

The Overall Theme of the New Testament



When you look at earth from the moon, you get the BIG PICTURE.

In like manner...



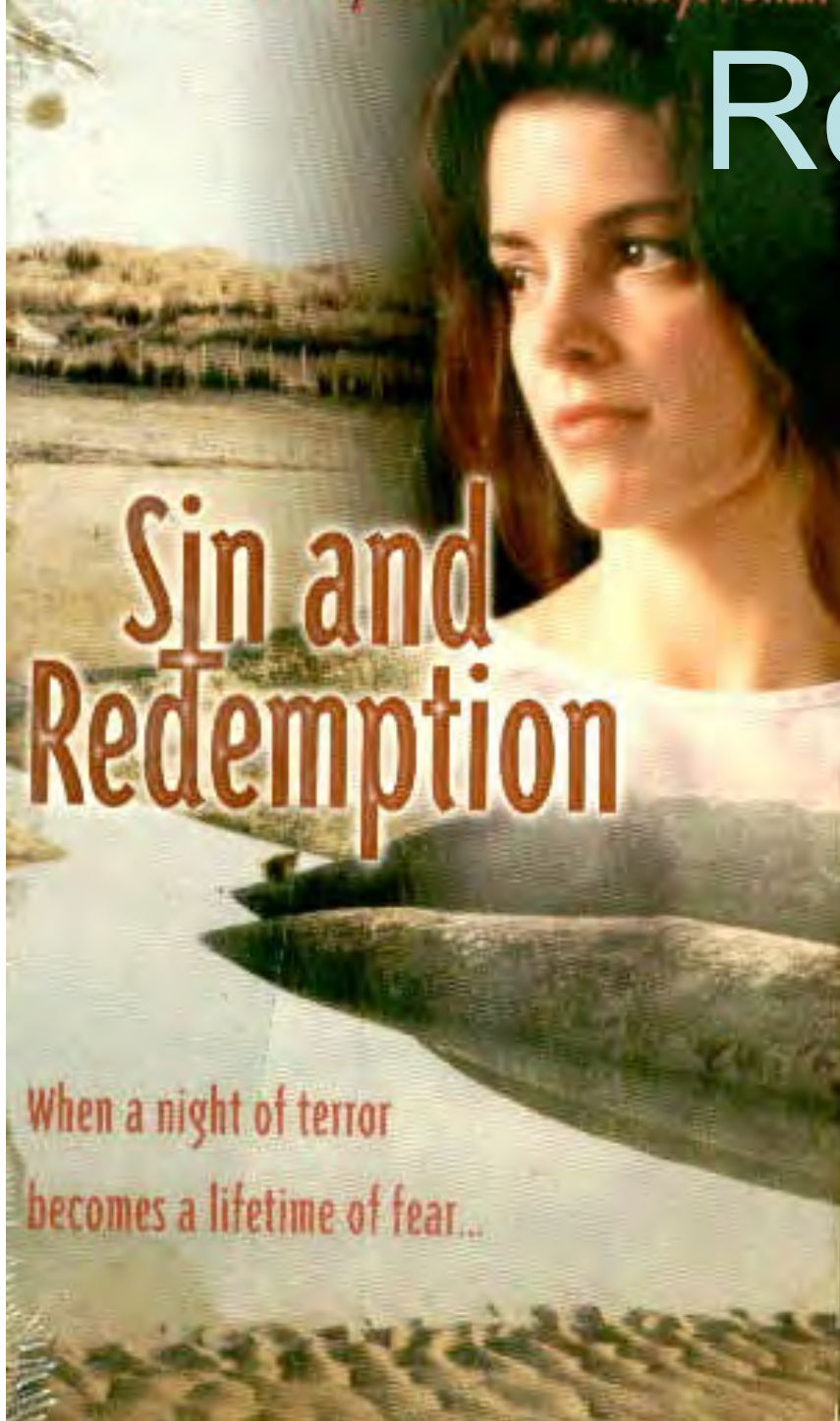
What is the overall theme of the New Testament?



Redemption means
“to release from ransom”

Louewolf '99

Richard Grieco Cynthia Gibb Cheryl Pollak



Redemption in the Media

- *People have an inherent sense that they need redemption*



T H E
PROGRESS OF
REDEMPTION

The Story
of
Salvation
from
Creation
to the
New Jerusalem

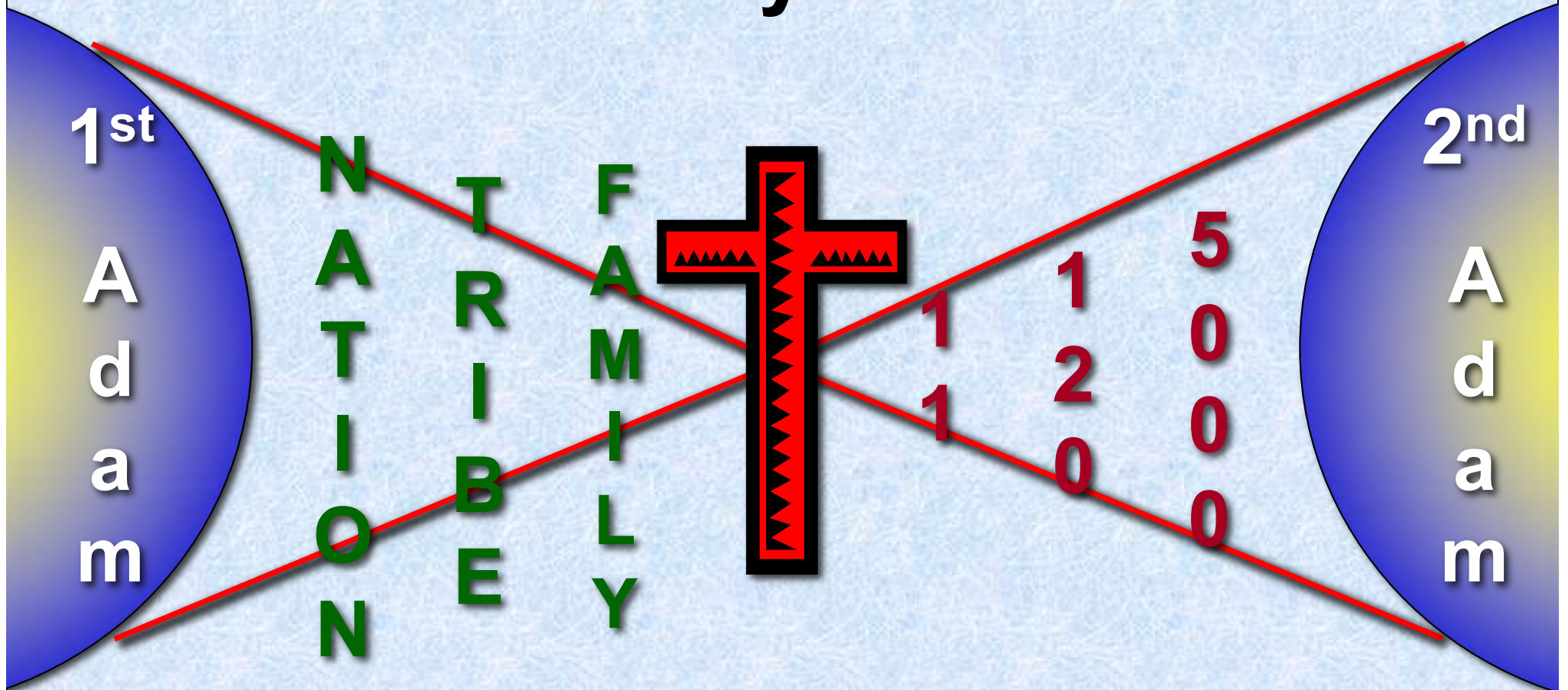
WILLEM VANGEMEREN



The Focus of History
is the Redemption
Provided by Christ

WHAT?

