

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?



Richard Grieco Cynthia Gibb Cheryl Pollak

Sin and Redemption

When a night of terror
becomes a lifetime of fear...

Redemption in the Media

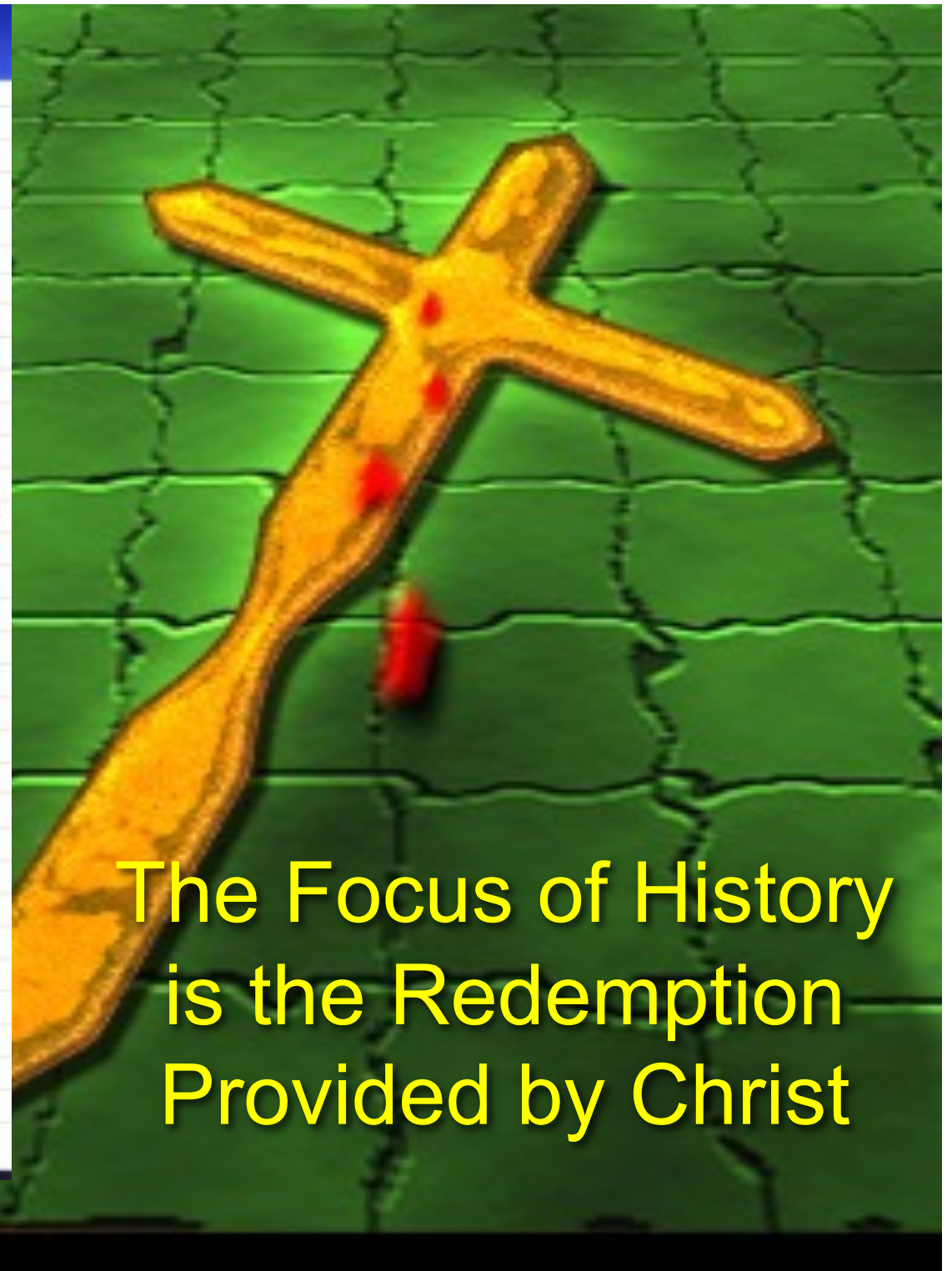
- *People have an inherent sense that they need redemption*



THE
**PROGRESS OF
REDEMPTION**

The Story
of
Salvation
from
Creation
to the
New Jerusalem

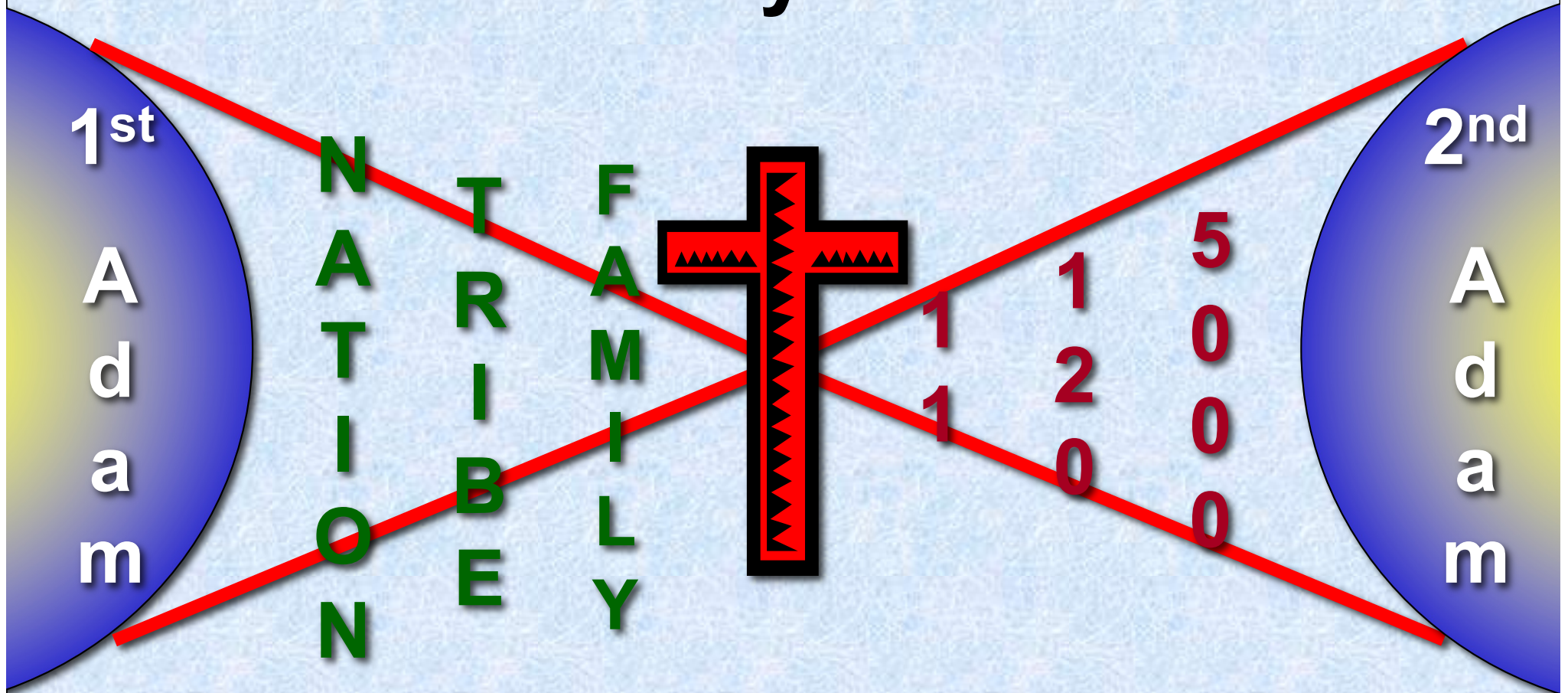
WILLEM VANGEMEREN



The Focus of History
is the Redemption
Provided by Christ

WHAT?

