

Biblical Covenants



Kinds of Covenants

Covenant Theology
(Theological)

Scriptural (Biblical)

Guidelines to Interpret Prophecy

- a. Interpret the prophetic passage *literally* (land boundaries in Gen. 17:8, p. 21)
 - b. Interpret by *comparing prophecy with prophecy* (Isa., Dan. & Zech. affect Rev)
 - c. Interpret in light of possible *time intervals* (donkey & reign in Zech. 9:9-10)
 - d. Interpret *figurative language scripturally* (dry bones = Israel in Ezek. 37:11)
- **First edition: Interpret in light of *double reference* (e.g., the abomination that causes desolation)**

The Line of Blessing

Adam

3:15

Seth

4:25-26

Noah

Shem

9:18

Terah

Abraham

12:1-3

Isaac

Jacob

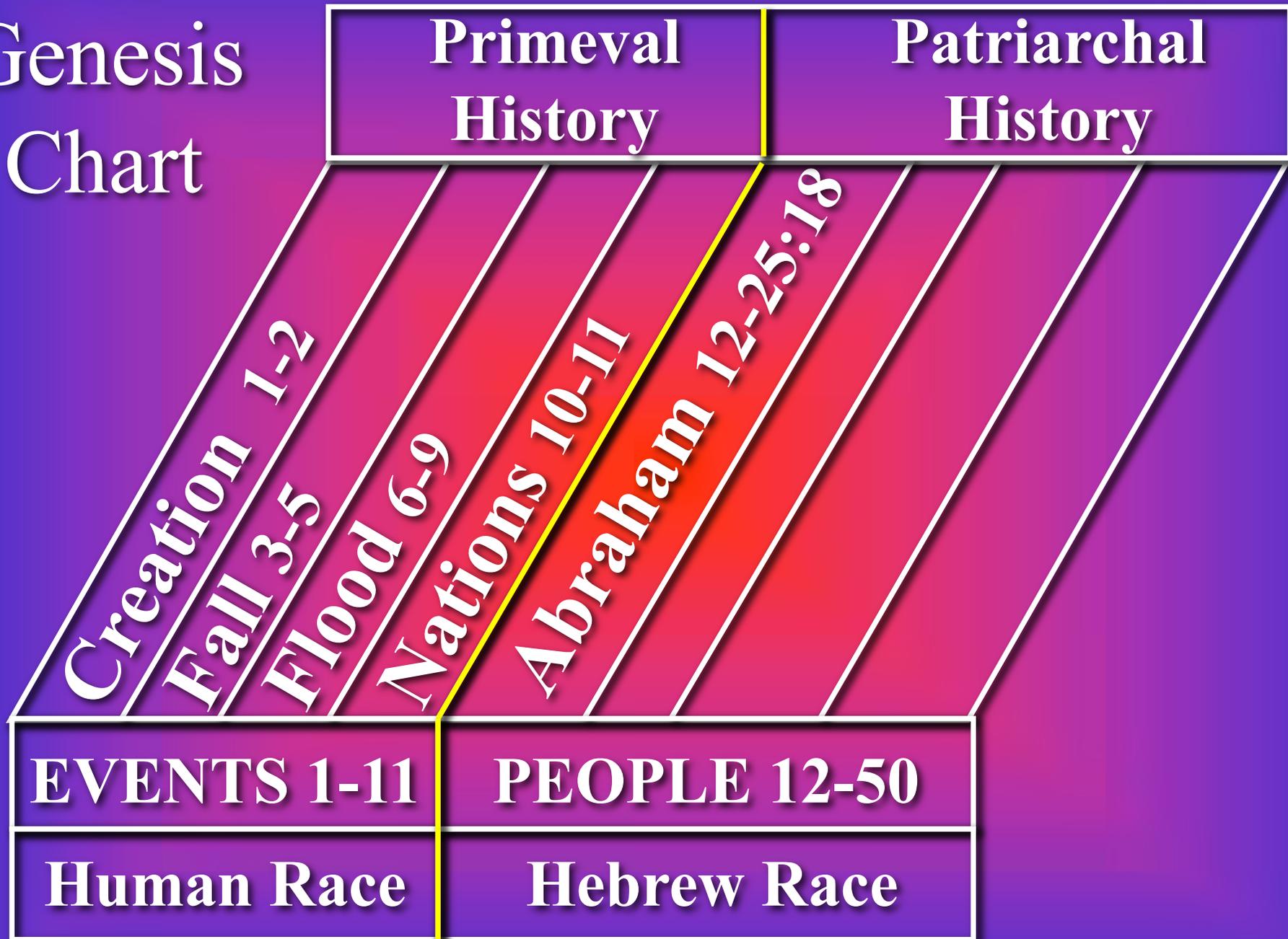
Joseph

All Nations



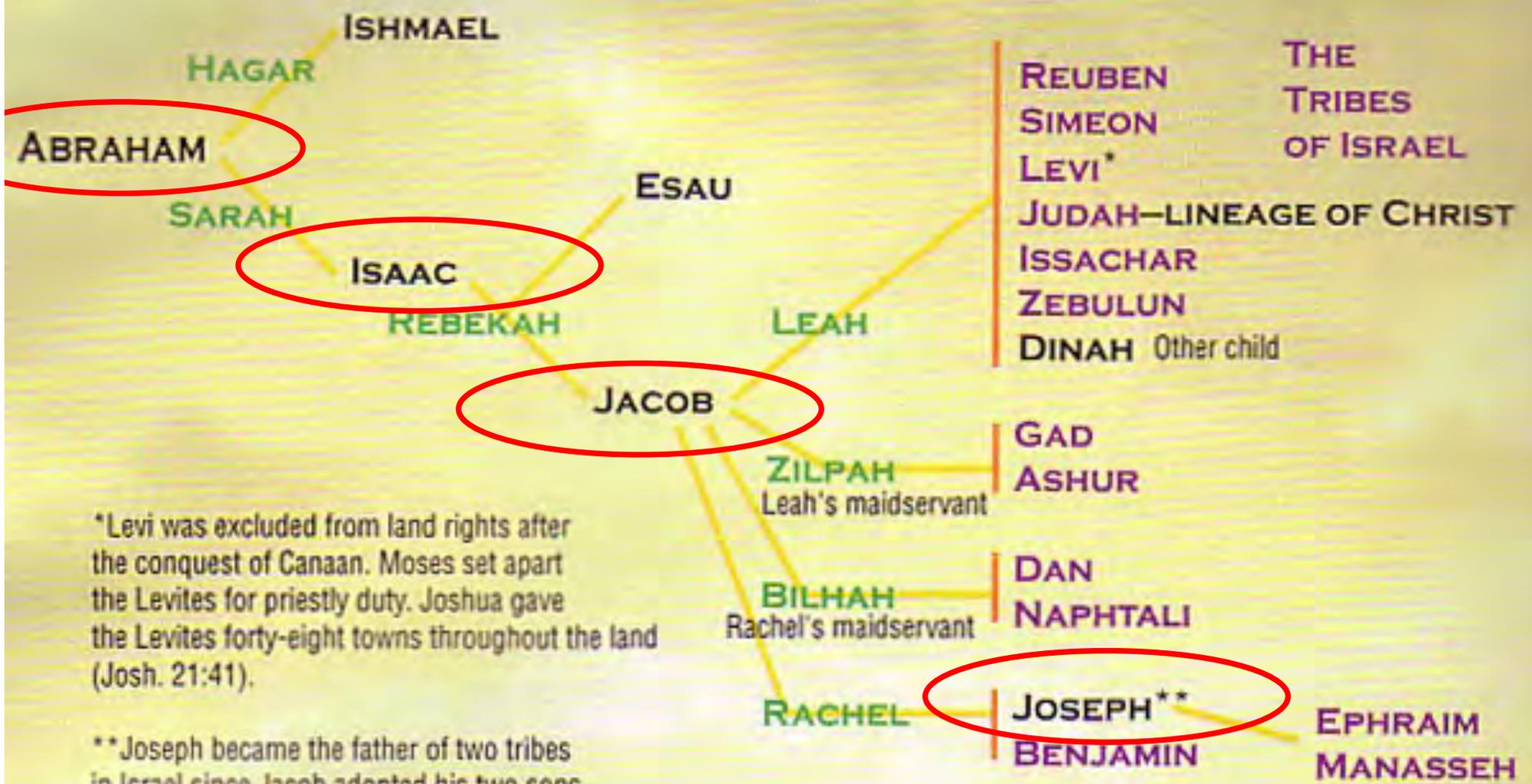
= Population
Increase

Genesis Chart



Patriarchal Family Tree

THE PEOPLE OF GENESIS



*Levi was excluded from land rights after the conquest of Canaan. Moses set apart the Levites for priestly duty. Joshua gave the Levites forty-eight towns throughout the land (Josh. 21:41).