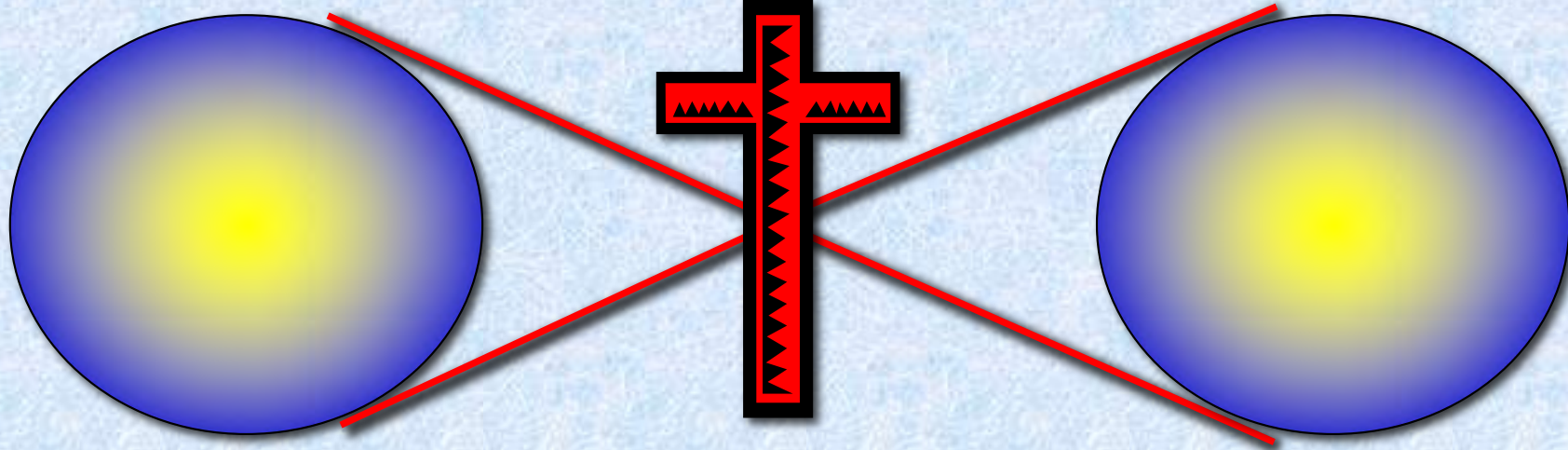
The Centrality of the Cross



The Centrality of the Cross

55

E
T
E
R
N
I
T
Y



E
T
E
R
N
I
T
Y

But redemption as the KEY OT Theme has these problems:

- (a) It is an external structure imposed on the OT from systematic theology.
- (b) It focuses too much on man rather than God.
- (c) Christ is the central person of the Bible, but the OT focuses on Him as King more than as Savior (the OT rarely notes the salvation of individuals.)
- (d) This view also does not include God's program for angels, those not redeemed, and creation as a whole, so it is too restrictive.
- (e) The view is not traced in the wisdom books (not supported in Eccles., Prov., etc.).
- (f) It neglects the physical (land) aspects prominent in the OT.

"Such is the scenario as the Bible reaches its glorious conclusion in the Book of the Revelation. There, in the millennial context, all the many streams of history and *God's unconditional covenants* flow together toward completion. All that was promised has been fulfilled. *That ancient understanding between God and his friend, ABRAHAM, is accomplished.*"

JESUS
<i>Life</i>
<i>Cross</i>
<i>Church</i>
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

John Walvoord

Covenant

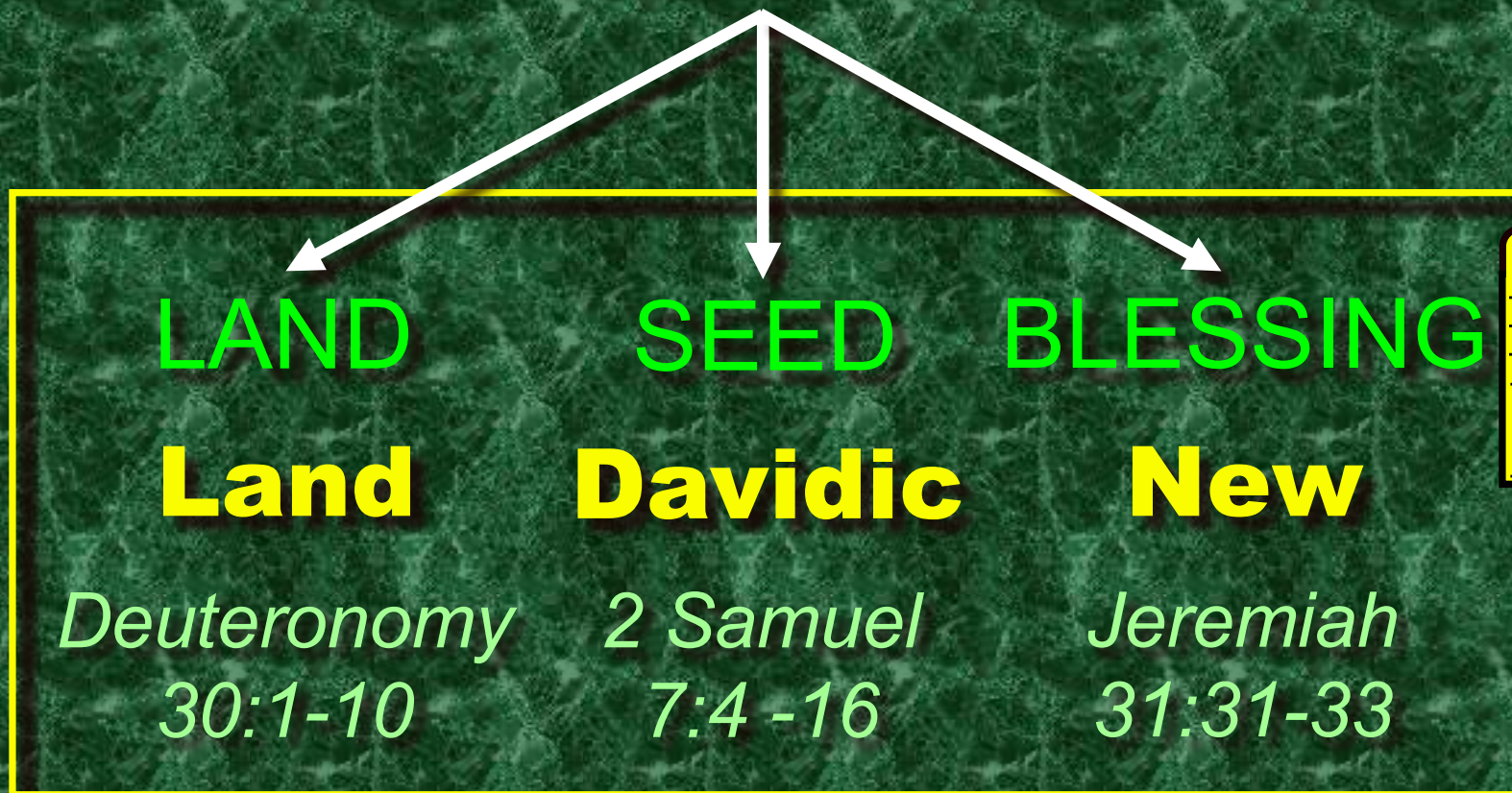
Handbook pg. 39-41

8.0.03f. 58

3

The Abrahamic Covenant ("The Call")

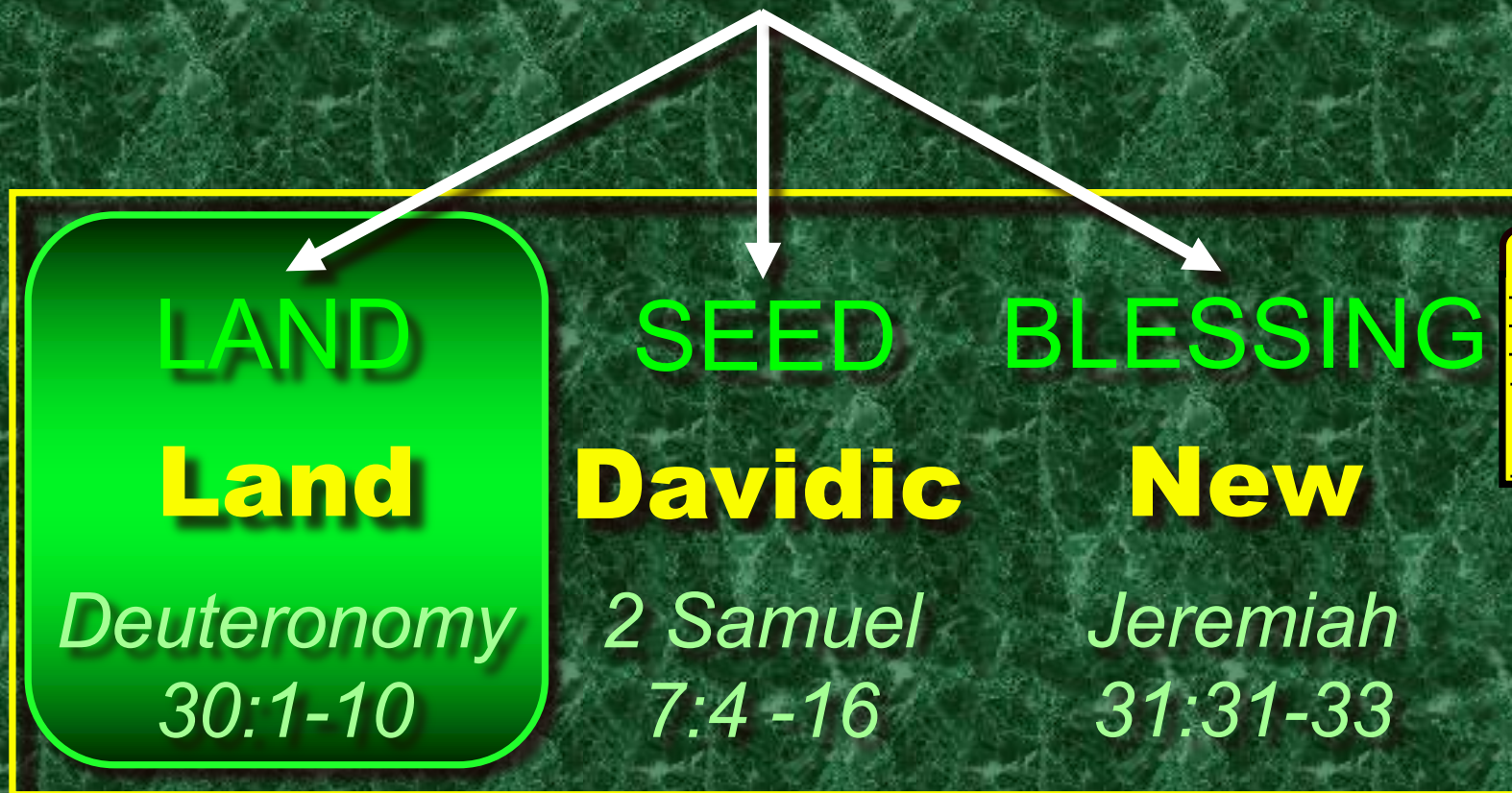
Genesis 12: 1-3



JESUS
Life
Cross
Church
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

The Abrahamic Covenant ("The Call")