The Centrality of the Cross



The Centrality of the Cross

55

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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
Life
Cross
Church
Gospels
Acts
Epistles
Revelation

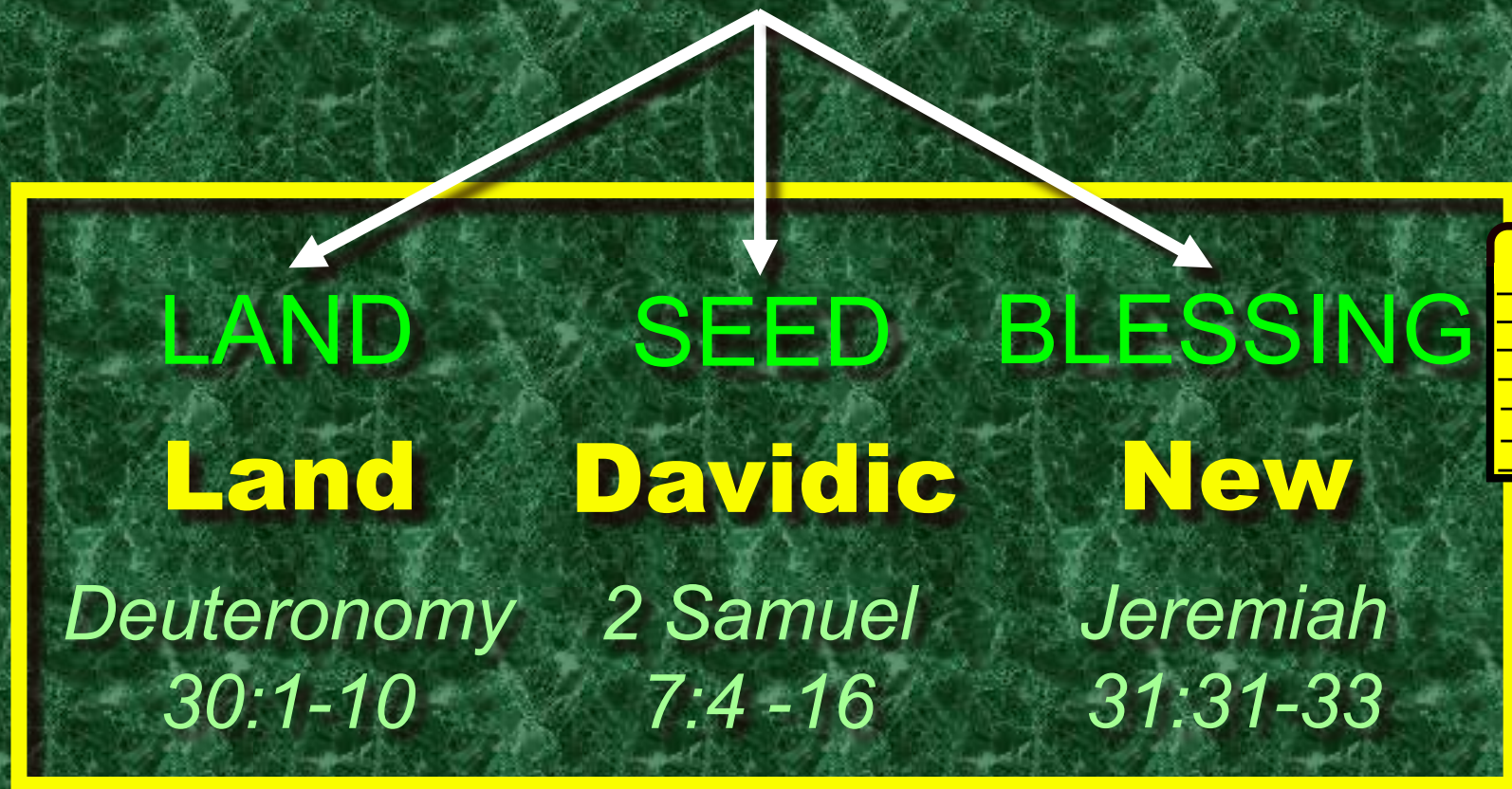
John Walvoord

Covenant

Handbook pg. 39-41

The Abrahamic Covenant ("The Call")

