

OT Biblical Theology



What's the Theme of the OT?

**Write this in
one sentence**



Criteria to Discern the Key OT Theme

YES

- ✓ **Text-based**
- ✓ **Covers whole OT**
- ✓ **Narrow enough to be helpful**
- ✓ **Focuses on God as He is the Subject**

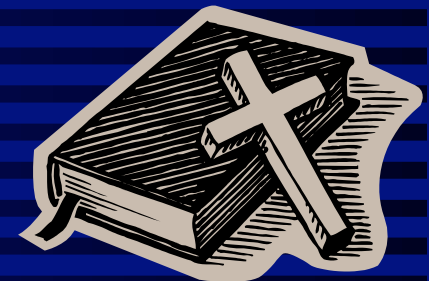
NO

- ✓ **Not from systematics**
- ✓ **Not piecemeal**
- ✓ **“Life” is too general a theme to help us**
- ✓ **Man is not the subject of the Bible**



Opinions on the Key OT Theme

A. Redemption of Man

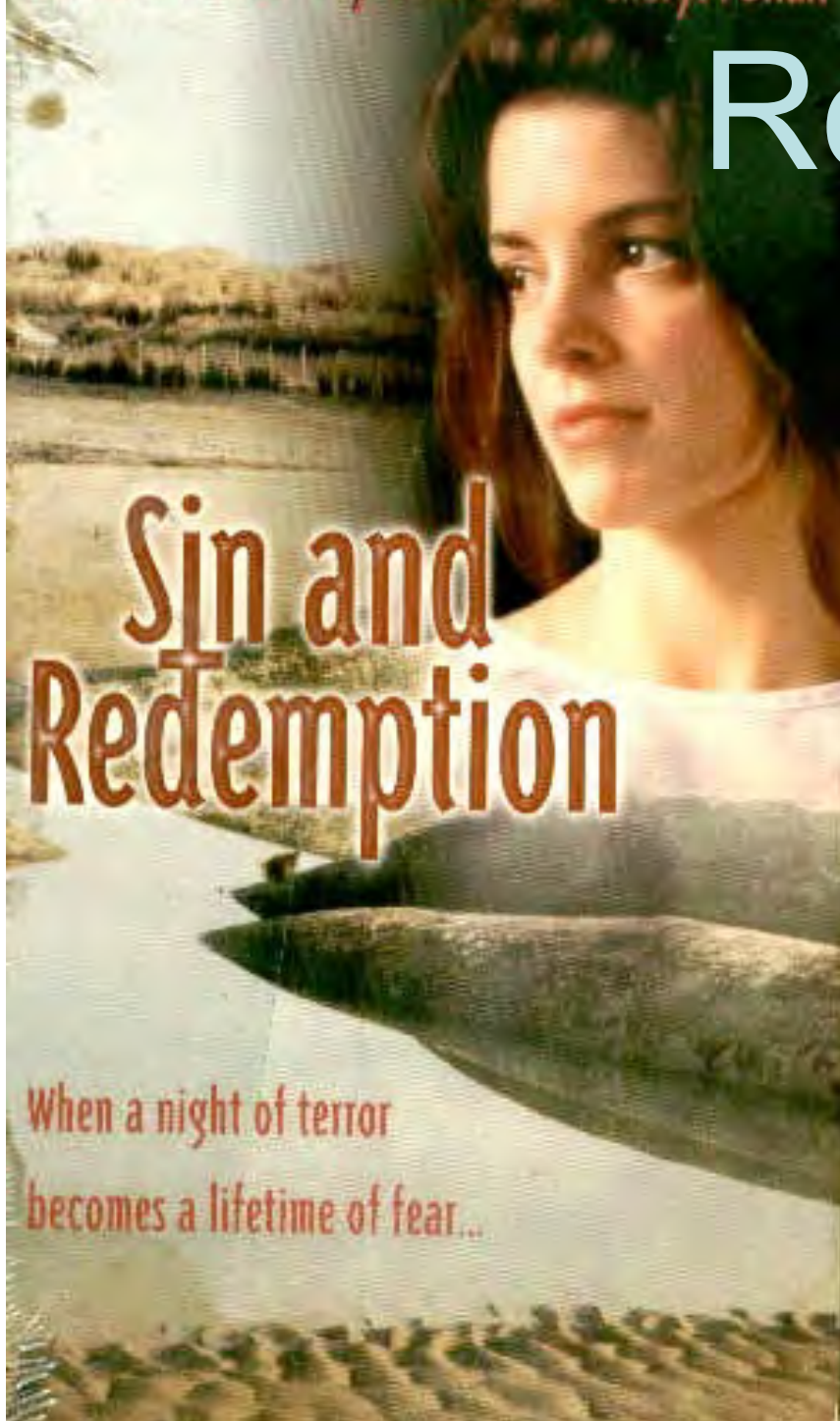




Redemption means
“to release from ransom”