**Joseph became the father of two tribes in Israel since Jacob adopted his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

Types of Covenants

Covenants

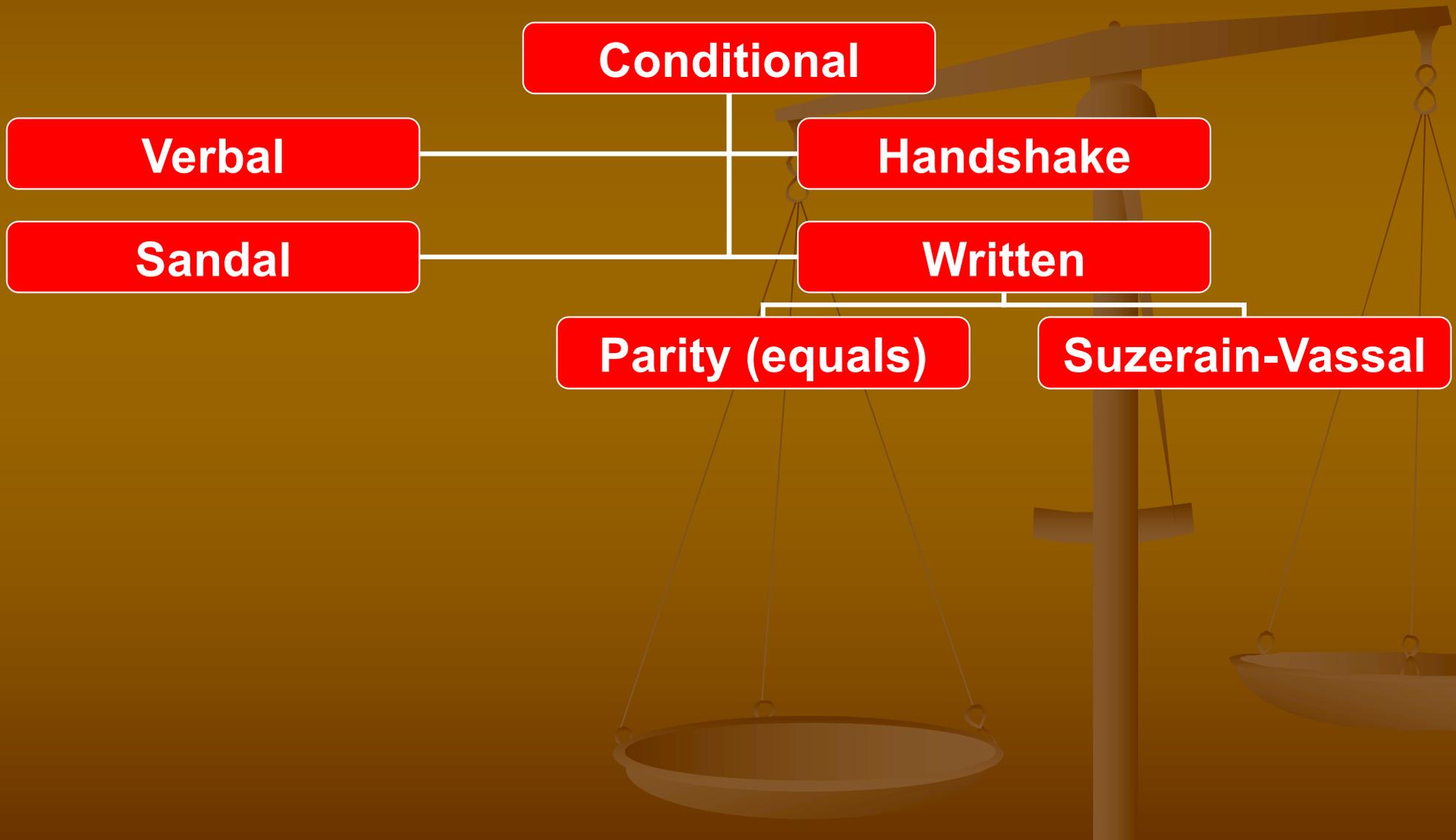
Conditional

Unconditional



**Thought Question for Small Groups:
Is marriage a conditional or
unconditional covenant?**

Types of Conditional Covenants



Ancient Conditional Covenants

Parity

Hiram of Lebanon
covenanted with
Israel to build the
temple
(1 Kings 5:1)

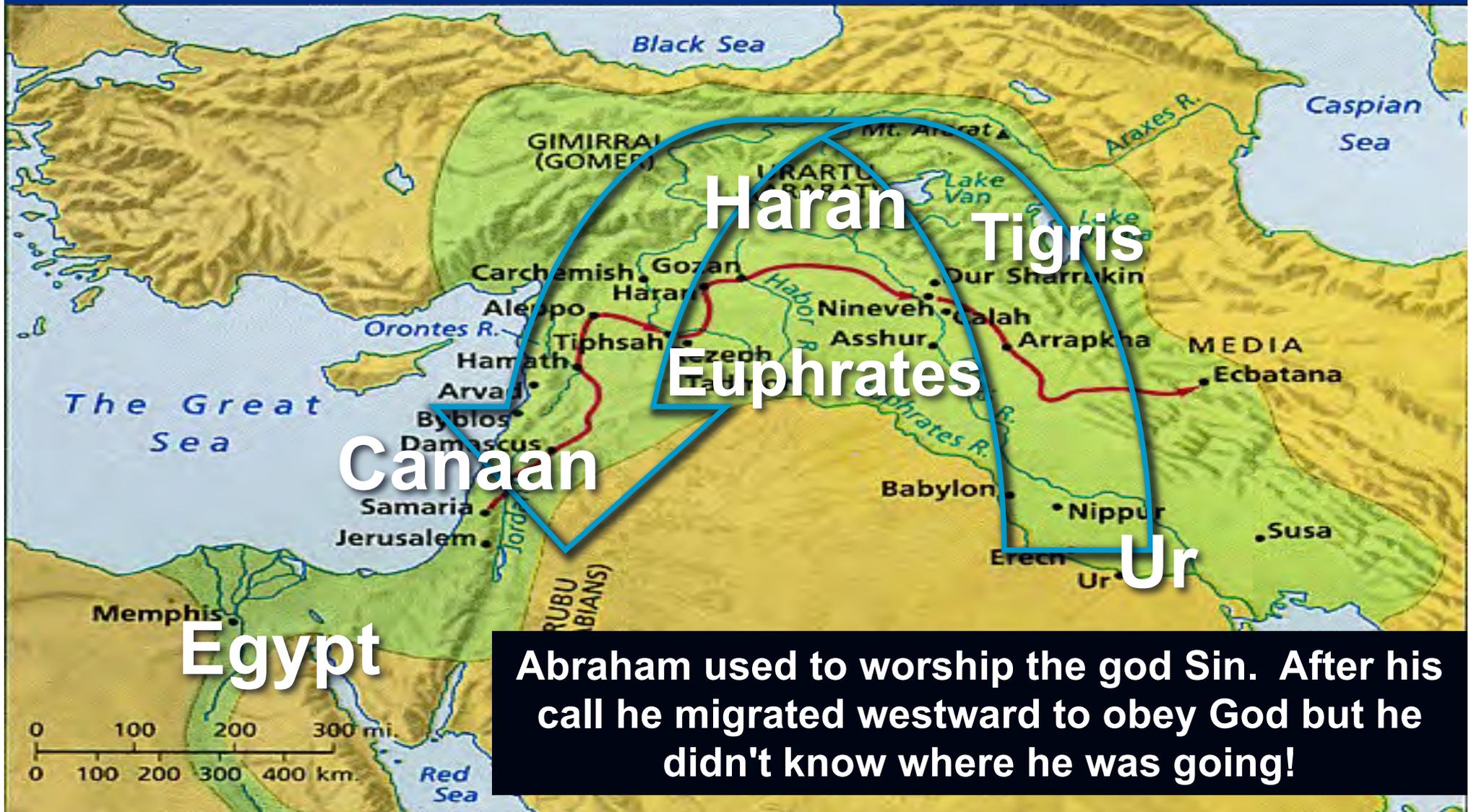
Suzerain-Vassal

Hittites were
fierce "lords"
(suzerains) who
forced servant
(vassal) nations
to submit to their
rule



The Land of Abraham

Genesis 12–24



7

ABRAHAM ca. 2000 B.C.