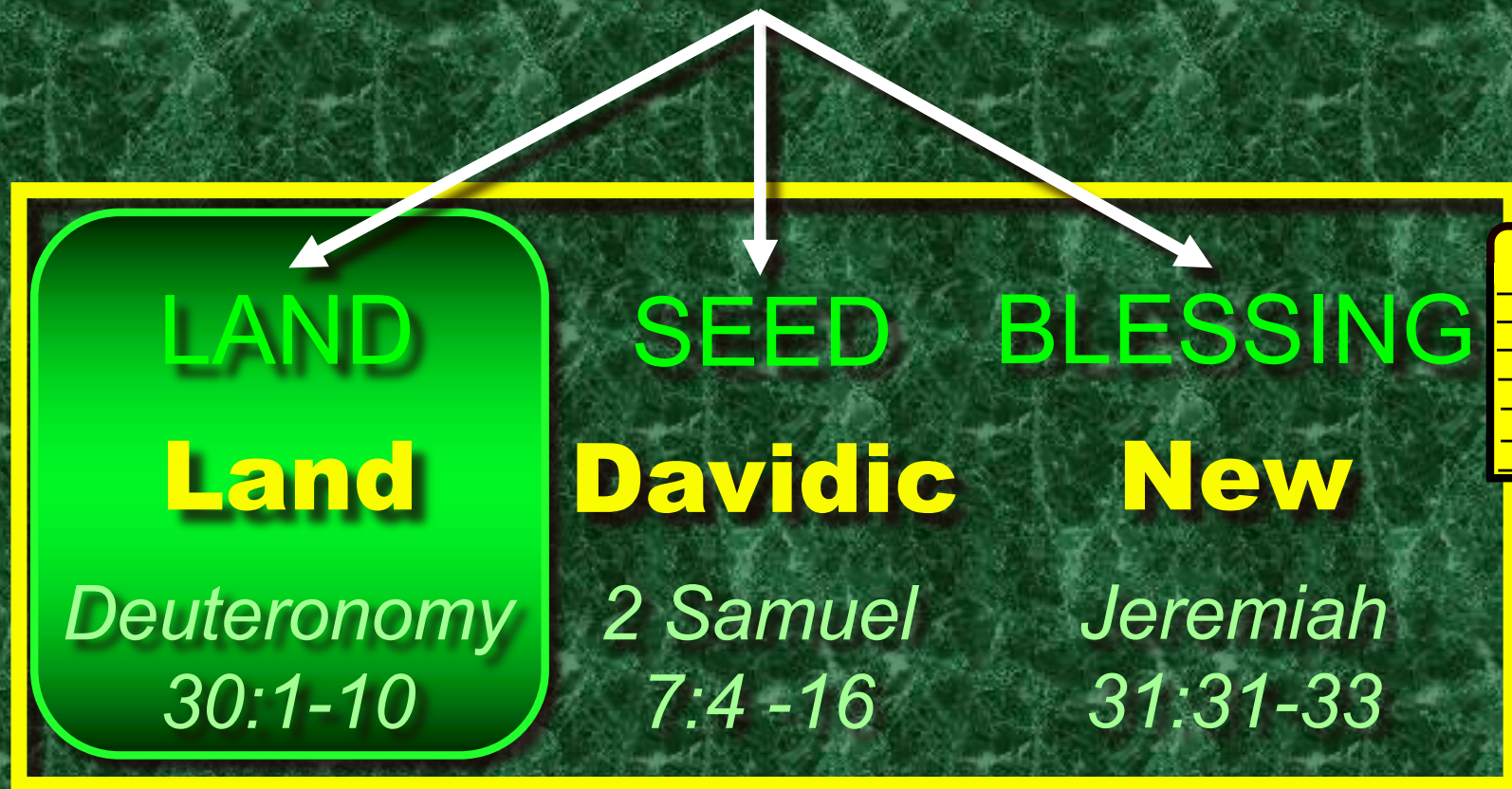
Genesis 12: 1-3



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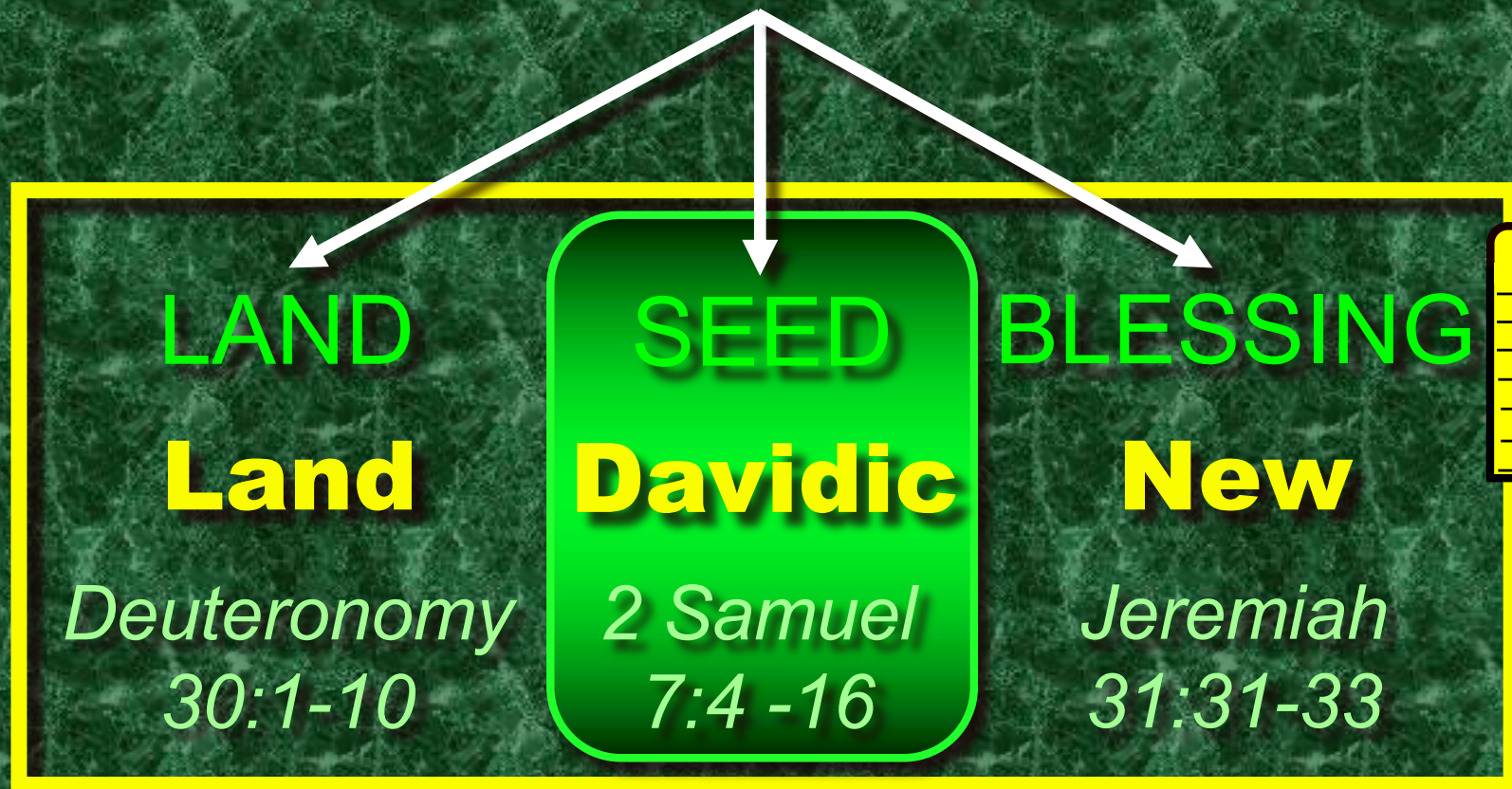
Genesis 12: 1-3



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The Abrahamic Covenant ("The Call")

Genesis 12: 1-3



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The Abrahamic Covenant ("The Call")

