

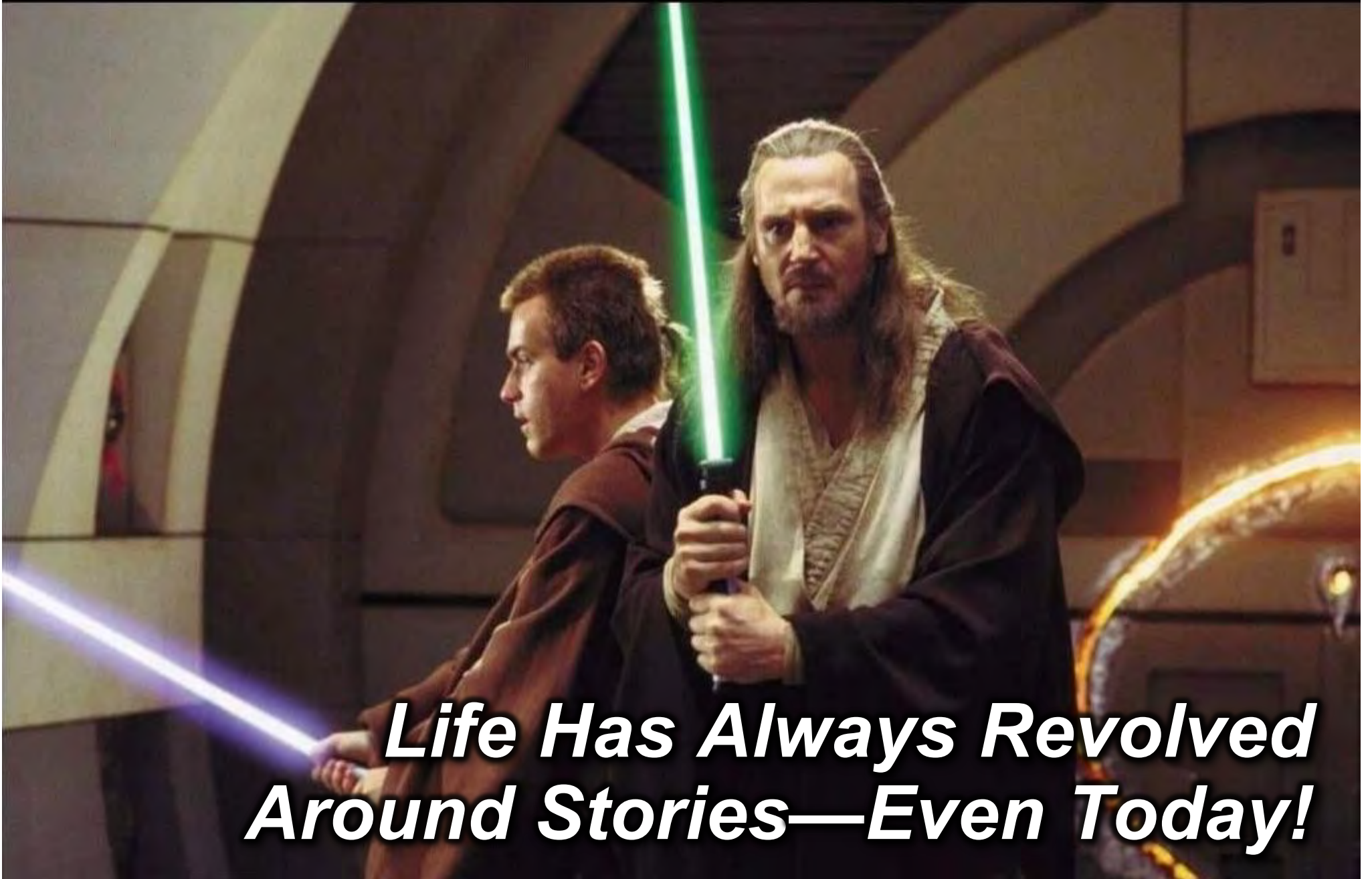
Narrative Preaching



Advantages to Preaching Stories

God likes stories
People like stories

STAR WARS
EPISODE I
THE PHANTOM MENACE.



***Life Has Always Revolved
Around Stories—Even Today!***

Advantages to Preaching Stories

God likes stories

People like stories

Stories speak to the heart

The Bible says to do it (2 Tim. 3:16-17; p. 121)

The Bible does it (p. 121)

Challenges to Preaching Stories

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Didactic</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
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Literary type	Laws, prophecy, poetry, letters, apocalyptic	Stories, parables
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Challenges to Preaching Stories

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Didactic</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
Interpret.	Easier	Harder
Persons	Two	Two Plus
Purpose	Stated	Implied
Length	Shorter	Longer

Challenges to Preaching Stories

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Didactic</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
--------------	-----------------	------------------

Scripture	OT poetic & prophetic books, epistles (Romans to Revelation)	OT historical books (Genesis to Nehemiah), Gospels & Acts
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Challenges to Preaching Stories

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Didactic</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
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Audience	Lower	Higher
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Interest		
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Application To Temptation	To Generalize	To Moralize
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How specific to focus?



What's *your* excuse for bad narrative exegesis?