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

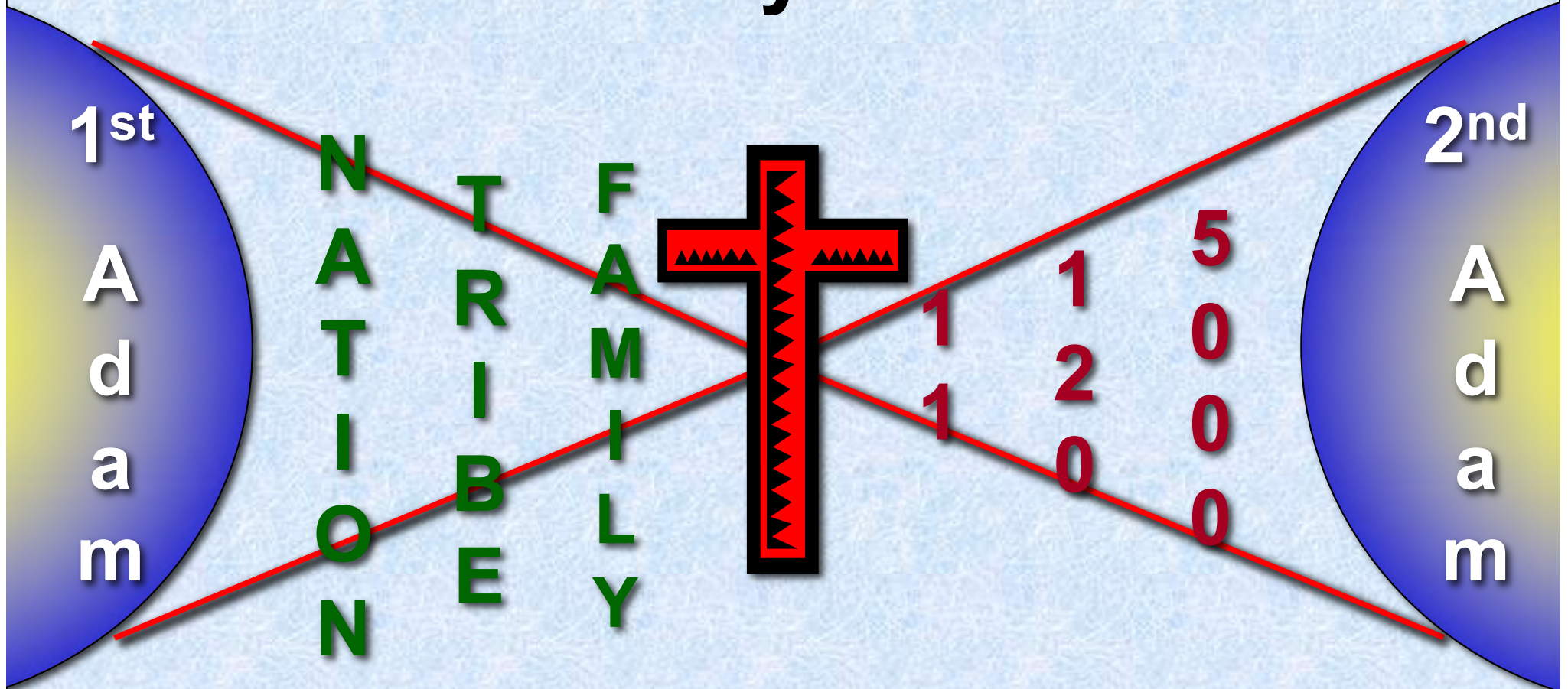
WILLEM VANGEMEREN



The Focus of History
is the Redemption
Provided by Christ

WHAT?

The Centrality of the Cross

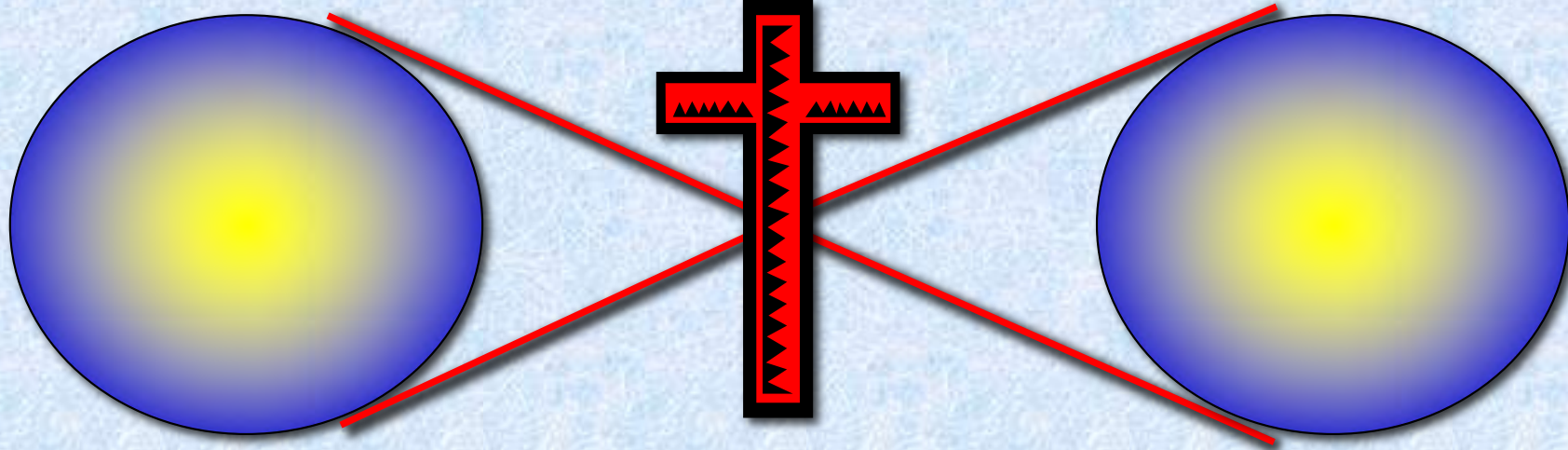


The Centrality of the Cross

55

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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.