Genesis 12: 1-3

LAND

Land

*Deuteronomy
30:1-10*

SEED

Davidic

*2 Samuel
7:4 -16*

BLESSING

New

*Jeremiah
31:31-33*

JESUS
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Revelation

Abrahamic Covenant

CREATION

ABRAHAM

JOSEPH

MOSES

JOSHUA

ANARCHY

ROYALTY

CAPTIVITY

SILENCE

JESUS

LAND

Land

Deuteronomy 27:1-10
7:4

JESUS

Life

Cross

Church

Gospels

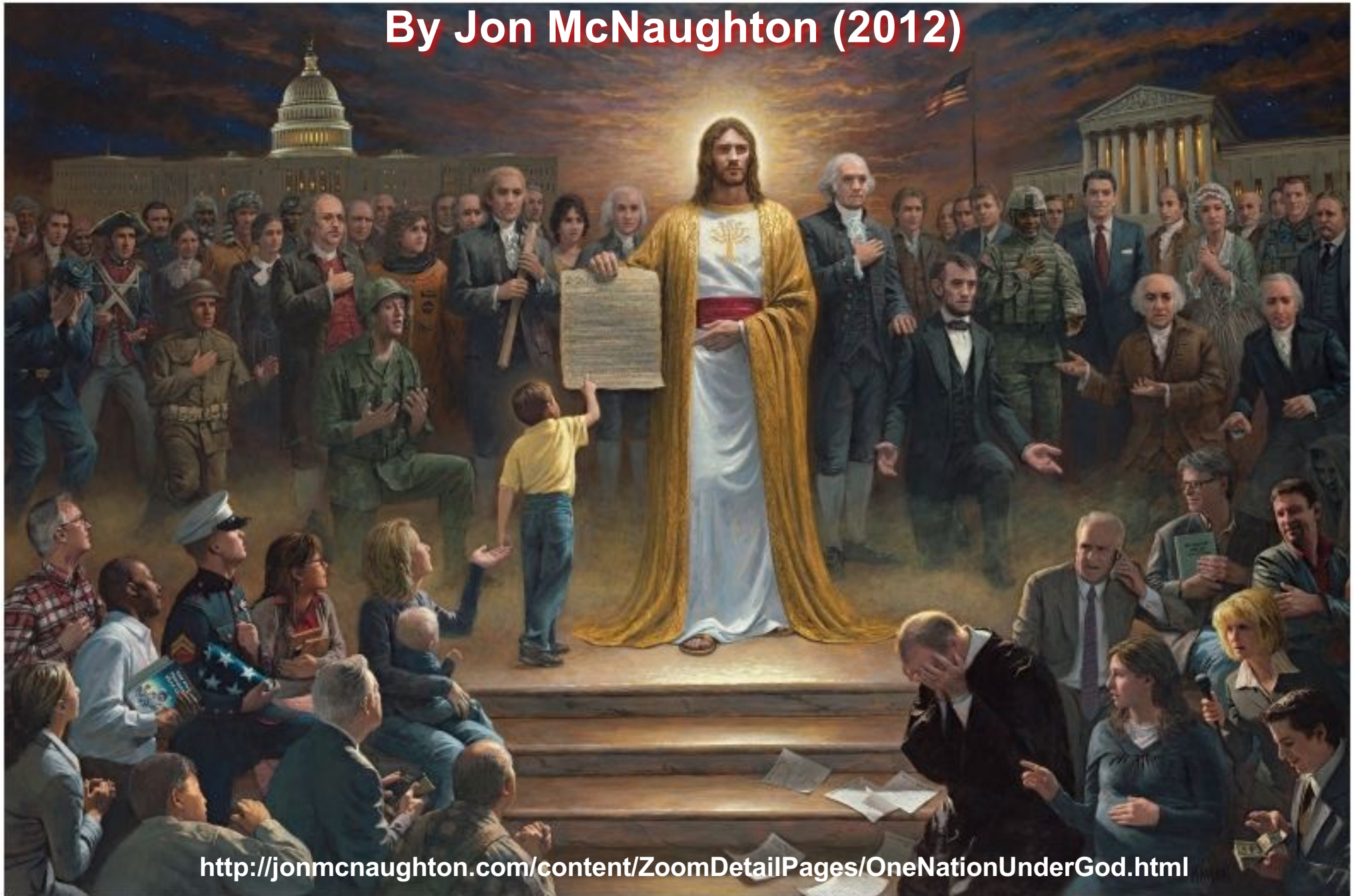
Acts

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

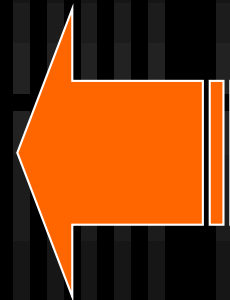
B.C.

Looked
forward to the
Cross of Christ



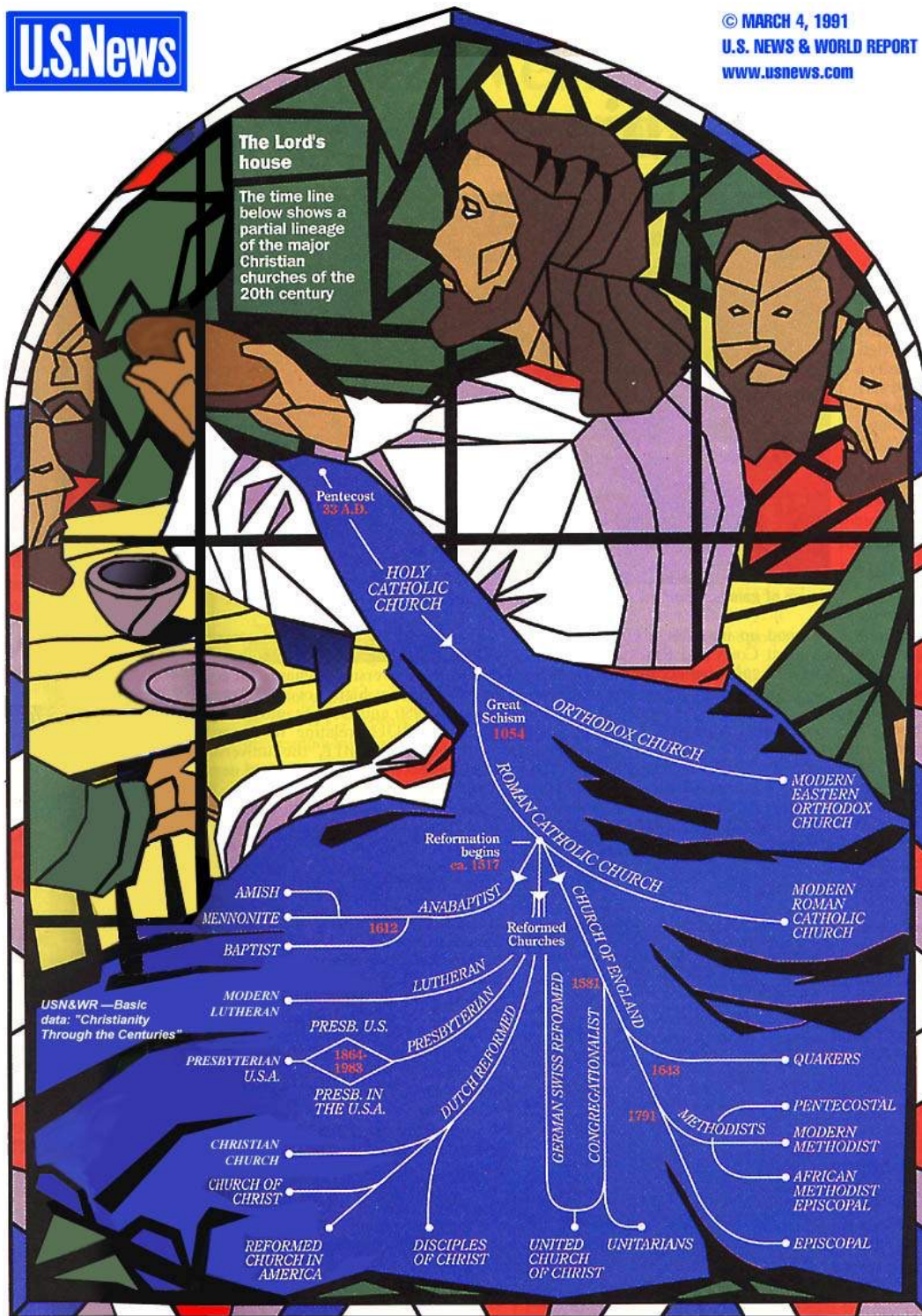
A.D.

Look
back at the
Cross of Christ



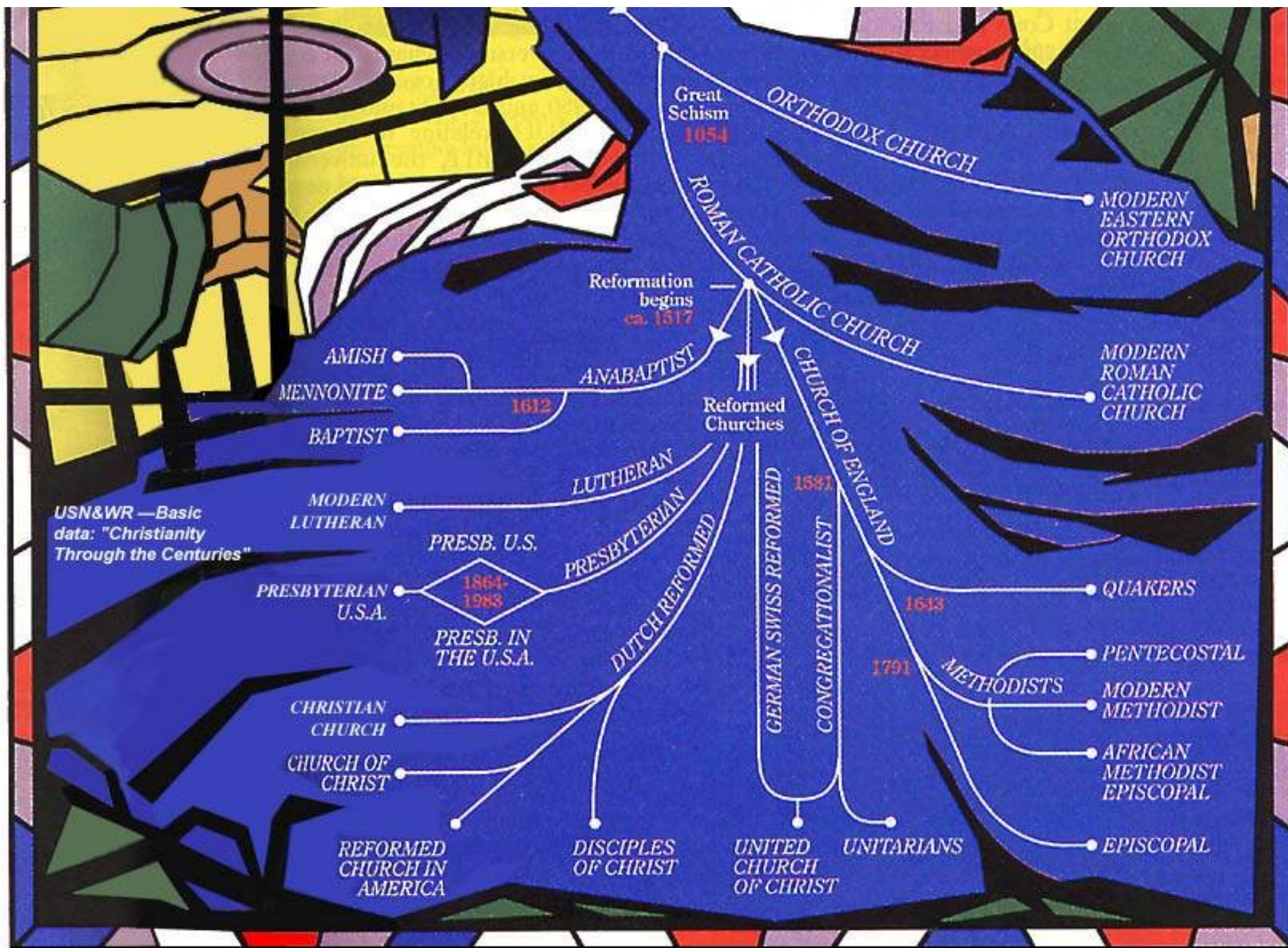
Different Views on the Nature of the Church