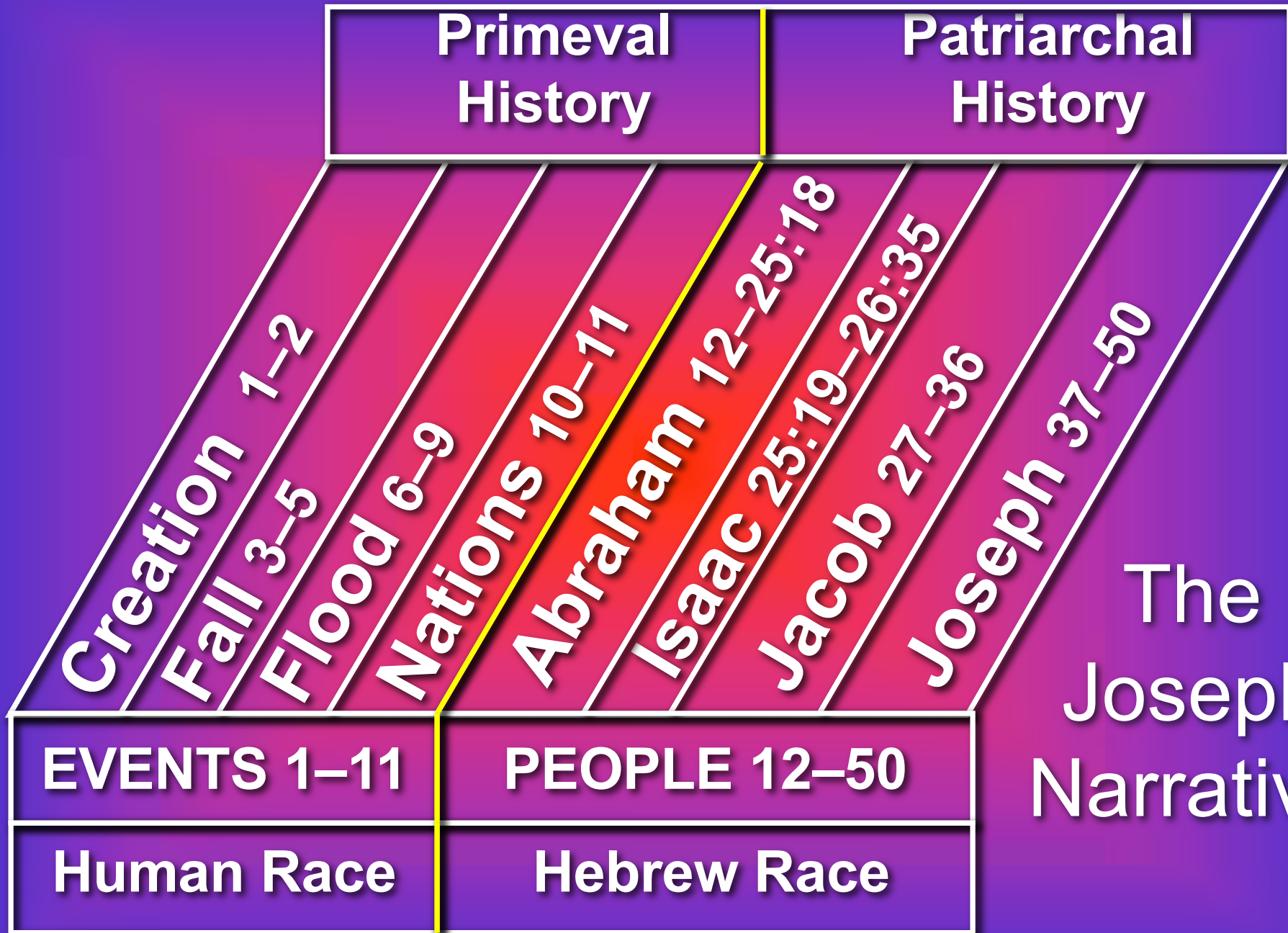


Levels of Meaning

108

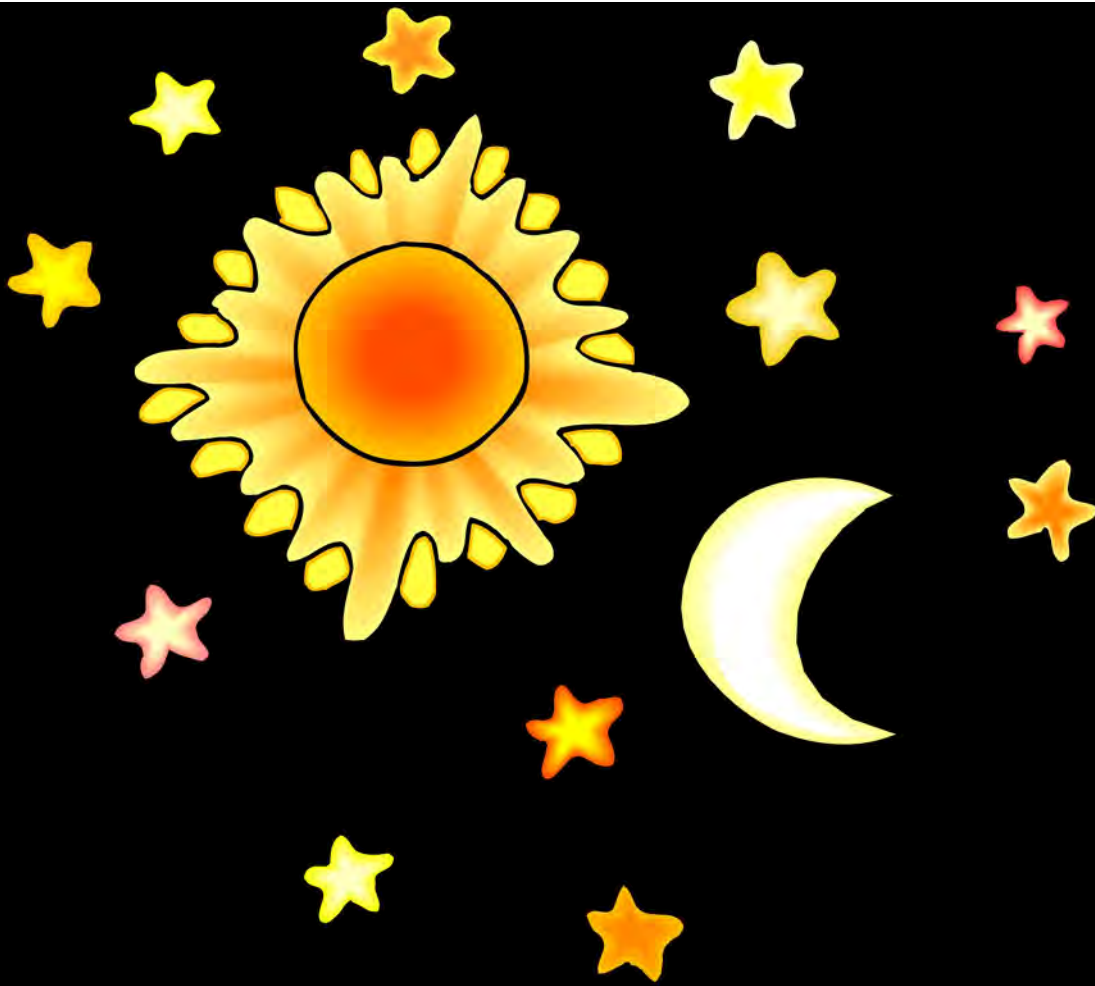
Top	Middle	Bottom
Universal	Israel	Individual
Theocentric	Corporate	Moral
Creation Fall of humanity Power of sin Need for redemption Christ's incarnation Christ's sacrifice	Call of Abraham Abrahamic lineage Slavery in Egypt Exodus Conquest National sin & disloyalty God's patient protection Fall of Israel Fall of Judah Exile Restoration	Joseph sold into slavery Gideon's doubts & fleece David's adultery w/ Bathsheba Plus, hundreds of other individual narratives