Opinions on the Key OT Theme

- A. Redemption of Man
- B. Glory of God



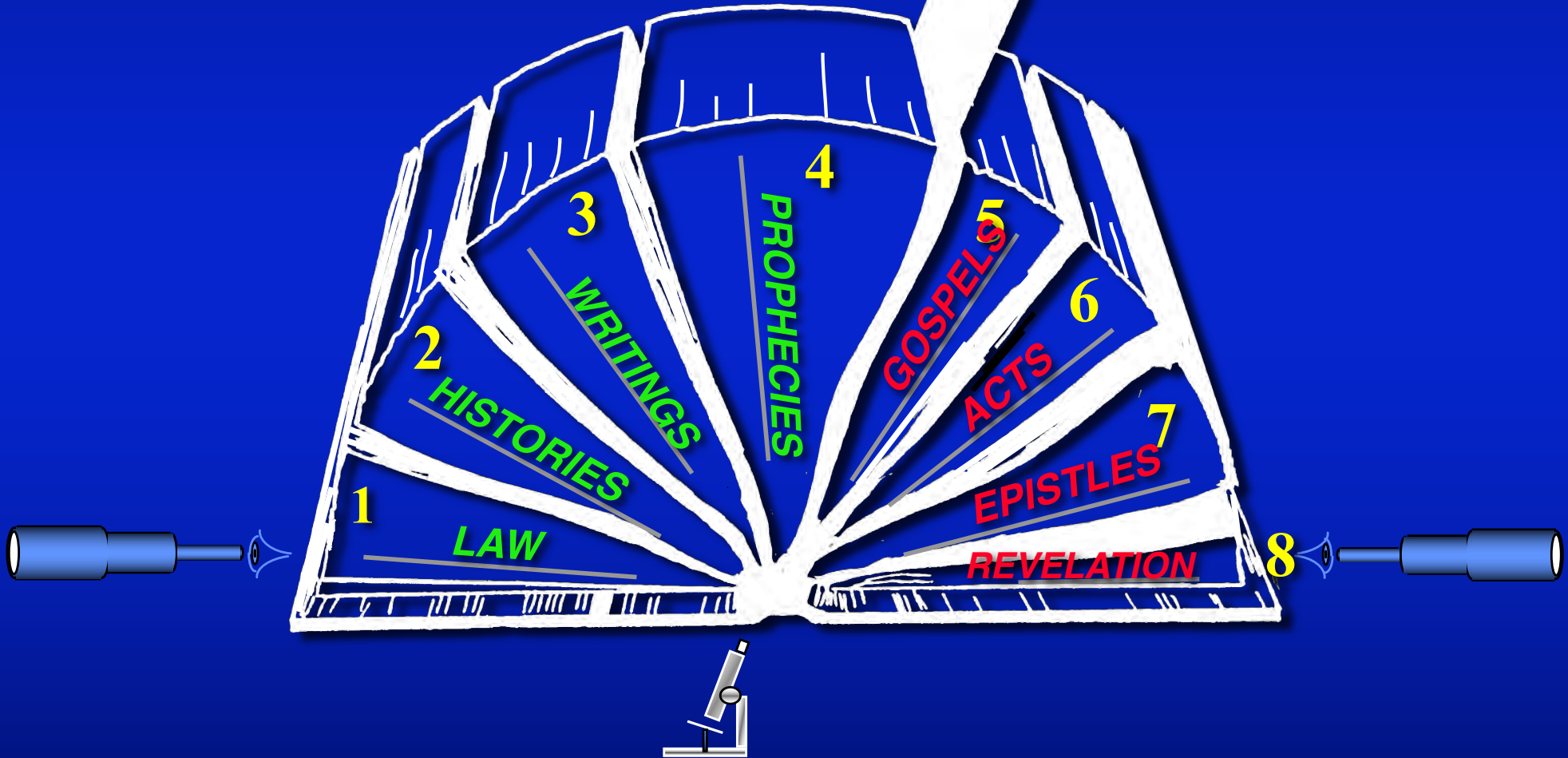
The Glory of God



1600 years
40 authors

The Glory of God

ONE THEME:
the glory of God





The Gift of God



Opinions on the Key OT Theme

- A. Redemption of Man
- B. Glory of God
- C. Sovereignty of God
- D. God
- E. Creation Faith
- F. Deuteronomistic Theology of History
- G. Worship
- H. Promise (Covenant)