The CALL

L - S - B



Gen. 12:1-3

A J M I J

A LAND

A SEED

A BLESSING

ABRAHAM

The CALL

L - S - B

AN UNCONDITIONAL PROMISE
LATER TO BECOME A LEGAL
COVENANT!

Handbook pg. 19-24



Abrahamic Covenant

"I will make you a great nation
and **I will** bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you **will** be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you **I will** curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed in you" (Gen. 12:2-3)

Genesis 15 Ratification



ROYAL LAND GRANT FORM OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

*This painting
inaccurately
depicts Abram
walking
through the
pieces*

Is the Abrahamic Covenant Unconditional?

Yes

No

- Eternal (Gen. 17:7-8)
- No conditions
- Covenant ritual (Gen. 15:7-21)
- Promised despite disobedience
- Israel is eternal (Jer. 31:36)
- Immutable (Heb. 6:13-18)
- Only obedient (believing) Israelites benefit (Gen. 17:9-14; 18:19)
- Individual disbelief does not cancel future national belief (Rom. 9:6)
- Blessings in an unconditional covenant are still conditioned by obedience (Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come*, 52-54)

The Three Basic Elements

7

Genesis 12

¹ The Lord had said to Abram,
"Leave your country, your people and
your father's household, and go to the land I
will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will
curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

Handbook pg. 19-24

ABRAHAM

The CALL

L - S - B

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A LAND

A SEED

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A BLESSING

ABRAHAM

The CALL

L - S - B

Handbook pg. 19-24

7

Abrahamic Covenant

Gen. 12:1-3



ABRAHAM
The CALL
L - S - B

"L-S-B"

7

Abrahamic Covenant

Gen. 12:1-3



LAND

SEED

BLESSING

• **LITERAL**

• **ETERNAL**

• **UNCONDITIONAL**

ABRAHAM
The CALL
L - S - B

Handbook pg. 19-24

Types of Unconditional Covenants

Abrahamic

Land

Davidic

New

Land

Seed

Blessing

Physical

Political

Spiritual

Deut. 30

2 Sam. 7

Jer. 31

Borders of the Land ²¹ Promised to Abraham



Genesis 15:18

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates" (ESV)

COVENANT KINDNESS
TOWARDS
the
DAVIDIC DYNASTY

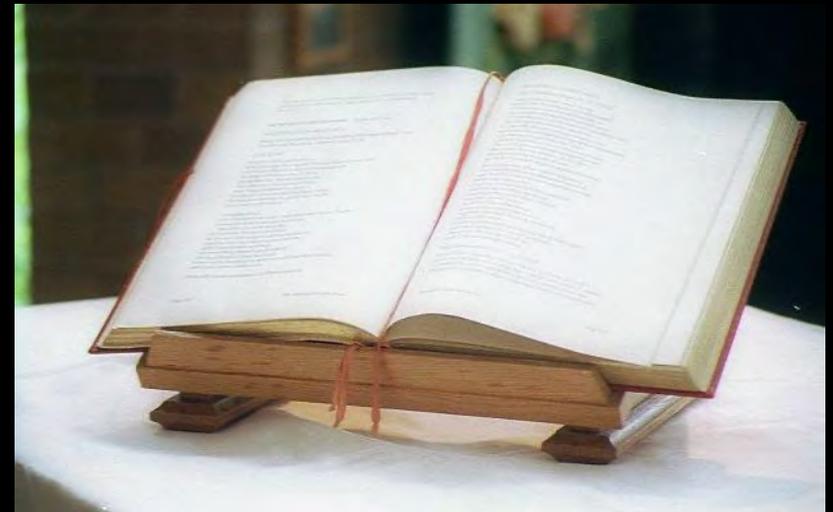
**Nathan related God's promise to
David (2 Sam. 7)**



KEY VERSE

"For when you (David) die, I will raise up one of your descendants, and I will make his kingdom strong. He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

2 Samuel 7:12-13



Types of Covenants

BLESSING

Walt Russell, Playing with Fire, 121

Covenants of Promise

Abrahamic

Amplified by

Davidic

2 Samuel 7:12-16

Administrative Covenants
How to experience the blessing

Mosaic

Superceded by

New

*Israel's terms of
obedience*

*Terms of obedience
under Messiah*

Promises of the Davidic Covenant

What did God promise David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16?

- **Sons: "house" never wiped out**
- **Kingdom: political dynasty (each Jerusalem king will be one of his direct descendants)**
- **Throne: As an eternal covenant (v. 16), the right to rule will remain with his family forever**
- **Temple: Solomon will build it**
- **Discipline: God will punish disobedient kings but still unconditionally keep these promises**

A Literal Kingdom for David's Line

1. Ordinary language for "kingdom" is used
2. Prophets interpreted the kingdom literally
3. Israel interpreted the kingdom literally
4. 586 BC kingdom overthrown is the same kind
5. The Davidic Covenant relates only to Israel
6. David saw the covenant applying only to Israel
7. Portions have been fulfilled literally
8. David's throne is not related to Christ's present session in heaven
9. John, Jesus, the 12, and the 70 all offered Israel a literal kingdom (Matt. 3:11; 4:17; 10:7; Luke 10:1, 9)

The New Covenant



Four Unconditional Biblical Covenants

ABRAHAMIC
Genesis 12:1-3

LAND

SEED

BLESSING

LAND

Deut 30:1-10

DAVIDIC

2 Sam 7:12-16

NEW

Jer. 31:31-34

God's unconditional amplification of the blessing promise in the Abrahamic Covenant where Judah and Israel will experience national and spiritual redemption.

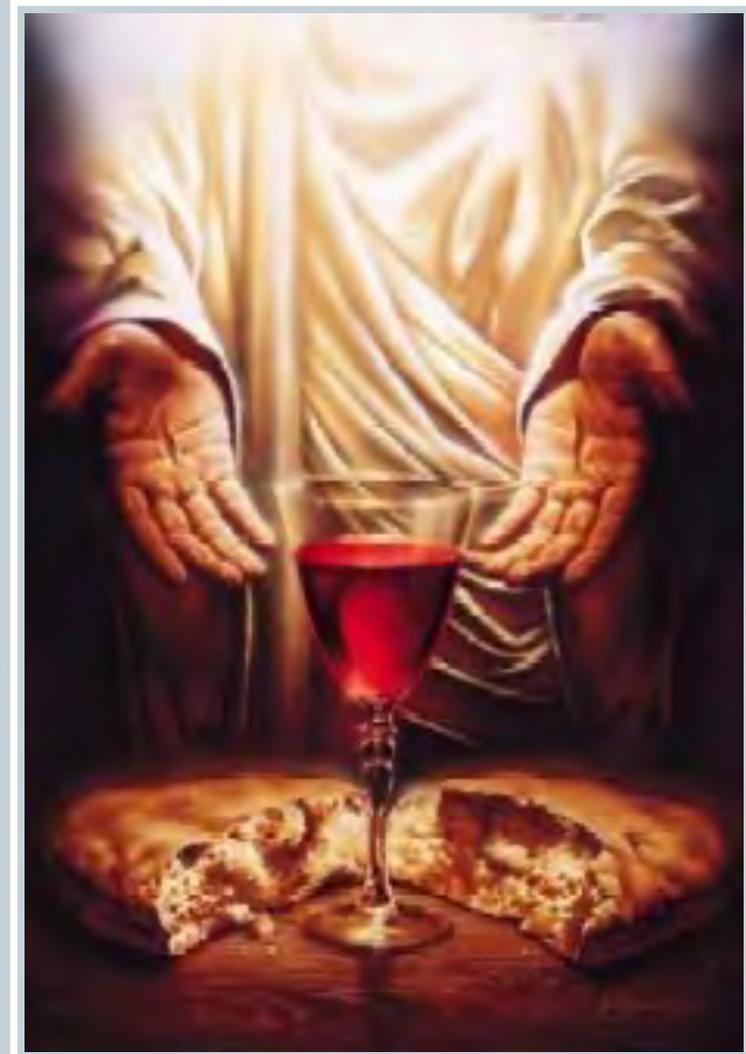
The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant **with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.**

