

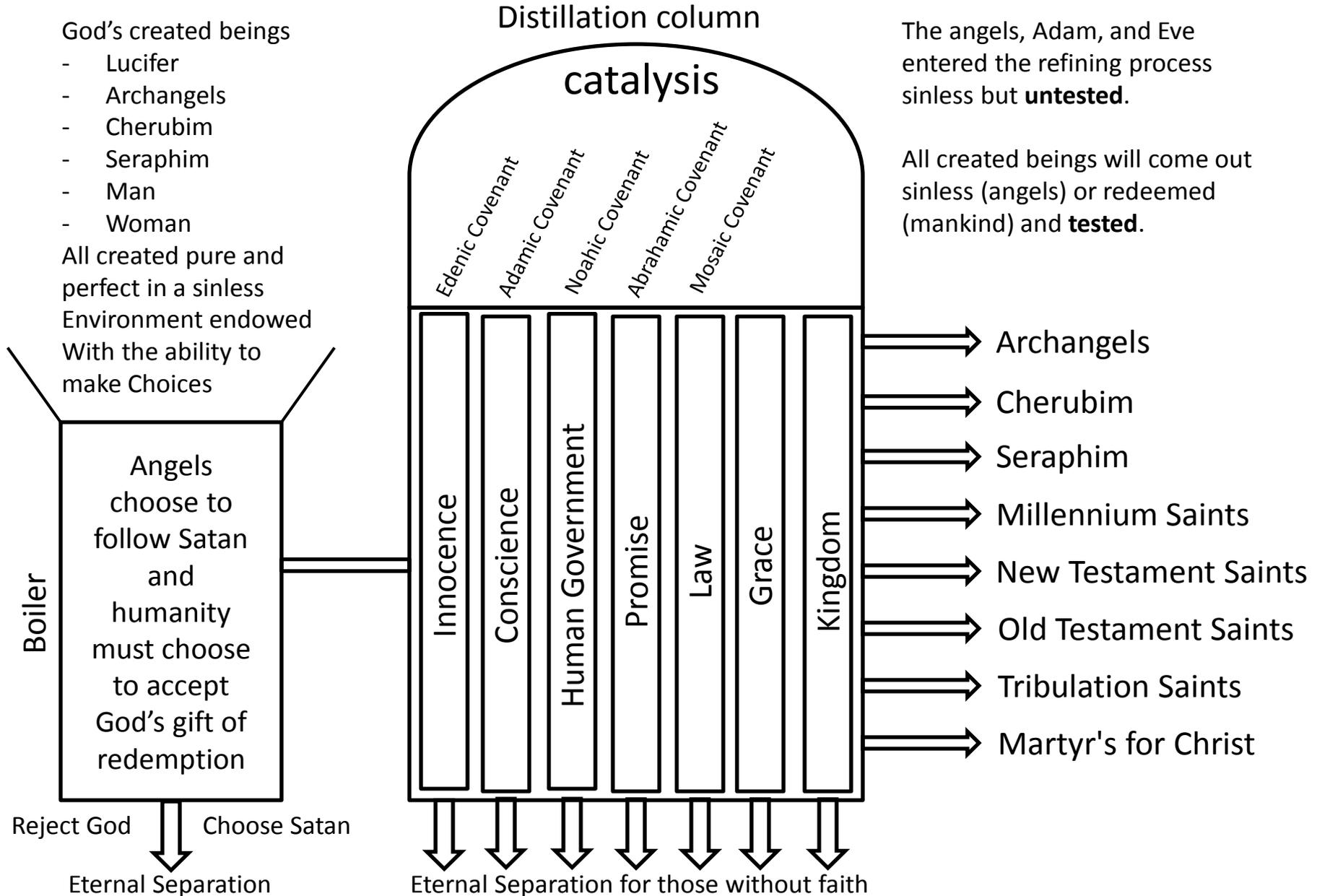
Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Revealed Plan of God from Eternity Past to Eternity Future