Types of Unconditional Covenants

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Abrahamic

Land

Davidic

New

Land

Seed

Blessing

Physical

Political

Spiritual

Deut. 30:1-10

2 Sam. 7:12-16


Jer. 31:31-34



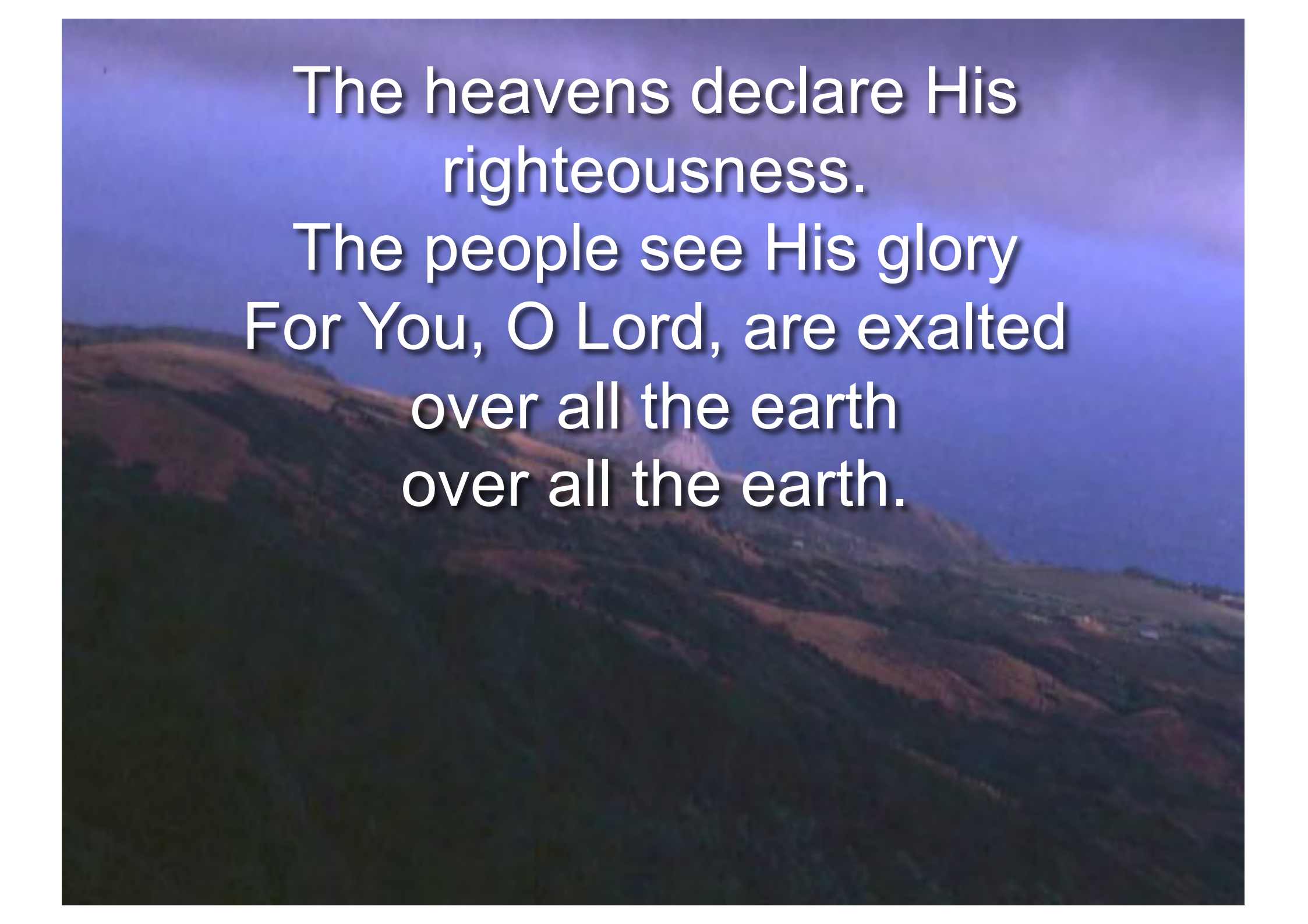
Opinions on the Key OT Theme

- A. Redemption of Man
- B. Glory of God
- C. Sovereignty of God
- D. God
- E. Creation Faith
- F. Deuteronomistic Theology of History
- G. Worship
- H. Promise (Covenant)
- I. No Overall Theme
- J. Rule of God
- K. Kingdom & Covenants