Denominations

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



A photograph of a church interior. The background is a dark stone wall. On the left, there is a tall, narrow stained glass window with a colorful design. To the right of the window is a small, round, gold-colored wall sconce with a lit candle. Further to the right is a large, dark wooden cross. The floor is made of large, light-colored stone tiles. The text "WHAT IS YOUR OWN DEFINITION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?" is overlaid on the image in a white serif font, with the word "YOUR" in yellow.

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

180f

SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

-
- (1) Pre-Fall (2) Conscience Government (3) Patriarchal (4) Mosaic (2:15) (5) Church (3:2, 9) (6) Millennial (1:9-10)

ISRAEL ≠ CHURCH

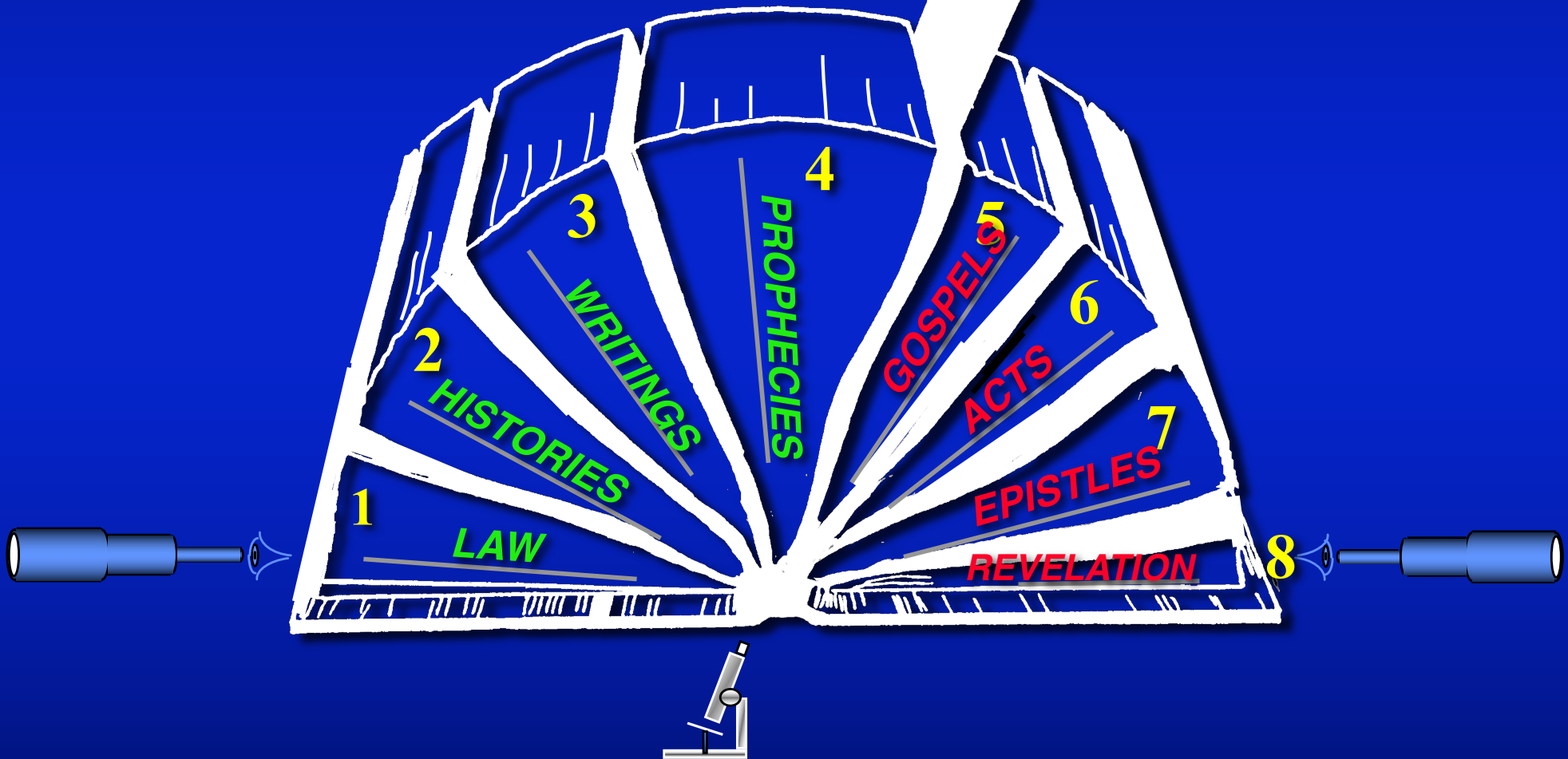
PROGRESSIVE REVELATION



The Glory of God

1600 years
40 authors

ONE THEME:
the glory of God





The Glory 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' "

