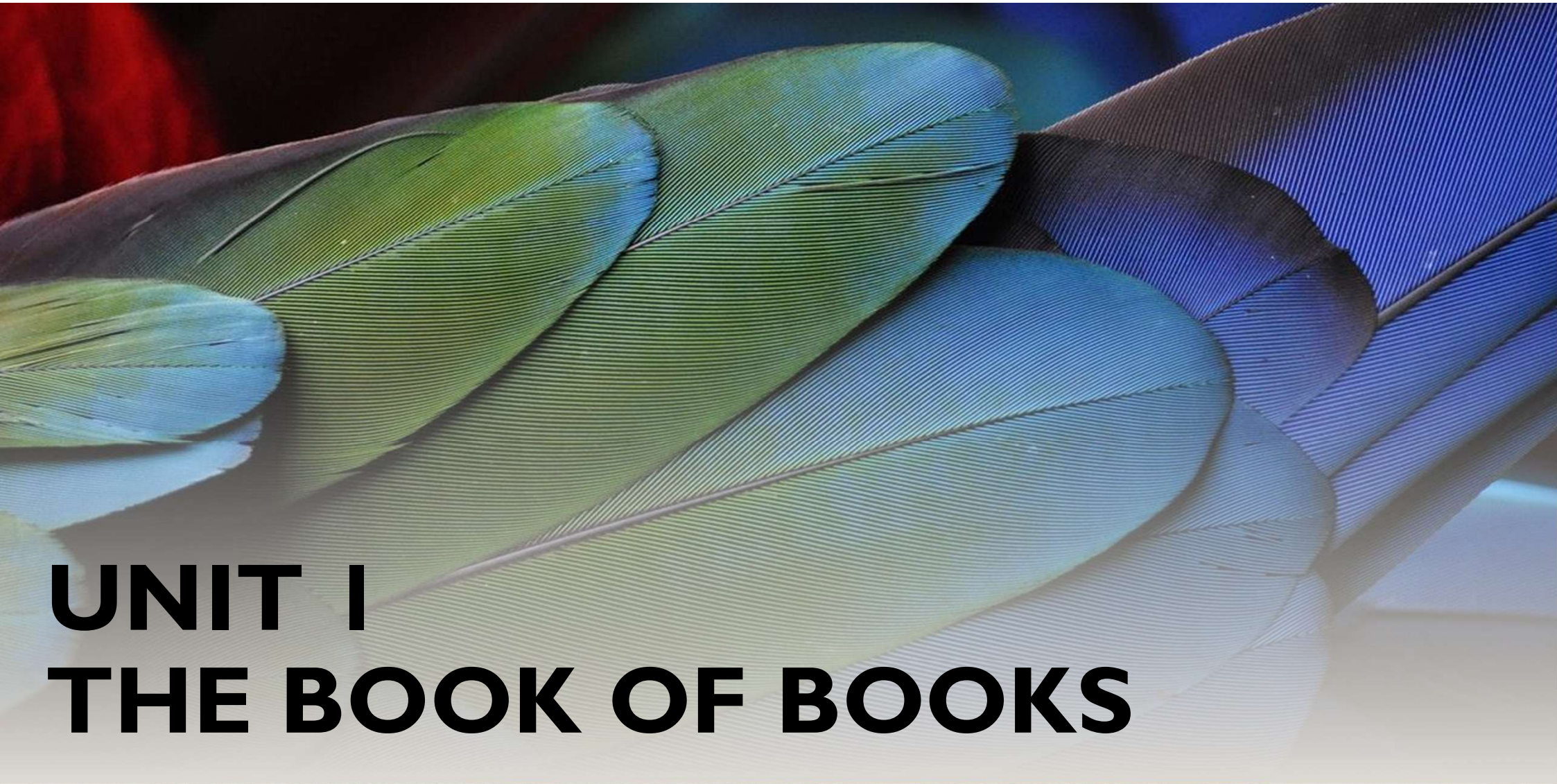


The background of the slide is a photograph of an open Bible. The pages are aged and yellowed, with some text visible, including the words "city's le", "ments", and "but w". A dark, semi-transparent rectangular overlay covers the left and center portions of the image. The title text is centered within this dark area.

# WELCOME TO INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE!

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PTC **LEVEL 1**  
CORE UNIT



# **UNIT I**

## **THE BOOK OF BOOKS**





# **I. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**

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- **Library of 66 books.**
- **39 Old Testament + 27 NT.**
- **Narratives, poetry, wisdom, prophecies, sermons, prayers, parables, letters.**

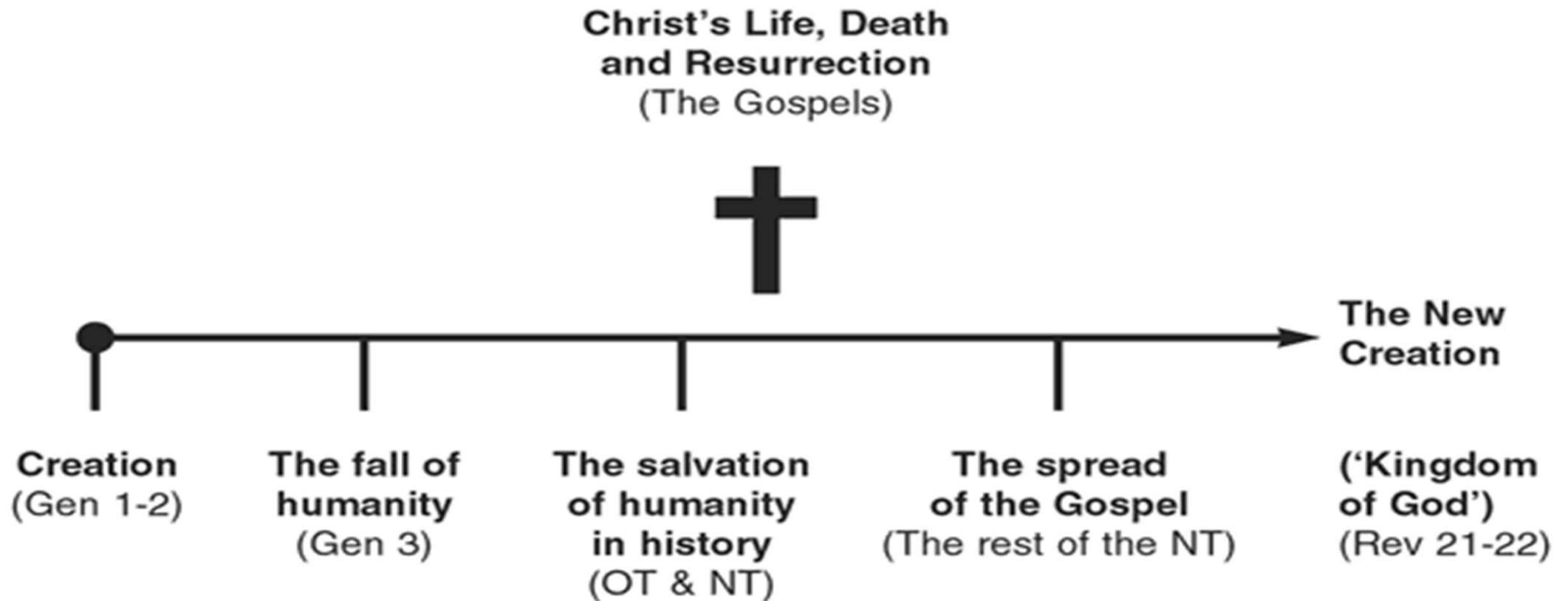
# **I. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**

---

- **Written from 1,500 BC (Moses) to 90 AD (John).**
- **Apocrypha are part of some Bibles (not just RC), they are good for reading but not instructive.**

## 2. WHAT IS THE BIBLE'S MESSAGE

---



# 3. MAIN BIBLE SECTIONS

---

## Old Testament in our Bibles:

<b>HISTORICAL BOOK</b>	<b>MIXED POETRY</b>	<b>PROPHETIC BOOKS</b>
<b>Genesis to Esther</b>	<b>Job to Song of Songs</b>	<b>Isaiah to Malachi</b>

# 3. MAIN BIBLE SECTIONS

---

## Hebrew Bible:

The Law	The Prophets		The Writings
	Former	Latter	

# 3. MAIN BIBLE SECTIONS

---

## The Law

- **5 books of Moses (Pentateuch)**
- **God sets the baseline.**
- **Creation → Rebellion → Covenant →  
Fathers → Exodus → Moses → Law**



# 3. MAIN BIBLE SECTIONS

---

## The Former Prophets

- Joshua to 2 Kings (excl Ruth)
- History from God's viewpoint.
- Promised Land → God's rule → Increasing Rebellion → Exile

# 3. MAIN BIBLE SECTIONS

---

## The Latter Prophets

- **Isaiah to Malachi (except a few)**
- **Before, during, after exile.**
- **Why judgement → New beginning →  
Messiah → God's kingdom → New creation**

# 3. MAIN BIBLE SECTIONS

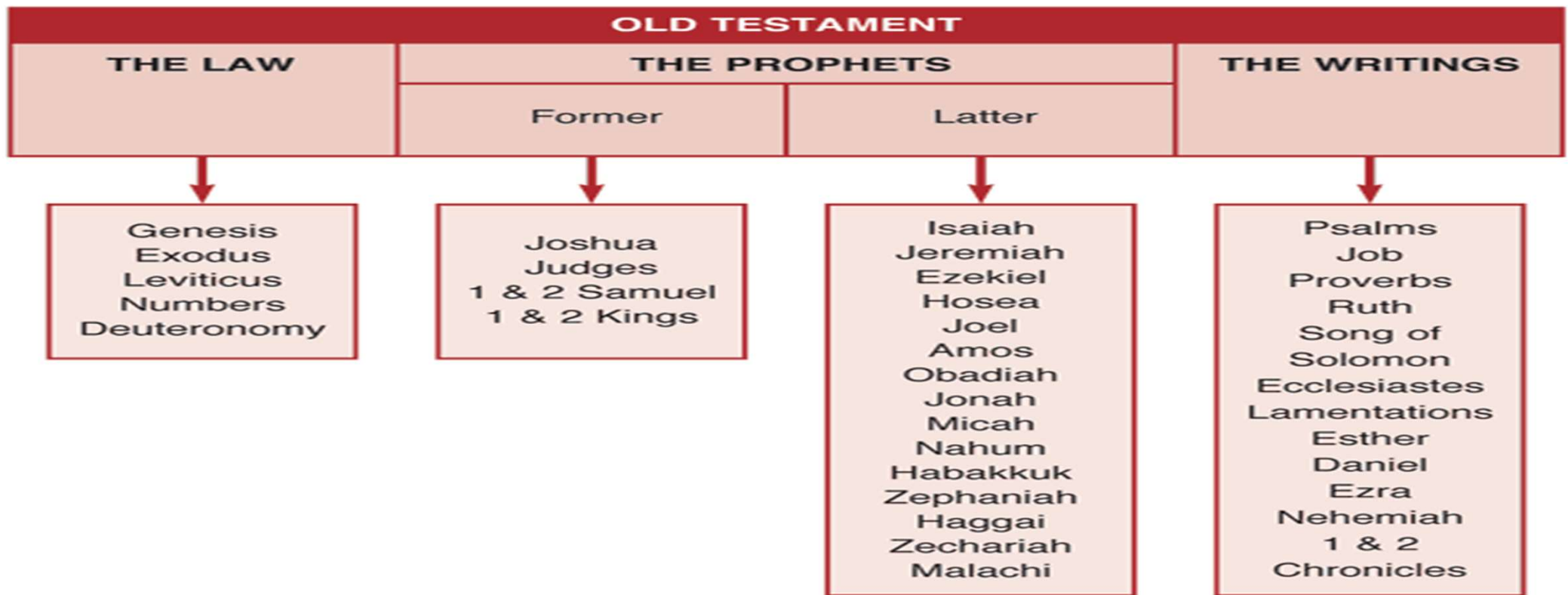
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## The Writings

- I Chronicles to Song of Songs (incl others)
- Prayer & praise, wisdom, and history.
- God listens and speaks, he remains faithful and will fulfil his promises, even the Messiah.

# 3. WHAT ARE THE MAIN SECTIONS IN THE BIBLE?

## THE BIBLE





# 3. MAIN BIBLE SECTIONS

---

**New Testament → Fulfilment in Jesus**

**Gospels: Matthew to John**

- **Life, death and resurrection of Jesus.**
- **The kingdom is ushered, God is fulfilling his promises**

# 3. MAIN BIBLE SECTIONS

---

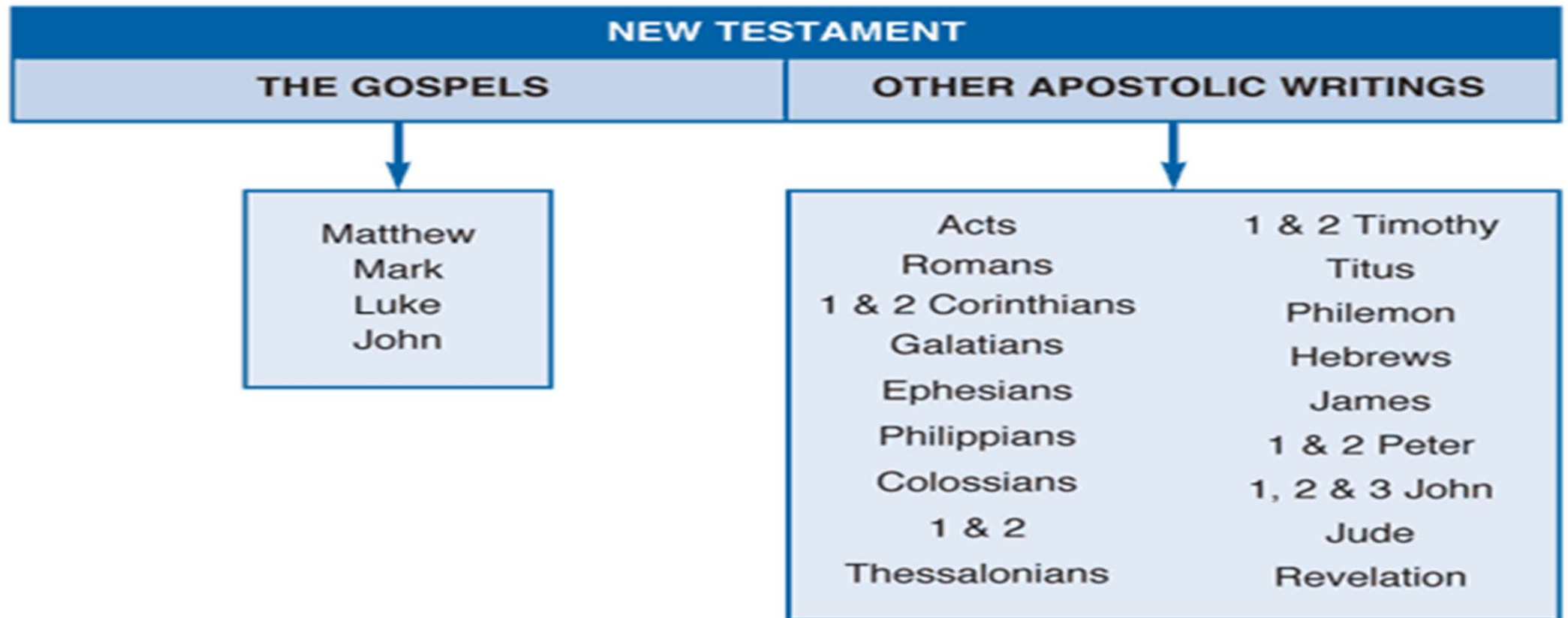
**New Testament → Fulfilment in Jesus**

**Apostolic Writings: Acts to Revelation**

- **Story of the Church, Letters to the Church.**
- **Remember Christ → Be his Church →  
Expect the New Creation**

# 3. WHAT ARE THE MAIN SECTIONS IN THE BIBLE?

---



## **4. BIBLE'S CLAIM**

---

- **The Bible is God's Word, it stands forever.**
- **It speaks of God's character, his promises and the fulfilment in his actions, even in Jesus!**
- **Jesus and the apostles validate OT and NT.**
- **The Holy Spirit inspires Scripture.**



# 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

---

**The Bible has God's full authority!**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*





# **UNIT 2: INTERPRETING THE BIBLE**



# INTERPRETING THE BIBLE

---

- *‘The Bible speaks differently to different people.’*
- *‘That's just your interpretation’*
- *‘You're interpreting it that way to make it fit your opinion’*

# INTERPRETING THE BIBLE

---

- **What is the author saying?**
- **What is the message to the original readers?**
- **⋮**
- **What is the message for us? (Application)**



# INTERPRETING THE BIBLE

---

- 1. Literary and historical context**
- 2. Biblical context**
- 3. Application**

# I.I LITERARY CONTEXT

---

- **Narratives, poetry, wisdom, prophecies, sermons, prayers, parables, letters, visions.**

# **I. I WHAT FORM (GENRE)**

---

## **Ezekiel I**

- **v 1: 1<sup>st</sup> person narrative**
- **v 2-3: 3<sup>rd</sup> person narrative**
- **v 4-end: vision (I saw...)**