³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

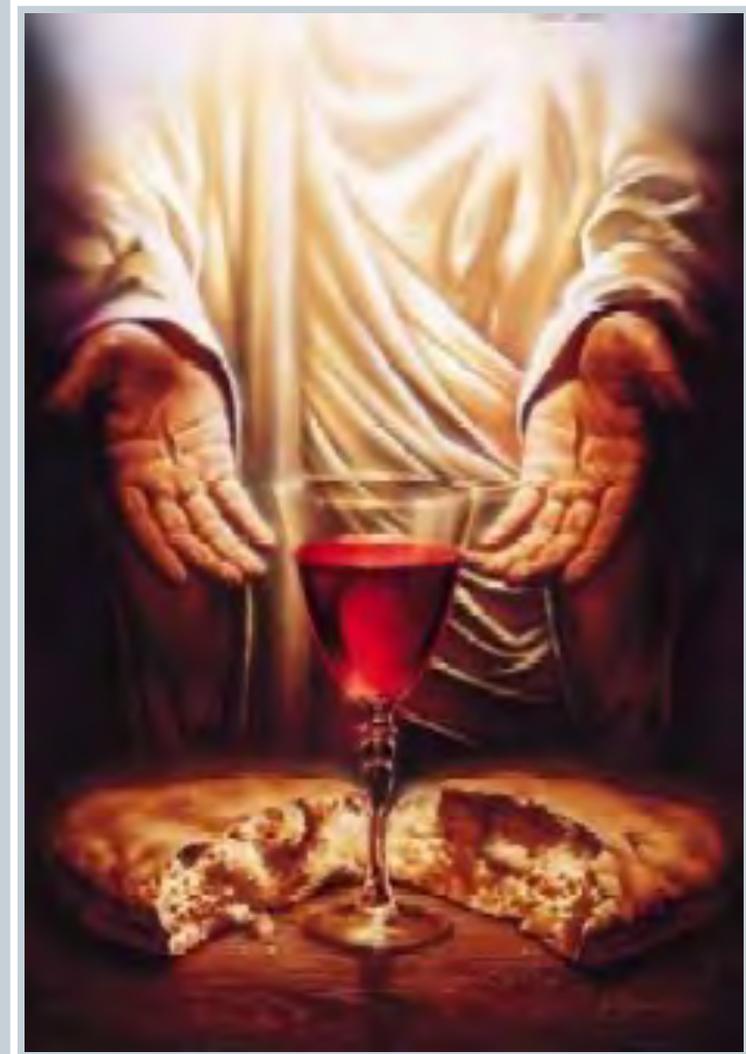
³³"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD.



The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

33b "I will put my **law within them**, and I will write it on their hearts. And **I will be their God**, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for **they shall all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will **forgive** their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

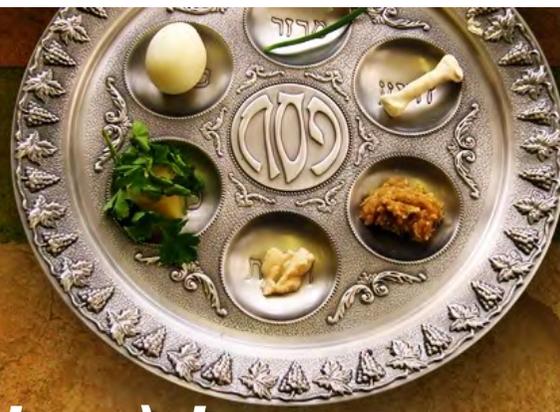


Unconditional Nature



"God's love is unconditional. But you must act now. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Void where prohibited by law."

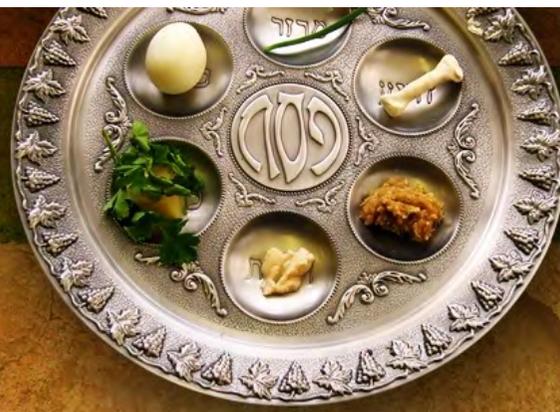
- A. Eternal (Jer. 31:36, 40; 32:40; 50:5; Isa 61:2. 8-9; 24:5; Ezek. 37:26)**
- B. Amplification of the Abrahamic Covenant, which is unconditional**
- C. Unqualified "I will" statements of God**



***The cup (not baptism) is
the new covenant sign***

***... This cup is the
NEW COVENANT
in my blood, which is
POURED OUT
for you.***

LUKE 22:20



How could Jesus apply the new covenant promises to his disciples when the other provisions were not fulfilled then?

**(What about Israel and Judah reunified?
What about all people knowing God?)**

Views on the Time of Fulfillment



Amillennialists often say all of the provisions of the New Covenant are being realized now in the church which they consider the "new Israel." But are they?

1. Partial Fulfillment in the present church age

- a. Only one New Covenant for Israel (Darby)
- b. Two New Covenants: one for Israel and one for the church (Chafer)
- c. One New Covenant with a two fold- application: primarily to Israel, secondarily to the Church

2. Complete fulfillment after the return of Christ



Provisions

FULFILLED

- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Jer. 31:33 with Ezek. 36:27)
- New nature, heart & mind (Jer. 31:33; Isa. 59:21)
- Forgiveness of sins (Jer. 31:34b)

NOT YET FULFILLED

- Everyone will know the Lord (Jer. 31:34a)
- Israel and Judah will be reunited (Jer. 31:31)



“Old” Replaced by “New”

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 521

“What then is the 'old covenant' in contrast with the 'new covenant' in Christ? It is not the whole of the Old Testament, because the covenants with Abraham and David are never called 'old' in the New Testament. Rather, only the covenant under Moses, the covenant made at Mount Sinai (Ex. 19-24) is called the 'old covenant' (2 Cor. 3:14; cf. Heb. 8:6, 13), to be replaced by the “new covenant” in Christ (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:6; Heb. 8:8, 13; 9:15; 12:24).”

HOW TO RECONCILE?

