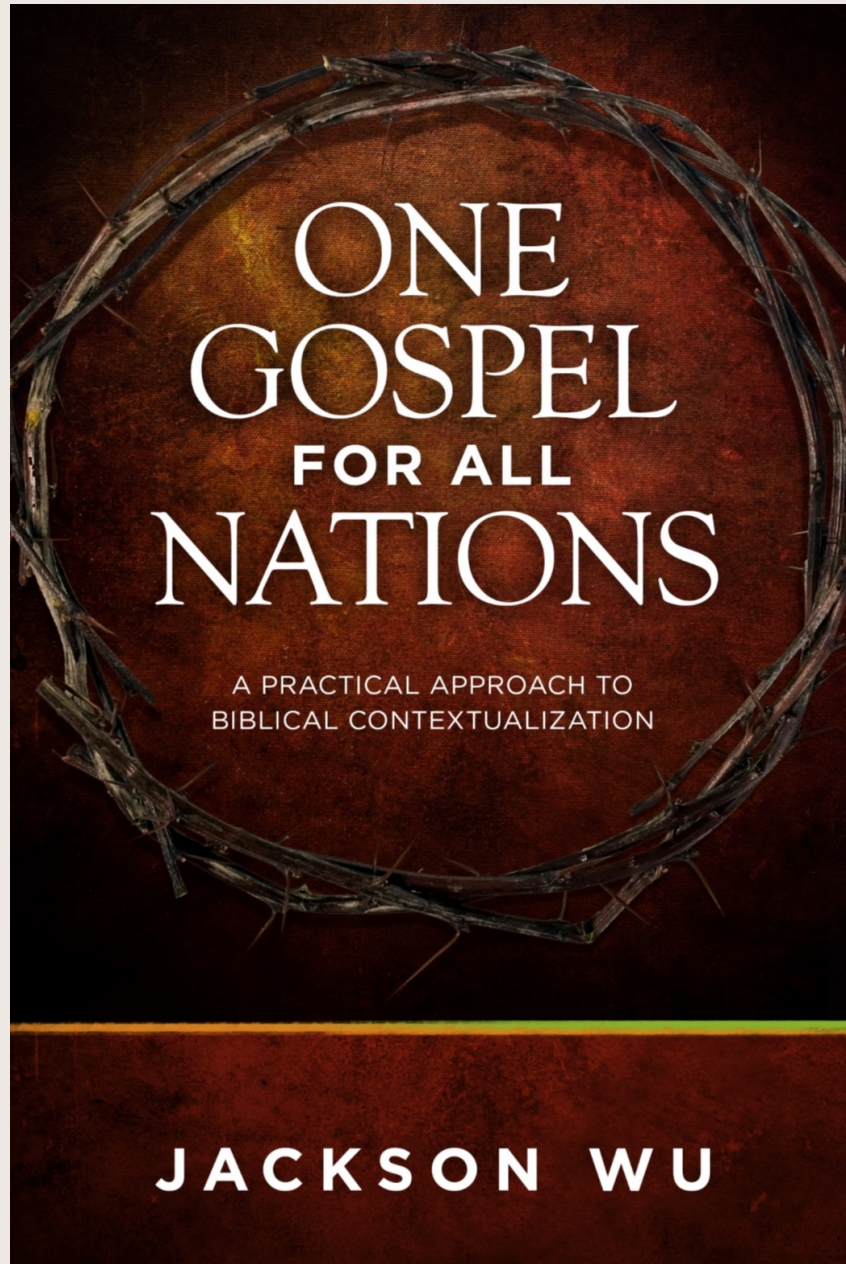


**biblically faithful**

**culturally meaningful**



# Jackson Wu.org



## *Saving God's Face*





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