# I. I CONTEXT IN THE BOOK

---

## Ezekiel I

- **Beginning**
- ***'I heard the voice'* → say what? (chap 2)**



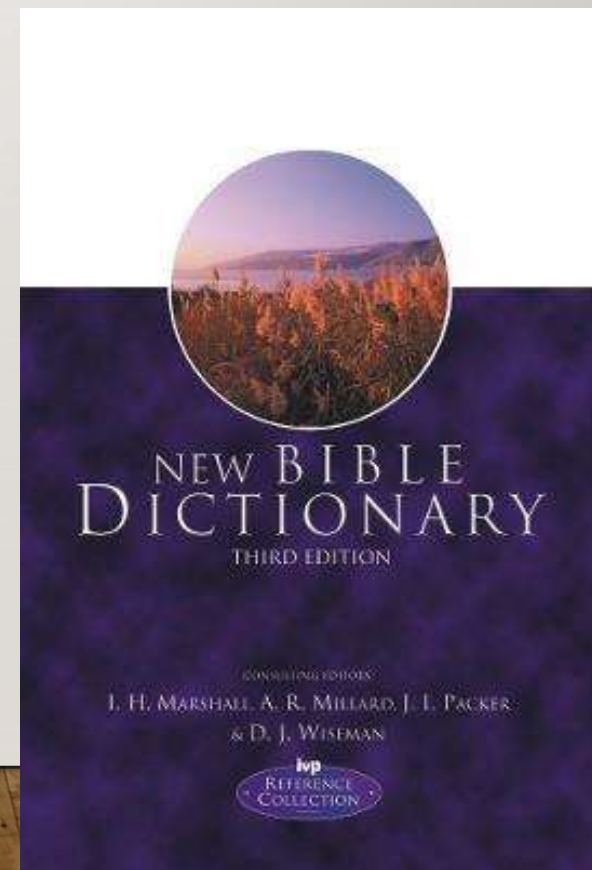
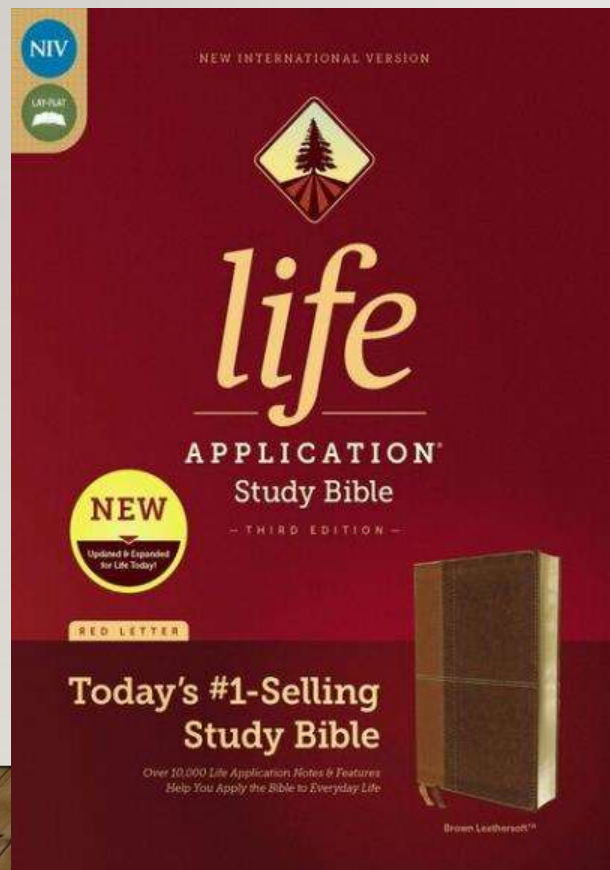
# I. I WORDS TO EXPLAIN

---

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*

(Romans 5:1-2)

# HELPFUL TOOLS



# **I.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

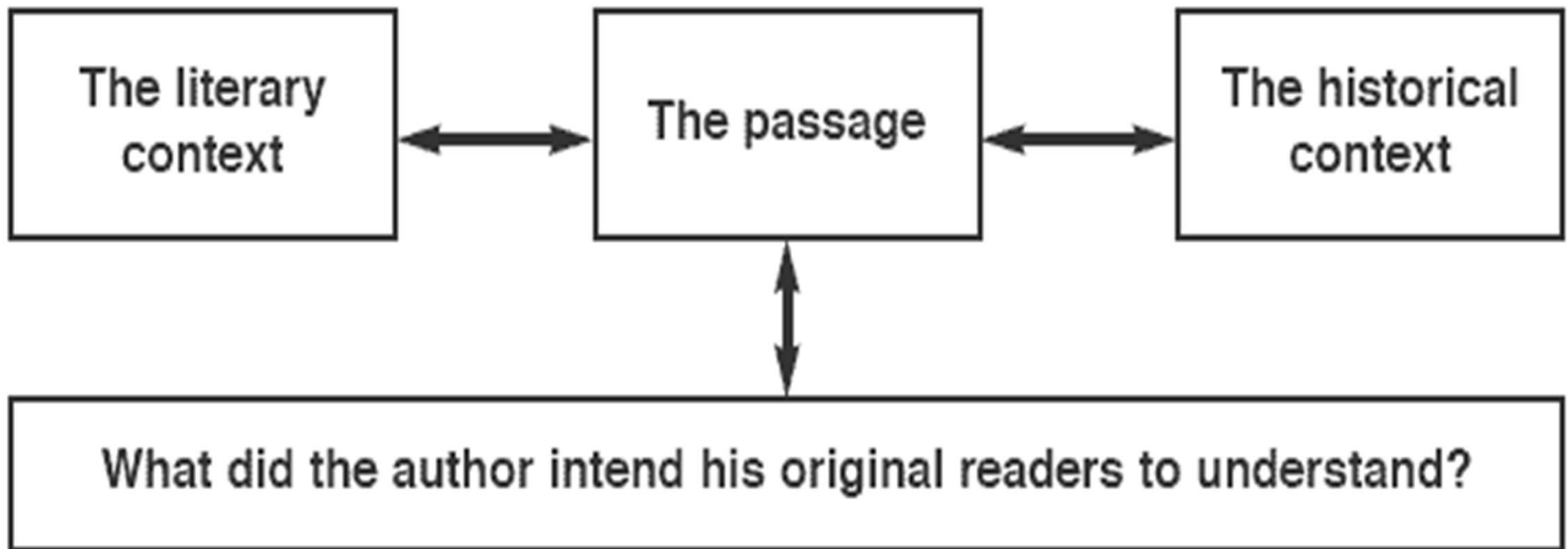
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## **Ezekiel I**

- **Described in verses 1-3**
- **2 Kings 24+25, 2 Chronicles 36, Jeremiah**
- **Introduction in any Study Bible**

# 1.3 MEANING OF THE TEXT

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# **I.3 MEANING OF EZEKIEL I**

---

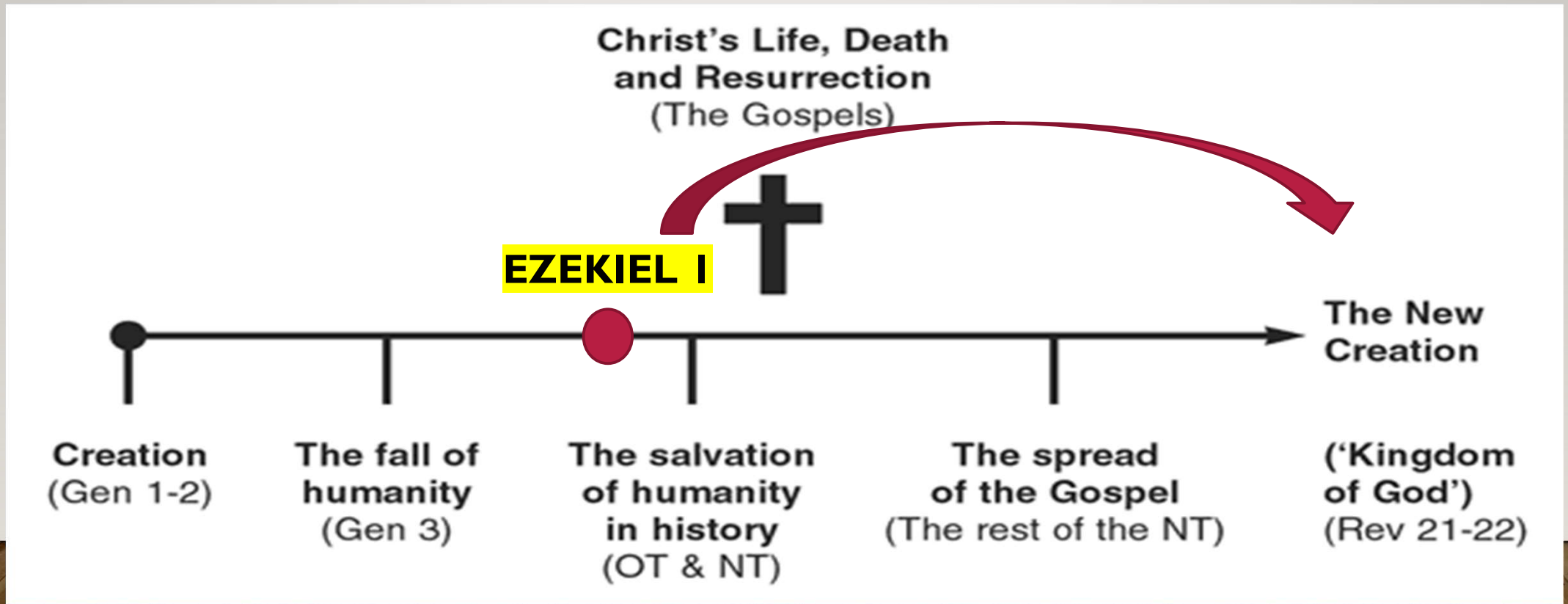
## **I) Author's Intention for Readers**

- **God is with us in Exile!**
- **He is great!**
- **Not all is lost!**



# 2. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

---



# 2.1 BIBLICAL CONTEXT

---

## Ezekiel I

- ✓ **Isaiah 6 – for the prophet**
- ✓ **Daniel 7 – for the exiles**
- **(Revelation I – for the Church)**

# **2.1 BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

---

## **Ezekiel I**

- **The rest of the Book of Ezekiel**
- **Chap 10 – God's glory departs**
- **Chap 34 – God will be the Shepherd**

# 2.1 BIBLICAL CONTEXT

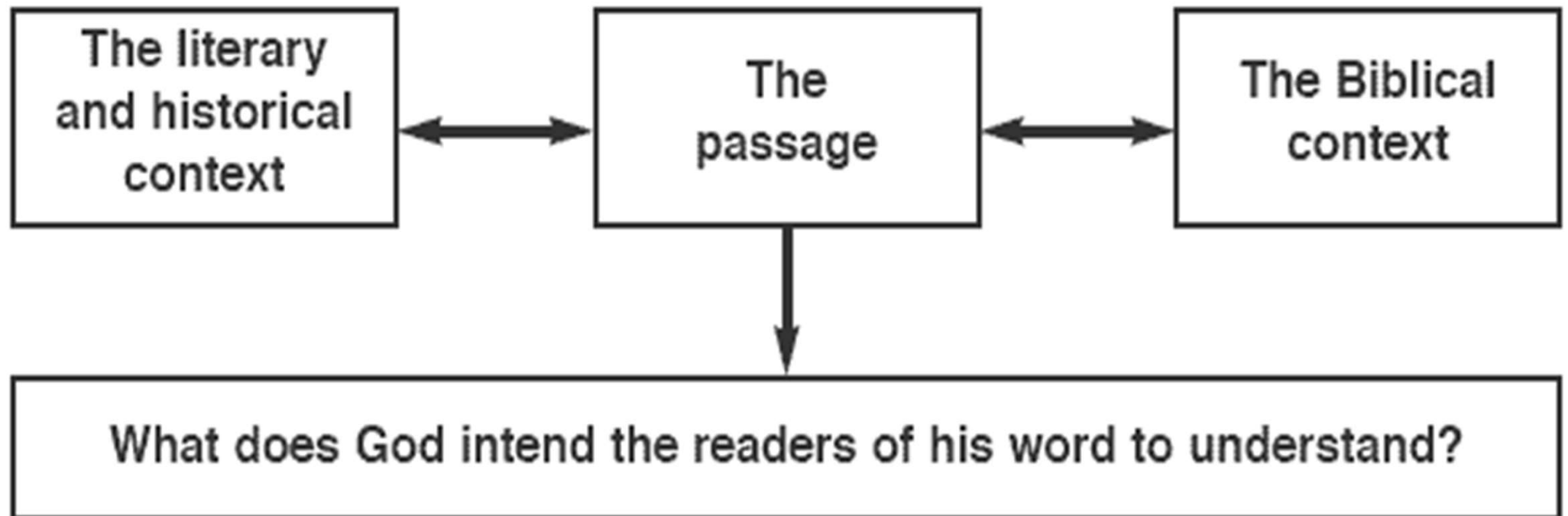
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## Ezekiel I

- **Chap 37 – Dry Bones**
- **Chap 43 – God's glory returns**
- **Chap 47 – A new temple**

## 2.2 MEANING AND PURPOSE IN BIBLICAL CONTEXT

---





## **2.2 MEANING AND PURPOSE IN BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

---

### **Future movement in God's Plan**

- **Exile is a God's judgment for unfaithful Israel**
- **Exiles will be delivered**



## **2.2 MEANING AND PURPOSE IN BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

---

- **God will return**
- **God will be their Shepherd → Jesus**
- **One day, God's Spirit will be in his people**
- **One day, God will restore his creation**



## **2.2 MEANING AND PURPOSE IN BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

---

- **We can't see this from Ezekiel I, only**
- **It's too much to read a whole book**
- **As preachers, we always need to have this wider context in mind...**



# 3. APPLICATION

---

**The application of Ezekiel I intended by the author for the reader**

- **For Ezekiel:**

- **I am the mouthpiece of a powerful God!**

# 3. APPLICATION

---

**The application of Ezekiel I intended by the author for the reader**

- **For Israel in exile:**
  - **We need to repent**
  - **We can count on God**
  - **One day, God will reign in a different way**



# 3. APPLICATION FOR US

---

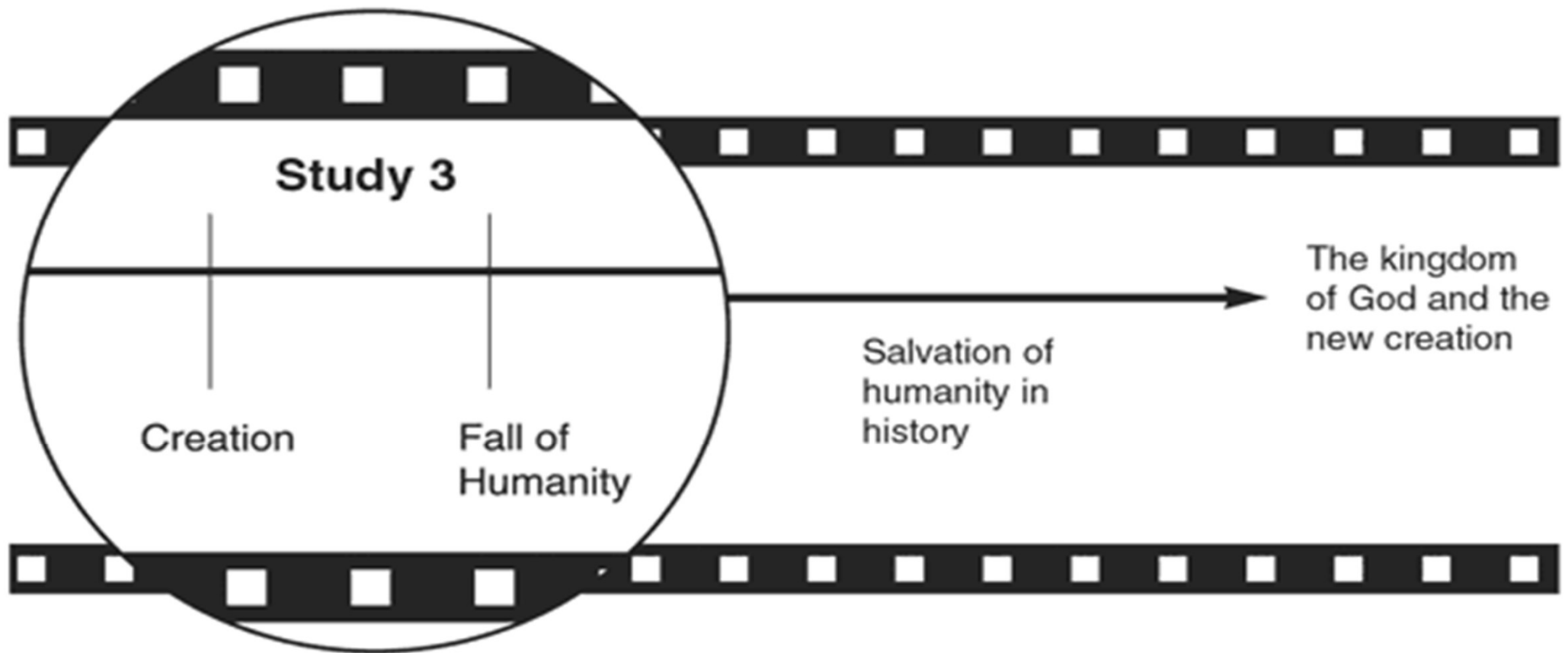
- **We need to repent before Almighty God!**
- **We shall worship him!**
- **As his children, we have Almighty God on our side!**



# **UNIT 3: FROM CREATION TO NEW CREATION**



# ***Before we begin***







# ***Before we begin***

## **Outline of Genesis 1 – 11**

**Creation**

**1:1-2:4**

**Mankind: Testing and Downfall**

**2:5-3:24**

**Cain and Abel**

**4:1-4:26**

**From Adam to Noah**

**5:1-6:8**



# ***Before we begin***

## **Outline of Genesis 1 – 11**

**Noah**

**6:9-9:29**

**New Nations**

**10:1-10:32**

**Tower of Babel**

**11:1-11:9**

**From Shem to Abram**

**11:10-11:32**



# ***1. GOD CREATES***

- **An artist creates using existing materials**
- **God creates everything out of nothing by his Word**

# ***1. GOD CREATES***

***By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.*** (Psalm 33:6)

***By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*** (Hebrews 11:3)

# ***1.1 CREATION PATTERN***

- and God said...
- let there be...
- and it was so...
- God called...
- God saw it was good
- and there was evening and morning, day 'x'

## ***1.2 ... IT WAS GOOD!***

- **God had a purpose for each part of creation.**
- **He accomplished that purpose.**
- **Creation is to be enjoyed according to that purpose.**

**This includes us!**

## ***1.3 WHAT ABOUT US?***

- **We are created in God's image.** (Gen 1:27)
- **We shall rule over creation according to God's will and purpose.** (Gen 1:26+28)
- **Creation belongs to God.** (Gen 1:31)





## ***PSALM 8:3-4***

**When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of  
them, human beings that you care for  
them?**

# ***1.4 DAY OF REST***

- **Gen 2:1-3**
  - **God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.**
  - **He declared it holy.**
- **The 7<sup>th</sup> day completes creation.**
- **Humanity is to enjoy 'rest' in an unspoiled relationship with God.**

## ***1.4 DAY OF REST***

- **Humanity spoils this relationship in Gen 3 and is no longer able to rest in that sense.**
- **The cross enables us – yet again – to enjoy God's rest because our relationship with him is fully restored.**

## ***HEBREWS 4:9-11***

**There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.**

## ***2.1 HUMANITY UNDER GOD'S RULE***

- **Dominion over creation**
- **Obey God** (Genesis 2:16-17)
- **Living together with each other in a perfect unity, even as a married couple.**
- **Man and woman are different so that they complement each other.**



## ***2.2 REBELLION***

- **Genesis 3:1-6**
  - **Doubt → Denial → Disobedience**
- **Breakdown of perfect relationships**



## ***2.2 REBELLION***

### **a) Humanity and God**

- **Adam & Eve avoid God. (Gen 3:8)**
  - ↳ **Most people today avoid God.**
- **Adam & Eve are excluded from the garden and from rest. (Gen 3:23)**
  - ↳ **People long for Shalom peace in Jesus.**

## ***2.2 REBELLION***

### **b) Human Relationships**

- **Shame, blame, alienation.** (Gen 3:7+12)
- **Pain and struggle replace joy.** (Gen 3:16-19)
- **Almost total breakdown of relationships.**  
(Genesis 4-6)

## ***2.2 REBELLION***

### **c) Humanity and Creation**

- Our relationship with creation will be characterized by struggle until we “return to the ground”. (Gen 3:19)
- But there will be redemption. (Gen 3:15)
- In Jesus, creation will be fully restored!