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (for Israel)

'everlasting covenant'

'a new heart'

'a new spirit'

'a covenant' *'a covenant of peace'*

Luke 22:20 (for Church)

Views on the New Covenant

- Restated Mosaic Covenant?
- Church Alone
- Israel Alone
- Two New Covenants
- Church Participation

View	Explanation	School & Scholars	Problems
Restated Mosaic	No New Covenant	<u>Critical:</u> –Couturier –Duhm –Schmidt –Potter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OC/NC distinctions in text ignored 2. OC=conditional, NC=unconditional 3. OC=temporal, NC=eternal 4. OC=external, NC=internal 5. OC=no enablement, NC=enablement 6. NC=peace, prosperity, sanctuary, Spirit (parallel passages)
Views on New Covenant Fulfillment			
Church Alone	No Israel Participation	<u>Amillennial/ Postmillennial:</u> –Allis –Cox –Smick –Boettner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ignores OT data by equating Israel & the Church 2. NC introduced ≠ fulfilled to Israel 3. Present need to know YHWH (we still need to obey the Great Commission) 4. AD 70 Jerusalem vs. Jer. 31:40

View	Explanation	School & Scholars	Problems
Israel Alone	No Church Participation	<u>Misc/Classical Dispensational:</u> –Darby – Thompson –von Rad	1. Ignores NT data –Christ's Last Supper words –Paul's statements –Hebrews application to Church 2. Ignores present work of Spirit
Views on New Covenant Fulfillment			
Two New Covenants	NC for Israel + NC for Church	<u>Early 1900s Dispensational:</u> –Chafer –Walvoord (old) –Ryrie (old)	1. Same terminology for OT & NT NCs 2. Israel/Church distinction too sharp 3. Basis of forgiveness the same 4. If 2 NCs then no OC for Church 5. Church doesn't possess Israel's promises

View	Explanation	School & Scholars	Problems
Church Participation	Primarily for Israel Secondly for the Church	<u>Misc/Present</u> <u>Dispensational:</u> –Keil –Lemke –Bright –Scofield –Walvoord (DTS) –Ryrie (DTS) –Archer (TEDS) –Kaiser (TEDS)	<u>Support:</u> 1. Primary fulfillment is future—Rom 11 2. Deals with both OT & NT data 3. Forgiveness & the Spirit are blessings experienced now 4. NC has new law 5. Rebuttals to above views

My View on New Covenant Fulfillment

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20)

- **Refers back to Jeremiah 31:31-34**
- **The new covenant replaces the old**
- **The church participates in the covenant promised to Israel**
- **Never does Scripture say that the church replaces Israel since God has not rejected the nation (Rom. 11:1; cf. Jer. 31:35-37)**

Signs of the Covenants

25c

<i>Covenant</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Promise</i>	<i>Fulfillment</i>	<i>Sign</i>
Noahic	Unconditional promise not to flood earth again	Gen. 9:12-17	No more sea (Rev. 21:1)	Rainbow (Gen. 9:12-17)
Abrahamic	Promise to provide Israel a land, rule, and spiritual blessing	Gen. 12:1-3; 15:13-18	Continues at present (Gal. 3:17) but Israel still has a future (Rom. 11:25-27)	Circumcision (Gen. 17:11)
Mosaic	Conditional stipulations for blessing on Israel	Exod. 19-31; Deut. 28	Death of Christ (Rom. 7:4-6)	Sabbath (Exod. 31:13)
Land	Promise of <u>physical</u> land from the Wadi of Egypt to the River Euphrates	Deut. 30:1-10	Land blessed (Amos 9:13-15)	No sign (that I know of)
Davidic	Promise of eternal, <u>political</u> rule of a descendant of David	2 Sam. 7:12-17	Rule renewed (Amos 9:11-12)	Christ seated at the Father's right hand (Acts 2:34-36)
New	Promise of <u>spiritual</u> indwelling of the Spirit ("law written on hearts"), forgiveness, and total evangelization of Israel	Jer. 31:31-34	Paul & the Apostles (2 Cor. 3-4) All Israel saved (Rom. 11:26-27)	Cup of the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25)

Kingdom & Covenants Timeline



Dr. Rick Griffith • BibleStudyDownloads.org

Kingdom Teaching...

Adam rules with God (Gen. 1:26, 28; 2:19) ↓
 Satan begins rule as god of this world (Gen. 3:15; 2 Cor. 4:4) ↓
 God covenants with Abraham to reestablish man's rule via Israel as a "kingdom of priests" (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:6) ↓
 Israel's failure to witness to nations as a kingdom of priests is judged via exile under foreign rule ↓
 Israel rejects Messiah's offer of kingdom (Matt. 12:41-42; 23:37-39) ↓
 Jesus extends His kingdom in mystery form to the Church (Matt. 13) ↑
 Christ subdues Israel's enemies and nation believes (Rom. 11:26-27) ↓
 Christ rules over everything with saints (Eph. 1:9-10; Rev. 20:1-6; 22:5b) ↓

Fall of Man (Gen. 3)

Noahic Covenant

Genesis 6:18; 9:8-17

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1-3	land	Land Covenant Genesis 15:18 (cf. Deut. 30:1-10) promises: •Land from Wadi of Egypt to Euphrates River (Isa. 27:12) •Eternal possession of land (Gen. 17:8) after exile/restoration •Whole world blessed via the land (Isa. 14:1-2)	ISRAEL (National Focus)	CHURCH The "New Man" (Eph. 2:15) Israel judged for rejecting Messiah by dispersion away from land for 19 centuries (AD 70–AD 1948) but now partially restored (Ezek. 37:1-7)	MESSIANIC Millennial Full restoration (Ezek. 37:8-28) Jerusalem world capital (Isa. 2:1-5)	KINGDOM Eternal New Jerusalem (Rev. 21–22)
	seed	Davidic Covenant 2 Samuel 7:12-16 promises: •Sons ("house" never wiped out) •Kingdom (political dynasty) •Throne (right to rule by descendants) •Temple (son to build it)		Christ is Head over his Church, which is a spiritual temple (Eph. 2:19-22; 2 Cor. 6:16)	Christ reigns over the world (Isa. 11) with saints (Rev. 5:10; 20:4-6)	Christ hands kingdom over to Father (1 Cor. 15:24)
	blessing	New Covenant Jeremiah 31:31-34 promises: •Forgiveness •Indwelling Spirit •New heart, nature, mind •Reunification of Israel and Judah •No need for evangelism		Mosaic Law is replaced with first three elements of the New Covenant (Luke 22:20; 2 Cor. 3:6)	All 5 elements fulfilled in national restoration (Zech. 8)	All things made new! (Rev. 21:5)

Mosaic Covenant

Temporary (Gal. 3:19) and conditional (Deut. 28) to reveal sin (Rom. 7:7) and regulate Israel (Gal. 3:23-25)

The Law was fulfilled and replaced at the cross (Rom. 7:1-6; 1 Cor. 9:19-21; Heb. 8:13)

14th Edition
29 Feb 2024

Scripture has a dual kingdom-covenant theme. Israel's role from Abraham to Christ expands to include the Church (continuity) yet the Church never replaces the nation as the "new Israel" (discontinuity). Israel will enjoy world prominence after trusting Christ at His second coming.

Contrasting Two Key Covenants

	<u>Abrahamic</u>	<u>Mosaic</u>
<i>Recipient (Date & Place)</i>	Abraham as mediator for all nations in 2060 BC at Ur of the Chaldees	Moses as mediator for Israel in 1445 BC at Mount Sinai
<i>Scripture</i>	Genesis 12:1-3 (but formalized into a covenant in Genesis 15)	Exodus 20–31 is the heart of the covenant
<i>Between God &</i>	A person (for a future nation)	A nation
<i>Scope</i>	Universal ("all peoples will be blessed through you")	Only Israel received the Law (Deut. 4:8; Ps. 147:20)

Contrasting Two Key Covenants

	<u>Abrahamic</u>	<u>Mosaic</u>
<i>Promises</i>	Land, seed, and blessing (without indication of time of fulfillment)	Blessing for obedience and cursing for disobedience (Lev. 26; Deut. 28)
<i>Conditions</i>	Unconditional: "I will..." (Gen. 12:1-3)	Conditional: "If you will...then I will..."
<i>Participation</i>	Abraham asleep (Gen. 15:17)	Israel agreed to obey (Exod. 19:8)
<i>Analogy</i>	Father to son (royal land grant)	Suzerain (superior king) to vassal (servant nation)

Contrasting Two Key Covenants

	<u>Abrahamic</u>	<u>Mosaic</u>
<i>Form</i>	Oral (no written stipulations)	Written on tablets of stone & Pentateuch
<i>Emphasis</i>	Blessing over discipline/judgment (five "blessings" in Gen. 12:1-3)	Judgment/discipline over blessing (contrast Deut. 28:1-14 & 28:15-68)
<i>Christology</i>	Ultimate seed (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:16)	Typified in tabernacle (Heb. 8-10)
<i>Sign</i>	Circumcision (Gen. 17:11)	Sabbath (Exod. 31:13, 17)
<i>End</i>	Never ending ("eternal" in Gen. 17:8)	Ended at Christ's death (Rom. 7:6; 10:4)