www.RefiningaCreation.org

God's Refining Process for His Created Beings



Refining a Creation for Eternity

God's Economies for Mankind

Overview



Edenic



Adamic

Innocence



Noahic

Human Government



Abrahamic

Promise



Mosaic

Law



Postponed

Grace

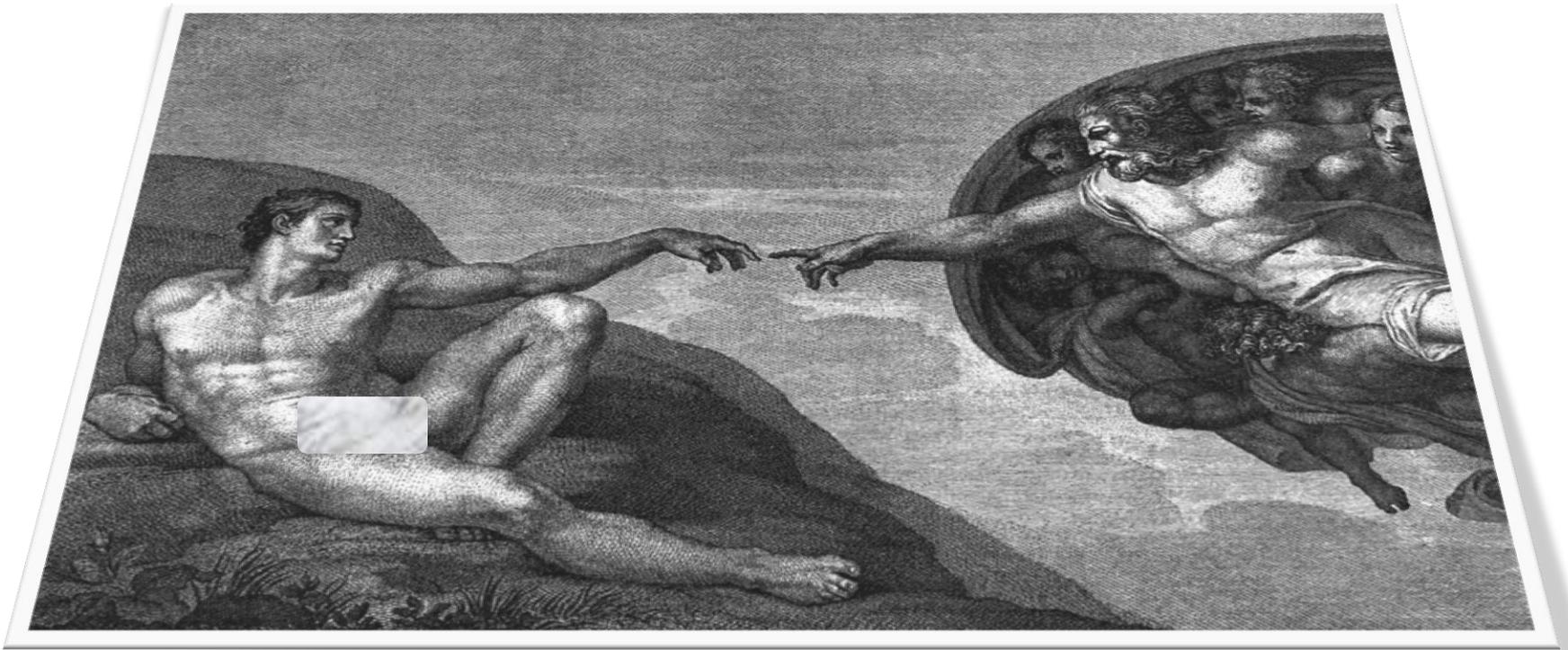


Fulfillment

Kingdom

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The First Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Edenic Covenant (Gen 1:28-30; 2:15-17; Hos 6:7)