## A PATTERN IN GENESIS 1-11

SIN	JUDGEMENT	GRACE
The fall (human rebellion against God)	Woman: pain in childbirth & marriage Man: pain in work	The promised 'seed'
Cain killing his brother	Homelessness, fear of being murdered	The mark of protection
Universal sin (6:5)	The flood - creation almost completely reversed	One man & his family in the ark with pairs of all the animals
The Tower of Babel (human arrogant self-assertion)	Confusion of languages	God's gracious activity to be continued



## ***3.1 THE FLOOD***

- **Universal sin ==> universal judgment.** (Gen 6:1-7)
- **“Reversal” of creation.**
- **But there is grace ... Noah’s ark.**
- **Renewed creation.** (Gen 9:1-7)

## ***ISAIAH 54:7-10***

**“For a brief moment I abandoned you,  
but with deep compassion I will bring you  
back.**

**In a surge of anger**

**I hid my face from you for a moment,  
but with everlasting kindness**

**I will have compassion on you,”  
says the Lord your Redeemer.**

## ***ISAIAH 54:7-10***

**“To me this is like the days of Noah,  
when I swore that the waters of Noah  
would never again cover the earth.  
So now I have sworn not to be angry with  
you, never to rebuke you again.**

# ***ISAIAH 54:7-10***

**Though the mountains be shaken  
and the hills be removed,  
yet my unfailing love for you will not be  
shaken**

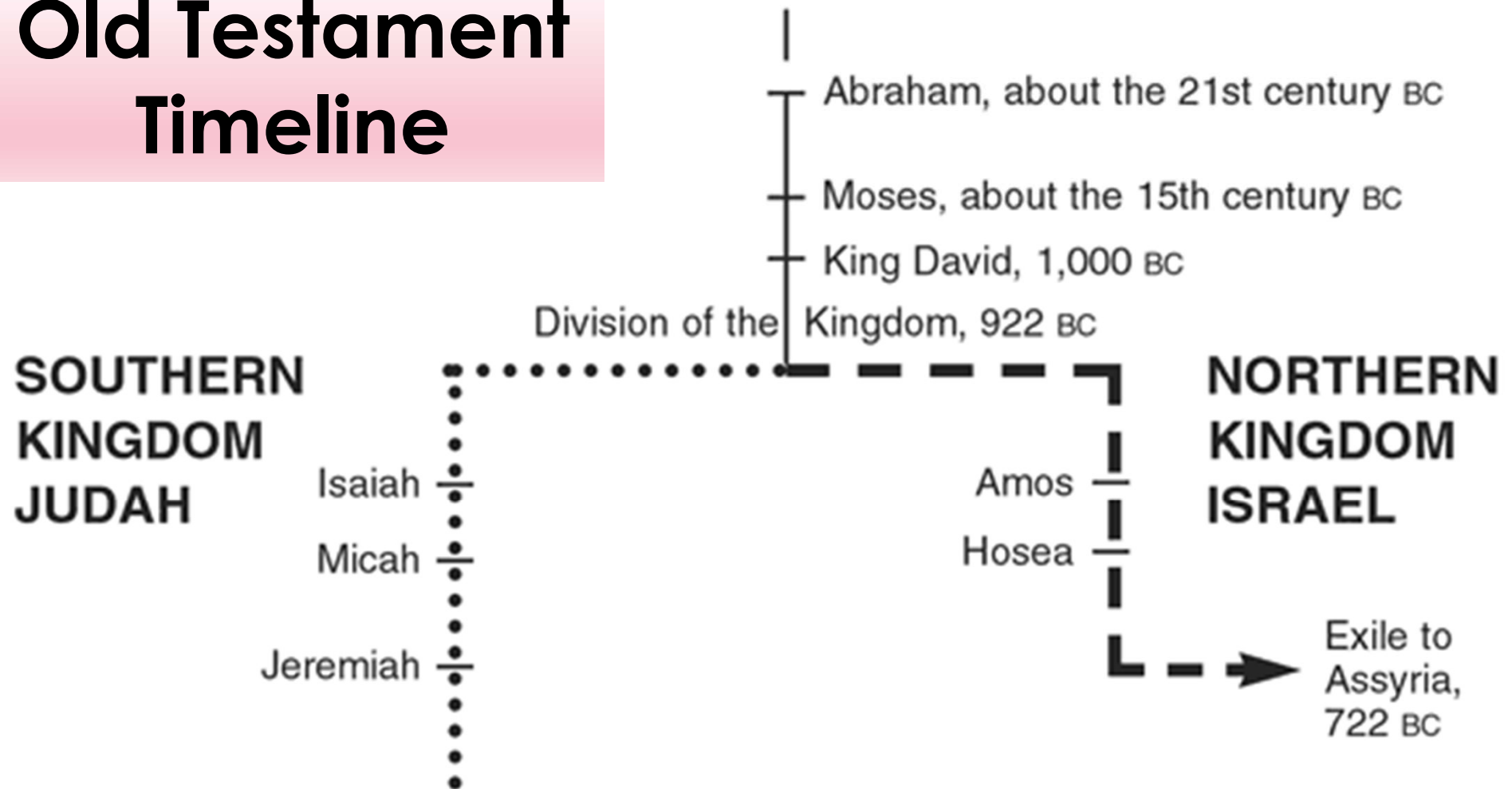
**nor my covenant of peace be removed,”  
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.**

## ***3.2 BABEL'S TOWER***

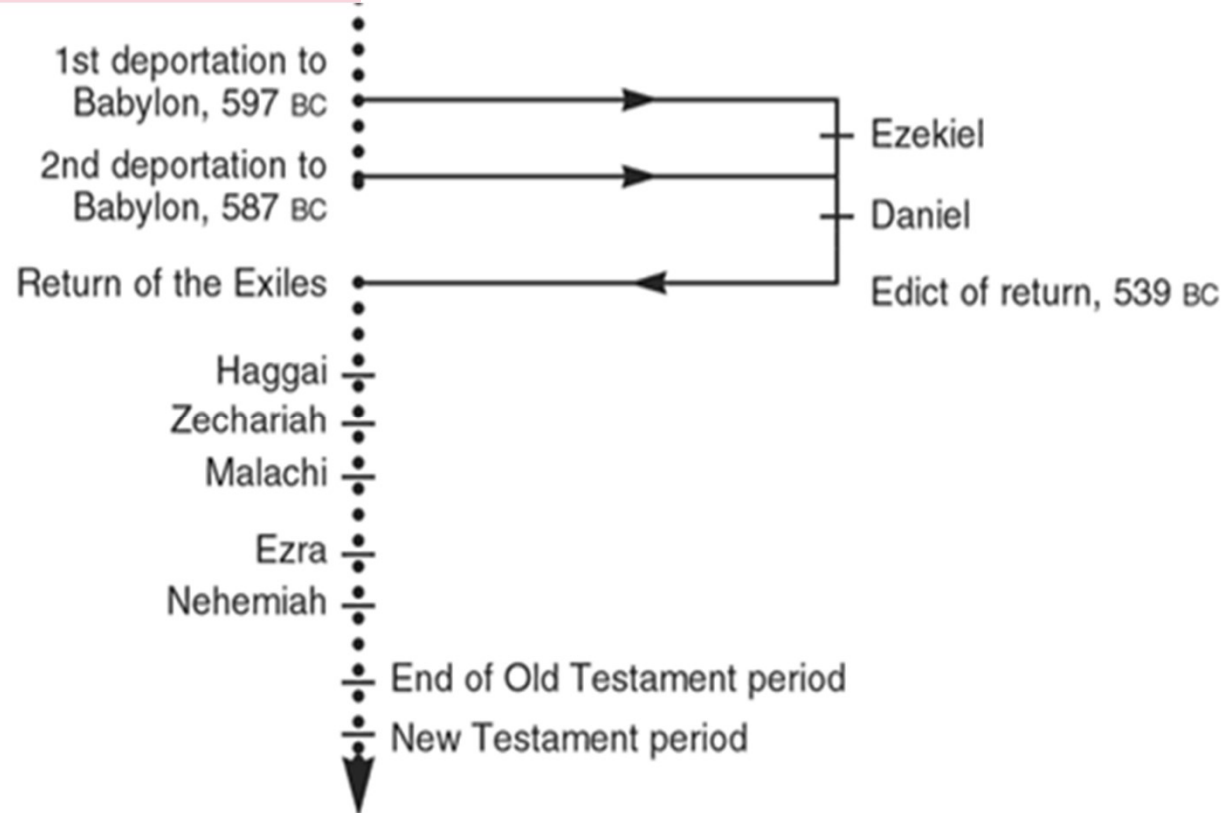
- **Arrogance and self-assertion.**
- **'let us build ... that we may make a name for ourselves'. (Gen 11:4)**
- **Man's purpose vs God's purpose**
  - ↳ **God makes sure that his purpose prevails!**
- **Judgment and grace (through Abram...)**



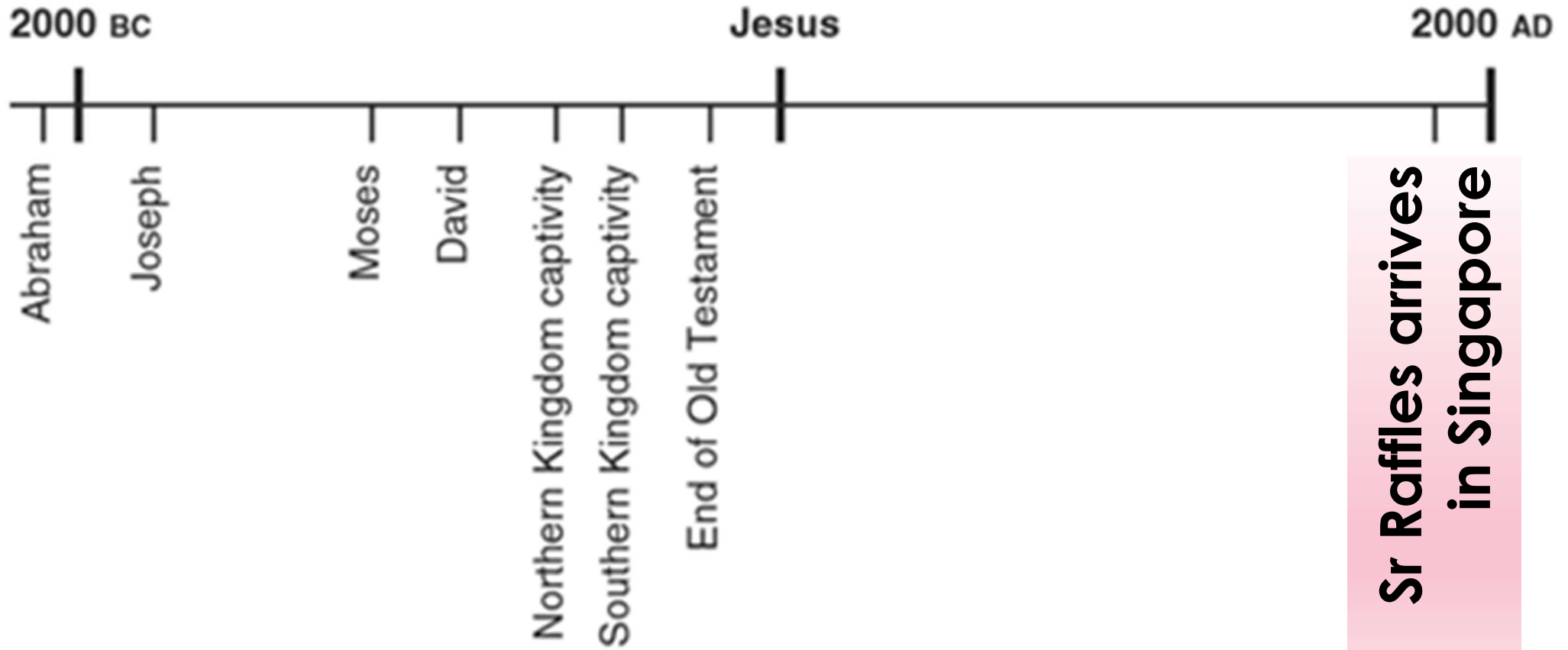
# Old Testament Timeline



# Old Testament Timeline



# ***BIBLICAL TIMELINE***



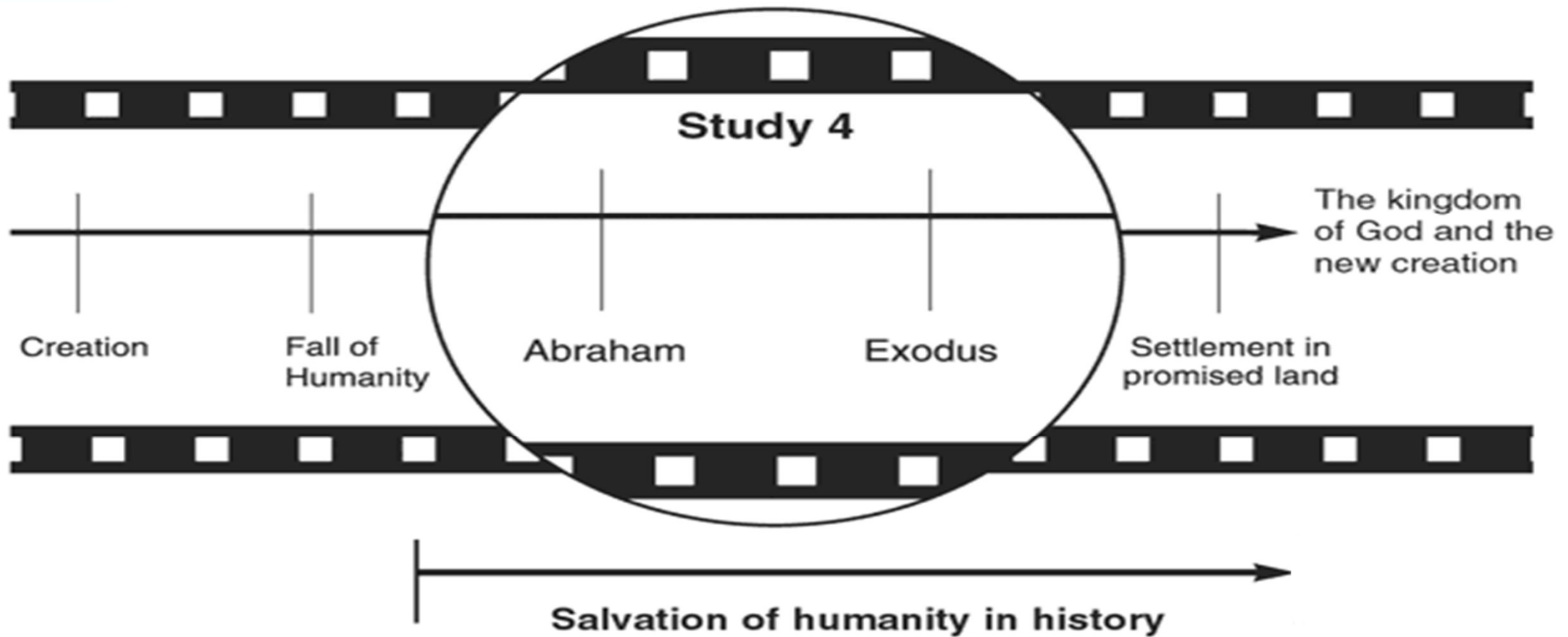


# **UNIT 4: ISRAEL AND GOD'S PURPOSES (GENESIS – DEUTERONOMY)**





# *Before we begin*



# ***Zooming in on Israel***

- **The beginnings of the Israelite nation**
- **Why does Israel have such a prominent place in the Bible's message?**
- **What is the significance of Israel to the revelation of God's gracious purposes for all mankind?**



## ***GENESIS 12:1-3***

**“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.**

## ***GENESIS 12:1-3***

**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.**

## ***GENESIS 12:1-3***

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

# ***Promise to Abram***

**Genesis 12:1-3**

- **Blessings**
- **A great nation**
- **Land**

# ***Promise to Abram - Blessing***

- **Mentioned 5x in three verses ==> very important word.**
- **Reversal of the curse from Genesis 3.**
- **God's initiative and purpose.**
- **Blessed to bless → all nations. (Revelation 7:9)**

# ***Promise to Abram - Nation***

- Reversal of Babel's failed attempt to build a nation.
- Back to God's creation of mankind under his perfect rule.
- There will be many. 😐
- From nation to holy nation. (1 Peter 2:9)

# ***Promise to Abram - Land***

- In Abram's time, the lands had again been "cursed" by the sin of Babel.
- God intends to bring Abram to HIS new land.
- A land in which Abram shall enjoy God's blessings.