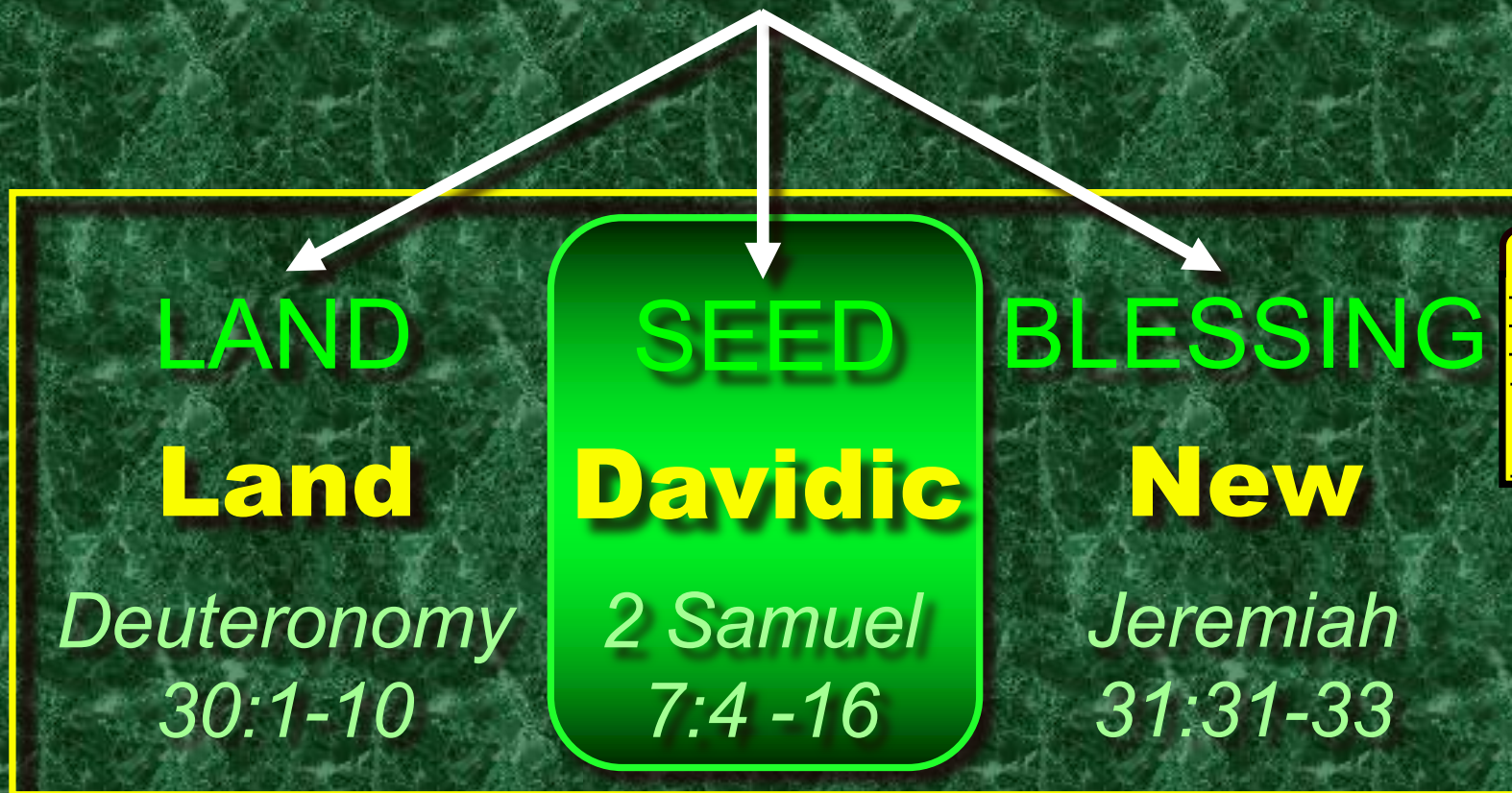
Genesis 12: 1-3



JESUS
<i>Life</i>
<i>Cross</i>
<i>Church</i>
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

The Abrahamic Covenant ("The Call")

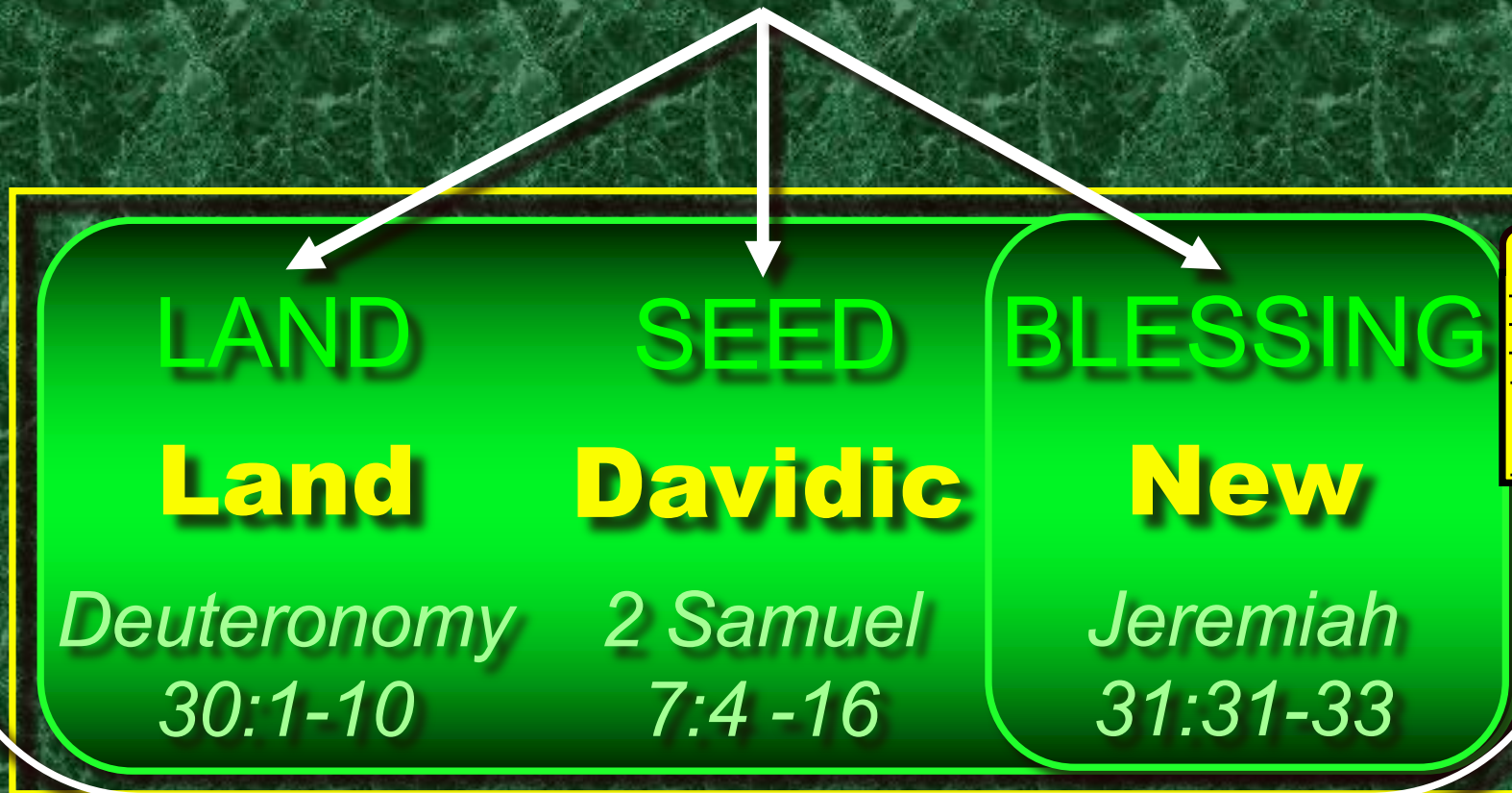
Genesis 12: 1-3



JESUS
Life
Cross
Church
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

The Abrahamic Covenant ("The Call")

Genesis 12: 1-3



JESUS
<i>Life</i>
<i>Cross</i>
<i>Church</i>
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