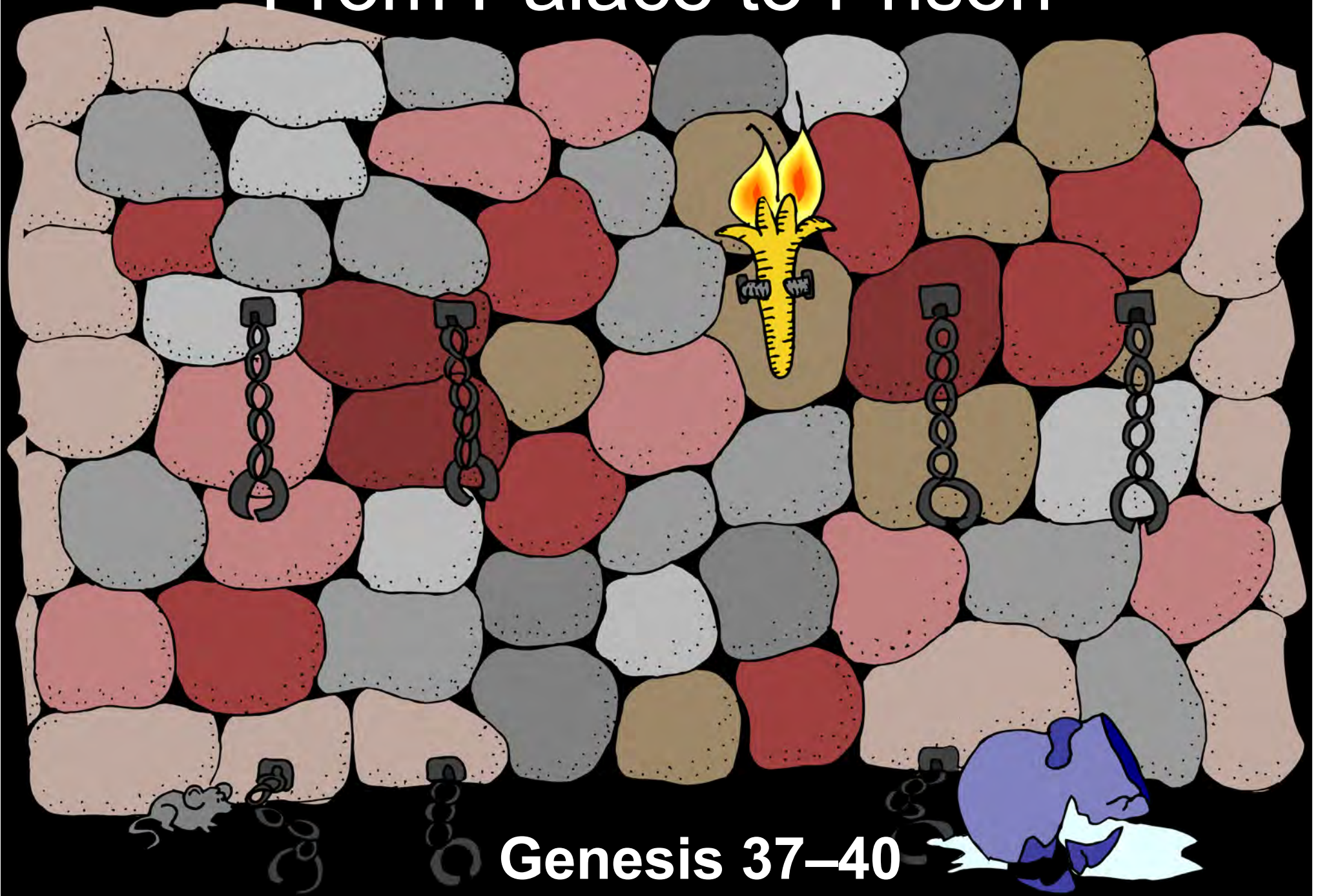
The
Joseph
Narrative

Youthful Indiscretion



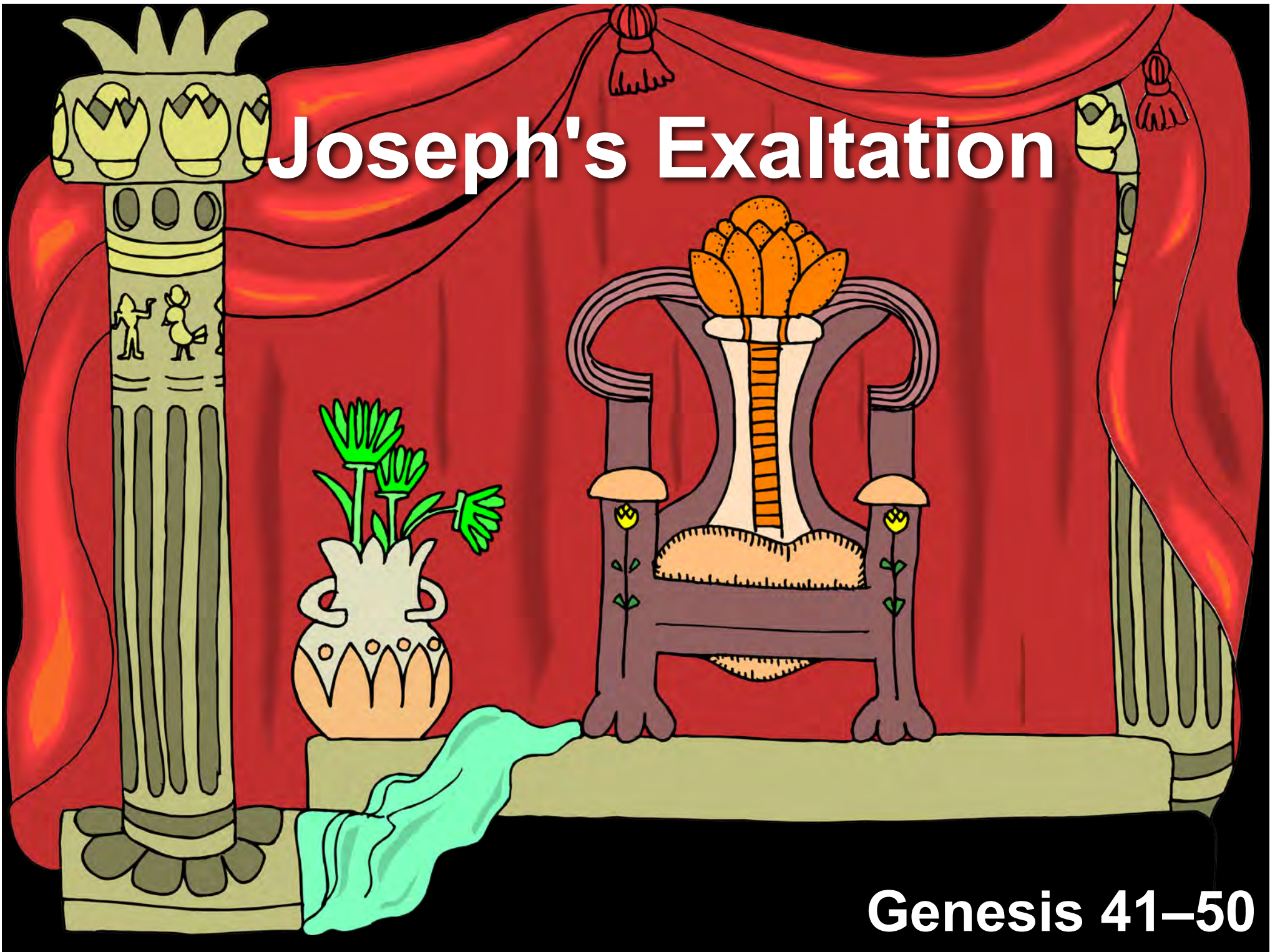
Genesis 37:1-11

From Palace to Prison



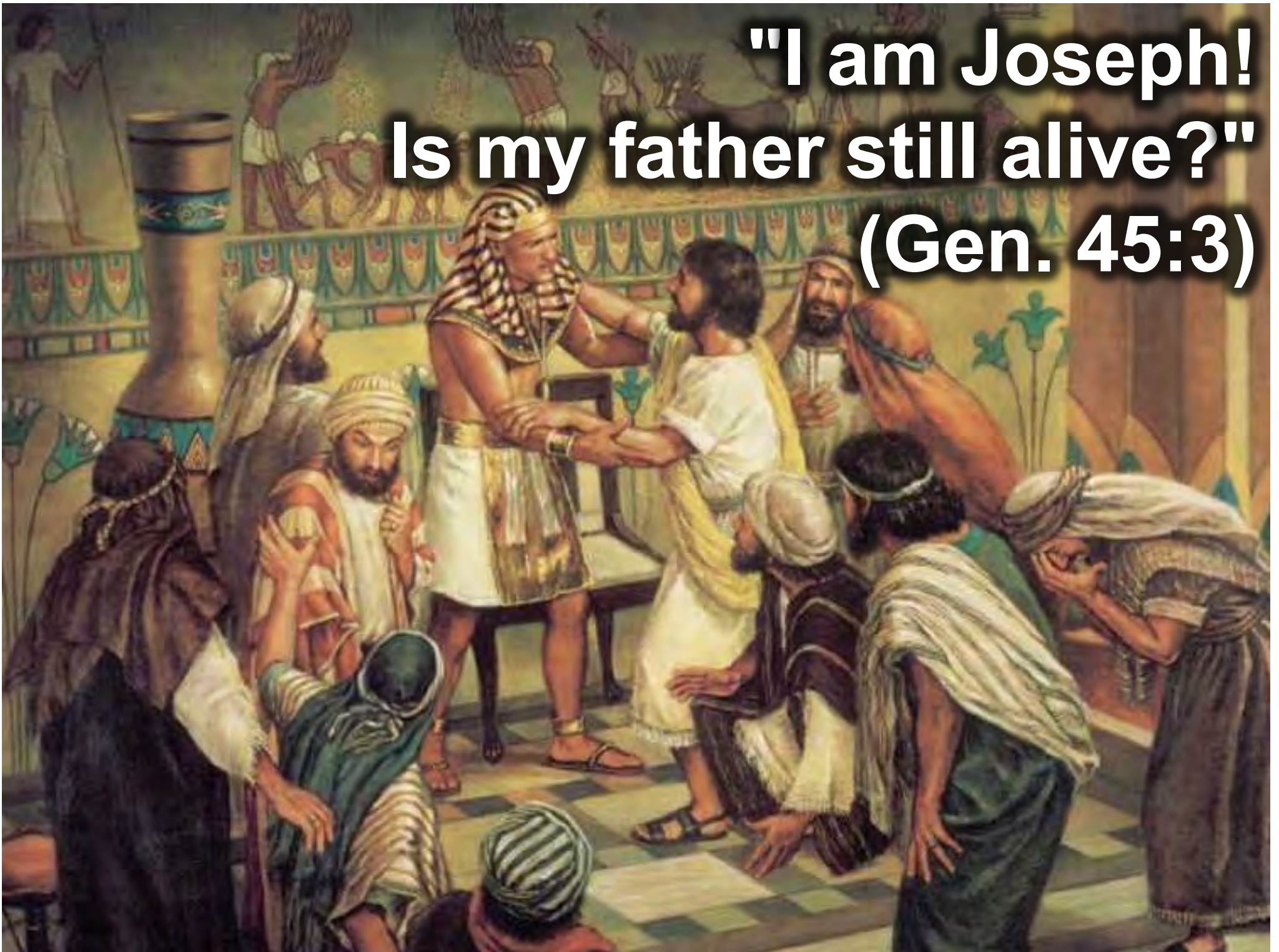
Genesis 37–40

Joseph's Exaltation

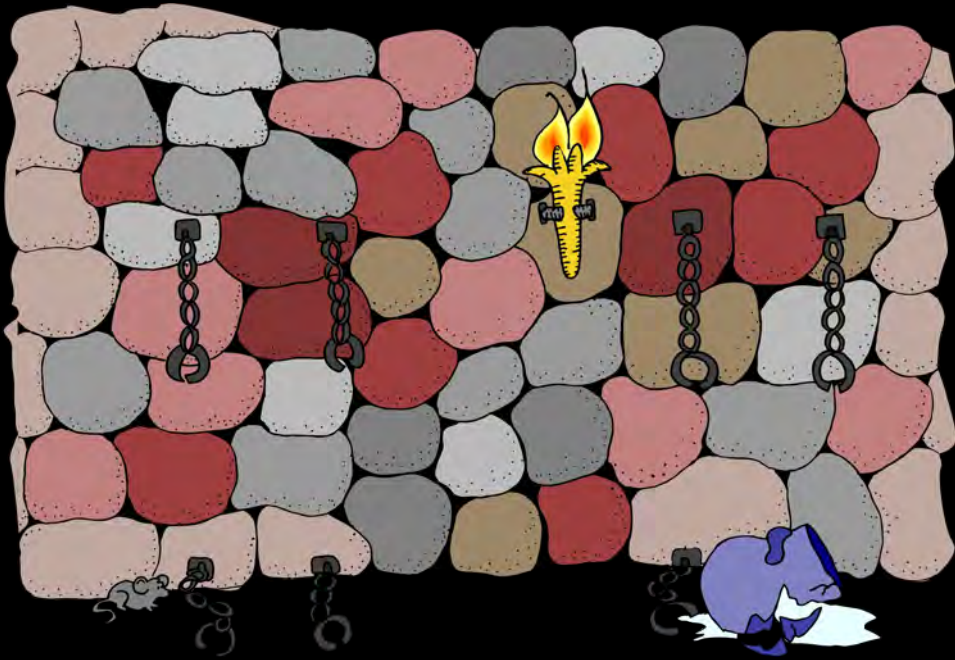


Genesis 41–50

**"I am Joseph!
Is my father still alive?"
(Gen. 45:3)**

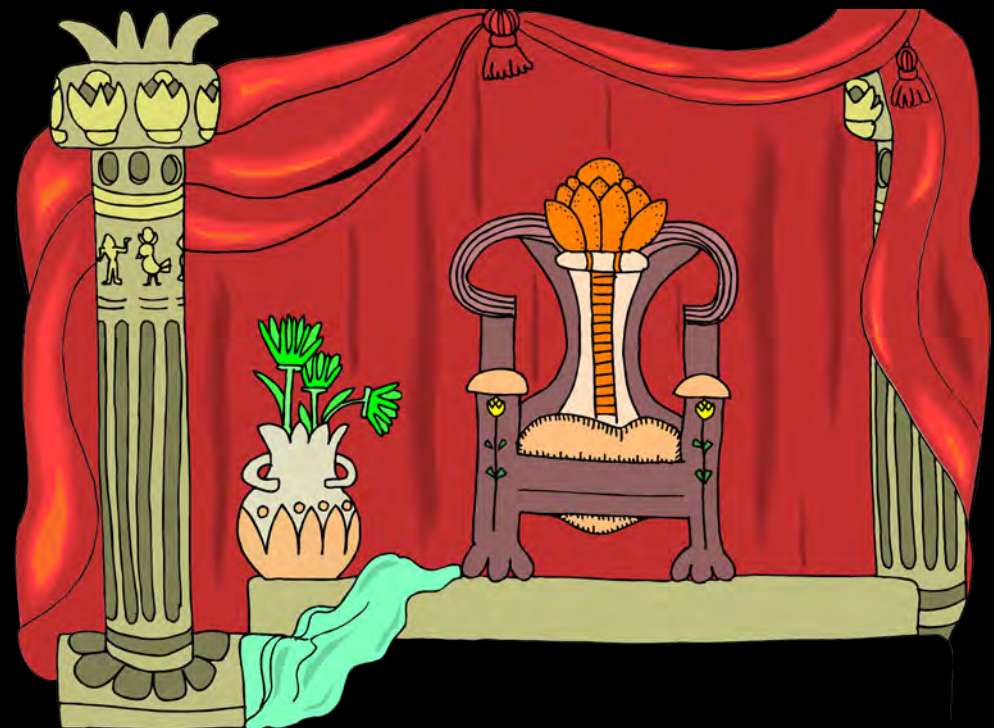


Joseph Knew God's Sovereign Purpose



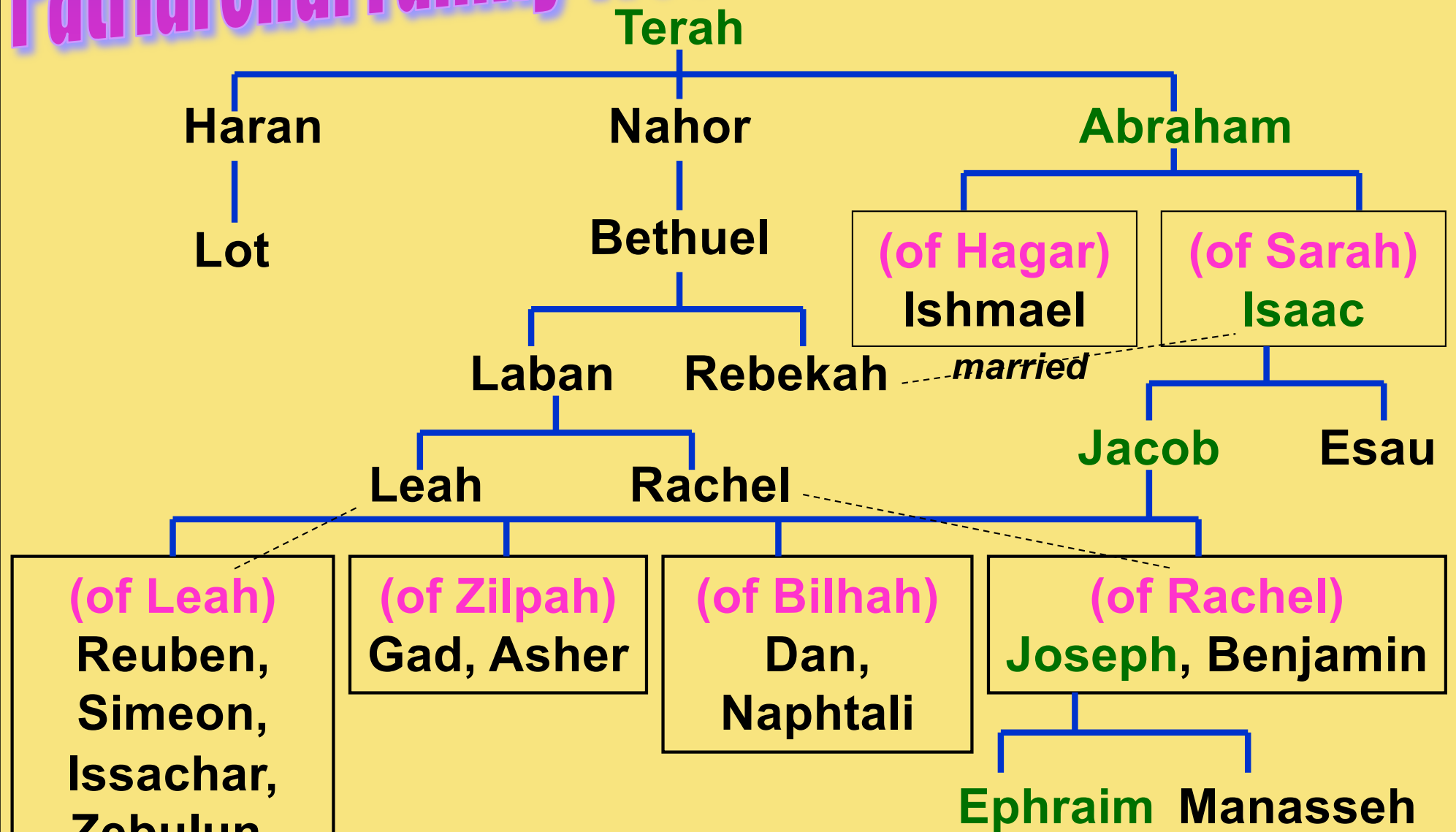
You intended to harm me,

but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.



Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

Patriarchal Family Tree



Green = line of blessing with rights of firstborn though none of these were born first (1 Chron. 5:1-2)

Joseph's Death (the last verse of Genesis)

"So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt (50:26)



But what about God's promise of a land?

Key Word for Genesis:

Election

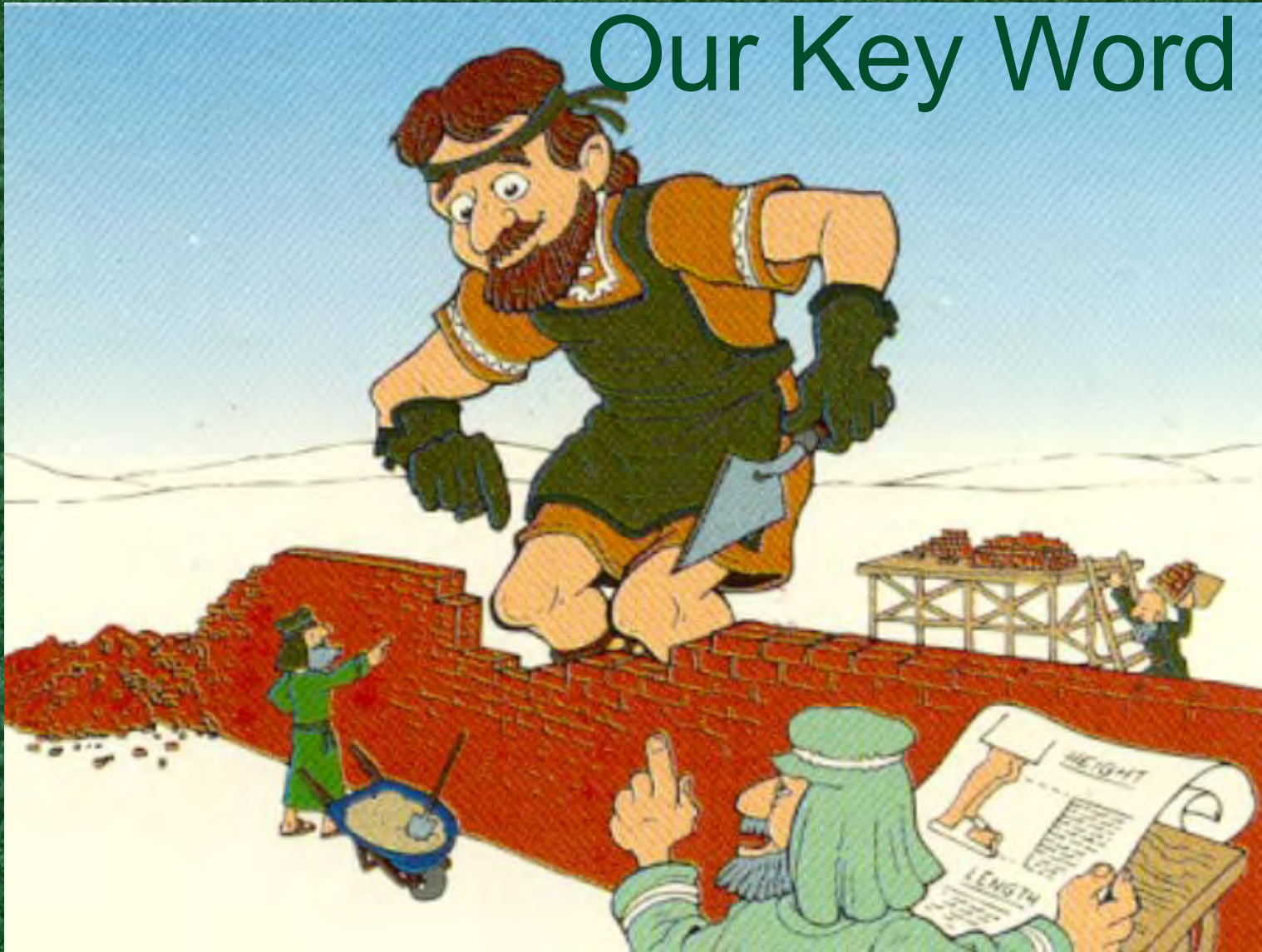
Nehemiah

**Where God
Guides, God
Provides**



Nehemiah: Walls

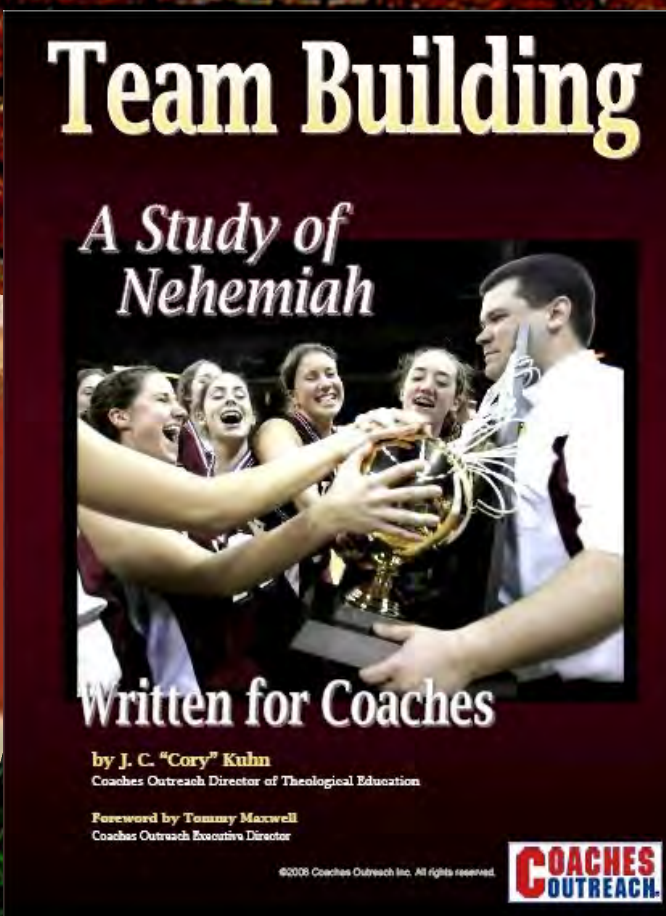
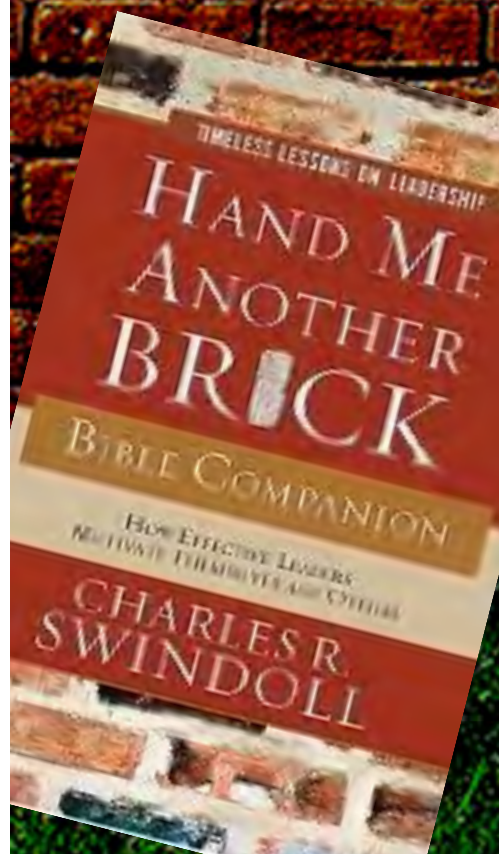
Our Key Word



Walk Through The Bible ©1989

Hand Me A Brick!

Books on Nehemiah



Thoughts from Nehemiah

Nehemiah's Responses to Problems

305

Gene Getz, "Nehemiah," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:681

Problems	Responses
Walls broken and gates burned (1:2-3)	Grief and prayer (1:4), & motivation of the people to rebuild (2:17-18)
False accusation of the workers (2:19)	Confidence that God would give them success (2:20)
Ridicule of the workers (4:1-3)	Prayer (4:4-5) & action (greater diligence in the work, 4:6)
Plot to attack the workers (4:7-8)	Prayer & action (posting a guard, 4:9)
Physical exhaustion & threat of murder (4:10-12)	Positioning people by families with weapons (4:13, 16-18), encouraging the people (4:14, 20)
Economic crisis and greed (5:1-5)	Anger (5:6), reflection, rebuke (5:7), & action (having the people return the debtors' interest, 5:7b-11)

Nehemiah's Responses to Problems

305

Gene Getz, "Nehemiah," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:681

Problems	Responses
Plot to assassinate (or at least harm) Nehemiah (6:1-2)	Refusal to cooperate (6:3)
Slander against Nehemiah (6:5-7)	Denial (6:8) & prayer (6:9)
Plot to discredit Nehemiah (6:13)	Refusal to cooperate (6:11-13) & prayer (6:14)
Tobiah moved into a temple storeroom (13:4-7)	Tossing out Tobiah's furniture (13:8)
Neglect of temple tithes & offerings (13:10)	Rebuke (13:11a), stationing the Levites at their posts (13:11b), & prayer (13:14)
Violation of the Sabbath by business activities (13:15-16)	Rebuke (13:17-18), posting of guards (13:19), & prayer (13:22)
Mixed marriages (13:23-24)	Rebuke (13:25-27), removal of a guilty priest (13:28), & prayer (13:29)

Donald K. Campbell, *Nehemiah: Man in Charge*, 23

While leadership is not the main purpose of the book, nevertheless, the man Nehemiah exemplifies many principles for good leadership.

Some these include the following:

1. He established a reasonable & attainable goal.
2. He had a sense of mission.
3. He was willing to get involved.
4. He rearranged his priorities in order to accomplish his goal.
5. He patiently waited for God's timing.
6. He showed respect to his superior.
7. He prayed at crucial times.
8. He made his request with tact and graciousness.
9. He was well prepared and thought of his needs in advance.
10. He went through proper channels.

Nehemiah's Leadership

306

Donald K. Campbell, *Nehemiah: Man in Charge*, 23

While leadership is not the main purpose of the book, nevertheless, the man Nehemiah exemplifies many principles for good leadership.

Some these include the following:

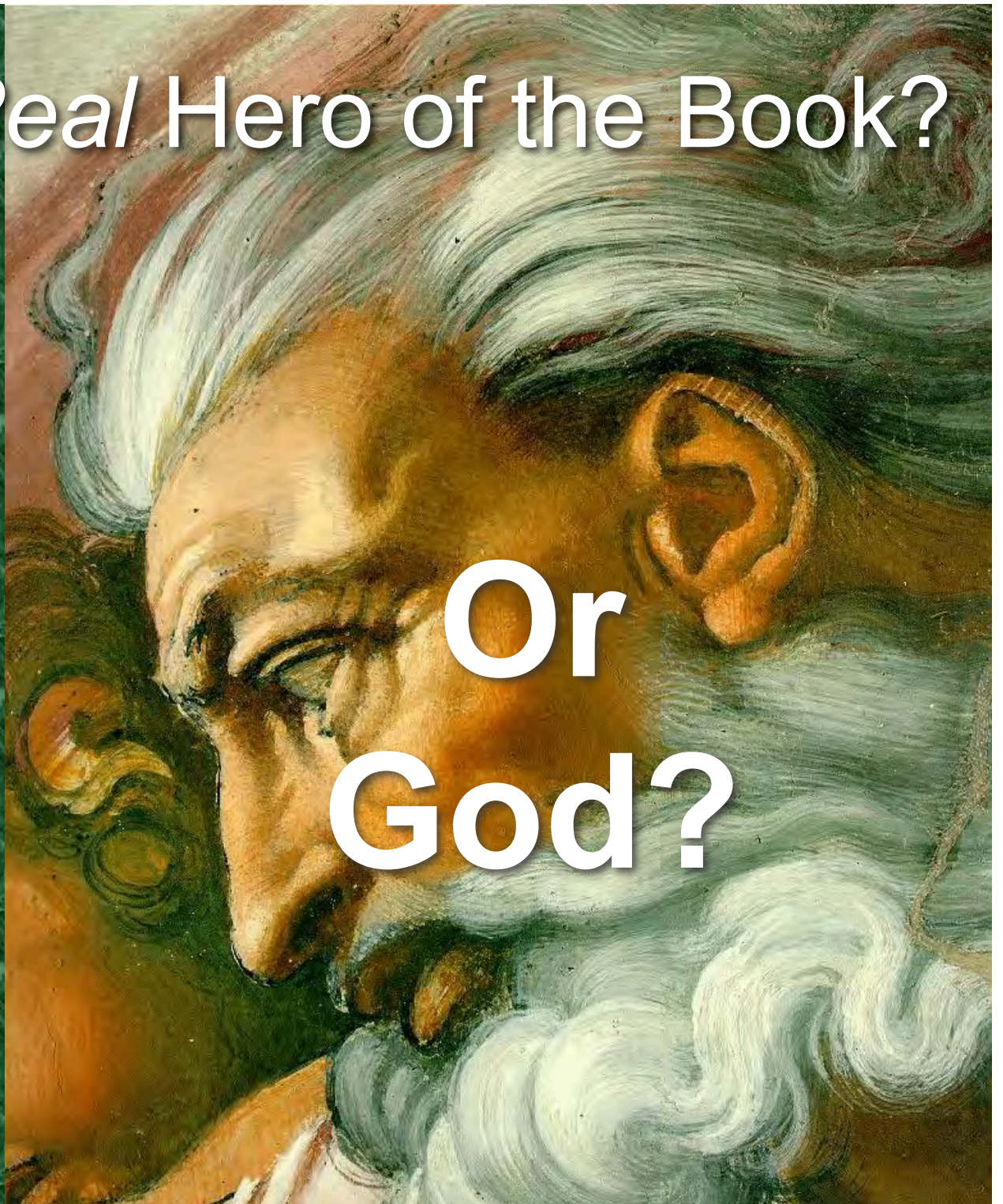
11. He took time (3 days) to rest, pray, & plan.
12. He investigated the situation firsthand.
13. He informed others only after he knew the size of the problem.
14. He identified himself as one with the people.
15. He set before them a reasonable & attainable goal.
16. He assured them God was in the project.
17. He displayed self-confidence in facing obstacles.
18. He displayed God's confidence in facing obstacles.
19. He did not argue with opponents.
20. He was not discouraged by opposition.
21. He courageously used the authority of his position.

Who is the *Real* Hero of the Book?



Nehemiah?

Or
God?