# *Abram's Journey toward Promise*



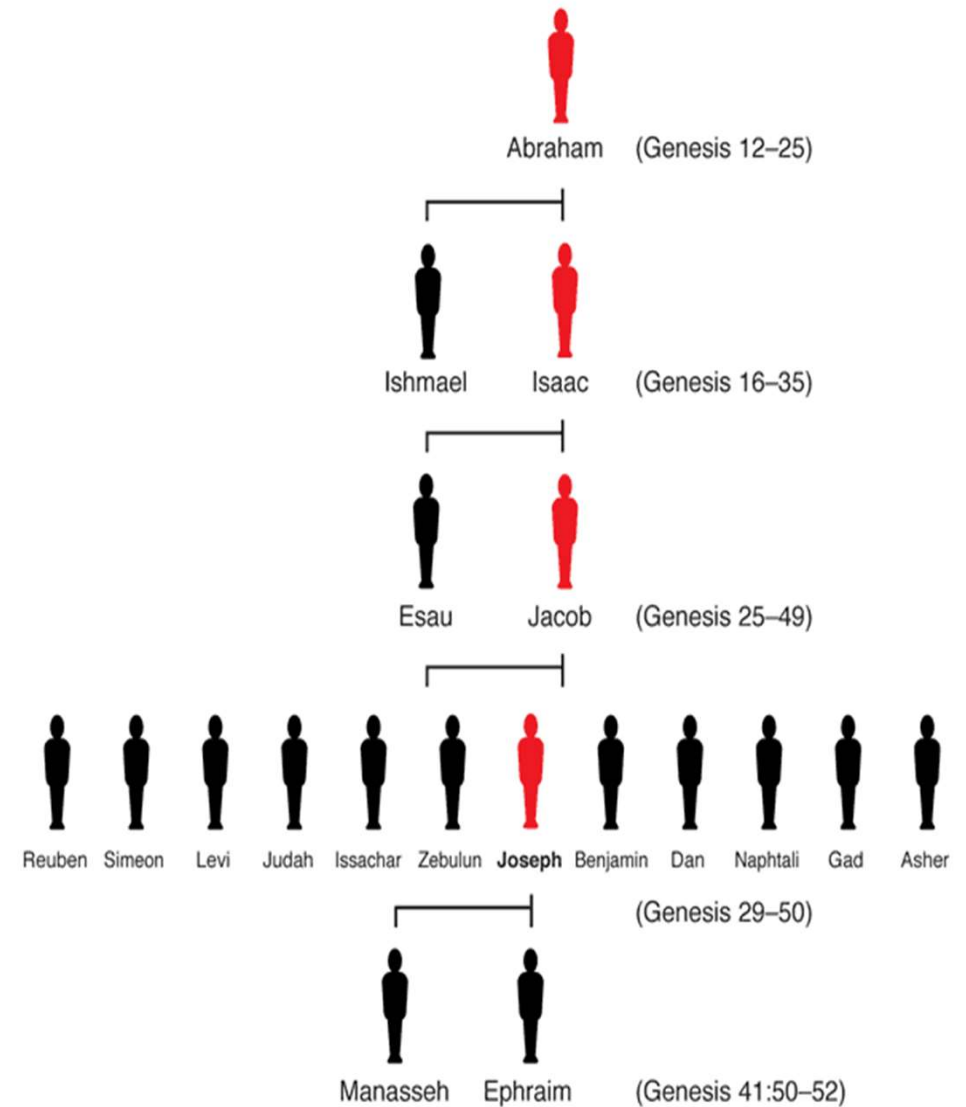
# Genesis

**15:6** Abram believed God's promises

**22:1-19** Abraham is tested

**32:28** Jacob is called Israel

**45** Joseph reconciles with his brothers



- **Genesis ends with God's people away from the Promised Land...**
- **Exodus to Deuteronomy is their journey under God's protection back to the Promised Land**

Outline of Exodus	
Israel enslaved in Egypt	1-11
Israel redeemed from Egypt	12-18
Israel bound by covenant to the Lord	19-31
Israel recalled to the service of God	32-40

# ***Exodus***

- **The Israelites have become numerous. (1:7)**
- **Egypt represents life outside Eden.**
- **God's promises stand. (3:8)**
- **The story of Moses under God's perfect reign begins...**

# ***Exodus - Redemption***

- **Redemption is the fulfilment of God's promise.**

**Deuteronomy 7:7-8a**

**The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, ...**

# ***Exodus - Redemption***

- **Redemption is the fulfilment of God's promise.**

**Deuteronomy 7:7-8a**

**... for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors ...**

# ***Exodus - Redemption***

- **Redemption is the fulfilment of God's promise.**
- **Redeemed for a perfect relationship, even in avers circumstances.**
- **Redeemed to live in God's blessed land. We are redeemed to live in God's presence eternally! (Hebrews 11:16)**



# ***Exodus – Meeting God***

**‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.(19:4-5)**

# ***Exodus – Meeting God***

- **Mt Sinai is not a pit-stop enroute to the Promised Land. It is a significant moment where**
  - **God meets his people; the creator meets the created under his rule.**
  - **God forms his people to be a blessing.**

# ***Exodus – The Law***

- **Redemption precedes the Law.**
- **The Law defines God's perfect rule by which humankind shall live to honor him.**
- **If Israel lives under God's perfect rule, they please him and bless all nations.**

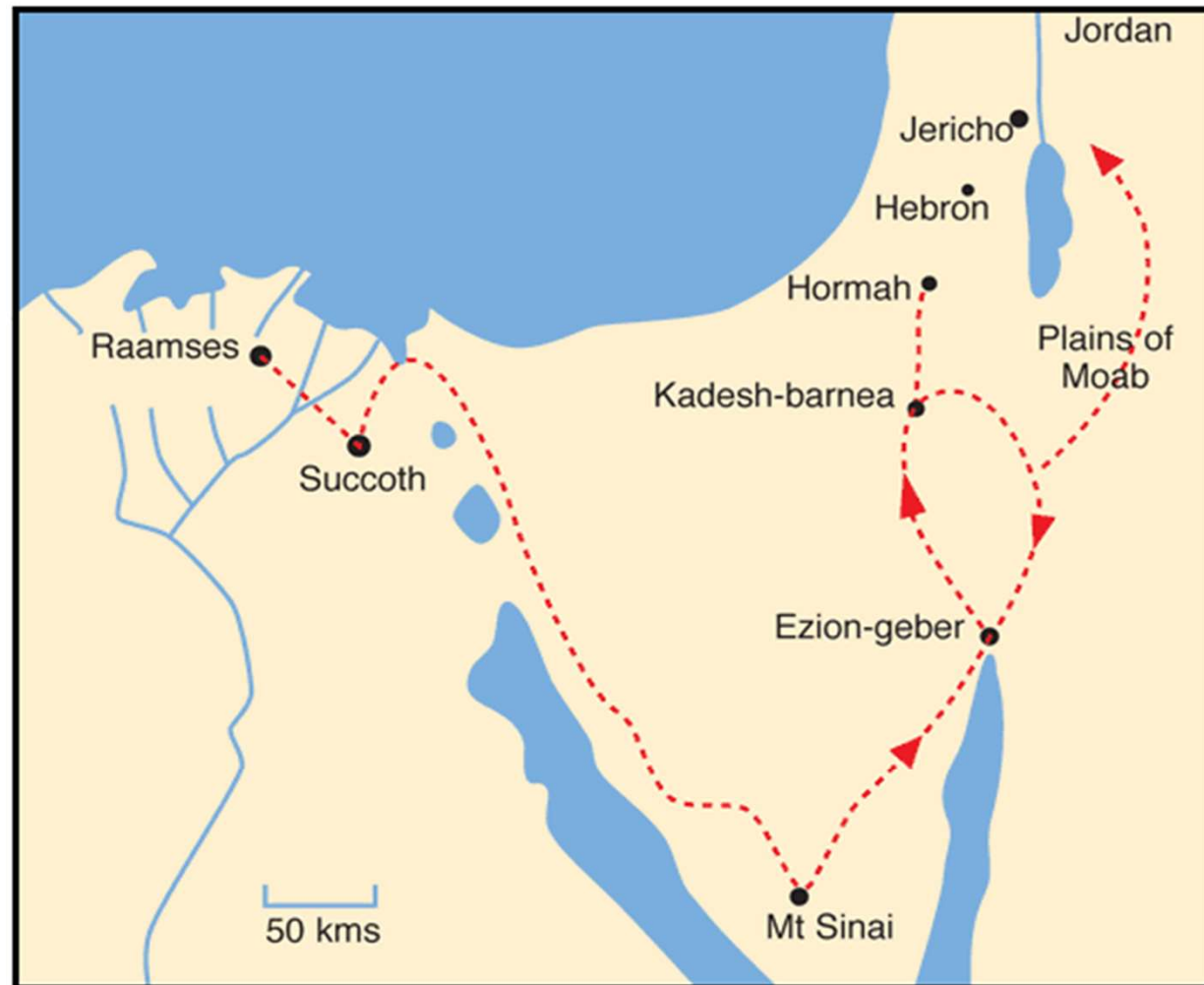
**'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'**

*Exodus –  
Enjoy the  
Journey*



# ***Exodus – Toward to Land***

- **A journey of purpose to remember.**
- **Read Numbers 9:15-23 and compare this with Matthew 11:28-30.**
  - **Walking in step with God under the cloud.**
  - **Walking in step with Jesus under his joke.**



**The Exodus Route**

# ***Exodus - Rebellion***

- **Exodus 6:9**
- **Exodus 14:11-12**
- **Exodus 16:2-3**
- **Exodus 32**
- **Numbers 11:4-6**
- **Numbers 13:17-14:12**
- **Numbers 25:1-5**





# ***Exodus - Rebellion***

**God's response?**

- **Judgment**
- **Mercy**
- **Fulfilment of his covenantal promise!**



# ***Deuteronomy***

- **God speaks through Moses on the Moab plains.**
- **Remember!**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> giving of the Law.**
- **Choose life under God's perfect rule!  
(read 30:15-20)**

# ***At the End of Deuteronomy...***

- God's call of Abram is no simple journey.
- It finds its 1<sup>st</sup> fulfilment when Israel enters the Promised Land.



# ***At the End of Deuteronomy...***

- **2<sup>nd</sup> fulfilment when Jesus enables us to walk under God's perfect rule.**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> fulfilment when we enter the New Jerusalem.**



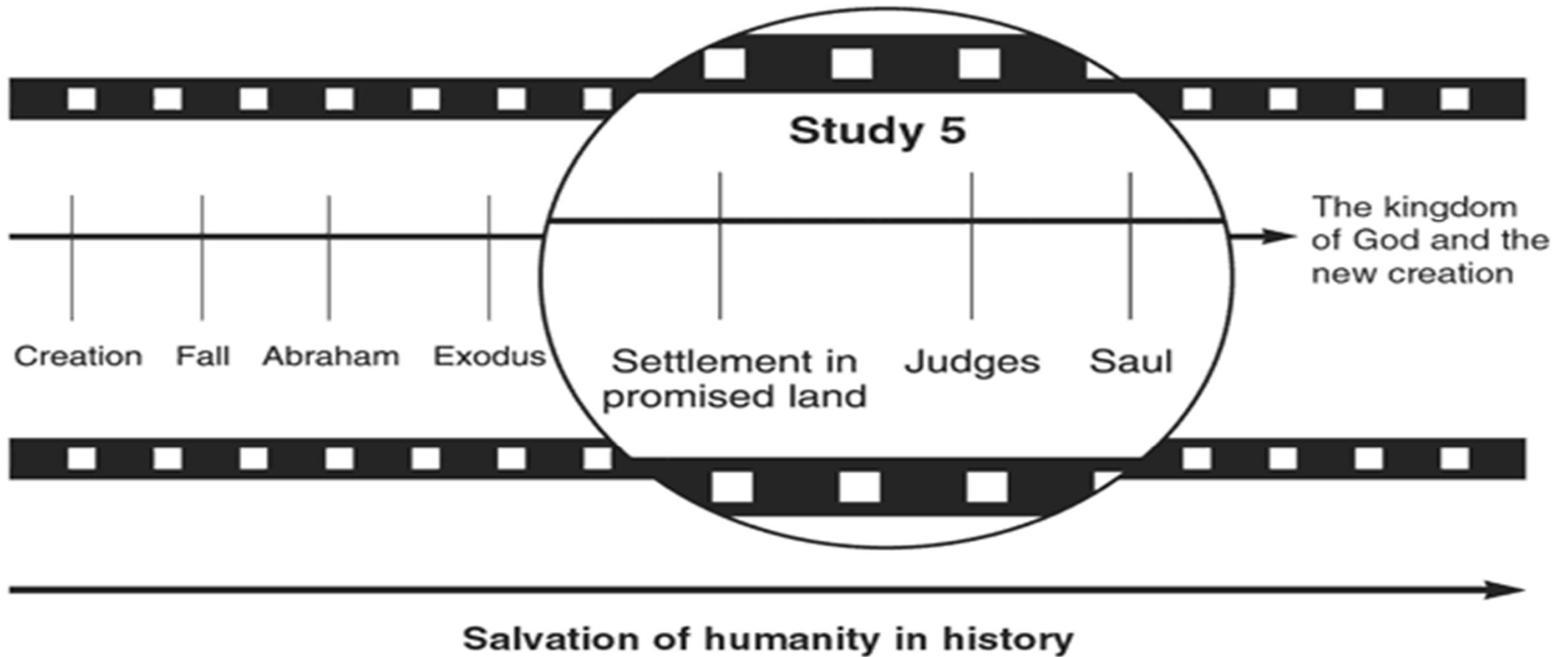




# **UNIT 5: THE PROMISED LAND AND GOD'S GOOD PURPOSES**



# *Before we begin*



# *Canaan / Palestine*





# ***Promised Land***

- **Dangers from the North (Assyria / Babylon) and the South (Egypt).**
- **It's a dry land, relying on God's rain.**

**YET ...**

## ***Deuteronomy 8:7-10***

**For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ...**

## ***Deuteronomy 8:7-10***

… a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

# ***Promised Land***

- **The Jews have left Egypt and are going toward the PL.**
- **The PL is an abundantly good land.**
- **It is the place where God's blessings shall be enjoyed.**

# ***Promised Land***

- **The PL is the fulfilment of God's promise. (Deuteronomy 9:5)**
- **It is an inheritance, not earned but bestowed upon them. (Deut 6:11-12)**
- **It's a place of God's rest (Deut 12:10)**

# ***Gift vs. Obedience***

**Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors, ... (Deuteronomy 6:18)**

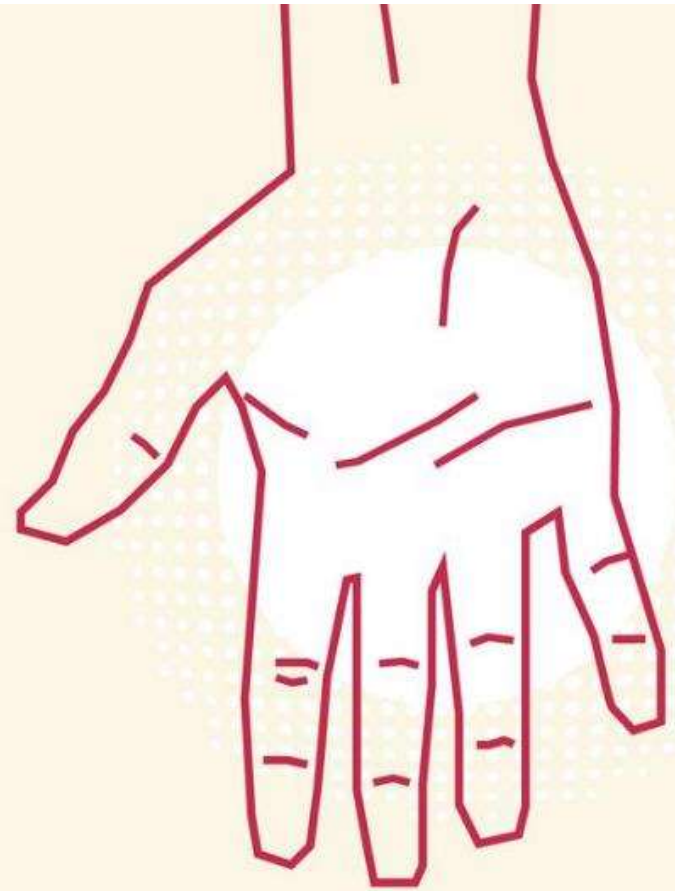
# ***Gift vs. Obedience***

- **The land is a gift in fulfilment of God's promise.**
- **God requires obedience because Israel are his people!**
- **We must honor the Lord who redeemed us, by moving under his perfect rule.**



BUT NOW  
THAT YOU  
HAVE BEEN  
**SET FREE  
FROM SIN**  
AND HAVE  
**BECOME  
SLAVES OF  
GOD,**  
THE FRUIT  
YOU GET  
LEADS TO  
SANCTIFICATION  
AND ITS END,  
**ETERNAL  
LIFE.**

ROMANS 6:22



# ***Deuteronomy***

## ***30:15-20***

- Will God's people choose to live in the land?
- Will they choose 'Life'? Will we choose 'Life'?



# *Outline of the Book of Joshua*

Joshua leads Israel  
under God's rule (1-5)

Taking the Land (6-12)

Dividing the Land (13-22)

Joshua's legacy (23-24)

# ***Joshua***

- **Succeeds Moses**
- **Leads in battle**
- **Trusts and obeys**
- **Succeeds according to God's plan.**



# ***Finally arrived...***

- **Land conquered.**
- **Land apportioned to settle and enjoy.**
- **God fulfilled his promise.**
- **Will the people live under his perfect rule?**



# ***Joshua 24:14-18***

**“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”**

## ***Joshua 24:14-18***

**Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes.**



## ***Joshua 24:14-18***

**He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”**

# ***Will Israel Obey? → Judges***

- Enemies are only driven out partially. (1:27-36)
- Idolatry follows quickly... (2:10-13)

... another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt ... They aroused the Lord's anger ...