Abrahamic Covenant

CREATION

ABRAHAM

JOSEPH

MOSES

JOSHUA

ANARCHY

ROYALTY

CAPTIVITY

SILENCE

JESUS

LAND
Land
Deuteronomy 27:1-10
30:1-10

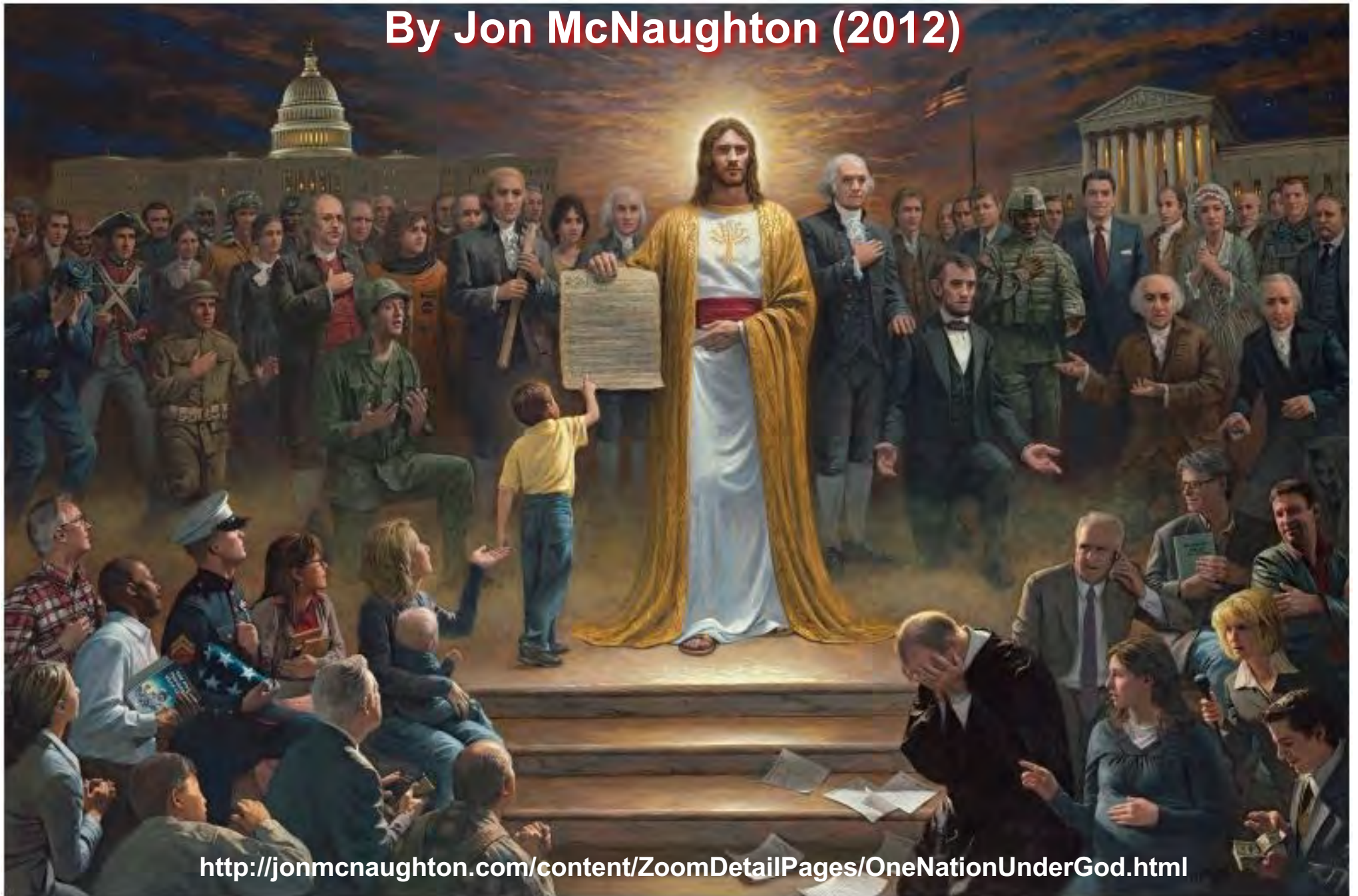
SING

JESUS

JESUS
<i>Life</i>
<i>Cross</i>
<i>Church</i>
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

One Nation Under God

By Jon McNaughton (2012)



<http://jonmcnaughton.com/content/ZoomDetailPages/OneNationUnderGod.html>

Jesus Christ, the Most Controversial Person



<http://jonmcaughton.com/content/ZoomDetailPages/OneNationUnderGod.html>

Salvation in All Ages:

The Centrality of the Cross

B.C.

Looked

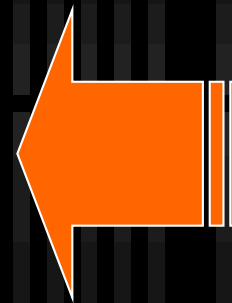
forward to the
Cross of Christ



A.D.