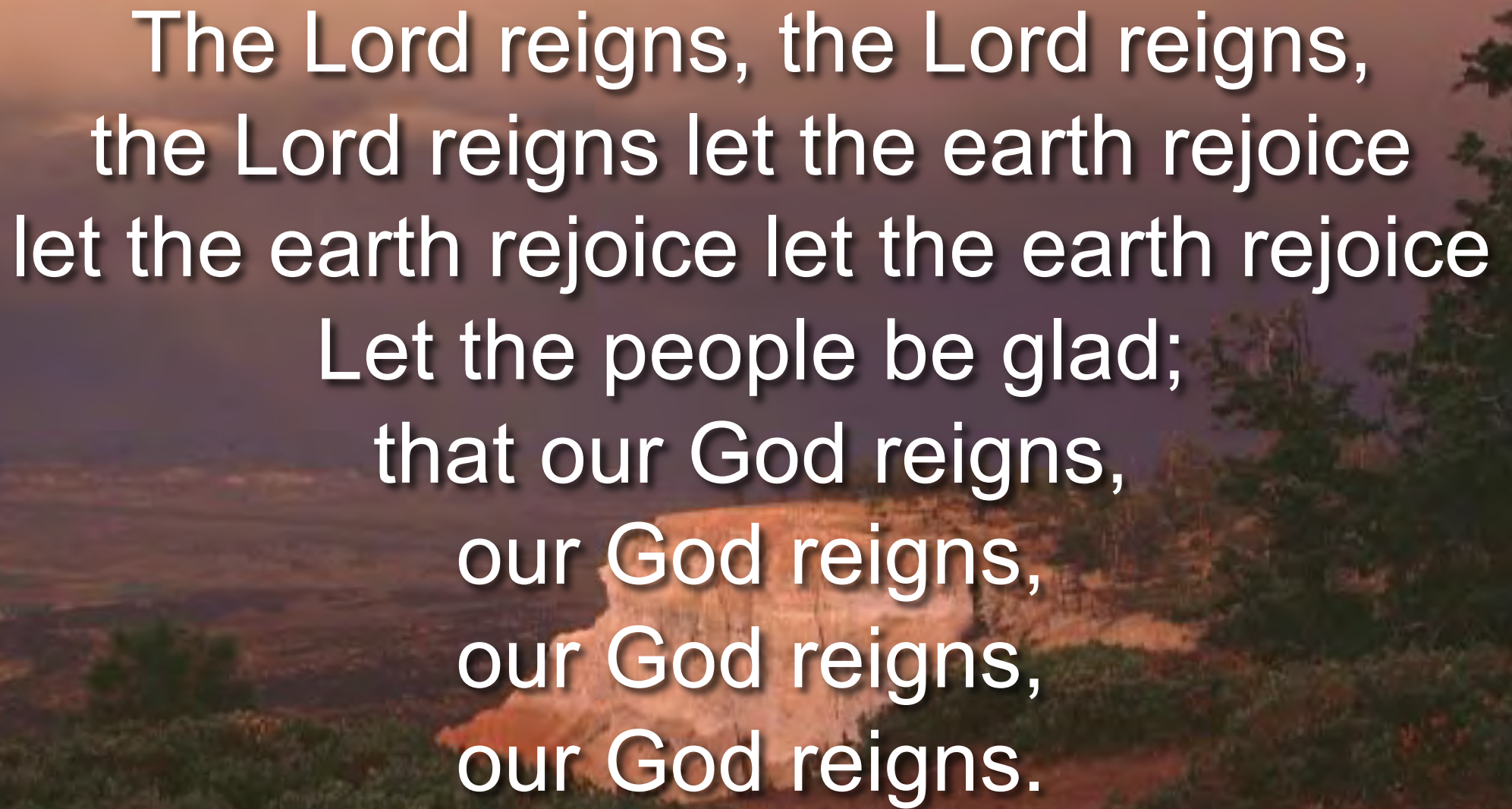




The Lord reigns, the Lord reigns,
the Lord reigns let the earth rejoice
let the earth rejoice let the earth rejoice
Let the people be glad;
that our God reigns.
(repeat)

A landscape of rolling hills under a blue sky with white clouds. The hills are covered in green grass and some trees. The sky is a deep blue with soft white clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a drop shadow.

The heavens declare His
righteousness.
The people see His glory
For You, O Lord, are exalted
over all the earth
over all the earth.

The background of the image is a landscape photograph. In the foreground, there is a large, reddish-brown rock formation, possibly a butte or mesa, with some sparse green vegetation at its base. The middle ground shows a valley with more greenery and a few trees. The background is a vast, hazy landscape under a sky with soft, warm colors from the setting or rising sun, transitioning from orange near the horizon to a pale, hazy blue at the top. The overall mood is peaceful and majestic.

The Lord reigns, the Lord reigns,
the Lord reigns let the earth rejoice
let the earth rejoice let the earth rejoice
Let the people be glad;
that our God reigns,
our God reigns,
our God reigns,
our God reigns.

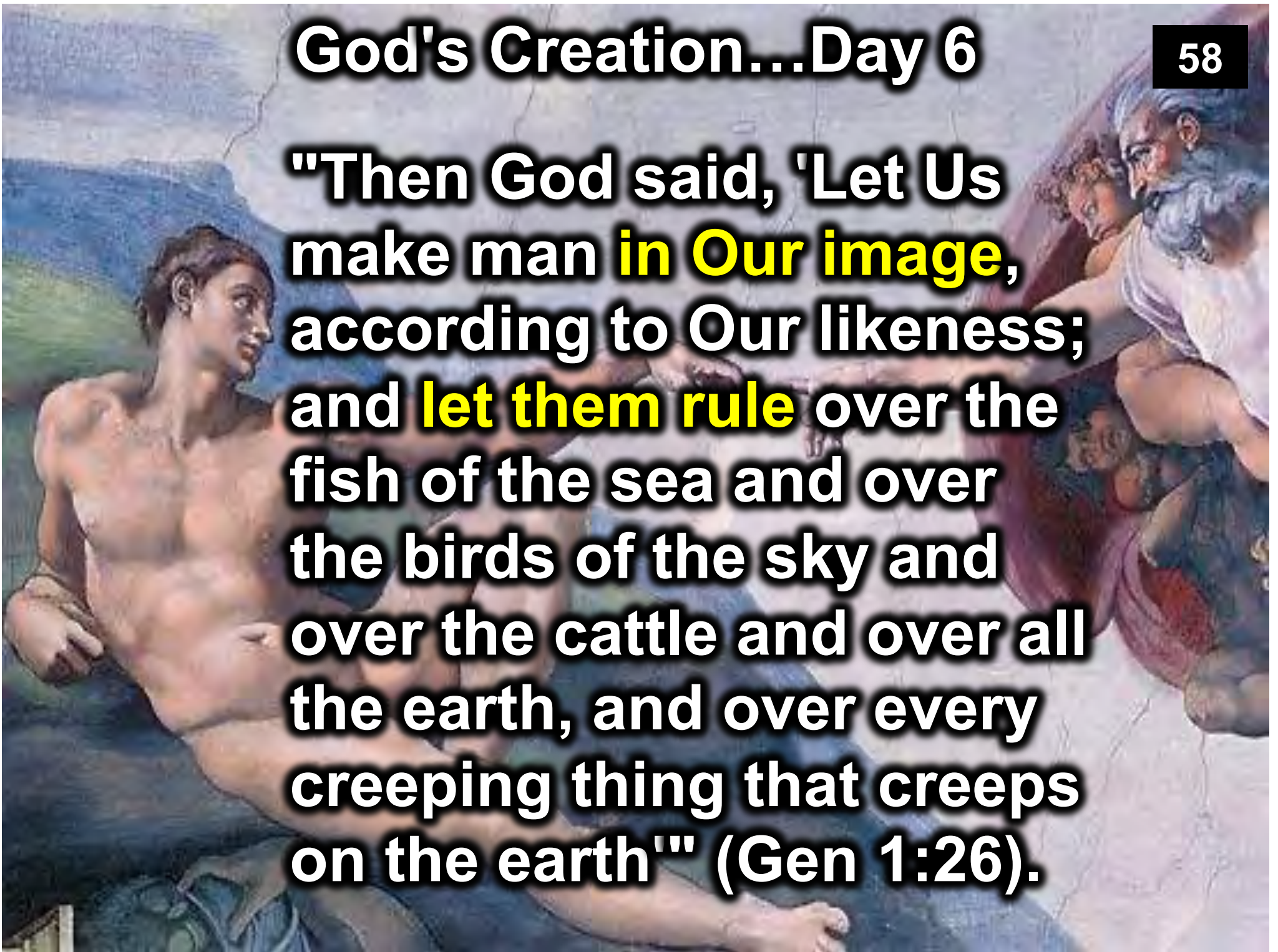
God's Creation...Day 6

"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

58

"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).