# ***God's Judgement***

**In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.**

**(Judges 2:14-15)**

# ***God's Mercy / Israel's Response***

**Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands.**

**(Judges 2:16-17)**

The Israelites enjoyed  
peace for a season

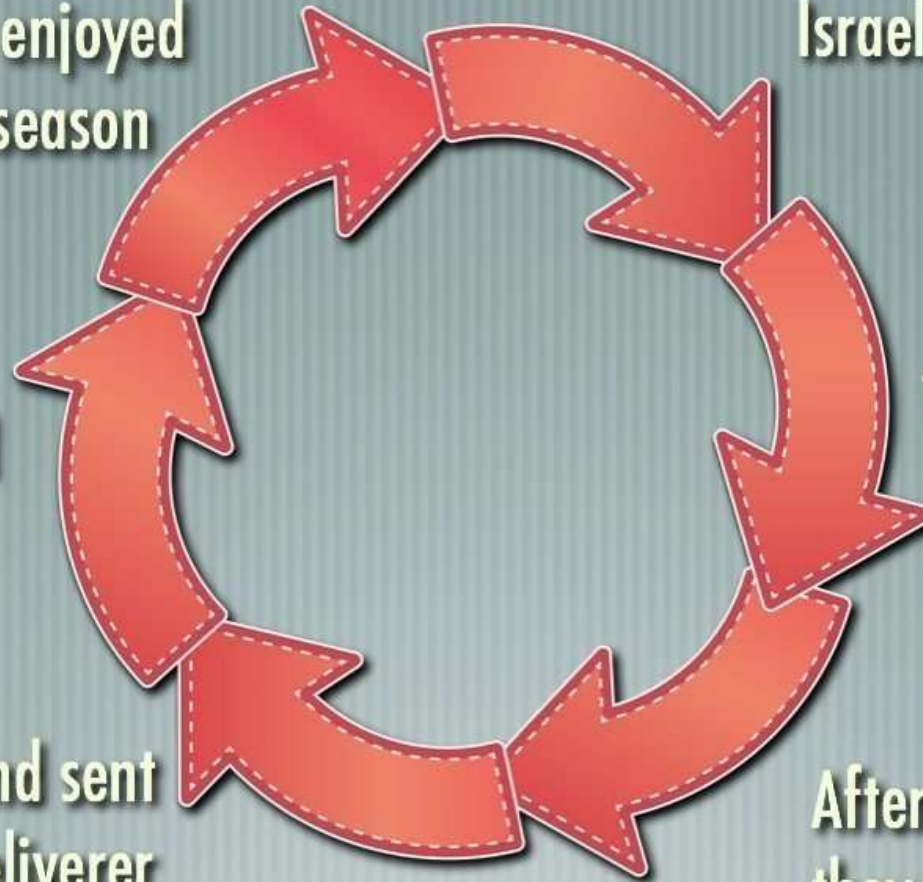
Israel "Did Evil"

They were "sold"  
to a foreign nation  
to serve

After years of oppression  
they cried out to the Lord

The Lord delivered  
the Israelites

The Lord heard and sent  
a "judge" as a deliverer



# ***1 Samuel***

- Though the book is about King Saul and King David, it starts with Samuel.

**==> It is God's story!**

**Samuel is a true leader! (1 Samuel 7:15-17)**

# ***1 Samuel***

- Samuel's family line was flawed. His sons were corrupt. This leads to monarchy.
- Israel's request for monarchy is sinful because they are not like "all the other nations"! (1 Samuel 8:4-5)
- Monarchy is God's concession to Israel. (1 Samuel 8:9-22)



# ***1 Samuel 12***

- **The Lord has always been faithful to you. (vs 6-8)**
- **You have forgotten and requested a king. (vs 9-12)**
- **See how powerful the Lord is! (vs 13-18)**
- **Oh no! Will God be angry with us? (v 19)**
- **No! Just don't turn from God. (vs 20-25)**

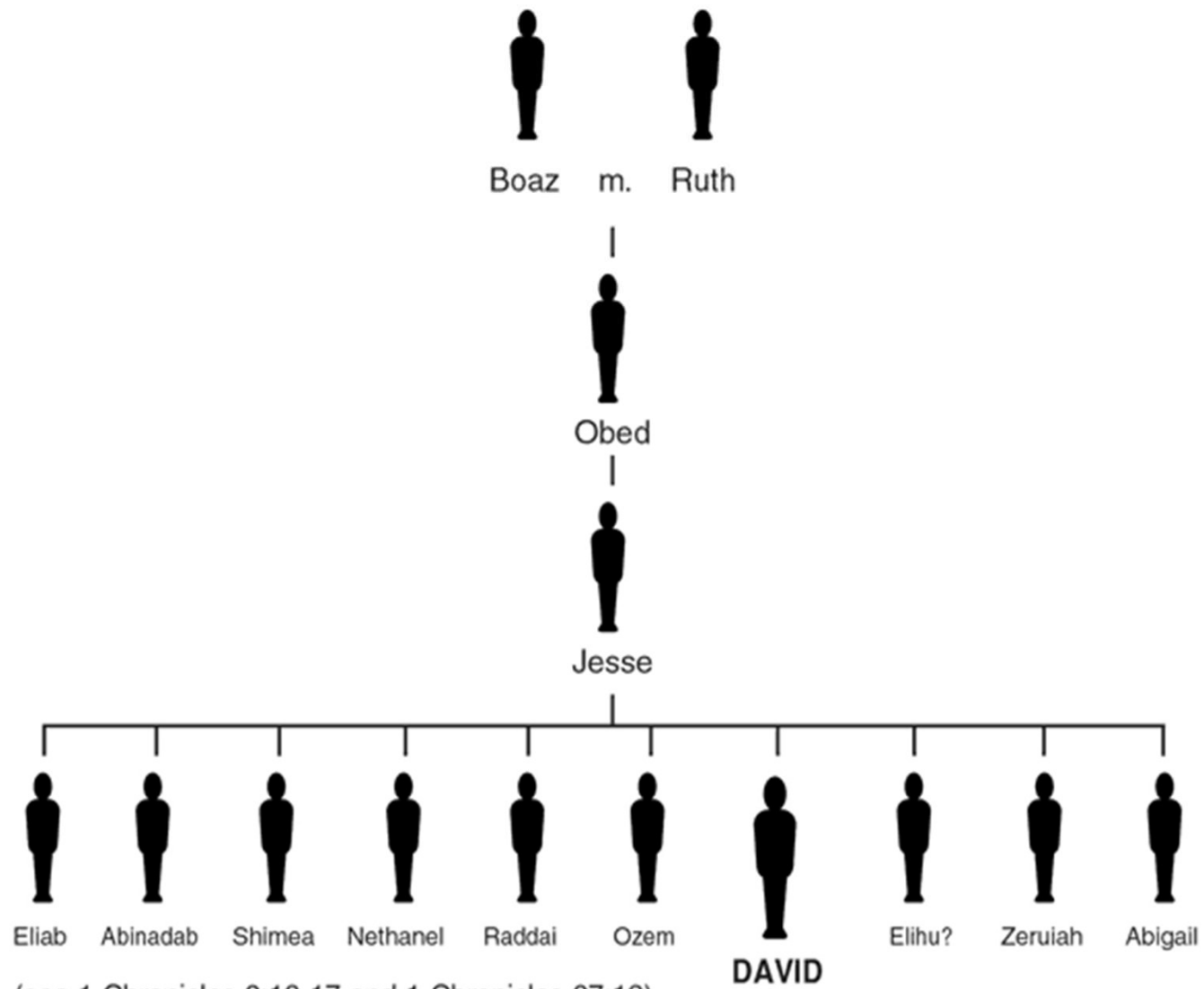
# ***King Saul's Failure – 1 Sam 15***

- **Saul's lenience upon the people of Agag was no small matter. (v 9)**
- **He also built a monument in his honor (v 12)**
- **Saul finds excuses. (v 15 ↔ Genesis 3:12)**
- **God punishes Saul but does not reverse monarchy because his plan is to provide King David as a forerunner of Jesus.**

# ***Anointing of David – 1 Sam 16***

- **God takes the initiative. (v 1-3+12)**
- **God overwrites and disciplines his prophet. (v 7)**
- **Samuel acts in full obedience to God's perfect rule! (v 13)**

**--> Note: David's great-grandma is a Moabite.**



# ***Conclusion***

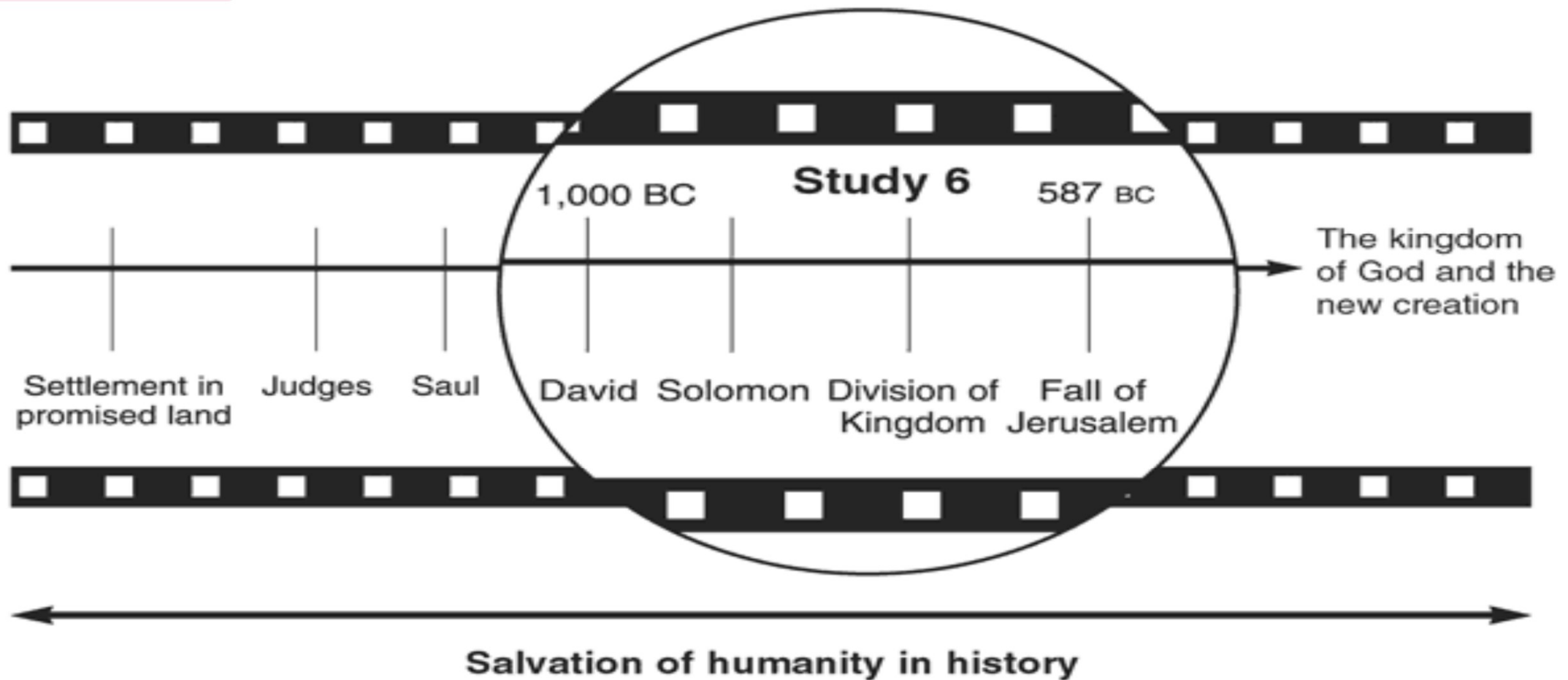
- **The Promised Land is not the place of rest because of Israel's unfaithfulness.**
- **The institution of judges is not permanent.**
- **The first king fails.**
- **The 'greatest king' is not flawless, either.**
- **God will fulfil his plan one day in Jesus!**





# UNIT 6: THE KINGDOM OF DAVID AND GOD'S PURPOSES

# *Before we begin*





# ***Two Principles so far...***

**1. The faithfulness of God...**

**==> He wants to bless Israel and the whole of his creation.**

**2. The stubbornness of the mankind...**

**==> They will not enjoy the full blessings.**

# ***The Kingdom of Israel***

- 1. David's reign**
- 2. Solomon's reign**
- 3. Division of the kingdom**
- 4. Decline of the North**
- 5. Decline of the South**

# ***King David***

**After King Saul loses God's anointing ...**

- **David is being anointed. (1 Sam 16:12-13)**
- **David serves King Saul. (1 Sam 16:14 – 18:30)**
- **King Saul hunts down David for many years. (1 Sam 19 – 2 Sam 3)**

# ***King David***

**After King Saul dies ...**

- **David becomes King of Judah. (2 Sam 2)**
- **In-fighting in Saul's house. (2 Sam 4)**
- **David becomes King of all Israel. (2 Sam 5:3)**

# ***King David***

David's  
Faith

God's  
Initiative

***Then David knew that the Lord had  
established him as king over Israel and had  
exalted his kingdom for the sake of his  
people Israel.***

The  
Purpose

**(2 Samuel 5:12)**

# ***King David***

- **David conquers Jerusalem. (2 Sam 5:7)**
- **David brings the ark to Jerusalem. (2 Sam 6)**
- **The city belongs to God. Great joy! (6:12)**

***After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him... (2 Samuel 7:1)***

# ***King David***

- **David wants to build God's temple. (7:2)**
- **God keeps him from doing so. (7:13)**
- **Instead, God makes a covenant with David, the "Davidic Covenant". (7:4-17)**



# ***The Davidic Covenant***

## ➤ **Blessings**

- **Great name. (7:9)**
- **Protection from enemies. (7:10)**
- **Land for the people. (7:10)**
- **Rest (7:11)**
- **A throne and kingdom forever. (7:16)**

# ***King David's Sinfulness***

- **David becomes a great king. (2 Sam 8-10)**
- **David sins (2 Sam 11)**
  - **Commits adultery.**
  - **Tries to hide the consequence.**
  - **Causes Uriah's death.**
  - **Doesn't care that Israel lost the battle.**

# ***King David's Sinfulness***

- **Nathan exposes David. (2 Sam 12:1-9)**
  - **David repents. (12:13a + Psalm 51)**
  - **God shows justice. (12:10-12, 14)**
  - **God shows mercy. (12:13b)**
- ==> Even King David, with whom God made an eternal covenant, forfeits his rest ...**

# *The Aftermath*

## Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

The prosperous and peaceful reign of Solomon -  
Israel's 'golden age'

1 Kings 1-11

The division that occurred between the tribe of Judah  
and the rest of Israel after Solomon's death

1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 16

The destruction of Samaria, capital city of the break-  
away tribes, by the Assyrians in 722 BC

2 Kings 17

The destruction of Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah  
by the Babylonians in 587 BC

2 Kings 18-25

# ***King Solomon***

- **Promising beginnings**
  - **Asks for wisdom. (1 Kings 3:5-14)**
  - **Builds God's temple. (chapters 5-6)**
  - **Moves the ark into the temple. (8:1-61)**
  - **Dedicates the temple. (8:62-66)**
  - **God repeats his promises. (9:1-9)**

# ***King Solomon's Insight***

***But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! ... this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. ... Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. (1 Ki 8:27-30)***

# ***The Temple (1 Kings 8)***

- **A fulfilment of God's promises. (v 23-24)**
- **Only a symbol of God's presence. (v 27)**
- **The temple is to be the place where God is known. (v 37-43)**
  - **For Jews**
  - **For Gentiles (e.g. the Ethiopian eunuch)**

# ***King Solomon***

## ➤ **The climax**

- **Completion of temple.**

- **Enormous wealth and wisdom. (10:6-9)**

## ➤ **The downfall**

- **Chariots from Egypt. (10:26-29)**

- **Foreign women. (11:1-8)**



# ***The Kingdom's Decline***

- **God's justice (1 Kings 11:9-11)**
- **God's mercy (11:12-13)**
- **Kingdom is divided.**
- **The Northern King Jeroboam cowardly leads Israel into idolatry. (12:26-33)**
- **The Southern King Rehoboam does not stop the idolatry of Judah. (14:22-24)**

# The two Kingdoms



# ***Israel's Decline***

- **God speaks through his prophets**
  - **Amos --> Judgement on Israel.**
  - **Hosea --> Israel rejected God's love.**
  - **Elijah & Elisha --> demonstrate God's power.**
- **Assyria invades Israel in 722BC.**

Yet... ***How can I give you up, Ephraim?*** (Hosea 11:8)

**They forsook all the commands of the Lord their God ... and they worshiped Baal. They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. ... So the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left ...**

**(2 Kings 17:16-18)**



**The nations to the north**

# ***Judah's Decline***

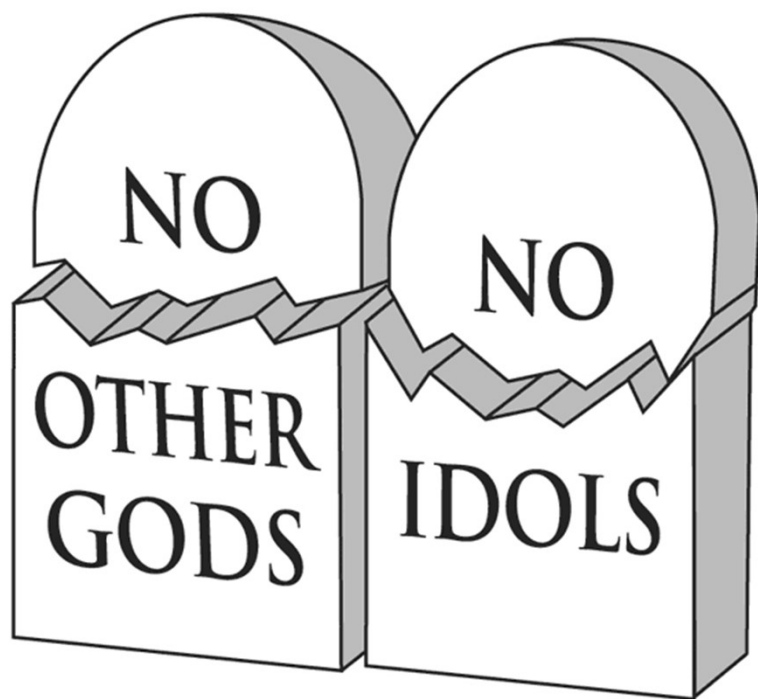
- **God speaks through his prophets**
  - **Micah --> Judah has not acted as God's people.**
  - **Isaiah --> Judah did not fear the holy God.**

**Yet... *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse***  
**(Isaiah 11:1)**

# ***Judah's Decline***

- **Manasseh epitomizes evil. (2 Kings 21:11)**
- **Josiah is a foreshadow of hope...**
  - **Discovers the Book of the Law. (22:8)**
  - **Renews the covenant and reforms the nation following God's Law. (chap 23)**
- **Babylon invades Judah, destroys Jerusalem and the temple, takes people into exile. (597-587BC)**