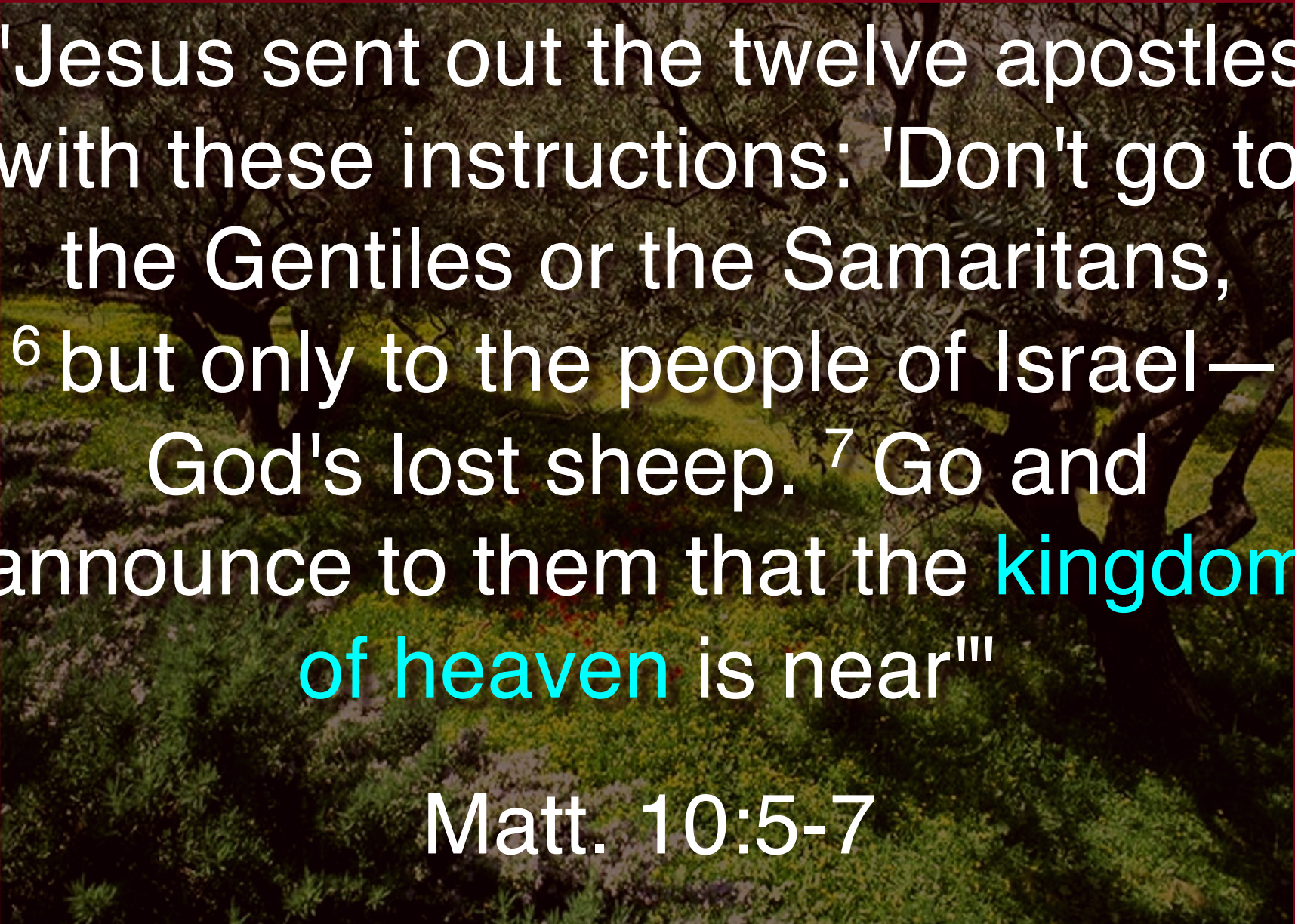
Matt. 3:1-2 NLT

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Life
Cross
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Gospels
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“...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
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<i>Cross</i>
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What Kind of Kingdom Did Isaiah (and Matthew) Envision?

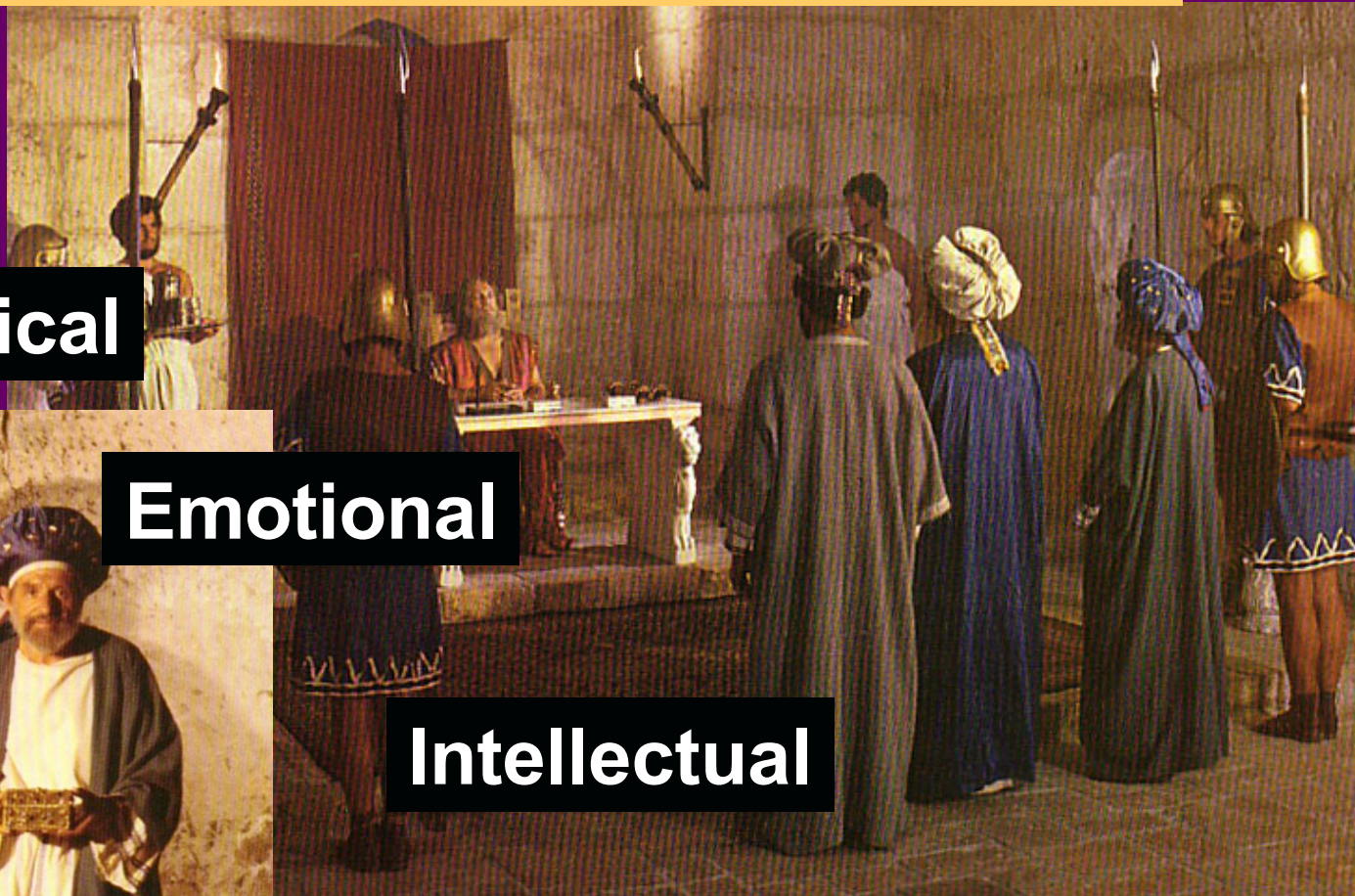
Political

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
<i>Life</i>
<i>Cross</i>
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Gospels
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Two Overarching Messages
of All of Scripture:

#1: Celebrating & Demonstrating
The Glory of God

#2: Leading Us Toward
The Kingdom of God

JESUS
<i>Life</i>
<i>Cross</i>
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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.