Covenant Implications

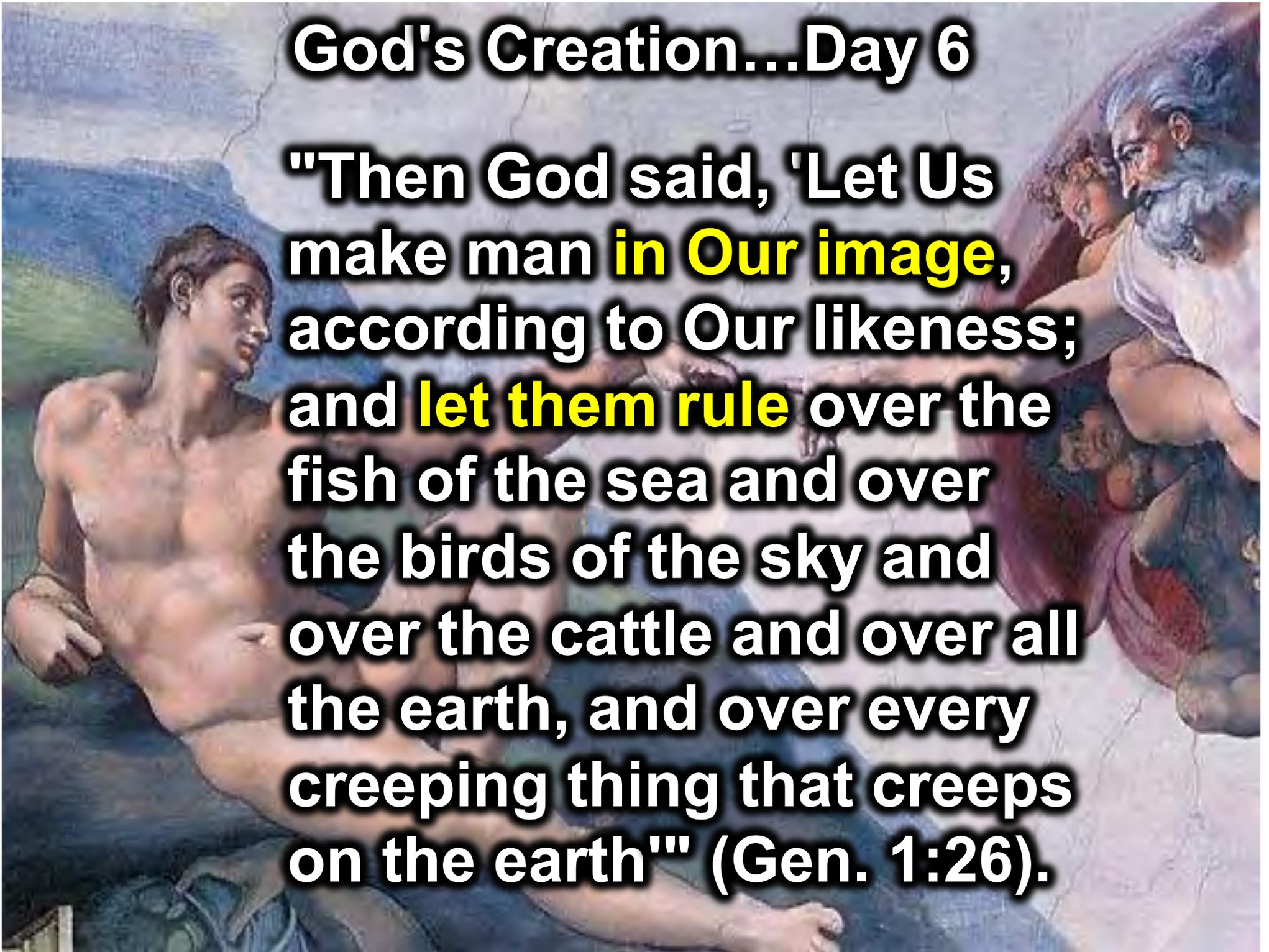
- We're not under the Mosaic Law
- We never have to sin
- We need not live in fear
- We should support Israel's right to exist as a nation
- We must reach the nations with the gospel

God's Creation...Day 6

"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good'" (Gen. 1:24-25).

God's Creation...Day 6

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man **in Our image**, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth'" (Gen. 1:26).