JUDGMENT

IDOLATRY

WRATH

EDZAKIEL

PUNISHMENT

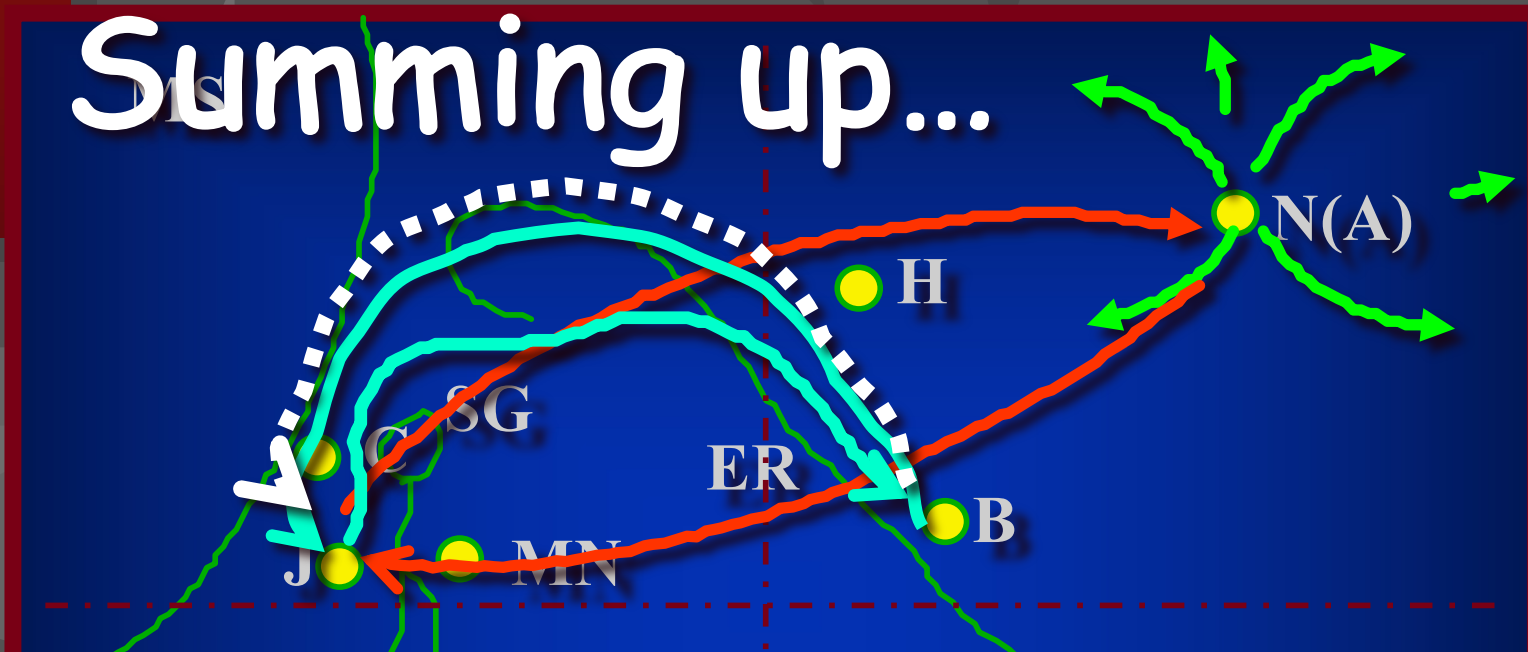
SIN

DISOBEDIENCE



**DRESSING
THE
STAGE**

Summing up...



JUDAH IS PRESERVED!

WHY?

Because Messiah was long prophesied to appear through the tribe of Judah

7

ZERUBBABEL...returns to begin rebuilding the Temple.

EZRA...
Law of

Z-E-N

THREE DIPLOMATS

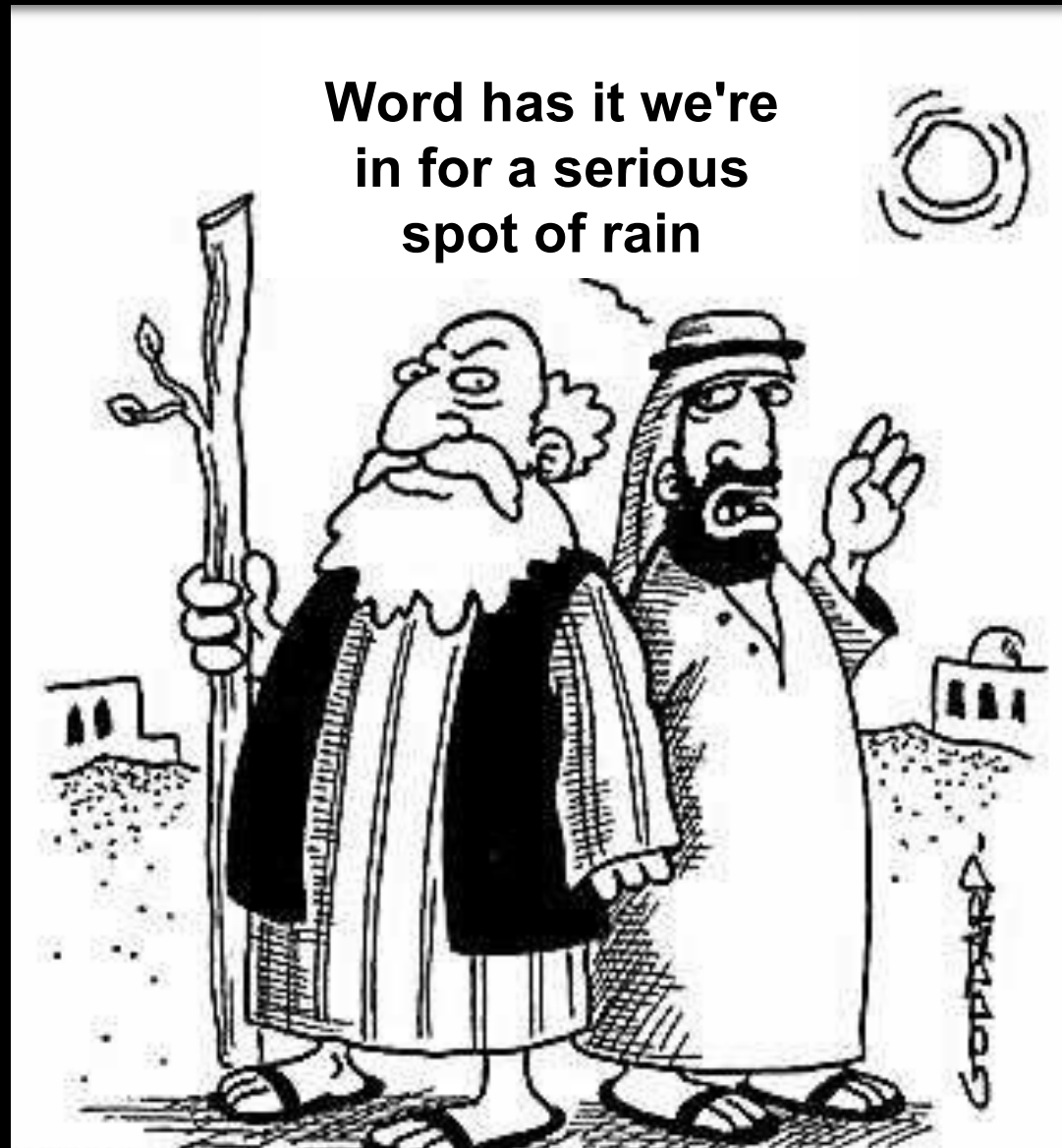
NEHEMIAH...
great Old Te
and rebuild
gates and its walls.

CAPTIVITY
70 Years
3 Treks
100 Years / 50,000
Z - E - N



**How can you know if
God **wants** you to do
a certain task?**

I. God gives us the **information** we need to do His will (1:1-3).



The Persian Empire



The Persian Empire in the fifth century BC, extending 'from India to Ethiopia' (Est. 1:1).

The boundaries of the empire that Cyrus II initiated and Darius I consolidated stretched from Greece to India

The Postexilic Era

560



Temple work

Prophets:

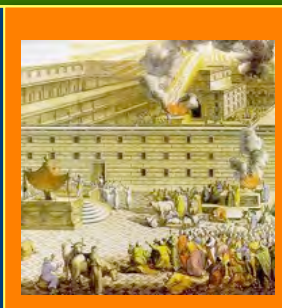
Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

605 586

539 536 520 516 483-473 444-425



Others:

Zerubbabel

Esther

Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings:

Cyrus

Darius

Xerxes

Artaxerxes

II. God gives us the **vision
we need to do His will (1:4-11a).**



III. God gives us the **position
we need to do His will (1:11b).**



The Cupbearer



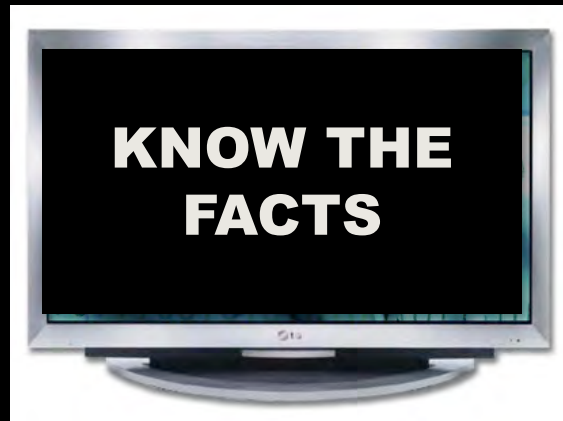


**How can you know if
God **wants** you to do
a certain task?**

Key Idea of Nehemiah 1

God gives you the

information,



vision

& position



you need to do His will.

OT Narrative is Unique



1. Not just stories
2. Not allegories
3. Do not always teach directly
4. Each part does not have a moral

- Fee & Stuart, 75-77

My View of the Bible's Theme


The Bible 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 Saviour and King
to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant**

CHAPTER 1
1 In the beginning God created
2 And the earth was without form
void; and darkness was upon the
of the deep. And the spirit of
moved upon the face of the waters.
3 And God said, Let there be light,
and there was light.
4 And God saw that the light was
good: and God divided the light from
the darkness.