Look

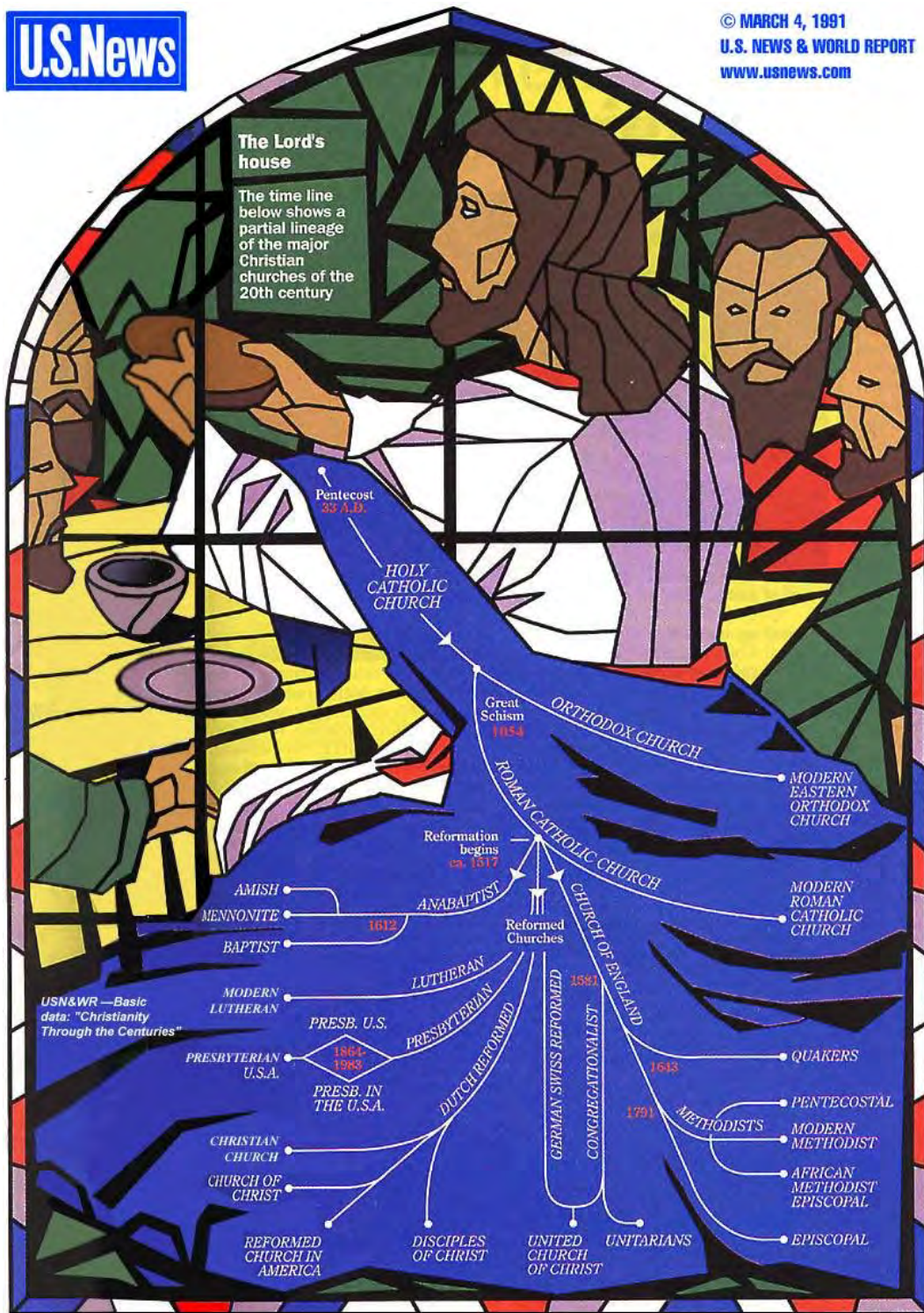
back at the
Cross of Christ



Different Views on the Nature of the Church



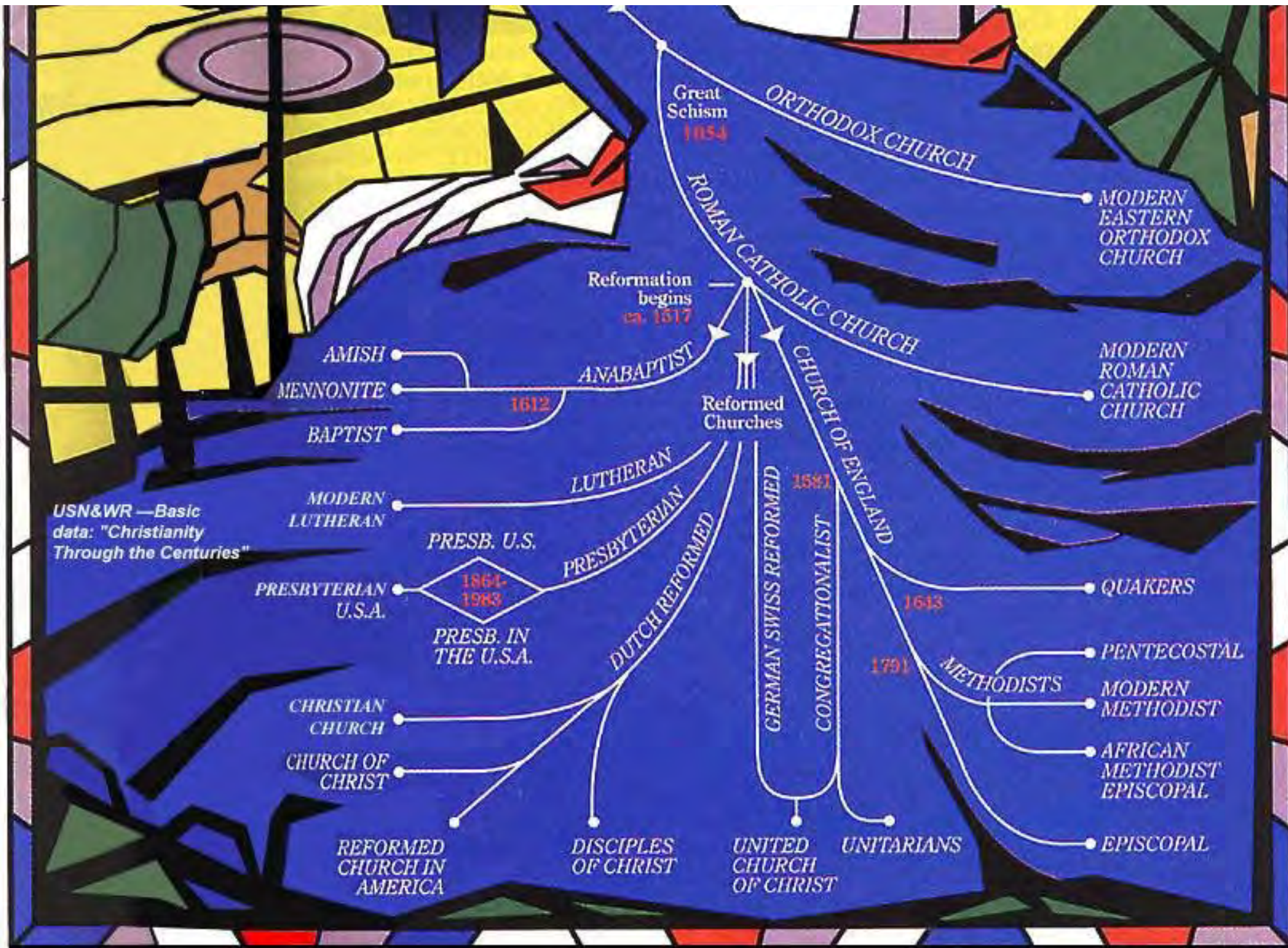
23/08/2009



DAVID S. MERRILL — USN&WR

Denominations

This tree of church history depicts the relationships between the various branches of the Christian Church



USN&WR — Basic data: "Christianity Through the Centuries"

A photograph of a church interior. On the left, there is a tall, narrow stained glass window with a colorful, abstract design. To the right of the window, a circular wall sconce holds a lit candle. Further right, a large wooden cross is mounted on the wall. The wall is made of dark, rectangular stone blocks. The floor is made of large, light-colored tiles. The lighting is dim, with the candle and the light from the window providing the main illumination.

WHAT IS **YOUR** OWN DEFINITION
OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?

A Biblical Definition

- "The church is the living community of people in Christ Jesus, organized to fulfill corporately a threefold purpose: worship, edification, and multiplication"
- *Church Dynamics* (BEE World Course), 40.

DISPENSATIONS (EPH. 3:2)

"...you know
God gave me
the **special
responsibility**
of extending his
grace to you
Gentiles"
(NLT)

"...you have
heard of the
stewardship
of God's
grace which
was given to
me for you"
(NAU)

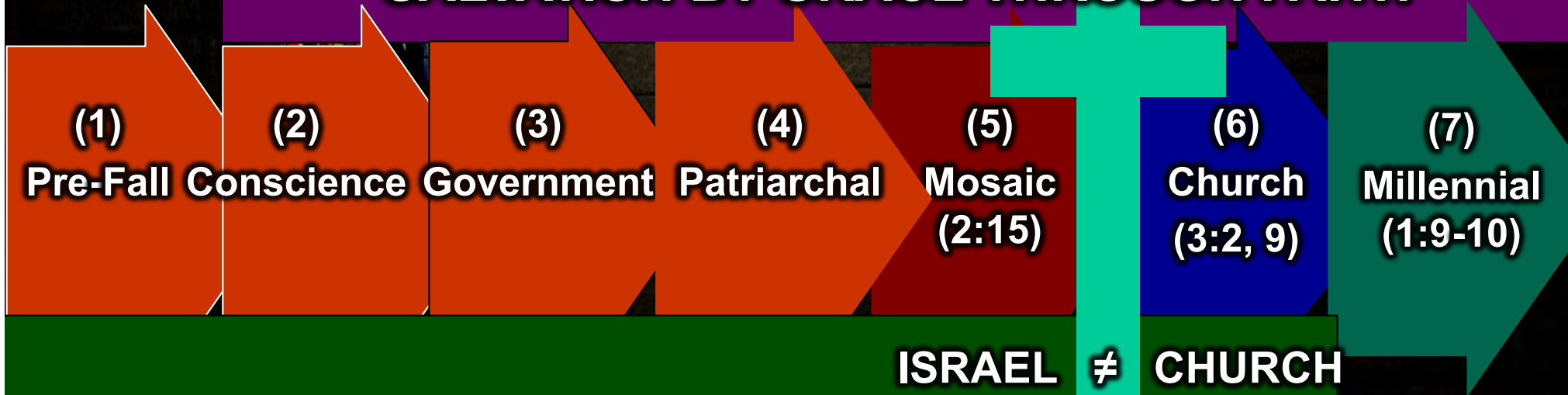
"**administration**" (NIV)
"**dispensation**" (KJV)
οἰκονομία (Greek)
οἶκος (house) + *νόμος* (law)
"**responsibility of
management, management
of a household, direction,
office**" (BDAG)

Time before Paul's
dispensation (Gentiles
came through Israel
under law)

Time of Paul's
dispensation (Gentiles
equal to Jews
under grace)