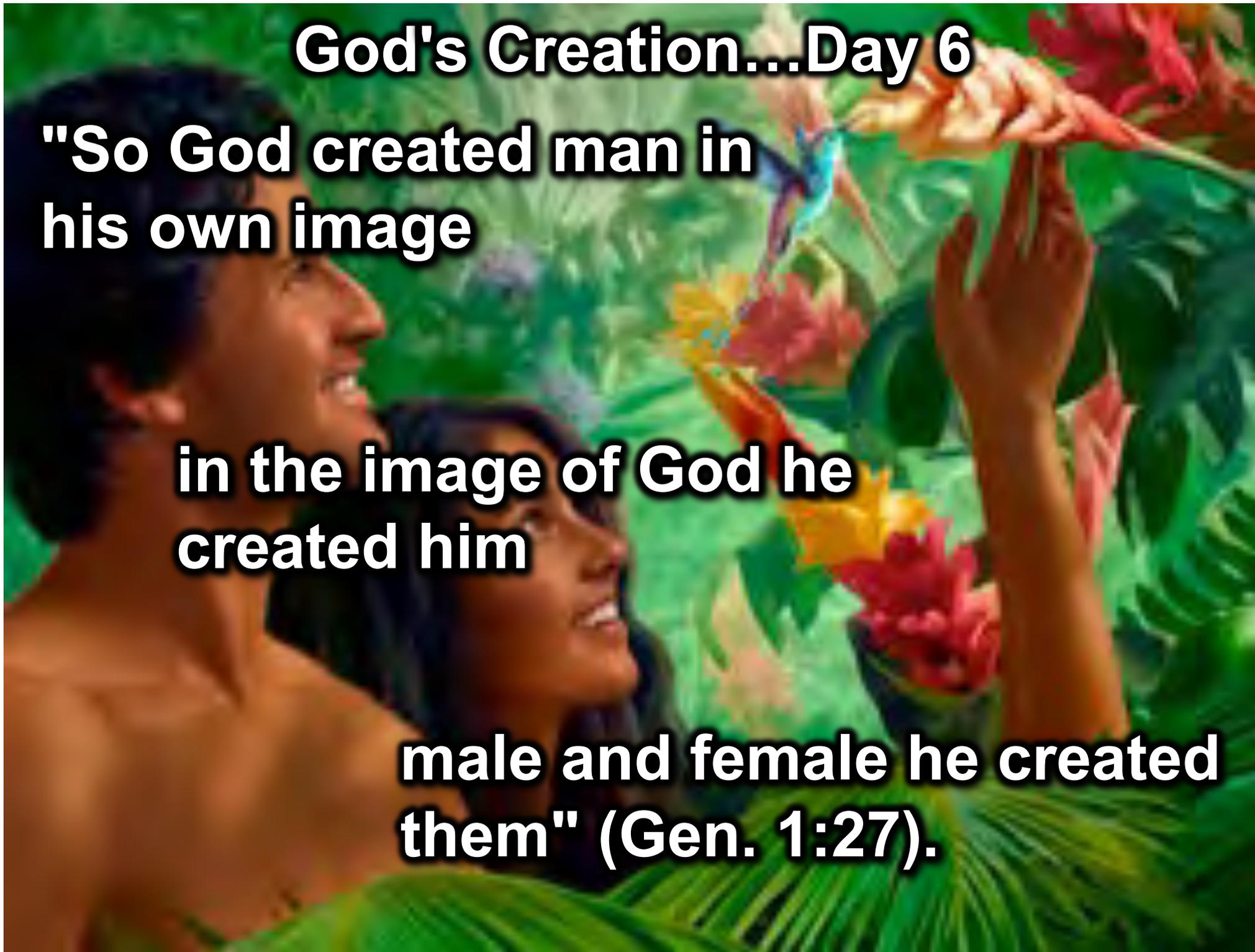


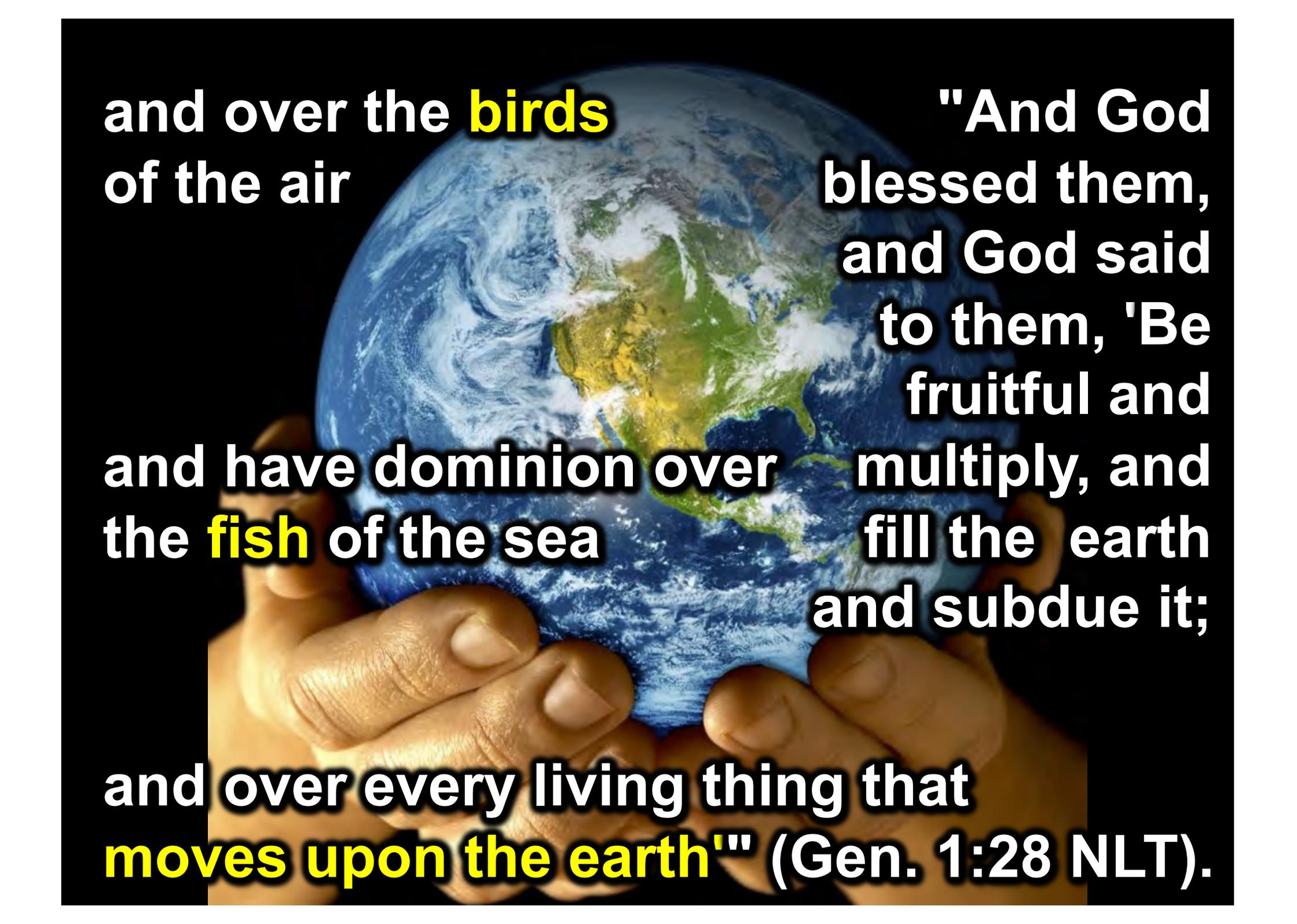
God's Creation...Day 6

**"So God created man in
his own image**

**in the image of God he
created him**

**male and female he created
them" (Gen. 1:27).**



A pair of hands is shown holding a small, realistic globe of the Earth. The globe is centered on the Americas, with North and South America visible in green and yellow, surrounded by blue oceans and white clouds. The hands are positioned at the bottom and sides of the globe, with fingers gently gripping it. The background is solid black, making the globe and hands stand out.

and over the **birds**
of the air

and have dominion over
the **fish** of the sea

and over every living thing that
moves upon the earth" (Gen. 1:28 NLT).

"And God
blessed them,
and God said
to them, 'Be
fruitful and
multiply, and
fill the earth
and subdue it;



An All-Encompassing Theme

Genesis 1:26-28

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish ... birds ... livestock ... all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground...' God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"

Revelation 22:5

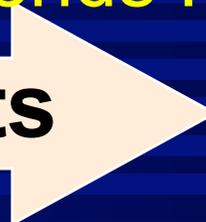
"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever."

The Bible's Theme: God extends His rule to man

Command



Covenants



Fulfillment

Kingdom & Covenants Timeline



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Genesis 12:1-3	land	Land Covenant Genesis 15:18 (cf. Deut. 30:1-10) promises: •Land from Wadi of Egypt to Euphrates River (Isa. 27:12) •Eternal possession of land (Gen. 17:8) after exile/restoration •Whole world blessed via the land (Isa. 14:1-2)	ISRAEL (National Focus)	CHURCH The "New Man" (Eph. 2:15) Israel judged for rejecting Messiah by dispersion away from land for 19 centuries (AD 70–AD 1948) but now partially restored (Ezek. 37:1-7)	MESSIANIC Millennial Full restoration (Ezek. 37:8-28) Jerusalem world capital (Isa. 2:1-5)	KINGDOM Eternal New Jerusalem (Rev. 21–22)
	seed	Davidic Covenant 2 Samuel 7:12-16 promises: •Sons ("house" never wiped out) •Kingdom (political dynasty) •Throne (right to rule by descendants) •Temple (son to build it)		Christ is Head over his Church, which is a spiritual temple (Eph. 2:19-22; 2 Cor. 6:16)	Christ reigns over the world (Isa. 11) with saints (Rev. 5:10; 20:4-6)	Christ hands kingdom over to Father (1 Cor. 15:24)
	blessing	New Covenant Jeremiah 31:31-34 promises: •Forgiveness •Indwelling Spirit •New heart, nature, mind •Reunification of Israel and Judah •No need for evangelism		Mosaic Law is replaced with first three elements of the New Covenant (Luke 22:20; 2 Cor. 3:6)	All 5 elements fulfilled in national restoration (Zech. 8)	All things made new! (Rev. 21:5)

Mosaic Covenant

Temporary (Gal. 3:19) and conditional (Deut. 28) to reveal sin (Rom. 7:7) and regulate Israel (Gal. 3:23-25)

The Law was fulfilled and replaced at the cross (Rom. 7:1-6; 1 Cor. 9:19-21; Heb. 8:13)

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Scripture has a dual kingdom-covenant theme. Israel's role from Abraham to Christ expands to include the Church (continuity) yet the Church never replaces the nation as the "new Israel" (discontinuity). Israel will enjoy world prominence after trusting Christ at His second coming.

My View of the OT's Theme

The Old Testament narrates

God's restoring man to participate in His kingdom rule for His own glory

mandated in Eden but lost in the Fall

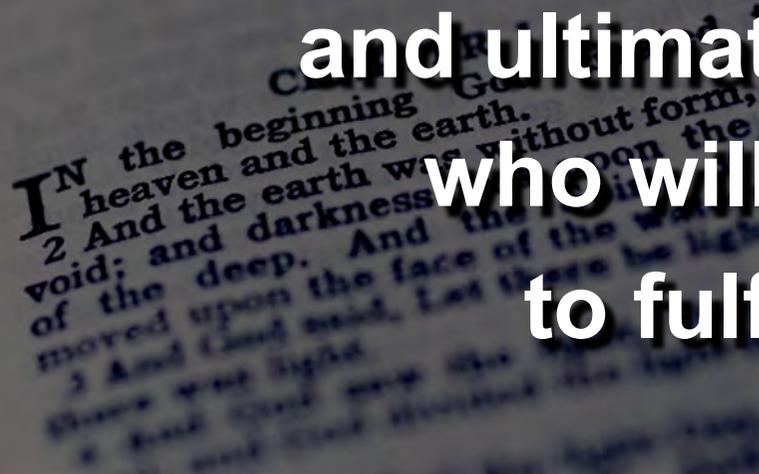
and accomplished by redeeming man

through Israel as a kingdom of priests

and ultimately through the Messiah,

who will reign as Savior and King

to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant



IN the beginning
2 And the earth was without form,
void; and darkness was upon the
face of the deep. And the Spirit of God
moved upon the face of the water.
3 And God said, Let there be light:
and there was light.