The Kingdom in Genesis 1

- **Uncreated God (1:1)**
 - **Creation by Word alone (1:4)**
 - **Creation with ease**
 - **Sun and moon [gods] created (1:16)**
 - **Shared rule with man (1:26)**
- 



The Kingdom of God: The Bible's 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



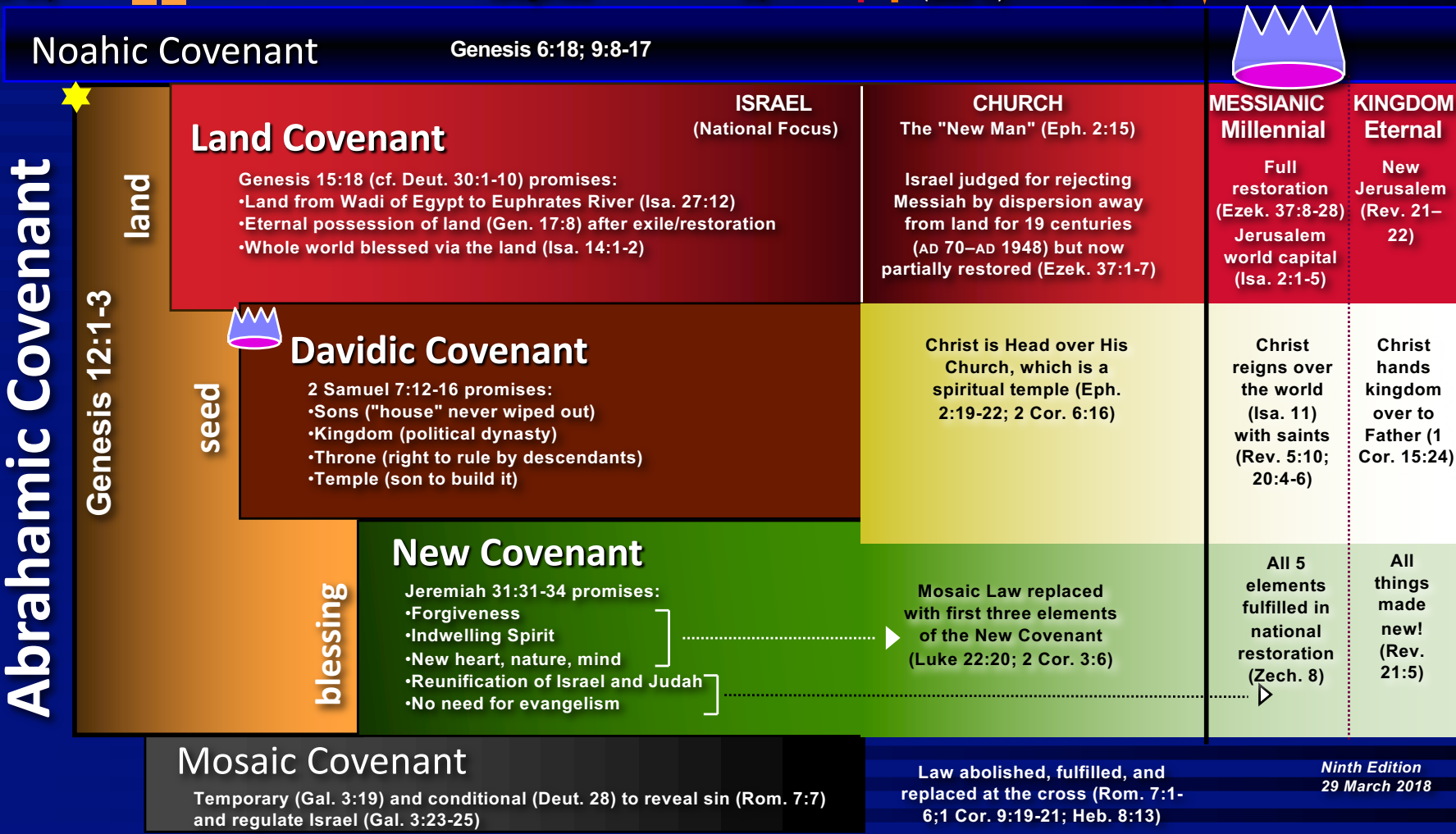
22 &
337

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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)



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 again enjoy world prominence after trusting Christ at His second coming.