DISPENSATIONS IN EPHESIANS

SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH



ISRAEL ≠ CHURCH

PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

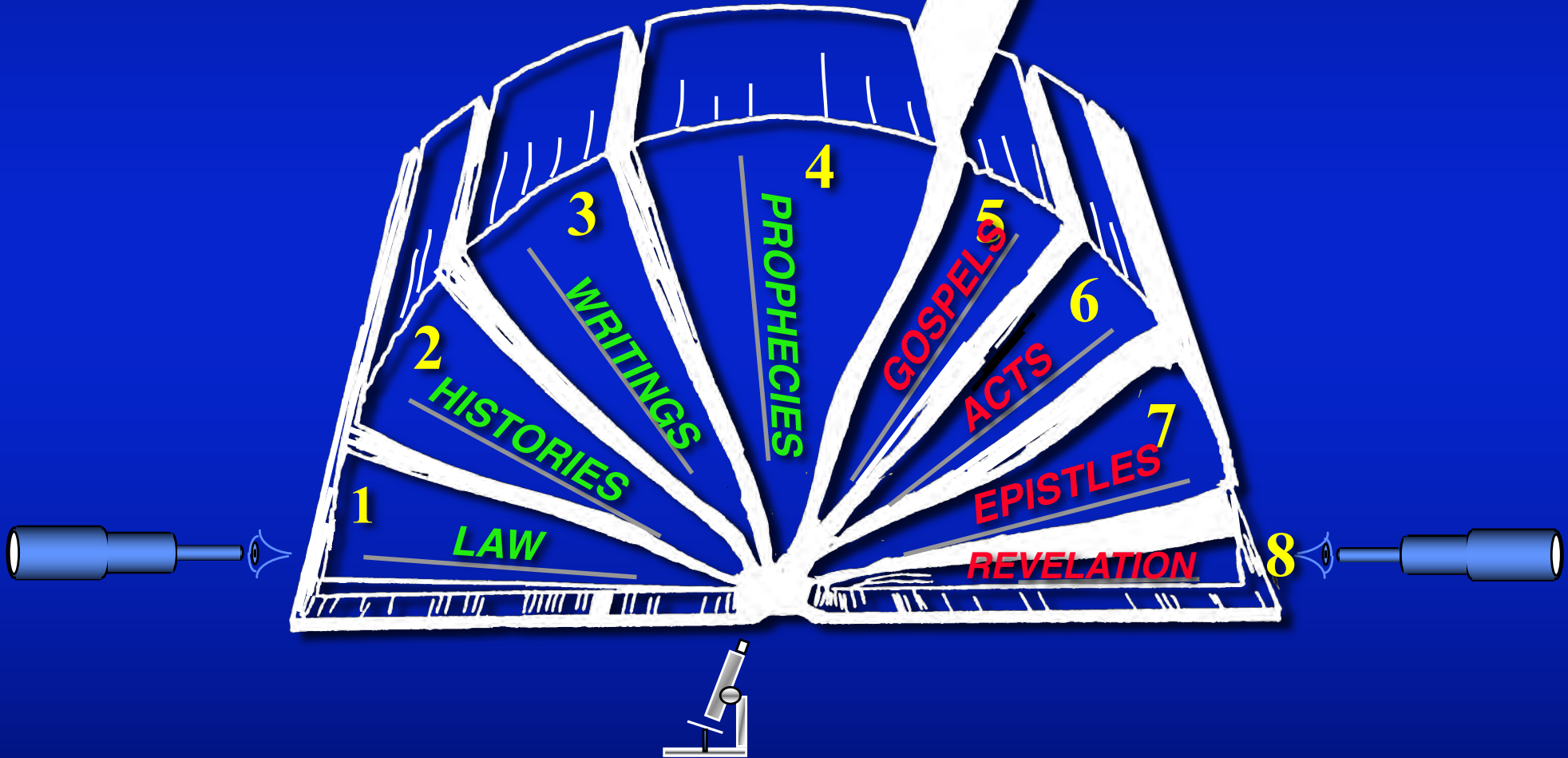
The Glory of God



1600 years
40 authors

The Glory of God

ONE THEME:
the glory of God





The Gift of God

The Kingdom

The Garden of Gethsemane,
Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

JESUS

Life

Cross

Church

Gospels

Acts

Epistles

Revelation

"In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, 'Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the **kingdom of heaven** is near' "

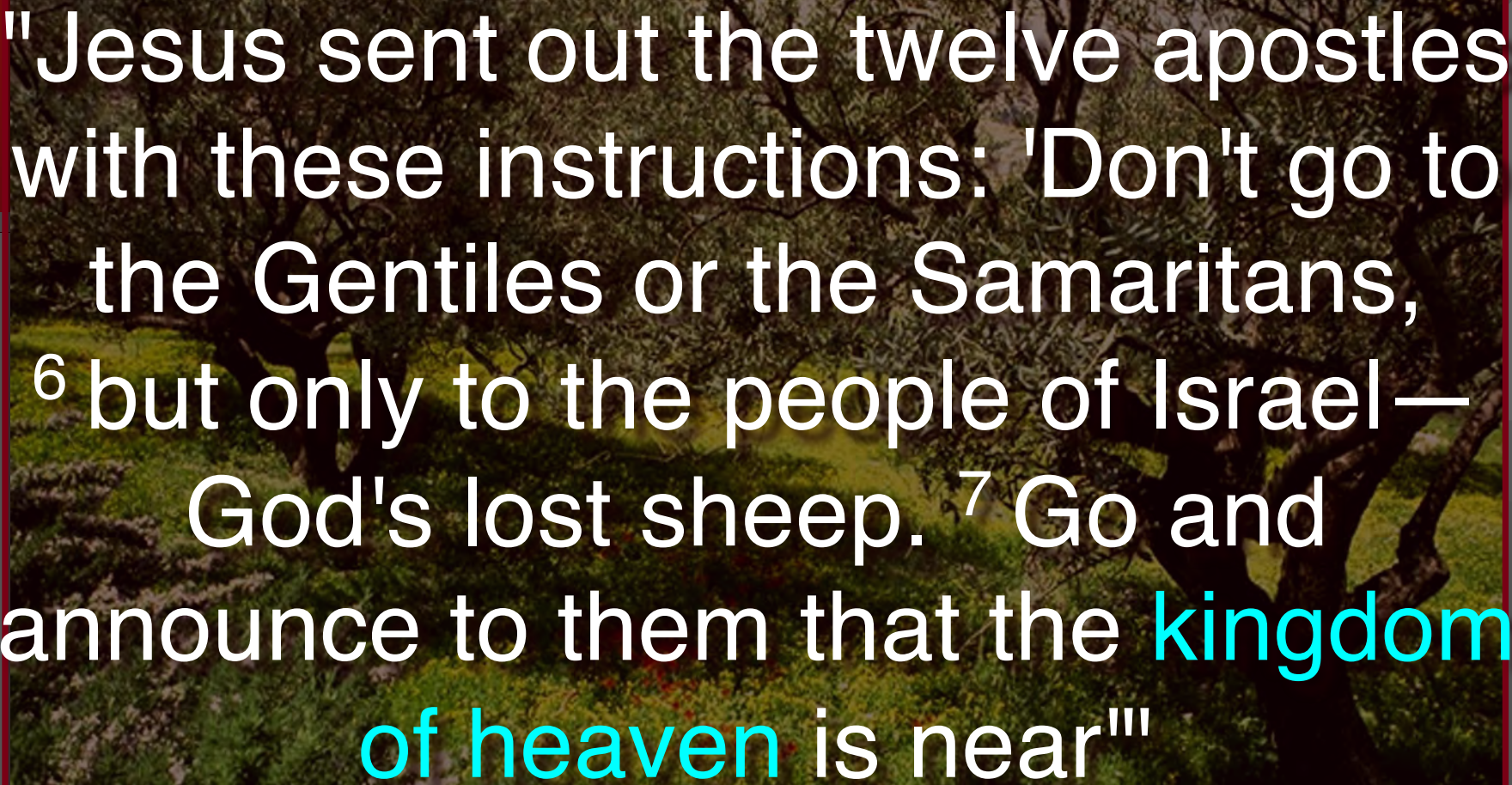
Matt. 3:1-2 NLT

JESUS
Life
Cross
Church
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

“...Jesus began to preach and say: 'Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand...Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming **the gospel of the kingdom**...'”


Matt. 4:17, 23

JESUS
<i>Life</i>
<i>Cross</i>
<i>Church</i>
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation



"Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: 'Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans,⁶ but only to the people of Israel— God's lost sheep.⁷ Go and announce to them that the **kingdom of heaven** is near'"

Matt. 10:5-7



“But seek first **His Kingdom** and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matt. 6:33

JESUS
Life
Cross
Church
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

What Kind of Kingdom Did Isaiah (and Matthew) Envision?