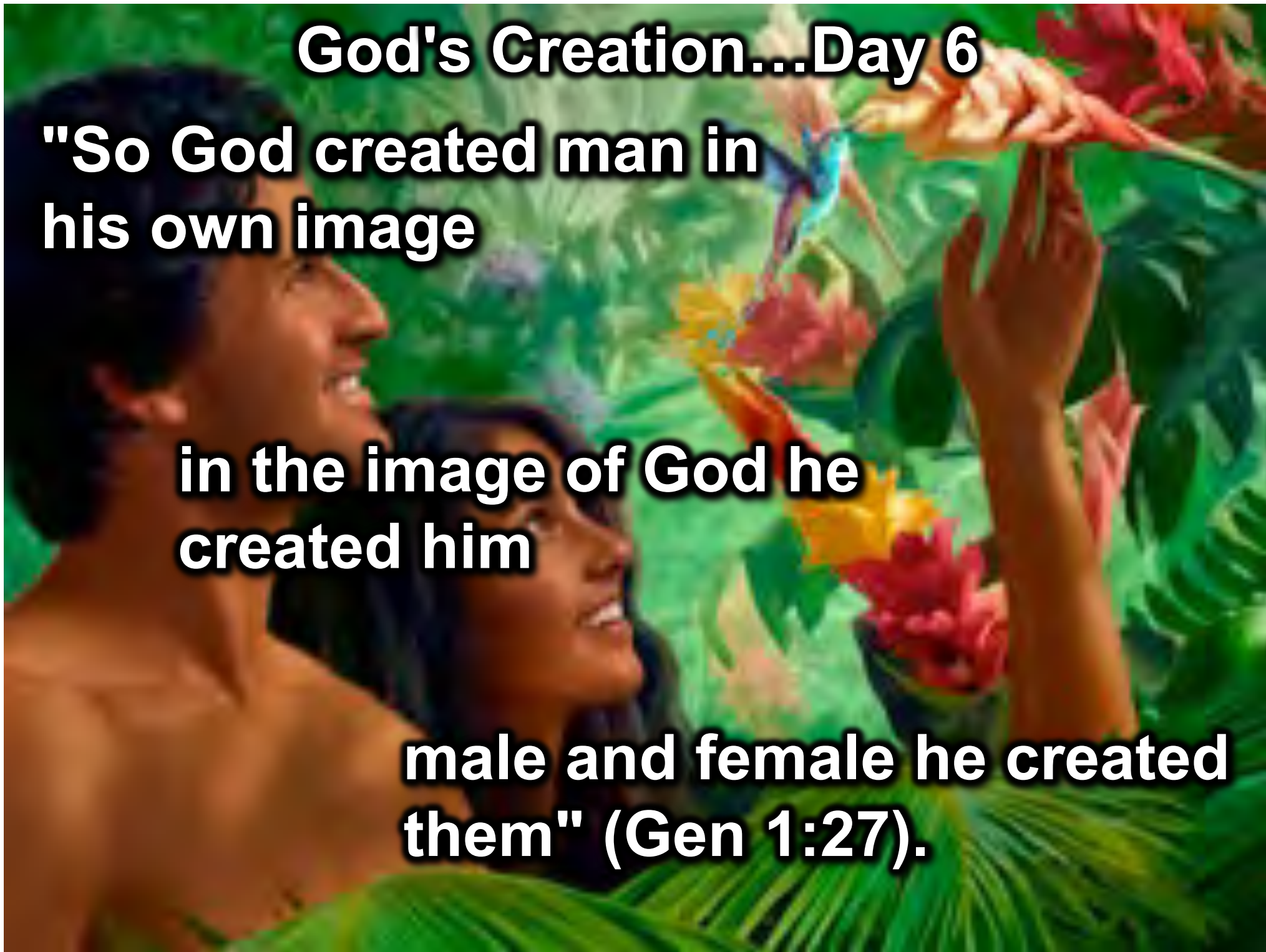


God's Creation...Day 6

**"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 shades of 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 prominently.

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

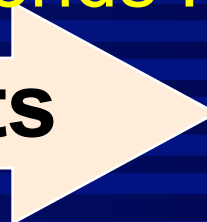
"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever."