# ***Judgment and Hope***



**Isaiah 2:1-5**

***Come, descendants  
of Jacob, let us walk  
in the light of the  
Lord.***



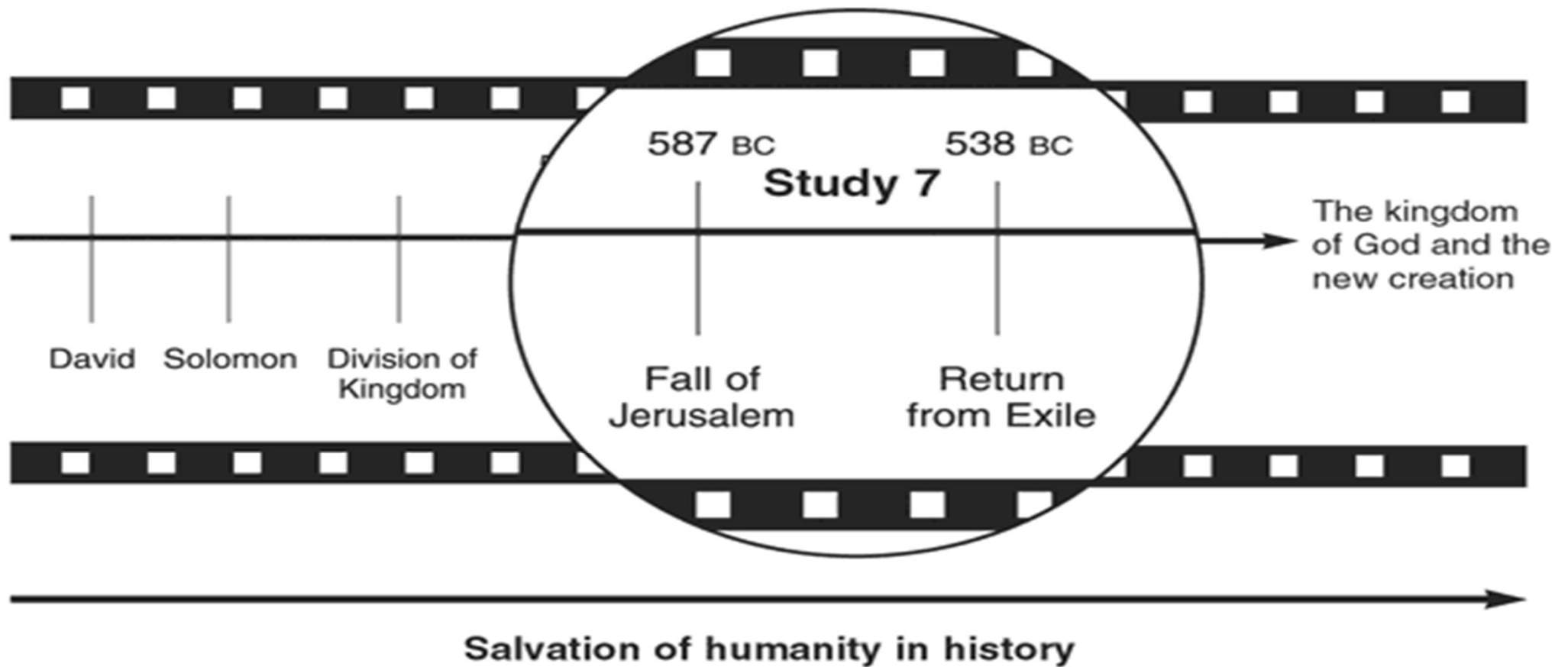


# **UNIT 7: GOD'S PURPOSE RENEWED**

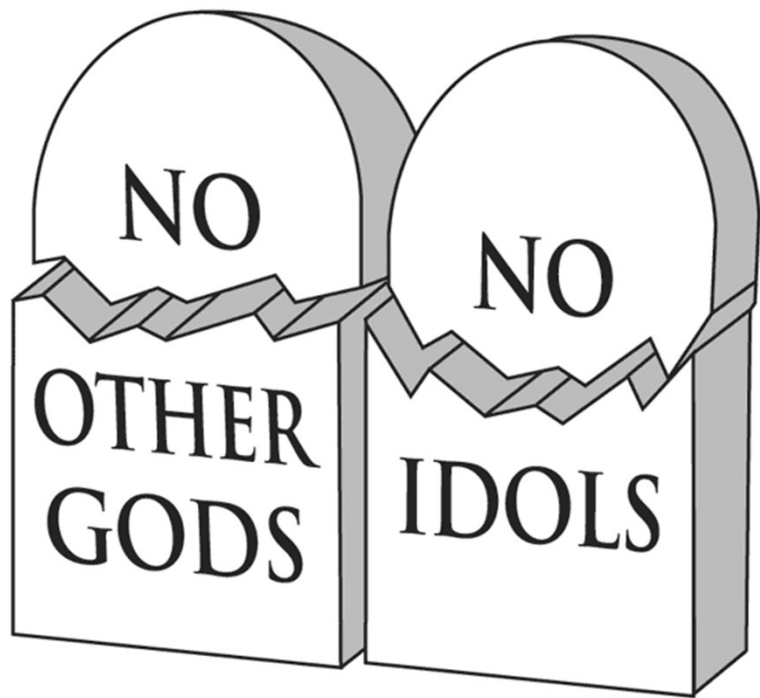




# *Before we begin*



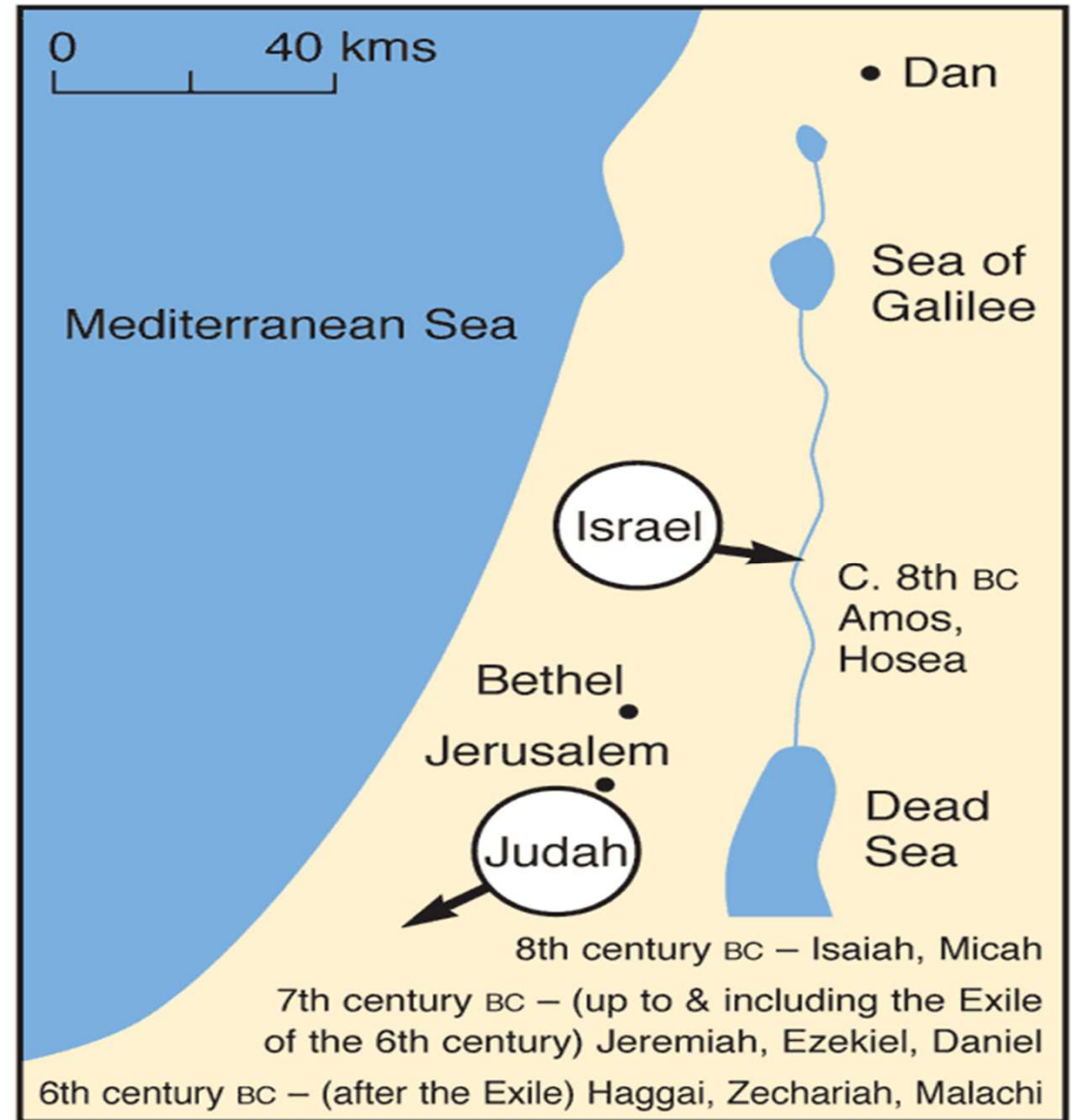
# ***Judgment – The End?***



**722 BC – Northern Kingdom ceased**

**587 BC – Judah exiled, Jerusalem and temple destroyed**

# ***GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS PROPHETS***



# ***TO THE NORTHERNERS***

**Hosea 11:1-5**

**When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.**

**But the more they were called,  
the more they went away from me.**

**They sacrificed to the Baals  
and they burned incense to images.**

# ***TO THE NORTHERNERS***

**It was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
taking them by the arms;  
but they did not realize  
it was I who healed them.  
I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with ties of love.**

# ***TO THE NORTHERNERS***

To them I was like one who lifts  
a little child to the cheek,  
and I bent down to feed them.

Will they not return to Egypt  
and will not Assyria rule over them  
because they refuse to repent?

# ***TO THE SOUTHERNERS***

**Shall I not deal with Jerusalem and her images as I dealt with Samaria and her idols? (Isaiah 10:11)**

**The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the Lord.**

**(Isaiah 39:6)**

# ***MESSAGE OF JUDGMENT***

- **Your leaders have misled you. (Jeremiah 23:1-2)**
- **You have been unfaithful to God and his covenant. (Hosea 9:1-3)**
- **Judgment is inevitable. (Jeremiah 20:4-6)**



# ***MESSAGE OF RESTORATION***

- **The exile has a purpose. (Jeremiah 24:4-7)**
- **Heart surgery.**
- **The blessings to come will surpass all expectations. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)**

# ***A NEW EXODUS***

- **Release from captivity, miraculously enabled by the pagan, yet 'anoointed' King Cyrus (Isaiah 45:1-7)**
- **Way back through the wilderness. (Isaiah 41:17-20, 43:2)**
- **So that they know their God. (Isaiah 41:20)**

# ***THE SERVANT***

## **Isaiah 42, 49-53**

- God's initiative. (42:1)
- He will suffer. (53:3-6)
- He will finish the 'job'. (53:7-9)
- He will not be crushed. (53:10-12)
- He will save Israel and the Gentiles. (49:6)

# ***A NEW COVENANT***

## **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

- **With all Israel (no longer divided!). (v 31)**
- **Same covenant, but unbreakable. (v 32)**
- **The Law written in the heart. (Deuteronomy 6:6, Jeremiah 31:33)**

# ***A NEW COVENANT***

## **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

- **A new beginning “after that time”. (v 33)**
- **A renewal from within. (Deut 6:7-9, Jer 31:34, Acts 2)**
- **Sin overcome forever! (v 34)**

# ***A NEW KING***

- **Based on the Davidic promise (2 Sa 7:8-16)**
- **A shoot from the stump of Jesse. (Is 11:1-5)**
- **A perfect ruler, leading the people back to a perfect place. (Is 11:6-16)**
- **A shepherd like no other (Ez 34, John 10)**
- **The Messiah, forever! (Psalm 74:12-23)**

# ***A NEW CREATION***

- **The destination for the exiles is Jerusalem. (Ezra and Nehemiah)**
- **The final place of perfection and rest is the New Jerusalem.**
- **It will come from above. (Is 65+66, Rev 21)**
- **It is the new creation! (Ez 47:1-12, Rev 22)**

# ***FOR ALL NATIONS***

- God's people are witnesses for God to Gentiles in the OT, e.g. to Queen of Sheba, Naaman, Nebuchadnezzar, Darius etc.
- The Good News travels during the time of Jesus, e.g. Samaria, Decapolis, 'some Greeks in Jerusalem.



# ***FOR ALL NATIONS***

- **The Great Commission of the Church.**
- **OT prophecies have been fulfilled and will find complete fulfilment in the last days!  
(Isaiah 2:3, 49:6, Revelation 7)**
- **Genesis 12:1-3 will be fulfilled through Christ and the Church.**

# ***AFTER THE EXILE***

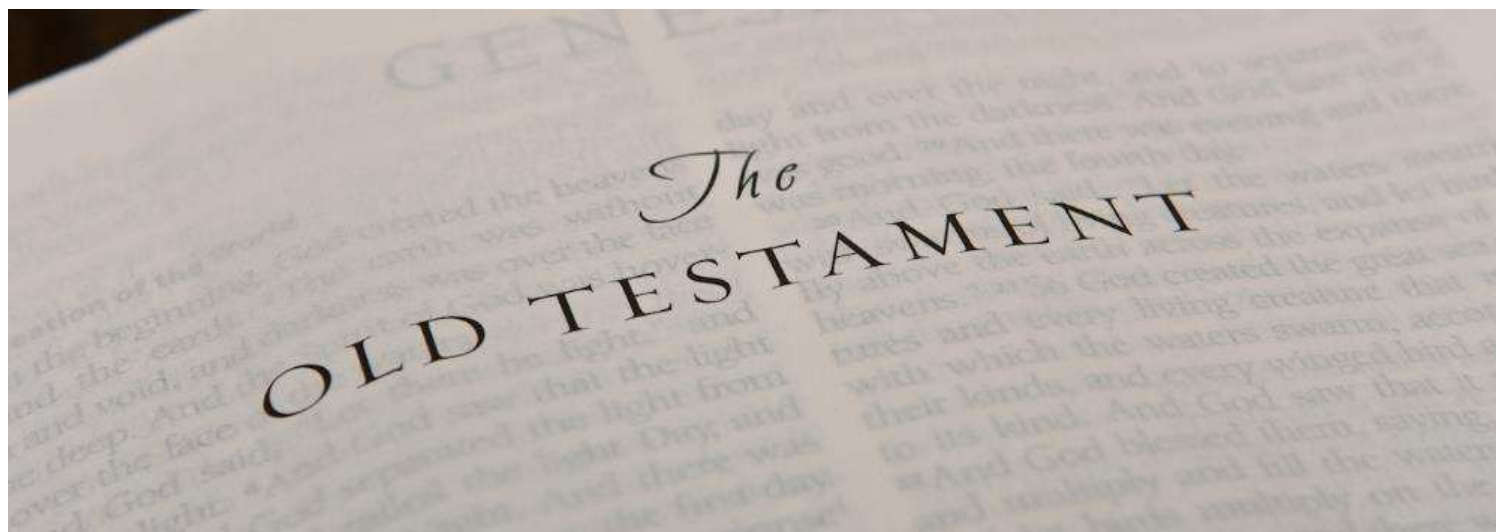
**Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi**  
**Leaders: Ezra, Nehemiah**

- **A new beginning in Jerusalem.**
- **Enthusiasm and re-focus.**
- **Only a pale shadow of the expectation.**
- **Waiting for true deliverance...**

# ***MARTIN LUTHER***

**'All the prophets  
speak of the  
same thing. They  
all have the  
same concern: to  
see the future  
Christ or his future  
kingdom.'**





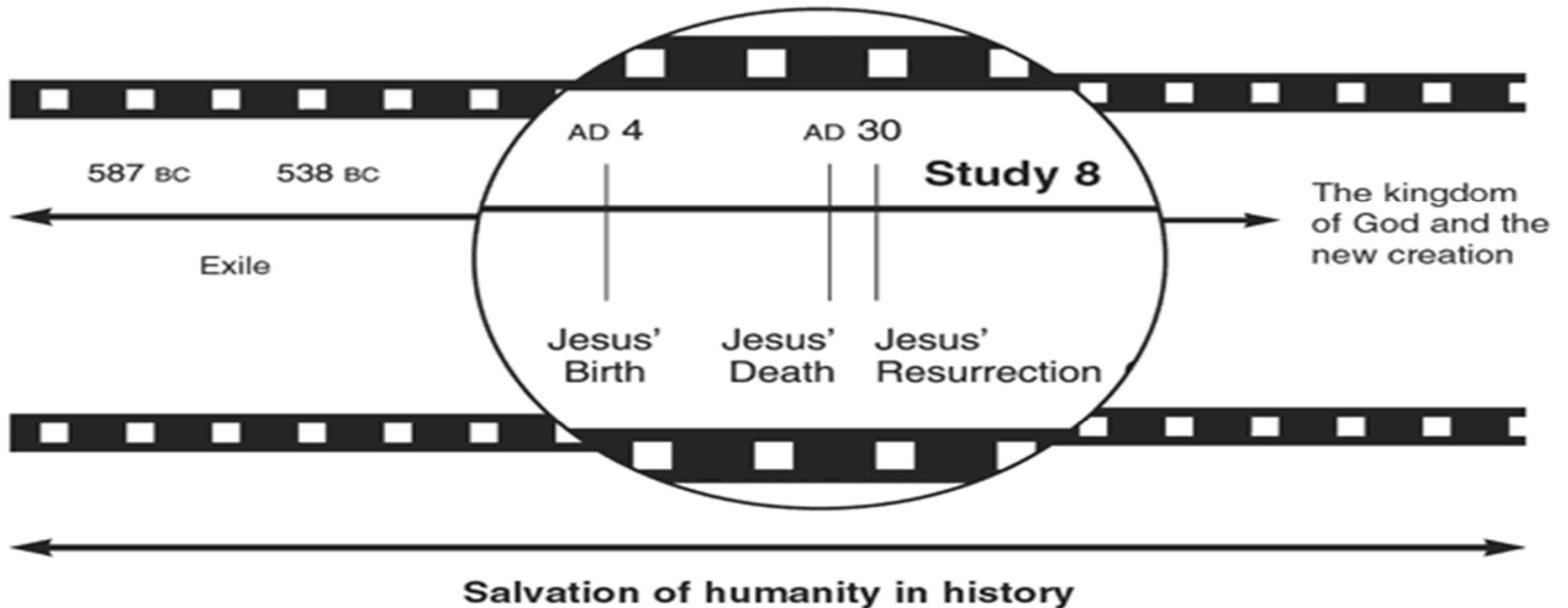
**... reveals the plan of God to reverse the effects of humanity's rebellion and bring people together under his personal and perfect rule in Jesus.**





# UNIT 8: JESUS THE FULFILLER OF GOD'S PURPOSE

# ***BEFORE WE BEGIN...***



# ***LUKE + ACTS***

- **The Christian life cannot be understood apart from its foundation in the birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, i.e. the gospels.**
- **The story of Jesus must be understood in terms of its outcome, i.e. Acts.**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Luke</b>
<b>Luke addresses Theophilus</b>	<b>1:1-4</b>
<b>The infancy narratives</b>	<b>1:5-2:52</b>
<b>The ministry of John the Baptist</b>	<b>3:1-20</b>
<b>The beginning of Jesus' ministry</b>	<b>3:21-4:13</b>
<b>Jesus in Galilee</b>	<b>4:14-9:50</b>
<b>Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem</b>	<b>9:51-19:44</b>
<b>Jesus in Jerusalem</b>	<b>19:45-21:38</b>
<b>The crucifixion of Jesus</b>	<b>22:1-23:56</b>
<b>The resurrection of Jesus</b>	<b>24:1-53</b>



# ***LUKE'S ACCOUNT***

## **Luke 1:1-4**

- **Orderly.**
- **Carefully researched.**
- **Based on reliable eye witnesses.**
- **To give us certainty about Jesus.**

# ***INFANCY NARRATIVES***

- **Outburst of the supernatural**
  - **Prophecies**
  - **Angels**
  - **Signs (incl. the reactions of Simeon and Anna)**

**The Davidic King is here. It is Jesus, the Christ!**

# ***JOHN THE BAPTIST***

- Song of Zechariah. (Luke 1:67-79)
- Single-minded in mission.
- Pointing to Jesus.
- Jesus is the fulfilment of the OT prophecies!