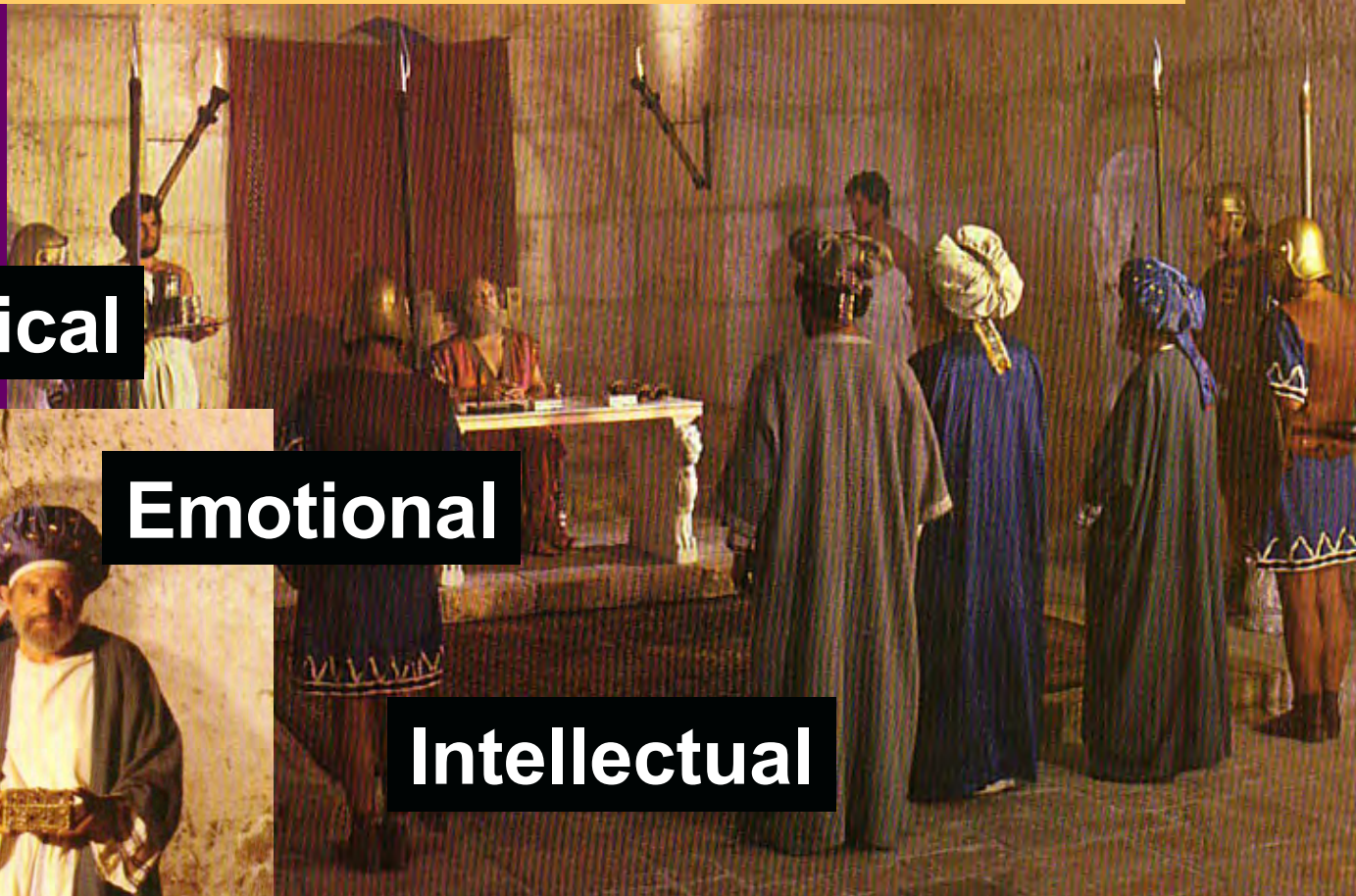
Political

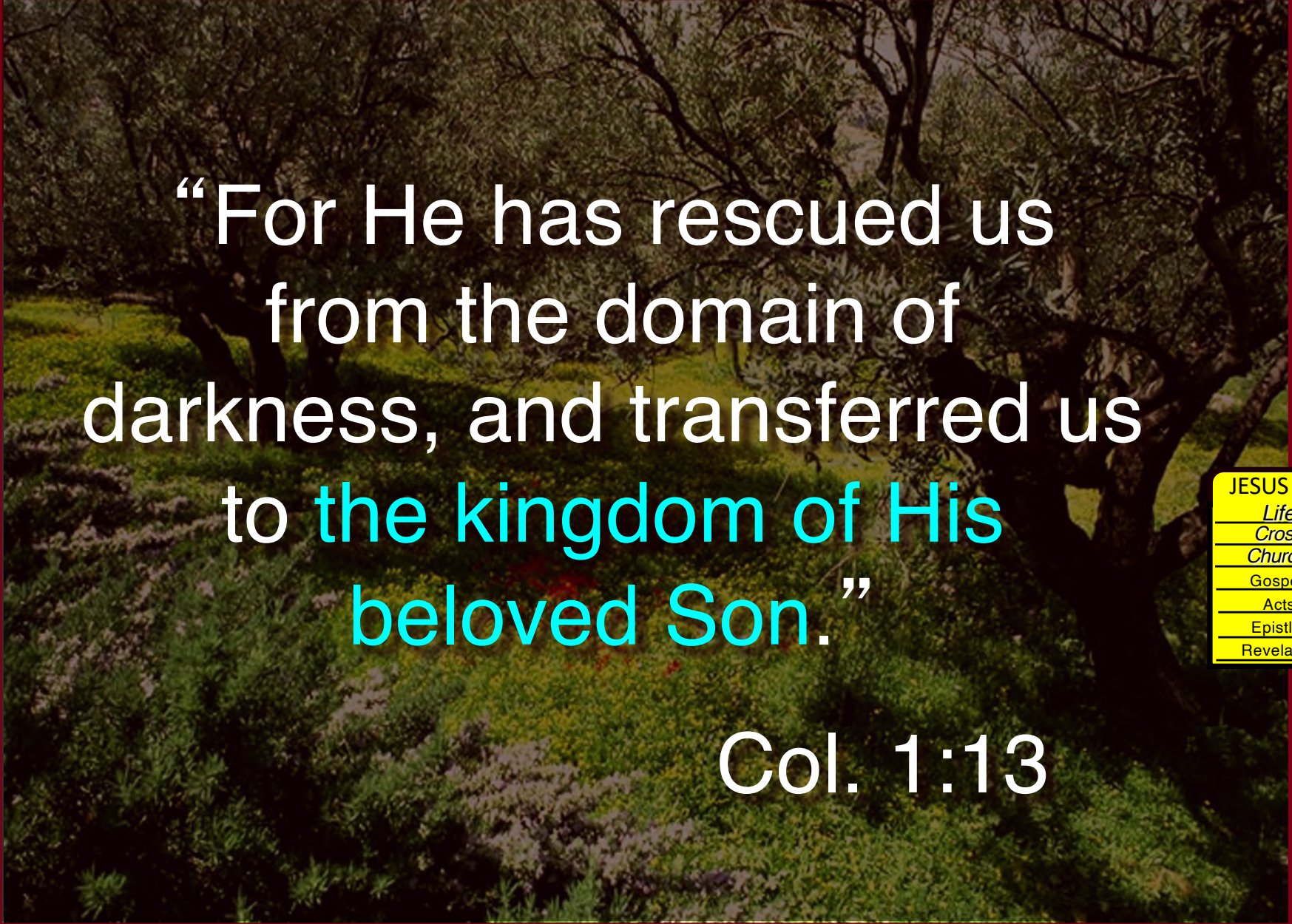
Physical

Emotional

Intellectual

Spiritual





“For He has rescued us
from the domain of
darkness, and transferred us
to the kingdom of His
beloved Son.”

Col. 1:13

JESUS

Life

Cross

Church

Gospels

Acts

Epistles

Revelation

Two Overarching Messages of All of Scripture:

#1: Celebrating & Demonstrating
The Glory of God

#2: Leading Us Toward
The Kingdom of God

JESUS
Life
Cross
Church
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

Jesus Christ came to save
that which was lost...and
that to acquire eternal life,
one must come to it
through belief in the gospel
message of the Messiah.

JESUS
Life
Cross
Church
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

***THEREFORE:
WE MUST GO AND TELL!***

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.

Rev. 1:7 NLT
cf. Zech. 12:10

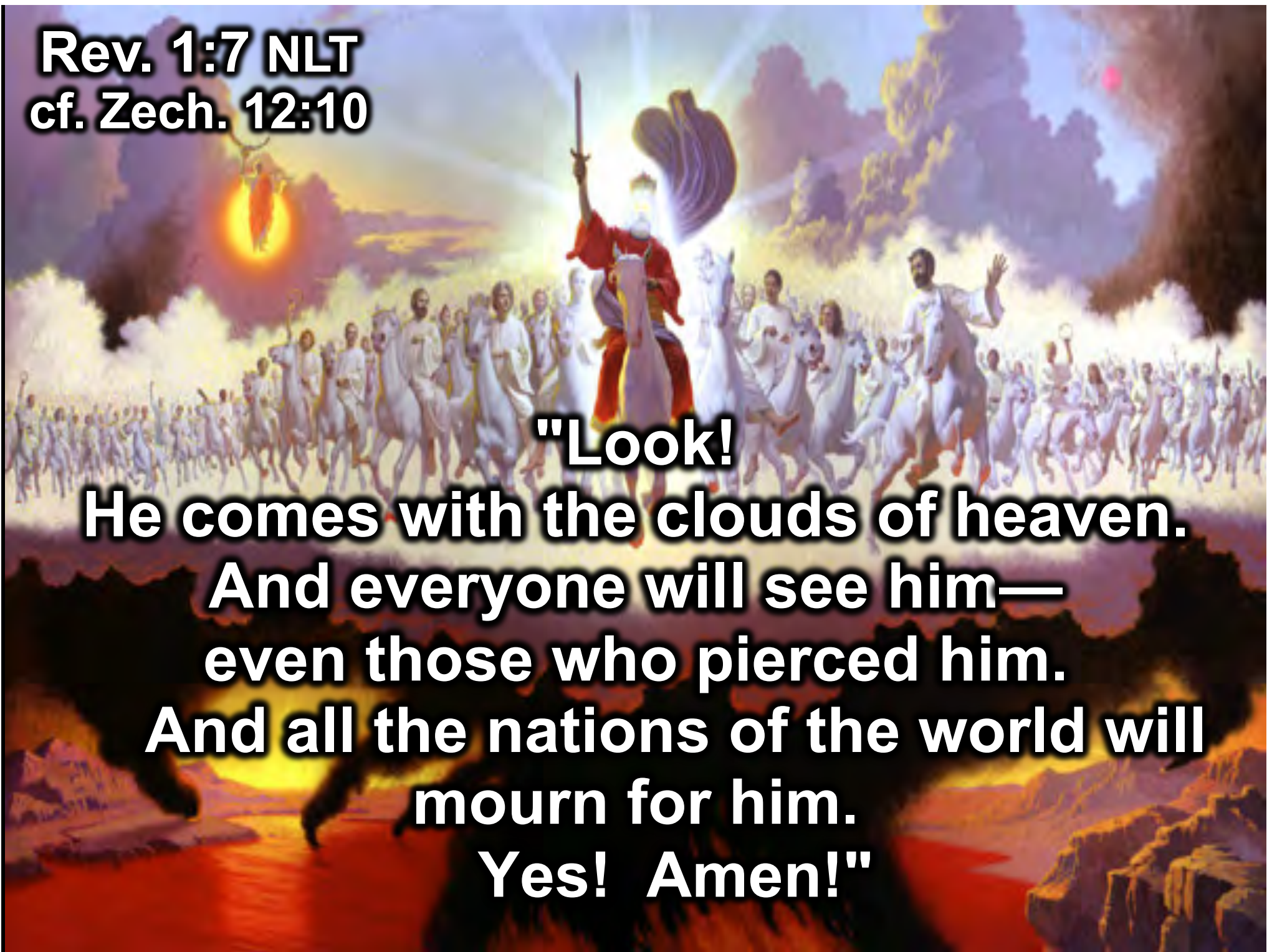
"Look!