My View of the NT's Theme

The New Testament narrates

God's restoring man to participate in His kingdom rule for His own glory

proclaimed by the Church

that salvation is by grace alone

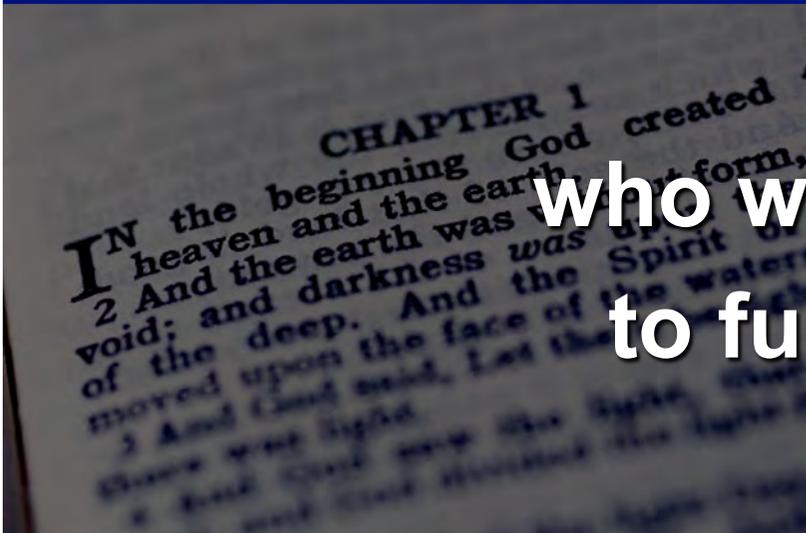
through faith alone

in Christ alone

who will reign as Saviour and King

to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant

to the glory of God alone



My View of the Bible's Theme

The Bible narrates

God's restoring man to participate in His kingdom rule for His own glory

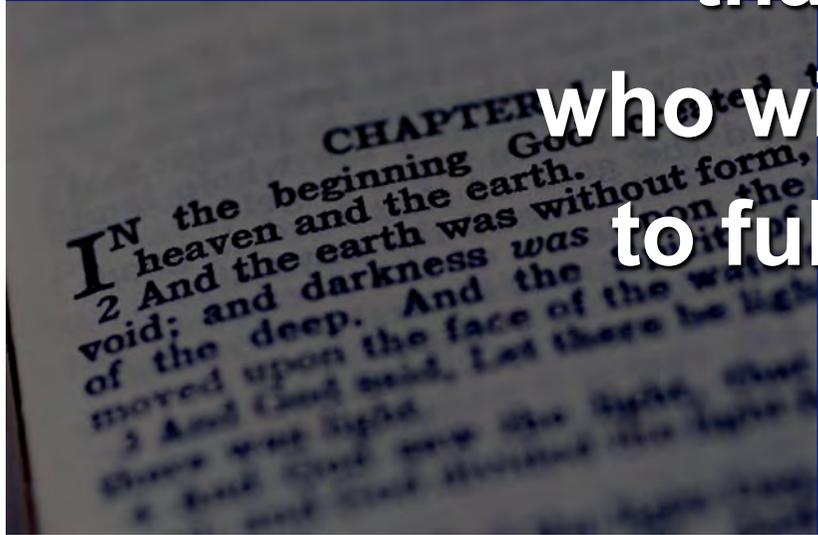
though Israel bringing forth the Messiah
so that the Church may proclaim

that salvation is in Christ alone

who will reign as Saviour and King

to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant

to the glory of God alone



The Bible's Chiasm

Repeated Patterns in Reverse Order

**Christ's
Redemption**

**Christ's
Rule**



**Man's
Rule**

**Man's
Rule**

**Lost at
Fall**

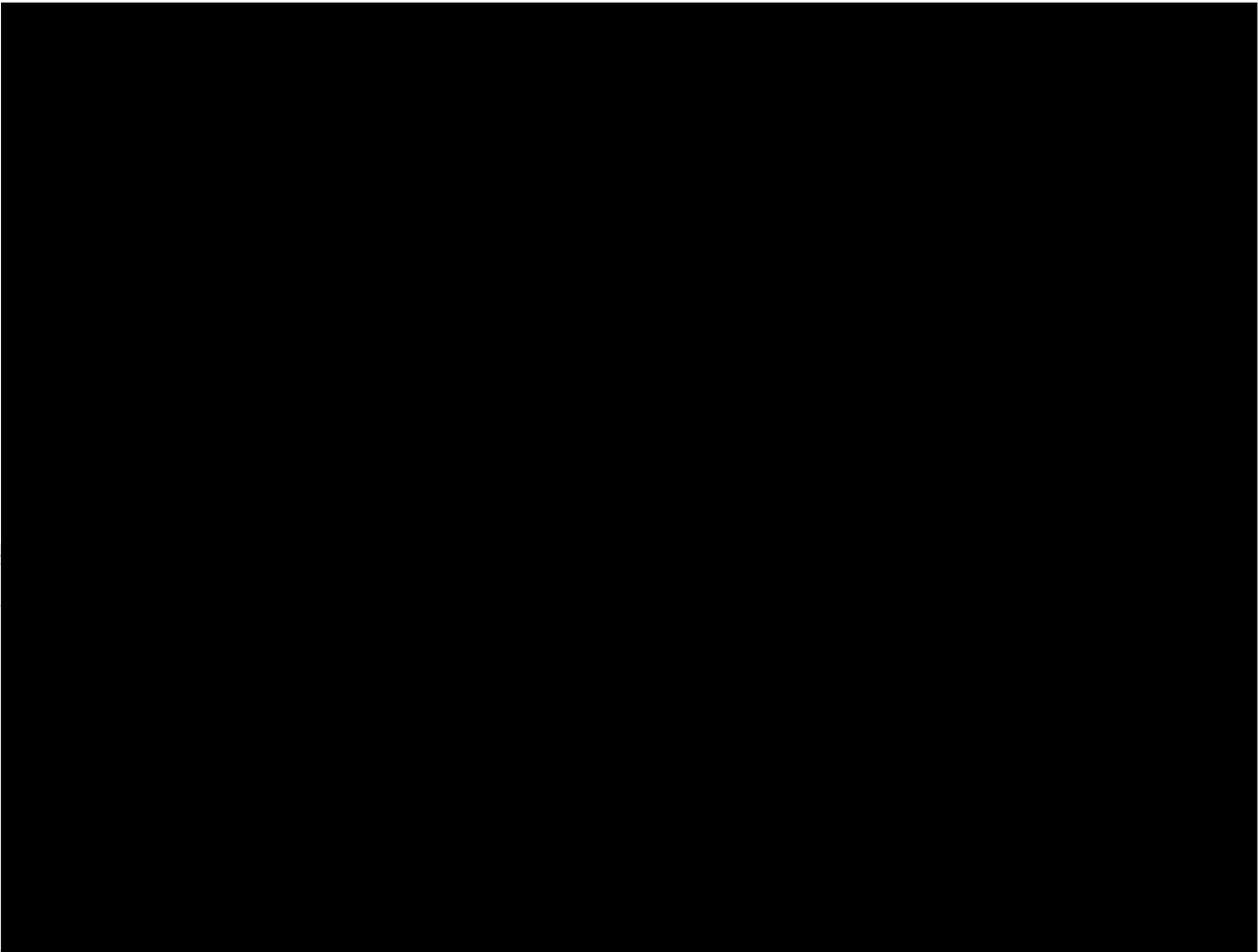
**Restored at
Millennium**

Creation



**New
Creation**





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