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

Command



Covenants



Fulfillment

Kingdom & Covenants Timeline



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

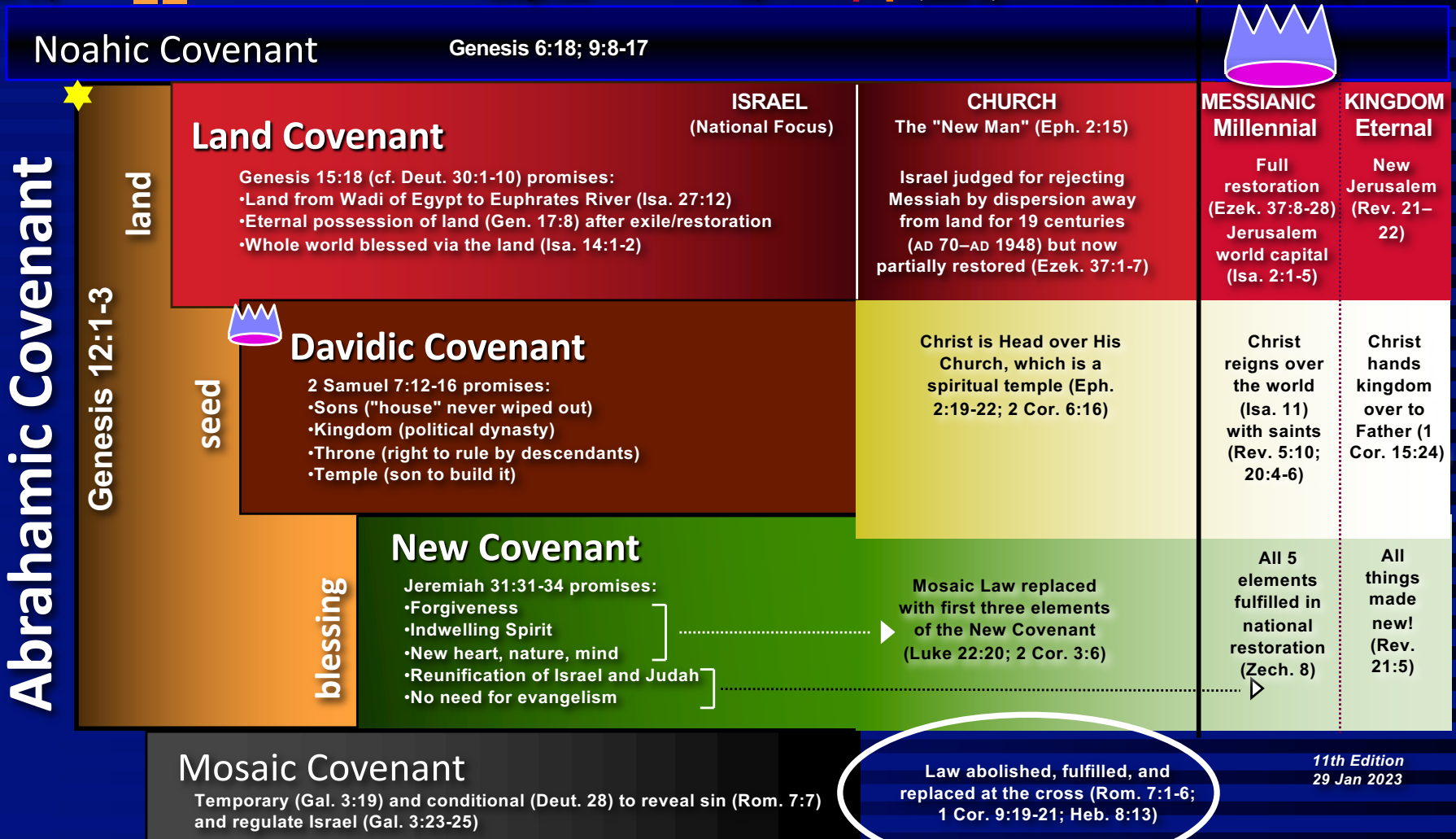
Israel rejects Messiah's offer of kingdom (Matt. 12:41-42; 23:37-39)

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)



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

11th Edition
29 Jan 2023

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

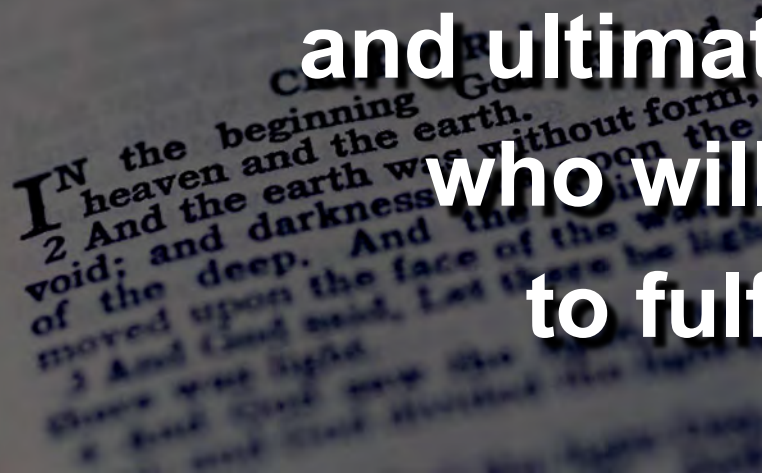
mandated in Eden but lost in the Fall
and accomplished by redeeming man

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
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