# ***THE BEGINNINGS***

- Jesus' baptism demonstrates the Trinity and introduces Jesus as the 'Beloved Son'.
- Genealogy links Jesus to Adam & Eve.
- Jesus' temptation is a parallel to the temptation of Adam & Eve, yet he withstands. (4:1-13)

# ***LUKE 4:18-19 (ISAIAH 61)***

***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the  
prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”***

# ***LUKE 4:21ff***

***“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”***

- **Teaching with authority. (4:31-32)**
- **Setting the demon-oppressed free. (4:33-37)**
- **Healing many. (4:38-40)**
- **Forgiving sins. (5:17-26)**
- **Setting the marginalized free (5:27-32)**

# ***LUKE 4:21ff***

***“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”***

- **Setting the “Law-oppressed” free. (5:33-39, 6:1-5)**

***“No one pours new wine into old wineskins. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.”***

**(Luke 5:37-38)**

# ***LUKE 7:22 (ISAIAH)***

***“The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”***

**If he commences his ministry like this, how will he finish it? Something great is certainly in store...**



# ***LUKE 7:23***

***“Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”***

- **How will people respond to Jesus?**
  - **Oppose? (6:11)**
  - **Walk away? (John 6:60-66)**
  - **Wonder? (4:36)**
  - **Follow? (5:1-11+27-28)**
  - **Profess him as Lord (9:20)**

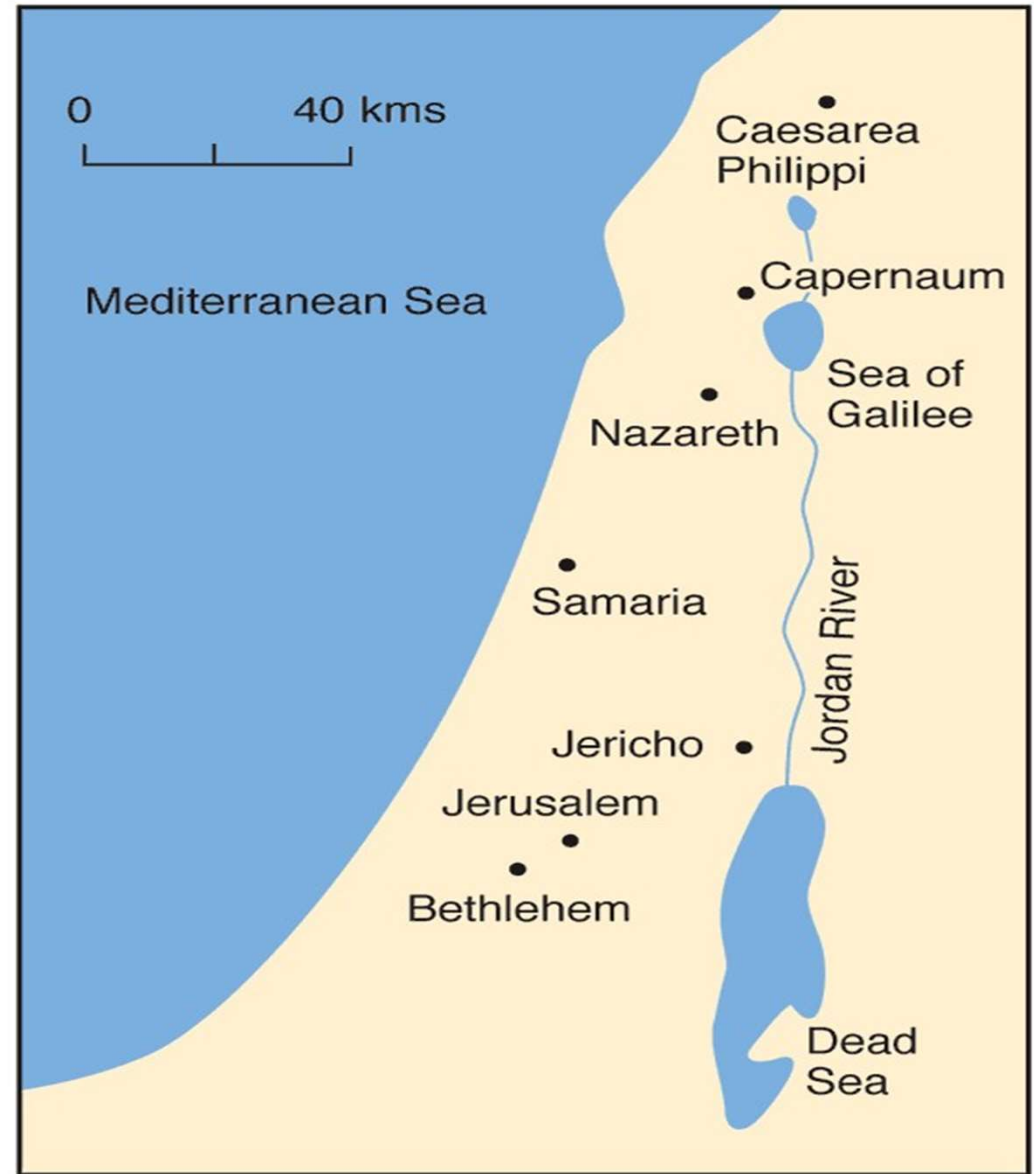
# ***LUKE 9:21***

***Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.***

- **Jesus is a different Messiah!**
- **The time has not yet come...**
- **Hindering further ministry.**
- **The disciples were not yet ready...**

# ***LUKE 9:51ff***

**As the time  
approached  
for him to be  
taken up to  
heaven, Jesus  
resolutely set  
out for  
Jerusalem.**



# ***LUKE 9:51ff***

- Teaching his disciples. (9:57-62, 10:1-24, 11:1-13, 12:22-53)
- Teaching the crowds. (11:14-36, 14:25-35)
- Challenging the religious leaders. (10:25-37, 11:37-54, 15:1-32)
- Teaching and ushering in the kingdom! (14:1-24, 18:15-30)

# ***LUKE 9:51ff***

## **Two key teachings...**

- **For the Jews during Jesus' time: 19:1-10**

**The house of Abraham includes sinners and Gentiles!**

- **For all throughout the ages: 16:19-31**

**==> Believing in Jesus delivers from eternal damnation!**

# ***HOW WILL HE FINISH IT?***

- He is the Son of Man. (Daniel 7:13-14)  
... yet, he will die ...
- Jesus predicts his death 3 times. (9:22+44, 18:31-33)
- Why does the Son of Man need to die? (John 12:23-36)

# ***THE CRUCIFIXION***

- Jesus is the Pascal Lamb for the Passover celebration.
- The blood that saved the firstborn from death in Egypt and ushered in the Exodus will now save mankind from sin and usher in the New Covenant. (22:19-20)
- Jesus is the suffering Servant in Isaiah. (22:37)

# ***CRUCIFIXION/ RESURRECTION***

- In death, Jesus is still rejected by the 'righteous' (Jewish council, Pilate, Herod), but the sinners acknowledge him. (23:41)
- Resurrection crushes the Serpent's head!
- Luke's resurrection account emphasizes on fulfilment. (24:6-7+25-27+44-48)

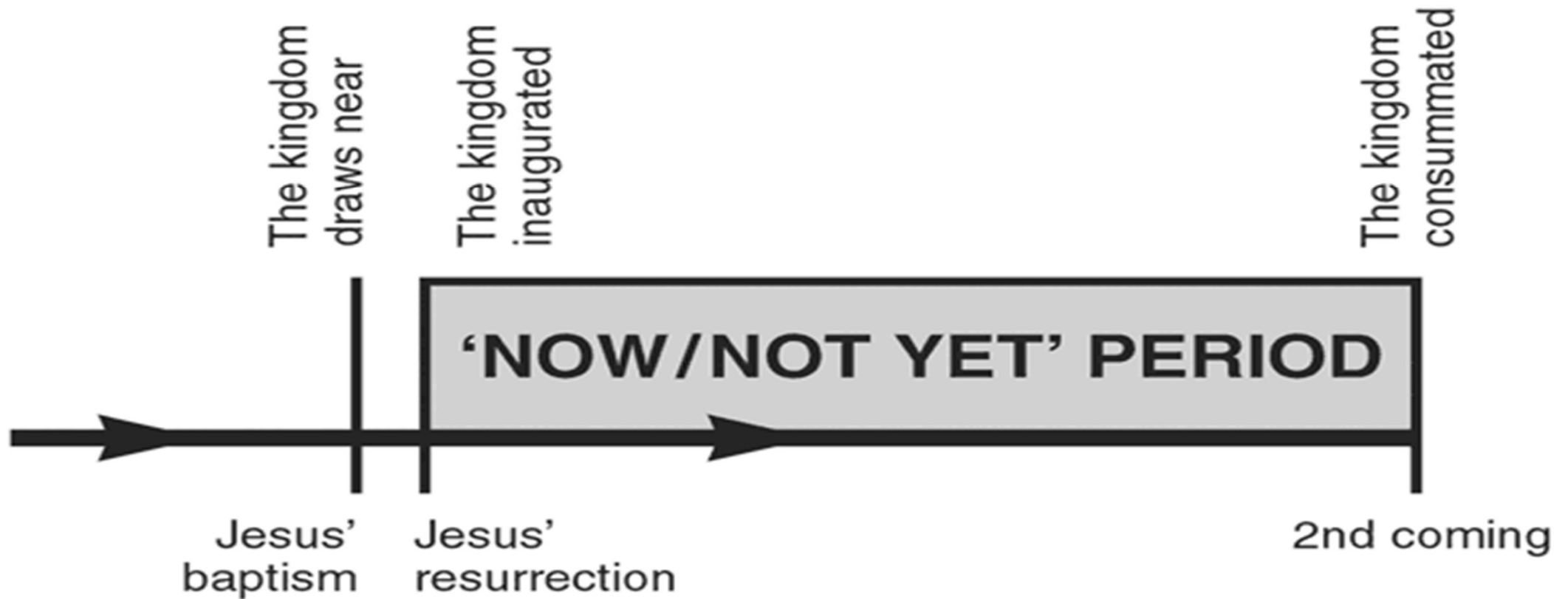


# ***FULFILLMENT***



**The geographical spread of the Kingdom of God**

# ***KINGDOM NOW BUT NOT YET***



# ***KINGDOM NOW BUT NOT YET***

- While Jesus was on earth, God's kingdom broke in. The King was with us, rejoice!  
(5:34)
- However...

***In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.***

**(John 16:33)**

# ***KINGDOM NOW BUT NOT YET***

**How will Jesus' disciples conduct themselves in the 'not yet'?**

- Pray!
- Proclaim!
- Persevere!
- Long for Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. It's promised, it will be fulfilled!

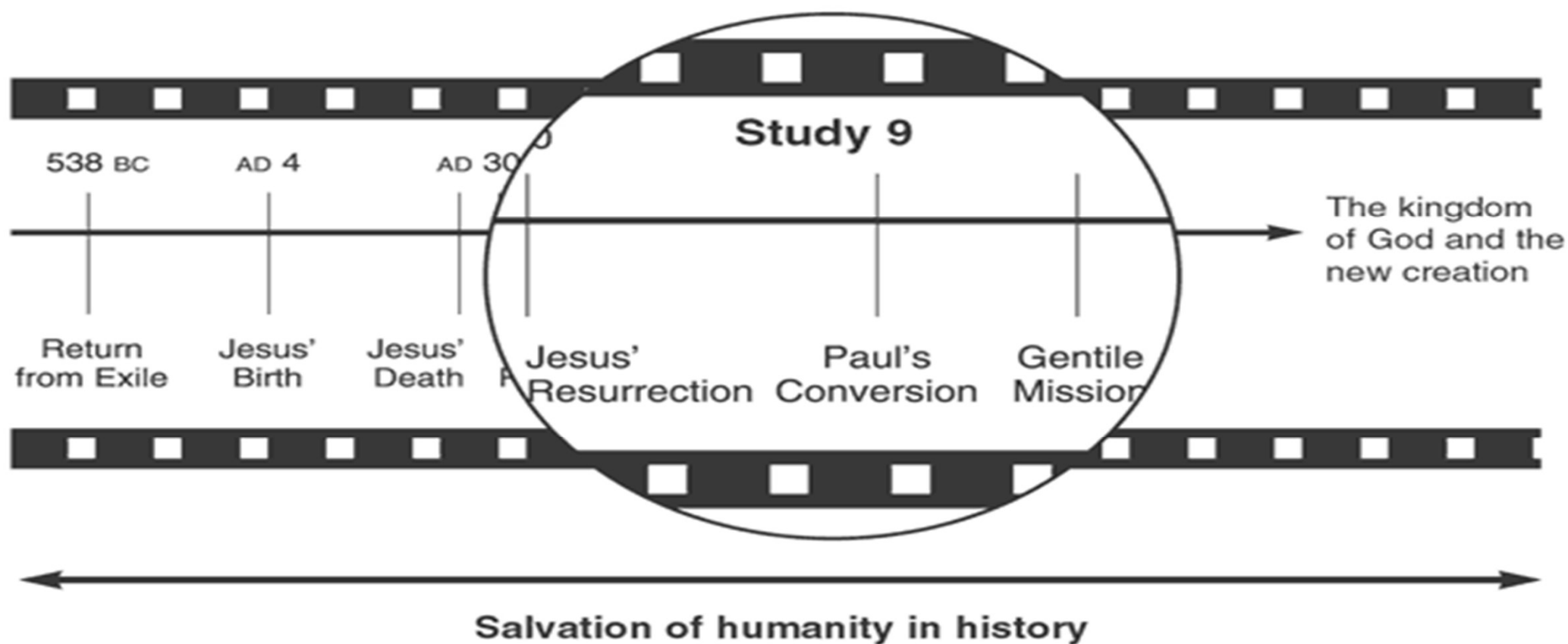




# UNIT 9: THE GOSPEL FOR THE NATIONS



# ***BEFORE WE BEGIN...***



# ***LUKE + ACTS***

- **The Christian life cannot be understood apart from its foundation in the birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, i.e. the gospels.**
- **The story of Jesus must be understood in terms of its outcome, i.e. Acts.**

# ***ACTS***

## **Begins in Jerusalem**

**The growth of the church in Jerusalem  
(Acts 2:5+41)**

## **Ends in Rome**

**The growth of the church in Jerusalem  
(Acts 28:16+31)**



# ***ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT***

**Six sections:**

- **In Jerusalem (2, Peter's Pentecost sermon)**
- **Through Palestine (7, Stephen's sermon)**
- **To Antioch (10, Peter's sermon to Cornelius)**
- **To Asia Minor (13, Paul's sermon to the Jews)**
- **To Greece (17, Paul's sermon in Athens)**
- **To Rome (28, Paul)**

# ***ACTS - KINGDOM***

**What happened to God's kingdom after the King Jesus ascended?**

- Imagine how helpless the disciples would have felt to carry out Jesus' last words to them...**
- They could not simply repeat what Jesus had done. What shall their message be?**

# ***ACTS - KINGDOM***

- They preached “The King” as the fulfilment of OT-Scripture. (Acts 13:32-33)
- They preached about Jesus’ life with the focus on his salvific work. (Acts 4:12)
- Their focus was evangelistic, urging people to put their faith in Jesus. (Acts 2:38)

***After the ascension, Jesus was no longer the messenger of the kingdom but the message itself, for he is 'both Lord and Christ'.***

# ***ACTS – HOLY SPIRIT***

- “Restoring the kingdom to Israel” will happen through the witness of disciples. (Acts 1:6-8)
- Pentecost was a turning point in the way the apostles were bearing witness. (4:8)
- The Holy Spirit enables and directs the witness to the nations, in Acts and today. (Acts 16:9-10)

# ***ACTS – HOLY SPIRIT***

- **The manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit, signs and wonders, shall always point to Jesus and lead to salvation.**
- **It needs to be accompanied by the preaching of the Word.**
- **The conviction by the Holy Spirit leads to salvation and makes us sons and daughters of God.**

# ***ACTS – WITNESS***

- Pattern of witness according to Acts 1:8  
Jerusalem → Judea → Samaria → Earth
- Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria receive the Good News first. “Kingdom” is being restored in the believers.
- From Acts 9:32, Jews (Peter, Paul) are bringing the gospel to the Gentiles.