Parties to the Covenant

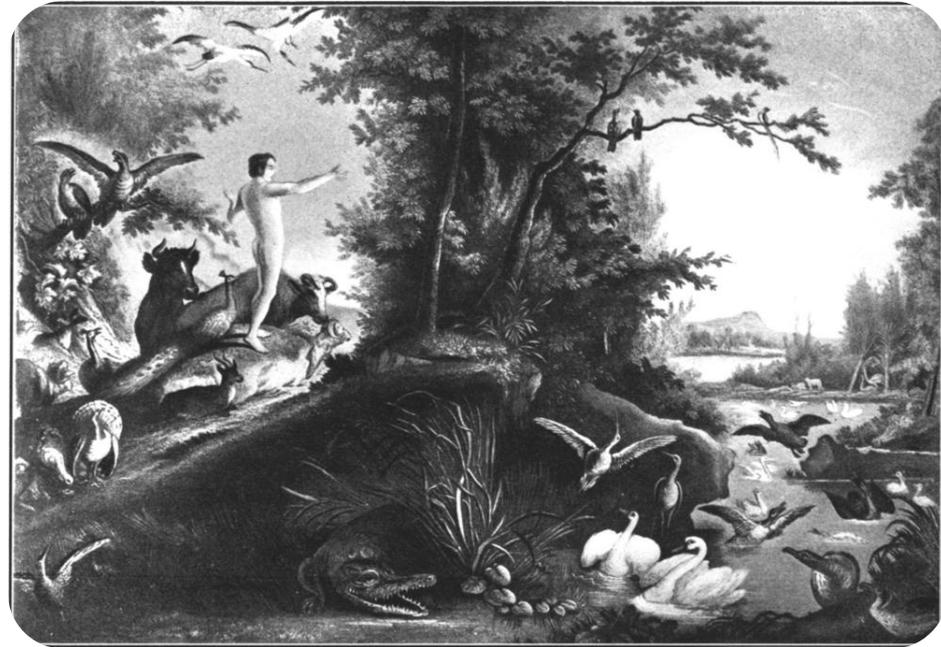
- God and Adam

Conditions of the Covenant

- Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth
- Subdue the Earth
- Rule over the animal kingdom
- Plants are for food (vegetarian)
- Defined roles
- Guard the garden
- Not eat from one tree
- Penalty for violating the commands is death

Token of the Covenant

- Tree of Life



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Innocence

Man's Responsibilities

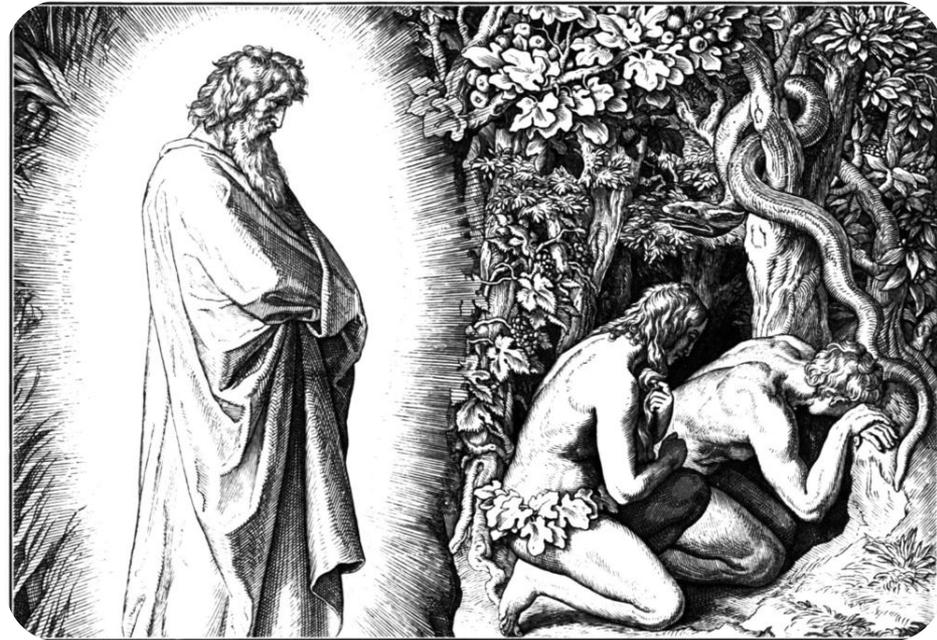
- Man's responsibilities in the garden were to fulfill the Edenic Covenant, essentially to multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it. Mankind was forbidden to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Man's Failures

- Man's failure was to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is important to note that while the woman was deceived, the man made a conscious decision to disobey God.