The Bible's Chiasm

Repeated Patterns in Reverse Order

NTS
446

Christ's
Redemption

Christ's
Rule

Man's
Rule

Man's
Rule

Lost at
Fall

Restored at
Millennium

Creation

New
Creation



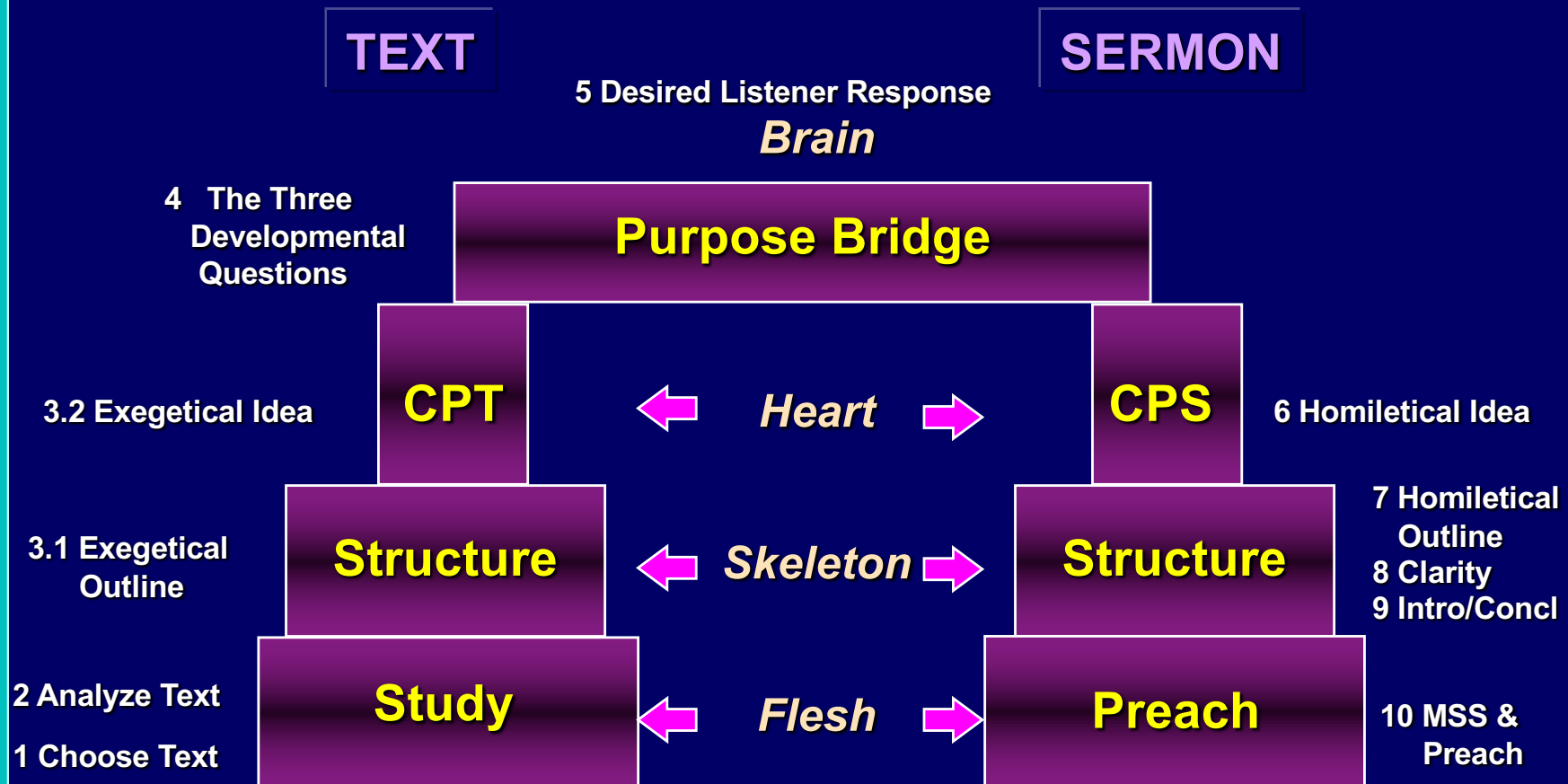
NTS
447



The New Heaven & New Earth

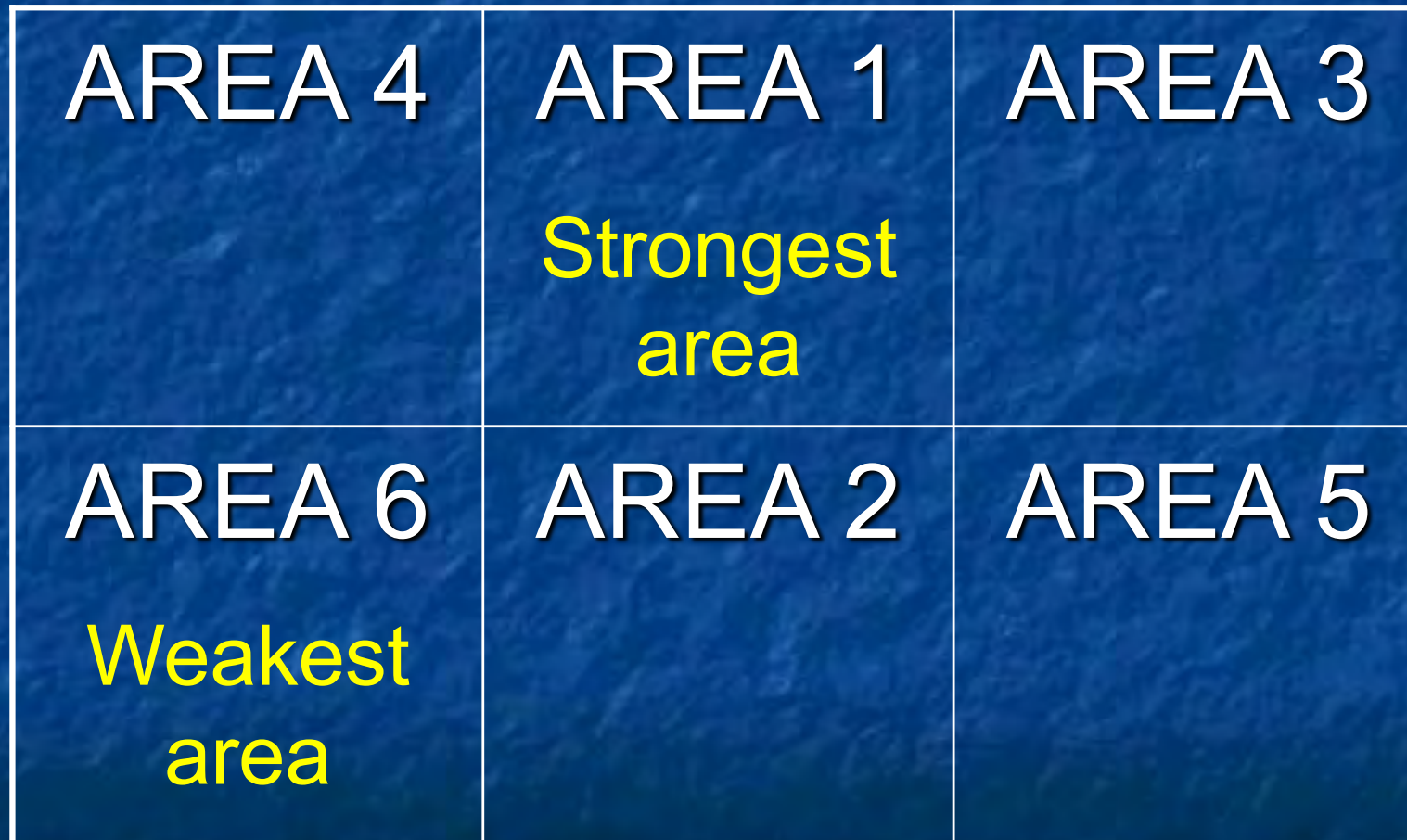
The *Preparing Expository Sermons* Process

Based on Ramesh Richard's text, *Preparing Expository Sermons*



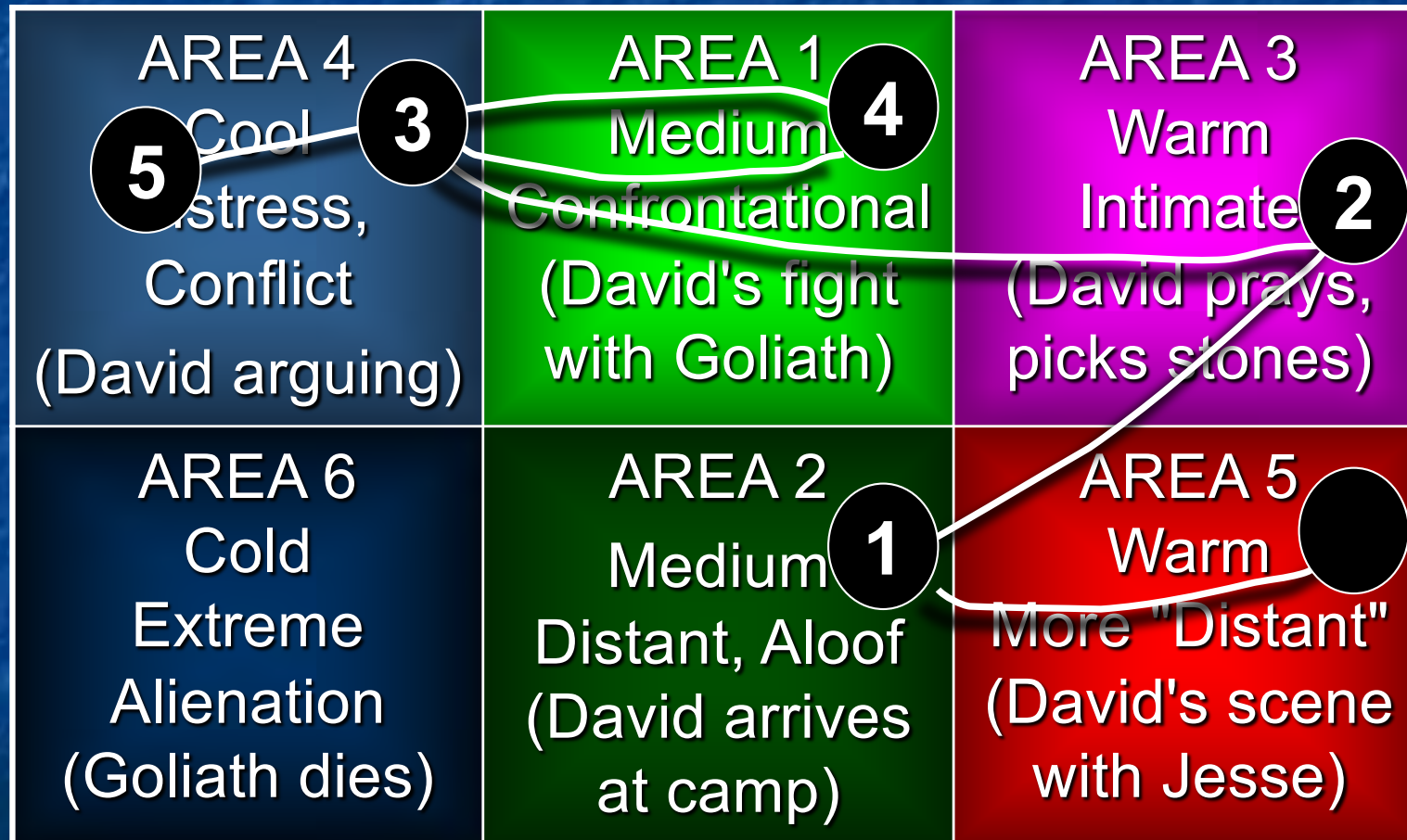
White text shows 10 steps adapted from Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching* (notes, 105)

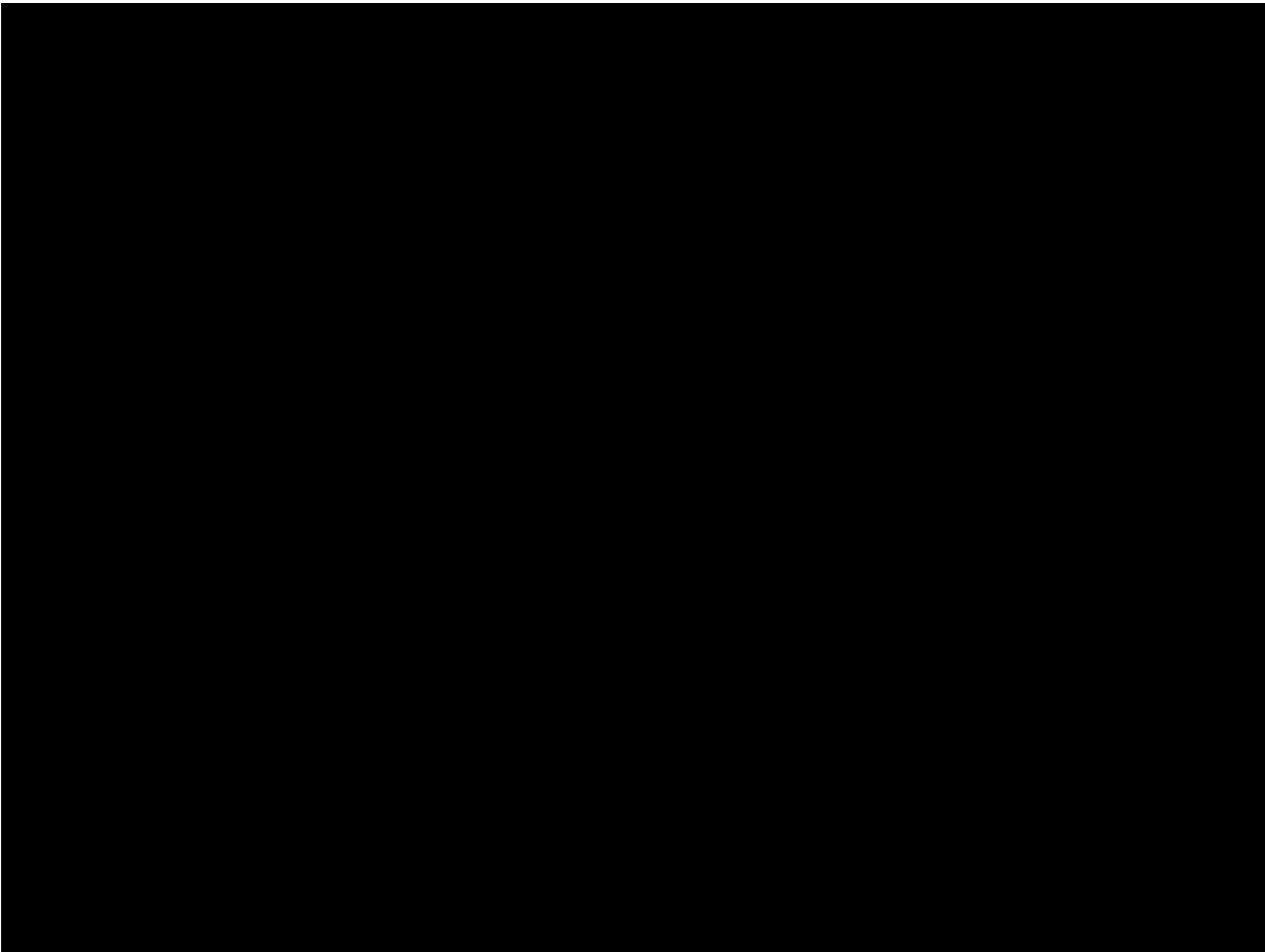
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