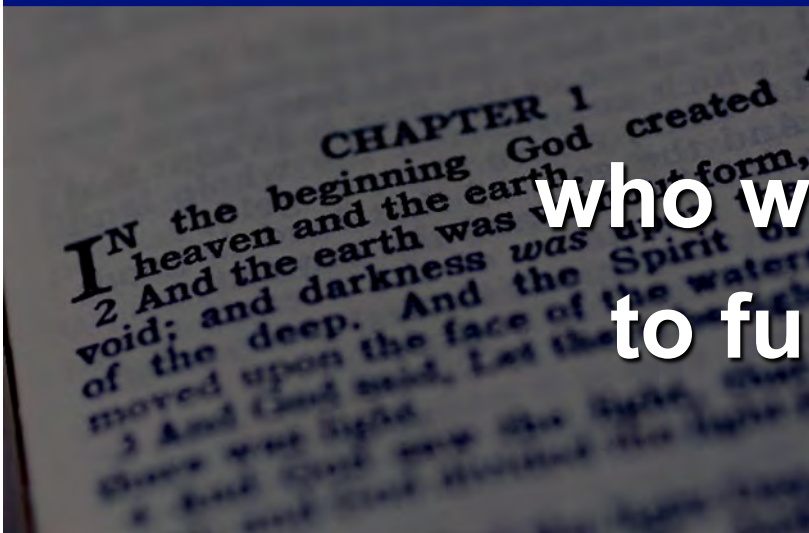
through faith alone

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

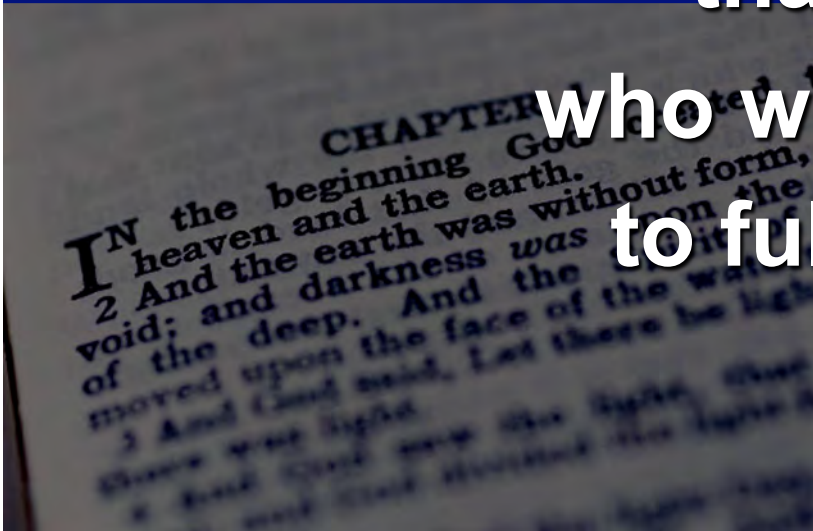
though Israel bringing forth the Messiah
so that the Church may proclaim

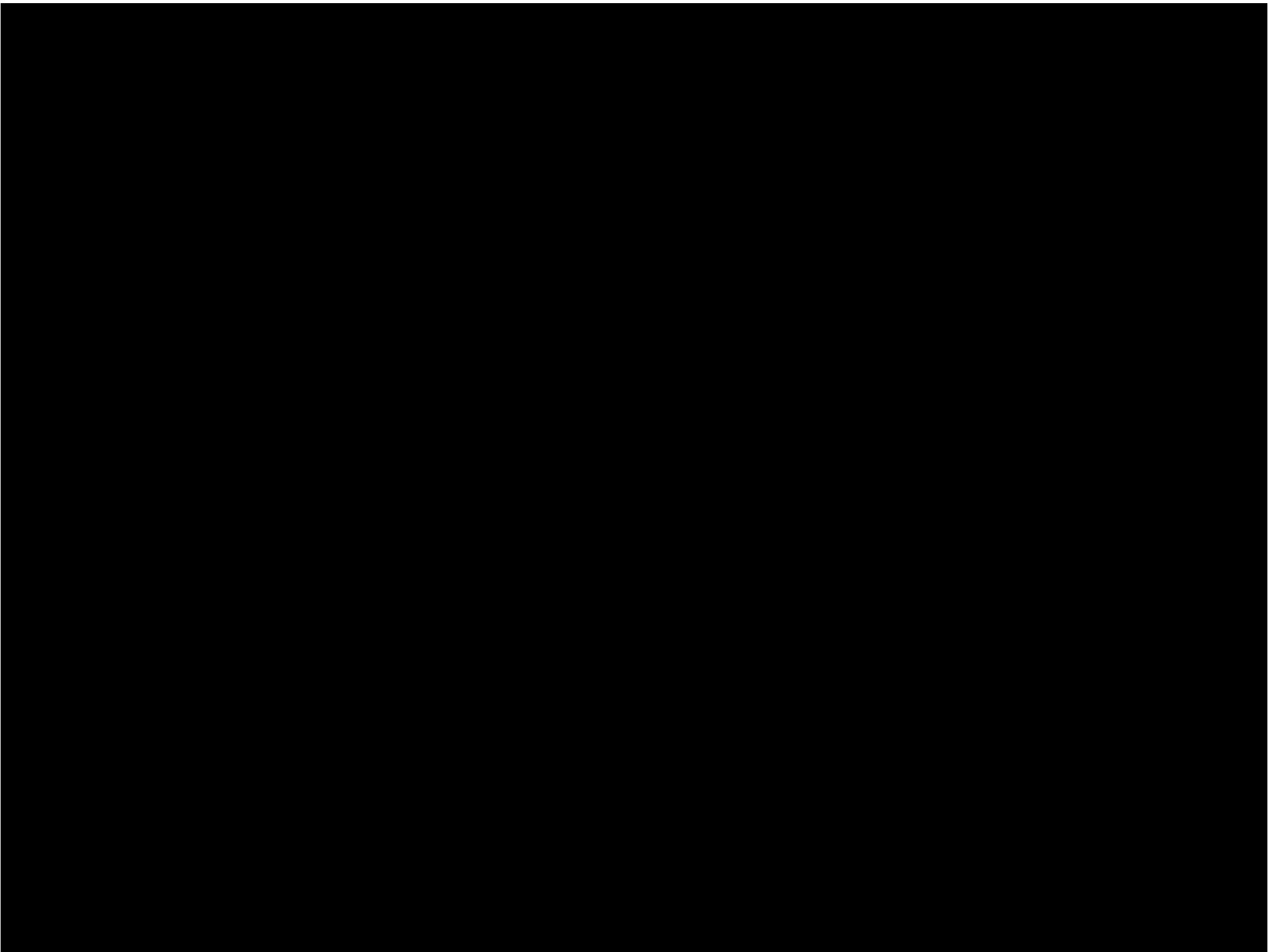
that salvation is in Christ alone

who will reign as Saviour and King

to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant

to the glory of God alone





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