The Resulting Judgment

- Pain in childbirth, Authority struggle, Earth antagonistic to man, Man irresponsible to animals, Plants of the field for food, Expelled from Eden, Spiritual and physical death



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Innocence

God walked with man

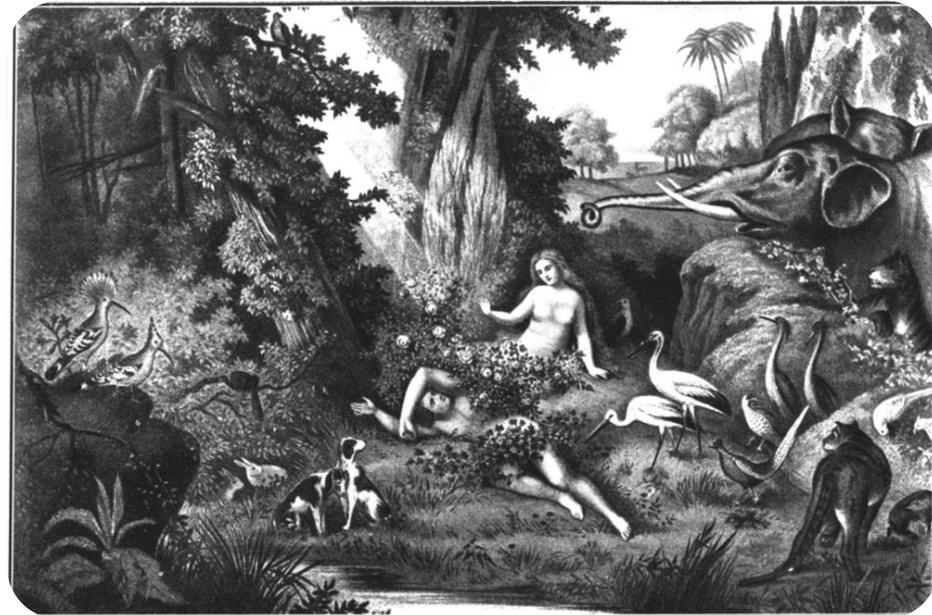
- Genesis 2:15 - Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
- Genesis 3:8 - They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,

God spoke to man

- Genesis 2:16 - The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

God had fellowship with man

- Genesis 2:19 - Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Second Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Adamic Covenant (Gen 3:14 – 3:21)

Parties to the Covenant

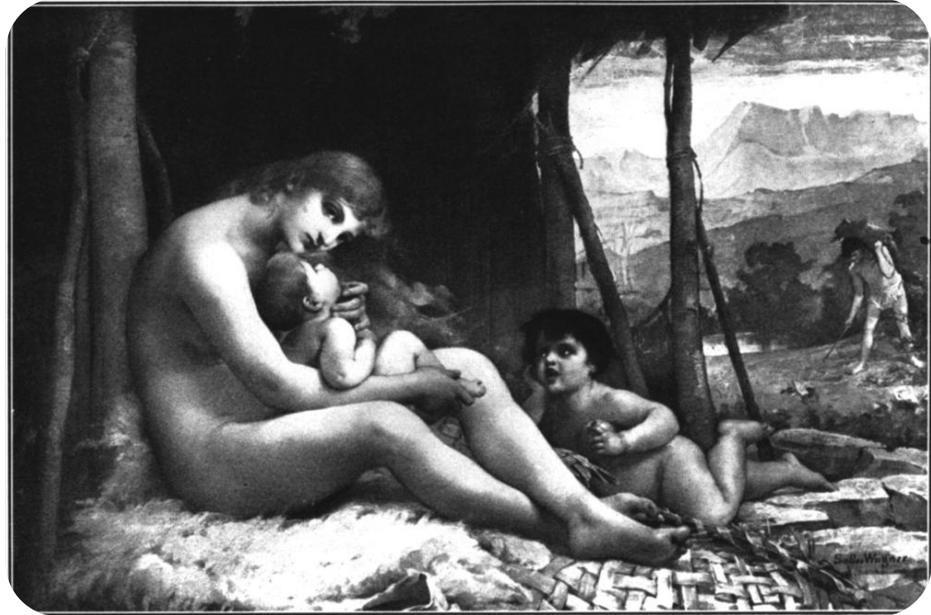
- God and Adam as the representative for mankind

Conditions of the Covenant

- Transformation of the animal kingdom
- Protevangelium (first gospel) and promise of Satan's defeat
- Woman cursed in area of assigned duties
- Man cursed in area of assigned duties
- Physical death (return to ground)
- Man remains a vegetarian

Token of the Covenant

- Spiritual death



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Conscience (Gen 3:9 to Gen 8:14)

Man's Responsibilities

- Man's responsibilities, having been ejected from the garden, was to fulfill the Adamic Covenant, essentially to multiply and fill the Earth. Mankind was to respond to God through the prompting of his conscience and as evidence of his faith in the promised seed, to bring an acceptable blood sacrifice as God had instructed them to do.