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

JESUS
Life
Cross
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Kingdom & Covenants Timeline



22

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)

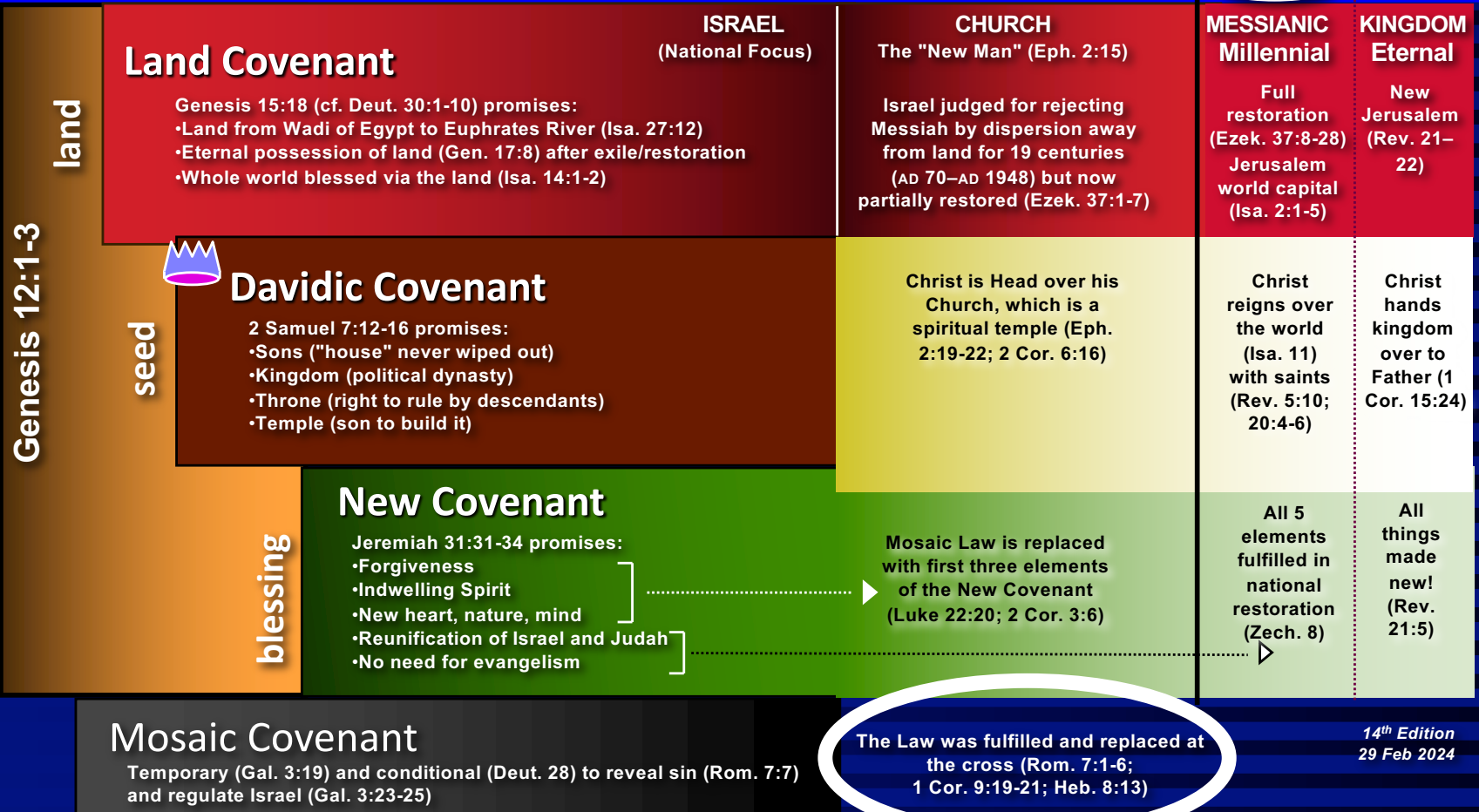
Christ rules over everything with saints (Eph. 1:9-10; Rev. 20:1-6; 22:5b)

Fall of Man (Gen. 3)

Noahic Covenant

Genesis 6:18; 9:8-17

Abrahamic Covenant



14th Edition
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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.

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

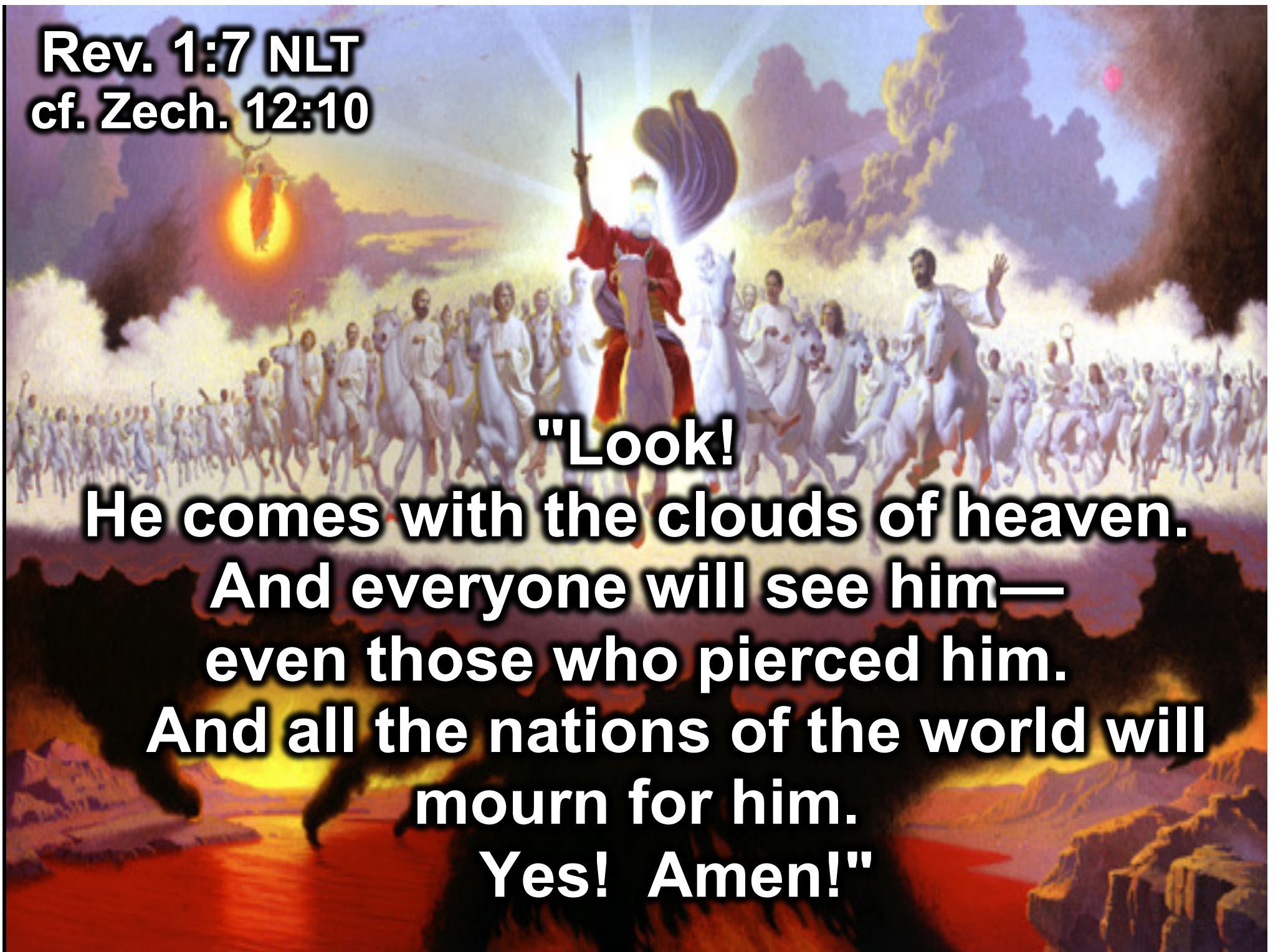
"Look!