# ***ACTS – ST PAUL***



**Paul's first and second missionary journeys**

# ***ACTS - ST PAUL***





# ***ACTS - ST PAUL***



# ***ACTS – ST PAUL***

- His conversion account (9:1-31) is repeated two more times. (Acts 22+26)
- It's also repeated in his letters.
- Paul becomes the apostle to the Gentiles though he would always preach to the Jews, first. (Acts 13:46-47)

# ***ACTS – ST PAUL***

**Why is there so much of Paul in the NT?**

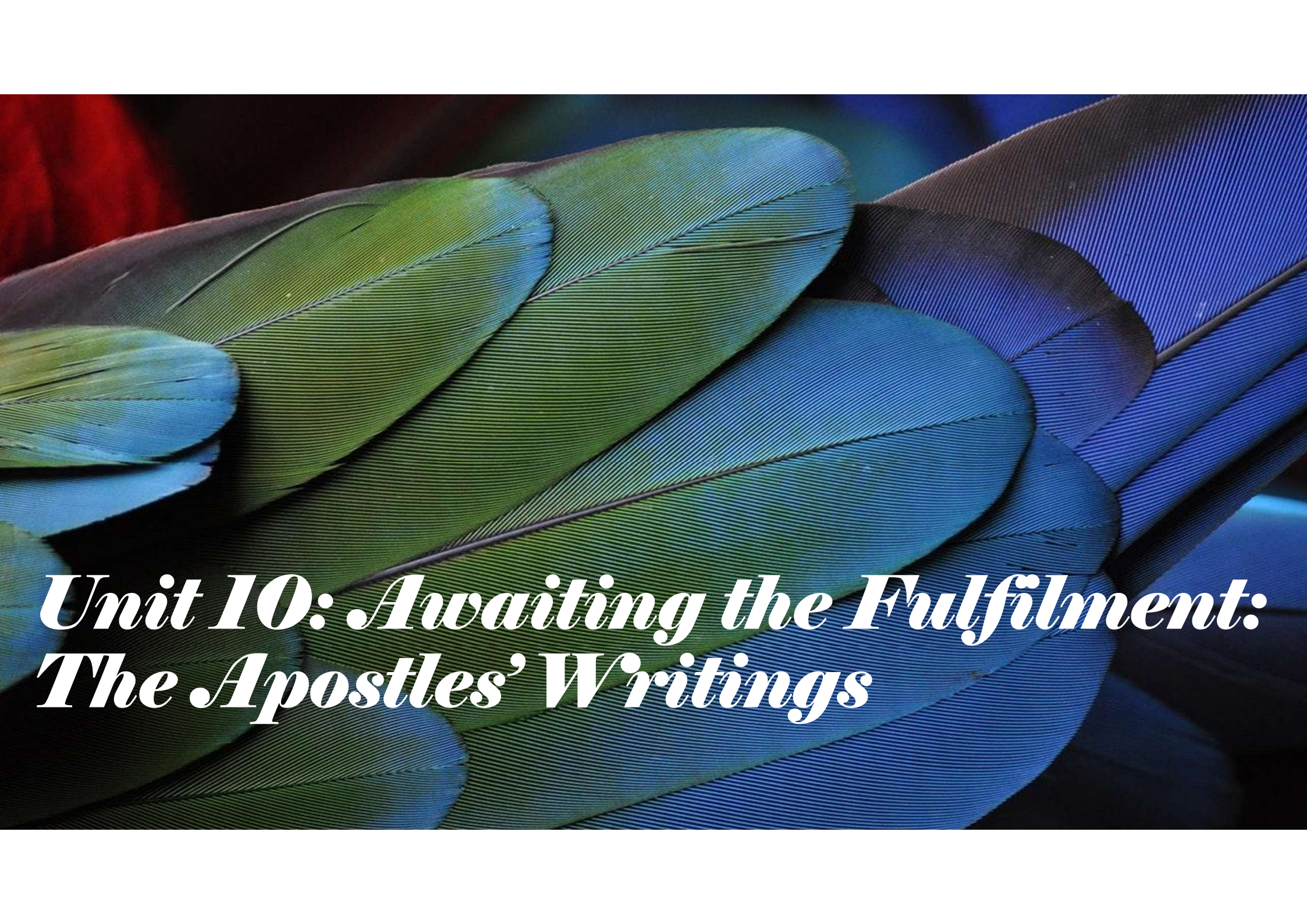
- **Paul's ministry is part of the fulfilment of God's call to Abram. (Genesis 12:3)**
- **It concerns the largest field of Acts 1:8, "to the ends of the earth".**
- **The focus is not on Paul but on God's plan fulfilled through Jesus and his Spirit.**

# ***ACTS – ST PAUL***

**Why is there so much of Paul in the NT?**

- **Paul plants church communities and discipless them through letters.**
- **This will become the blueprint for ministry in the Now/Not-yet period.**
- **Paul's letters are inspired by the Holy Spirit to build the Church through the ages.**

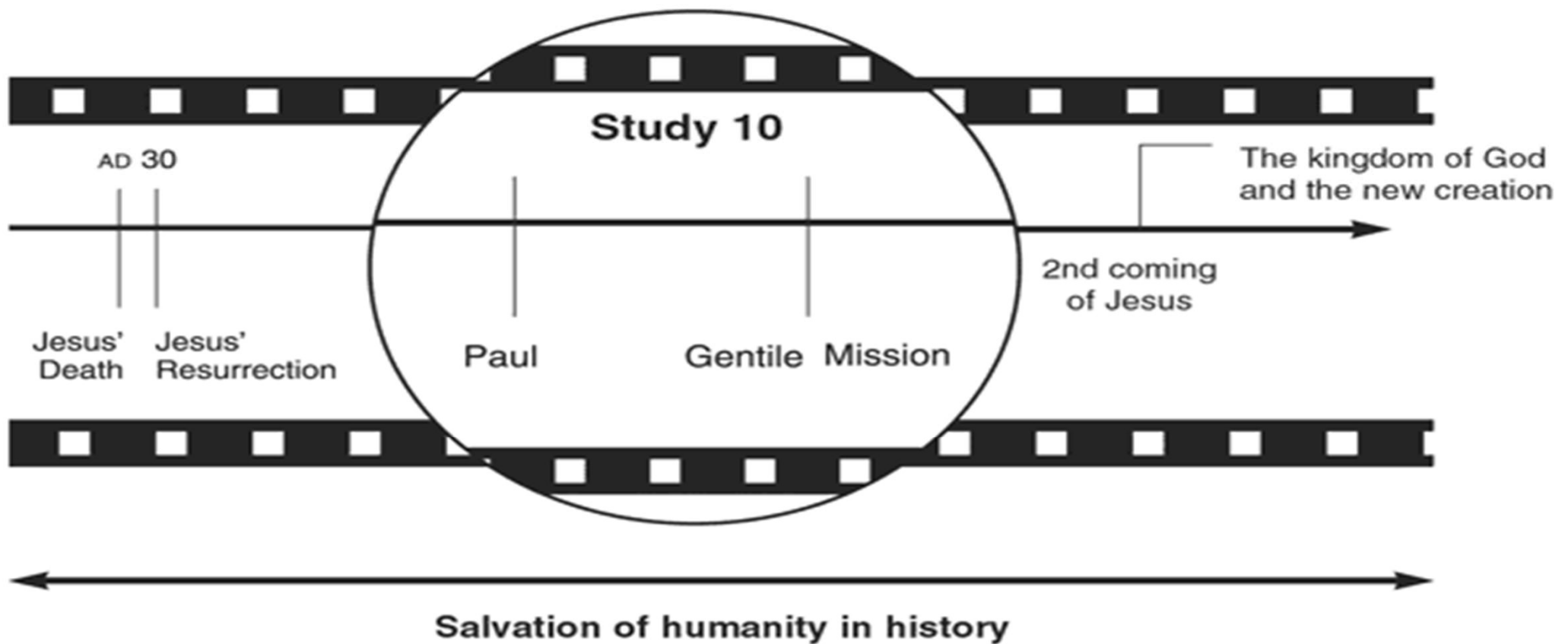




***Unit 10: Awaiting the Fulfillment:  
The Apostles' Writings***

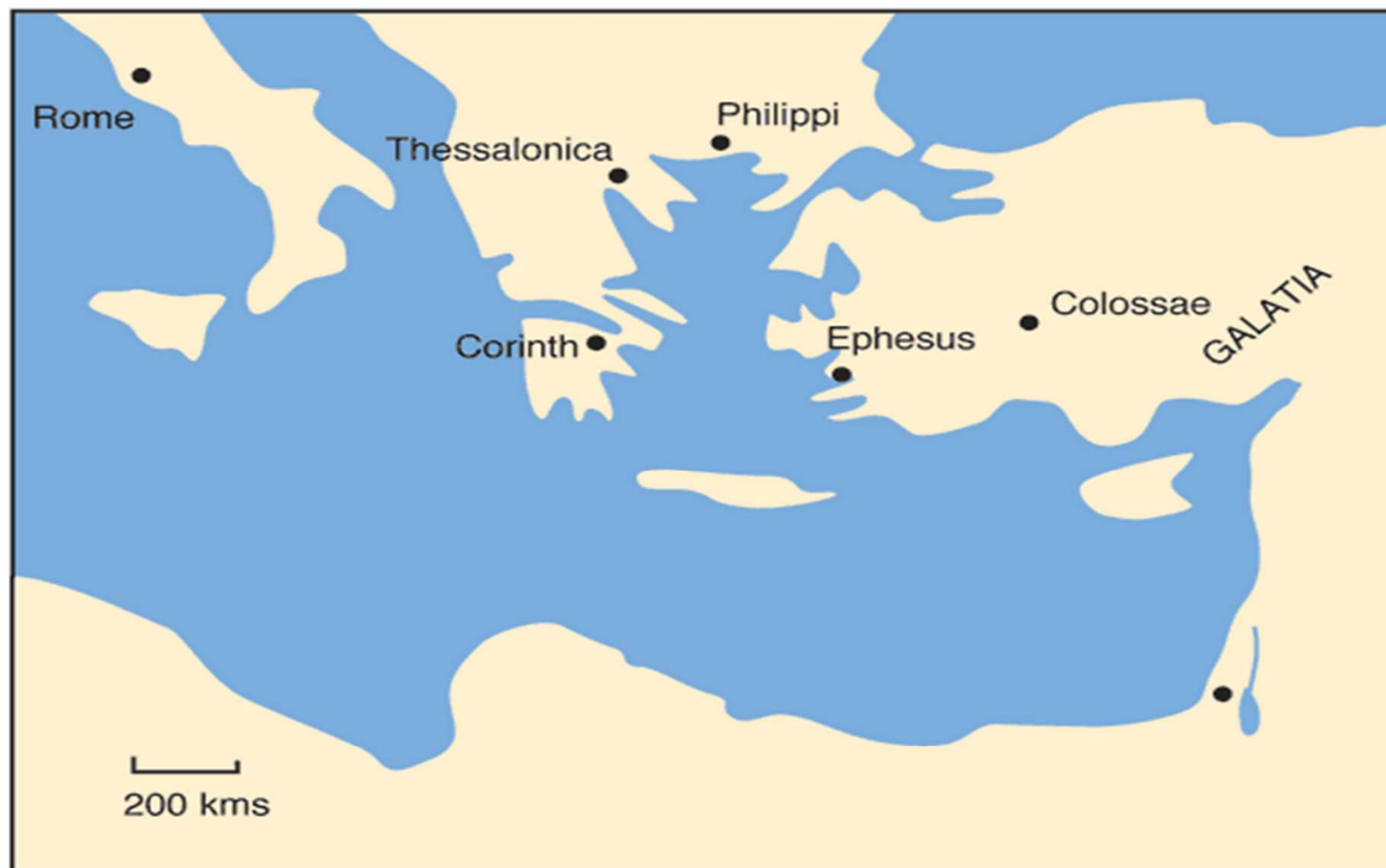


# ***BEFORE WE BEGIN...***



# ***THE APOSTLES WRITINGS***

- **What would Christians lose if there were no epistles?**
- **The epistles teach Christians how to life in the now-not yet.**
- **Paul wrote 13 letters, 4 by John, 2 by Peter, 1 by James, 1 by Jude, 1 unknown (Hebrews)**



**Destination of Paul's letters**



# ***PAUL'S LETTERS***

**Romans: “Gospel according to Paul”**

- The gospel explained. (1-8)
- Salvation for Jews and the nations. (9-11)
- Christian living. (12-16)

**1 Corinthians: “A letter of love”**

- Paul rebukes a divided church and explains what true love means. (11:23-26)

# ***PAUL'S LETTERS***

## **2 Corinthians: “A discipleship letter”**

- The divine exchange for greater glory (3:7-18, 5:11-6:2)
- Paul expresses his commitment to the Church and builds them up in Christ.

## **Galatians: “The freedom letter”**

- Paul attacks wrong teaching by Judaizers and expounds on the life in the Spirit. (chap 5)

# ***PAUL'S LETTERS***

## **Ephesians: “I and the body in Christ”**

- God's great work in Christ (chap 1-3) and how it is expressed in community (chap 4-6).

## **Philippians “Humility in Christ”**

- Paul's gratitude in the partnership of the Philippian Church and an appeal to humility and unity. (2:6-11)

# ***PAUL'S LETTERS***

## **Colossians: "The Christ-letter"**

- Paul rebukes wrong teaching about Jesus and magnifies Jesus' uniqueness. The life of a Christian shall reflect his focus on Jesus. (1:28-29, 3:1-4)

## **1 Thessalonians: "Faith, love, hope"**

- Standing firm in times of persecution. Awaiting Jesus' return. (1:3, 5:1-11)

# ***PAUL'S LETTERS***

## **2 Thessalonians: “Wake-up letter”**

- Beware of the Man of Lawlessness. (chap 2)
- Don't slumber. Be ever ready! (3:6-15)

## **1+2 Timothy + Titus: “To the beloved children”**

- Press on to live faithfully and pastor the flock.

## **Philemon: “The transforming power of the gospel”**

# ***OTHER LETTERS***

**Hebrews: “Christ, the supreme high priest”**

- Author unknown.
- Written as a sermon.
- Addressed to Jewish Christians.

**James: “Faith in action”**

- Be hearers and doers of God’s Word.
- Move out of the world to seek the divine!

# ***OTHER LETTERS***

## **1+2 Peter: “Persevere!”**

- Jesus’ suffering is an example for us.
- The righteous shall live!

## **1+2+3 John: “Living in the light”**

- We have been saved to show God’s love in Christ.

## **Jude: “Presented blameless in Jesus”**

# ***THE APOSTLES WRITINGS***

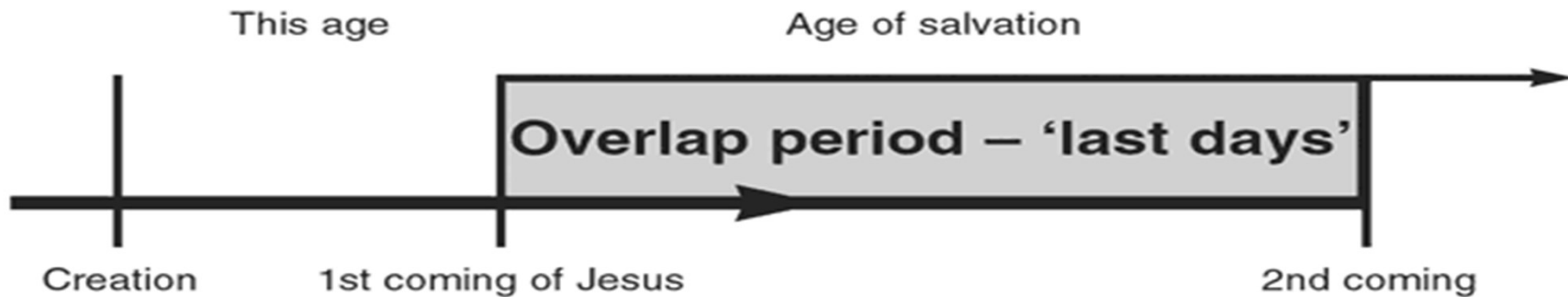
- Though written almost 2000 years ago to Churches and in circumstances very different from today, they speak throughout the ages.
- They are inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- They instruct us to focus our life on Jesus.



# ***JUDAISM / CHRISTIANITY***



- Jews are waiting for the Messiah to come.
- Christians rejoice that the Messiah has come and are waiting for his return.



# ***JESUS' RETURN***

- Those continuing in rebellion to God will be judged. They will be excluded from the garden forever and will have no rest. (1 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Luke 16:19-31)
- Believers shall be changed and the faithfully departed shall be raised imperishable. (1 Corinthians 15: 51-57, 1 Thess 4:13-18)

# ***JESUS' RETURN***

- The new creation, free of the consequences of sin, perfect creation! (Revelation 21-22)

## **Meanwhile...**

- We have been rescued and are citizens of God's Kingdom. Hallelujah! (Colossians 1:13-14)
- We are still living in a fallen world and will suffer for our faith. (John 15:18-25)

# ***JESUS' RETURN***

**Meanwhile...**

- **We have died with Jesus and have already been raised with to new life (baptism). We need to live in this manner. (Romans 6:1-14)**
- **Take heart in reading passages that point to Jesus' return! (list at end of 2.1 in notes)**

# ***CHRISTIAN LIVING***

- **Christians need to live by God's standards.  
(Colossians 3:1-4)**
- **The world will not. We can't expect it to. But we need to be a voice for the Lord.**
- **We need to live by example! (Col 3:5-17)**

# ***REVELATION***

- One of my favorite books! 😊
- Circular letter by John to 7 churches.
- Several visions and words.
- Chapter 4-22 tell the Church of what is happening in the last days.
- Stand firm!

# APOCALYPTIC SYMBOLS

Symbol	Meaning
7	totality, completeness, perfection; 'God's number'
3½ (or time, times and half a time)	incompleteness
4	the number for the earth
the sea	a place of evil
beasts	human, ungodly power
white	victory
black	famine
red	war
pale	death
Babylon	organised evil and corruption

# ***REVELATION***

- 'The last days' will be characterized by various kinds of suffering, false teaching and persecution.
- God is victorious and supreme and just. (16:16-17)
- King Jesus will be enthroned forever! (19:11-21)
- The multitude will be gathered from all nations. (chap 7)



# ***REVELATION***

- Don't look for signs. Be ready!
- We are saved and sealed in Jesus!

**He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. (Revelation 22:20-21)**