He comes with the clouds of heaven.

**And everyone will see him—
even those who pierced him.**

**And all the nations of the world will
mourn for him.**

Yes! Amen!"



***Series on
Revelation***



Jesus Wins!

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**



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

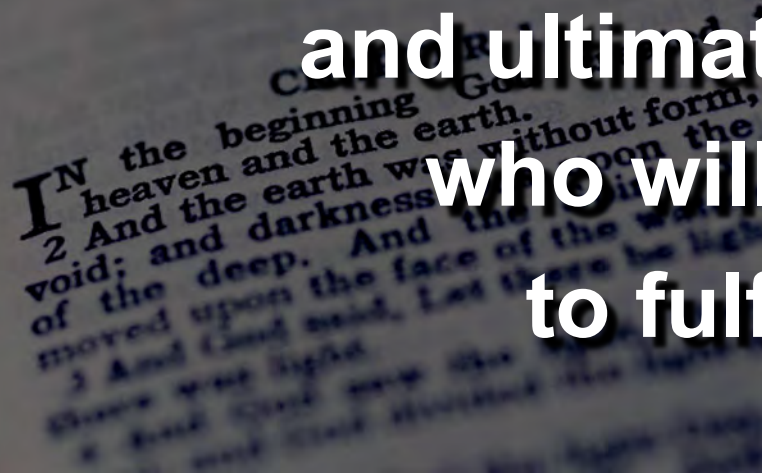
and accomplished by redeeming man

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
1 And the earth was without form,
2 And the earth was void;
3 And God said, Let there be light,
4 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

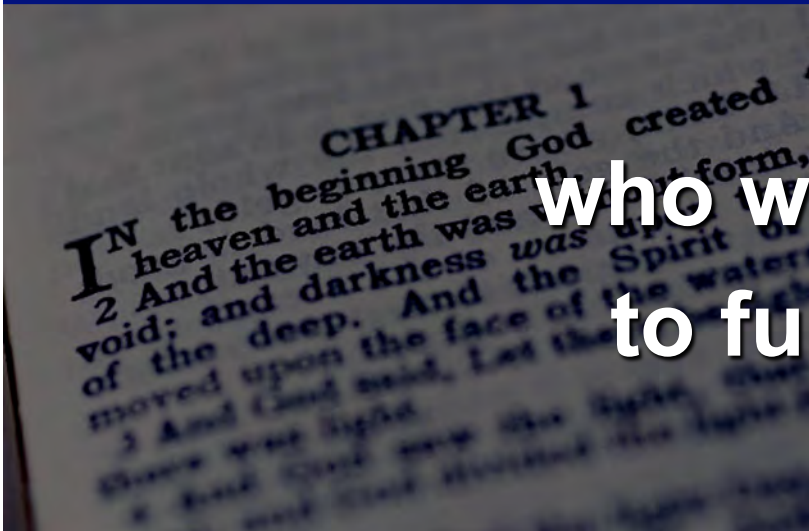
through faith alone

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

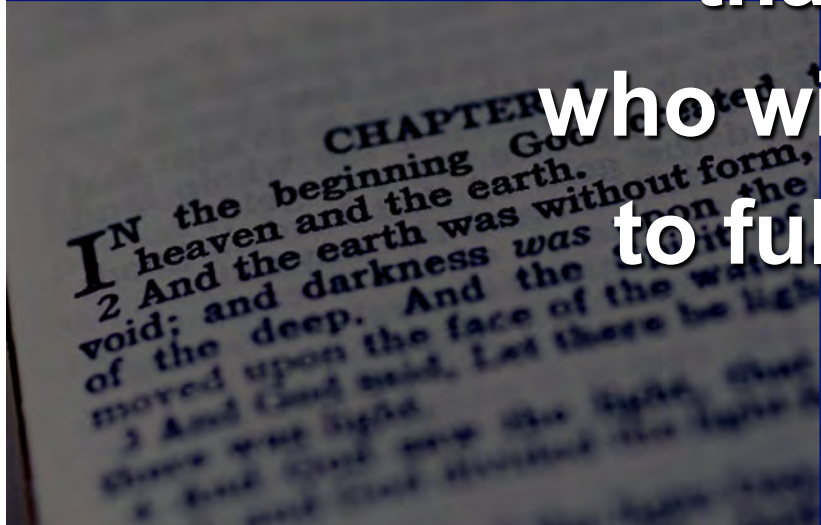
though Israel bringing forth the Messiah
so that the Church may proclaim

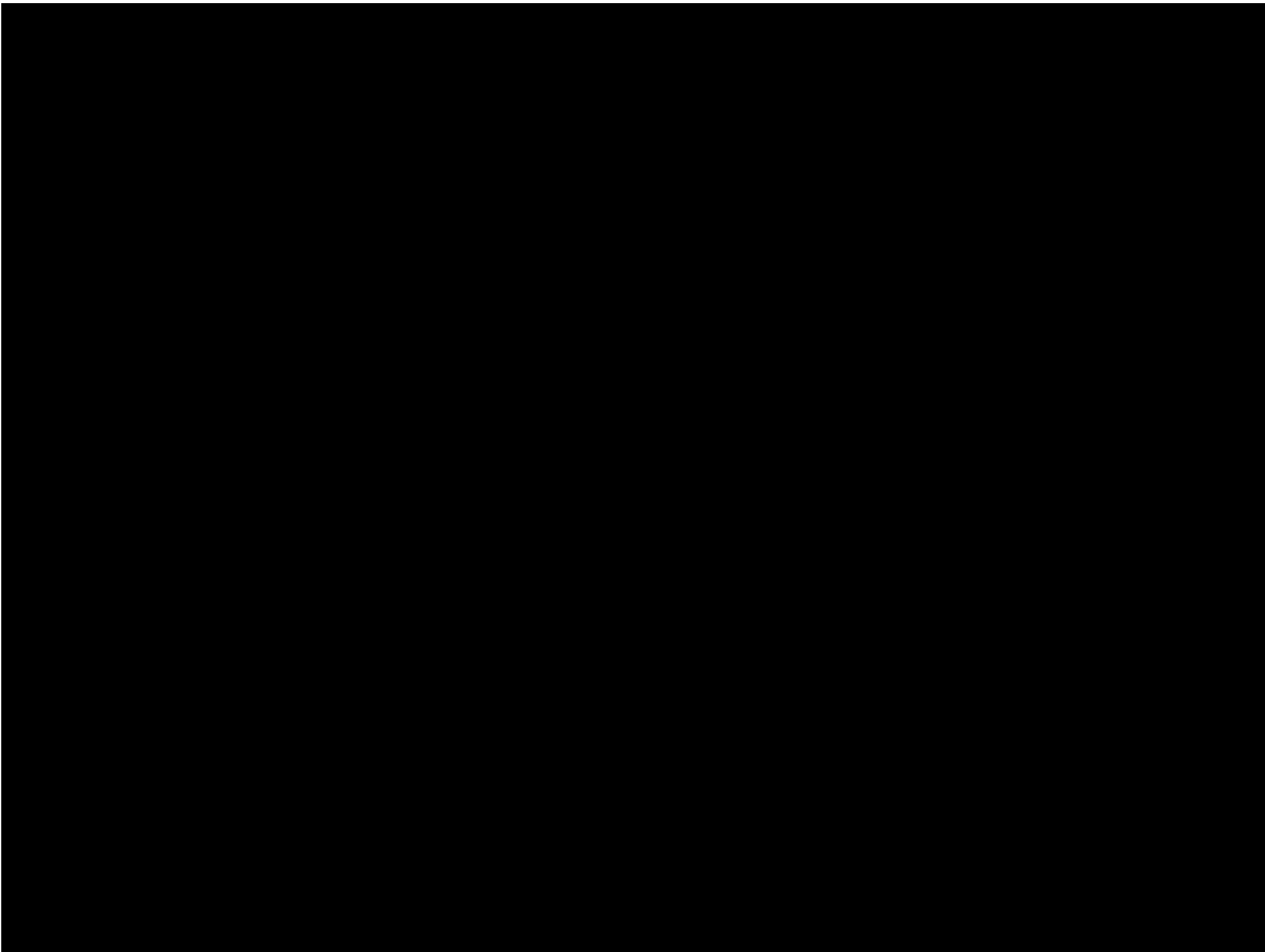
that salvation is in Christ alone

who will reign as Saviour and King

to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant

to the glory of God alone





Get this presentation for free!



BIBLE STUDY
DOWNLOADS

[Home](#) [Downloads](#) [FAQ](#) [Links](#) [Contribute](#) [Contact](#)

Search...



Welcome

Bible Study Downloads in over 40 Languages



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

NT Survey link at BibleStudyDownloads.org