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
Lost at
Fall

Man's
Rule
Restored at
Millennium

Creation

New
Creation

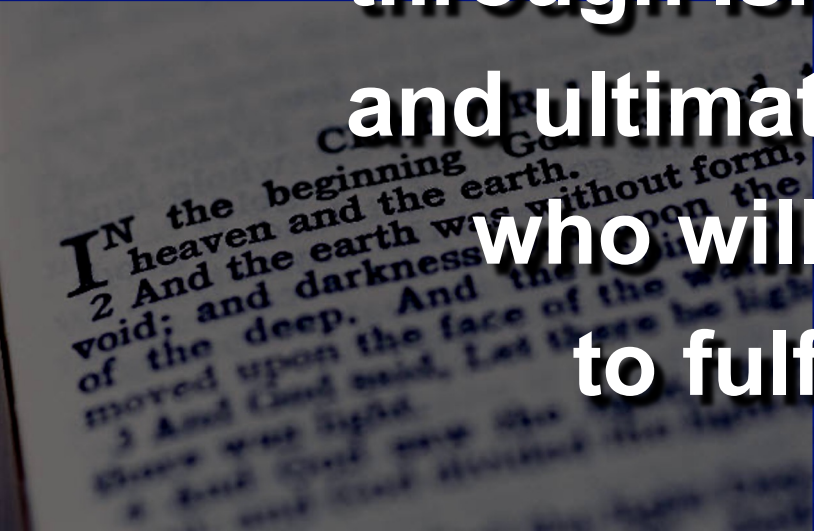


My View of the OT's Theme

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
heaven and the earth.
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

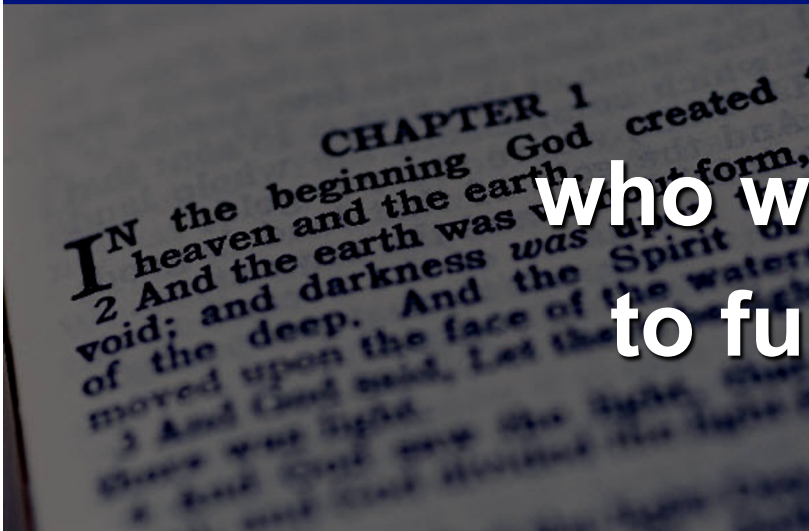
though faith alone

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

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The Bible narrates

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

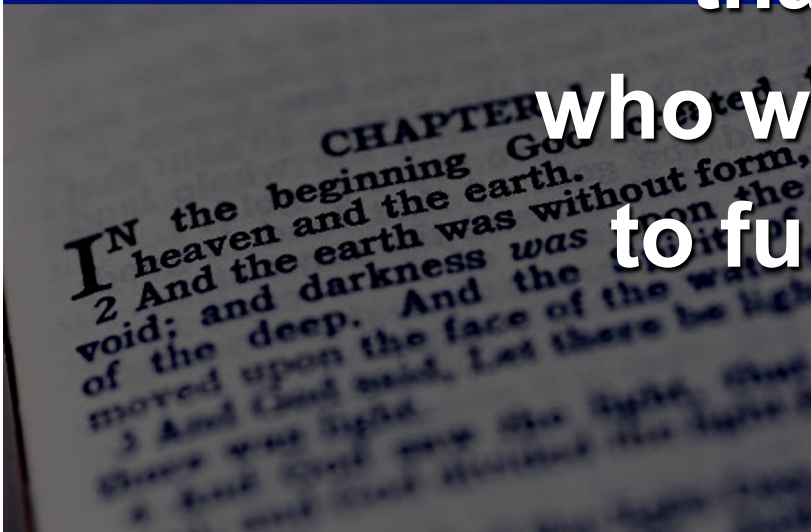
though Israel bringing forth the Messiah
so that the Church may proclaim

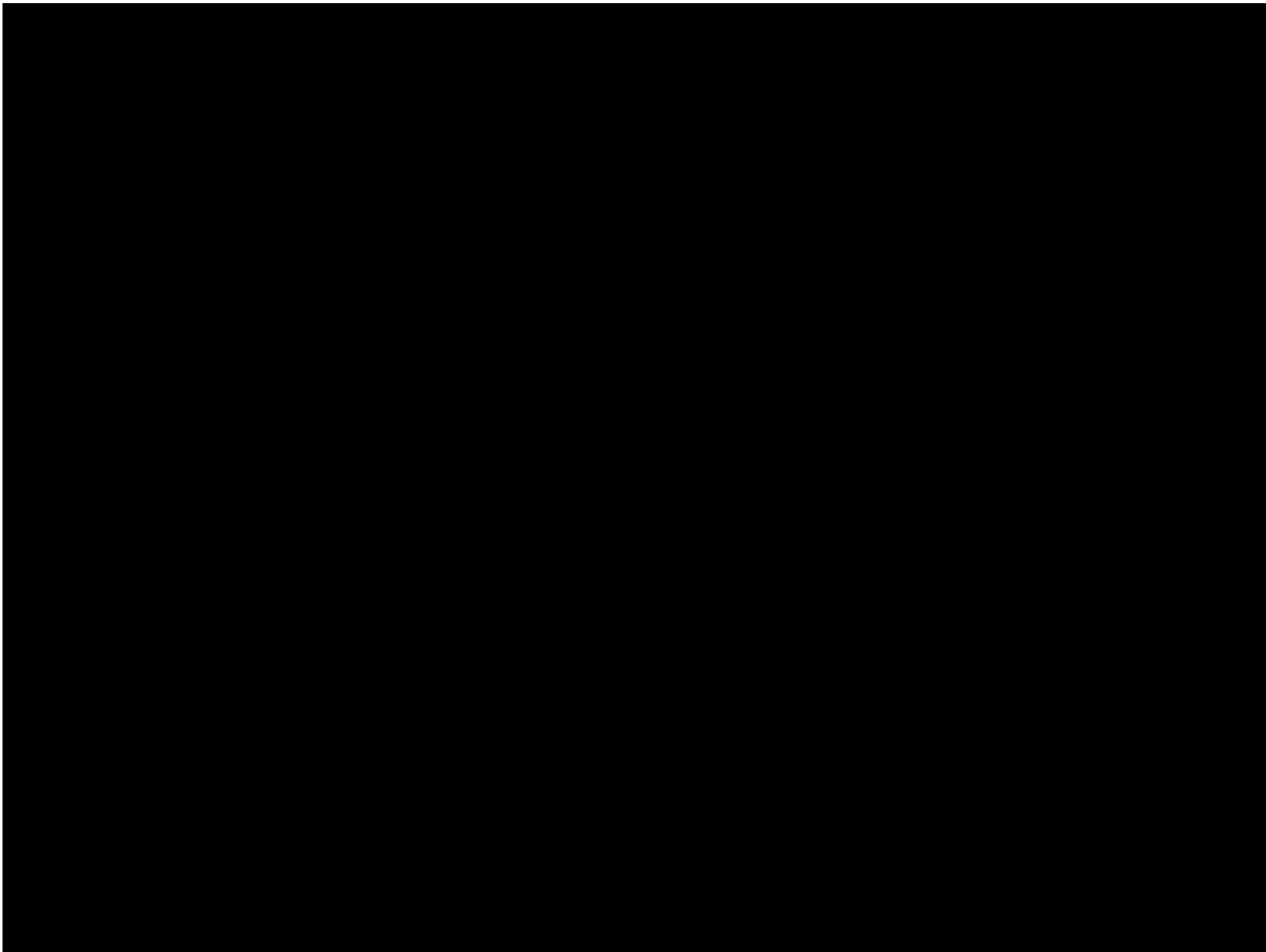
that salvation is in Christ alone

who will reign as Saviour and King

to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant

to the glory of God alone





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A large banner image showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A dark semi-transparent box is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

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