Man's Failures

- Mankind, having been given the ability, through their conscience, to desire a relationship with God and the provision, through blood sacrifices, to approach God, failed to do so and instead followed after their own evil lusts. The wickedness and evil became so great and widespread, God decided to let mankind start anew.

The Resulting Judgment

- God, being true to His word, spared the only faithful humans and a small remnant of air breathing creatures and started over in order to fulfill his promise of redemption



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Conscience

Approach God by Faith

- Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Blood sacrifice as example of faith

- The test then becomes “with a conscience, guided by that conscience, will man choose to do good and approach God by means of sacrifice as the example of the sacrifice that God indicated”.
- Leviticus 17:11 - ‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.’



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Second Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Genesis 6:8-9, 18; 7:1

- But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.
- “But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.
- Then the LORD said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.

Angelic Conflict - 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6

- For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
- And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Third Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Noahic Covenant (Genesis 8:20 – 9:17)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Noah as the representative for mankind

Conditions of the Covenant

- Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth
- Man to be feared by animals
- Mankind allowed to eat meat
- Mankind not to eat or drink blood
- Institution of capital punishment
- Never again a universal flood

Token of the Covenant

- Rainbow



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Human Government (Genesis 9:1 to 11:32)

Man's Responsibilities

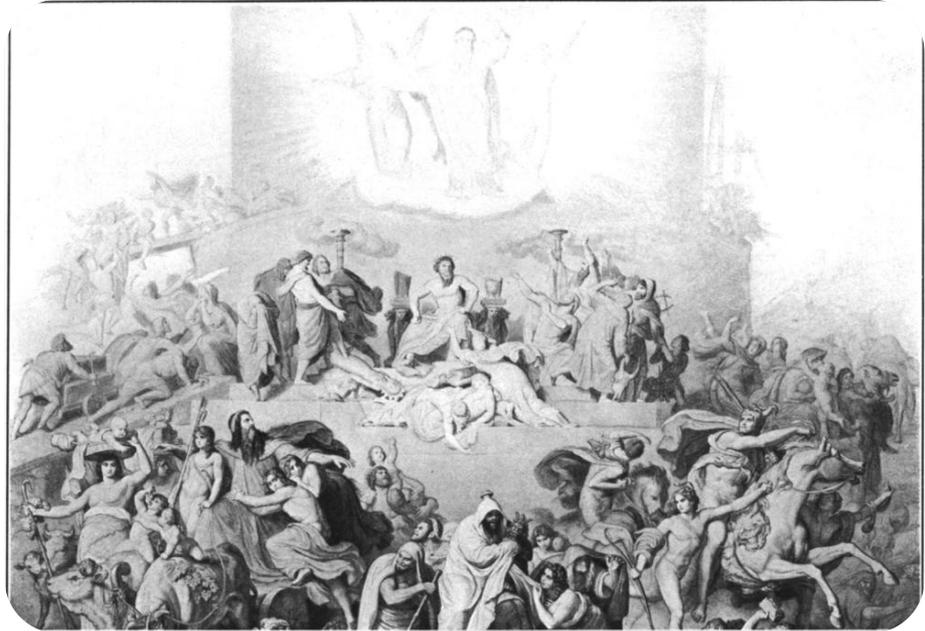
- Man's responsibilities were to fulfill the Noachic covenant. Mankind was to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. Mankind was to govern itself with the full authority of capital punishment.

Man's Failures

- Failure to govern successfully appeared on the scene almost immediately, for Noah became drunk and incapable of ruling. The people, instead of obeying God's command to scatter and fill the earth, conceived the idea of staying together and building the tower of Babel to help achieve their aim. Fellowship with man replaced fellowship with God.

The Resulting Judgment

- As a result, God sent the judgment of the tower of Babel and the confusion of languages. He also graciously intervened in that He did not utterly destroy the nations but chose to deal graciously with Abraham and his descendants.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Small Remnant of Righteous – The Example of Job’s Theology

God’s sovereignty – Job 1:21

- He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there. **The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away.** Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

God’s justice – Job 13:15–16

- “Though He slay me, **I will hope in Him.** Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him. **“This also will be my salvation,** For a godless man may not come before His presence.

God’s promise of salvation – Job 19:25

- “As for me, I know that **my Redeemer lives,** And at the last **He will take His stand on the earth.**



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Third Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Genesis 12:1-3

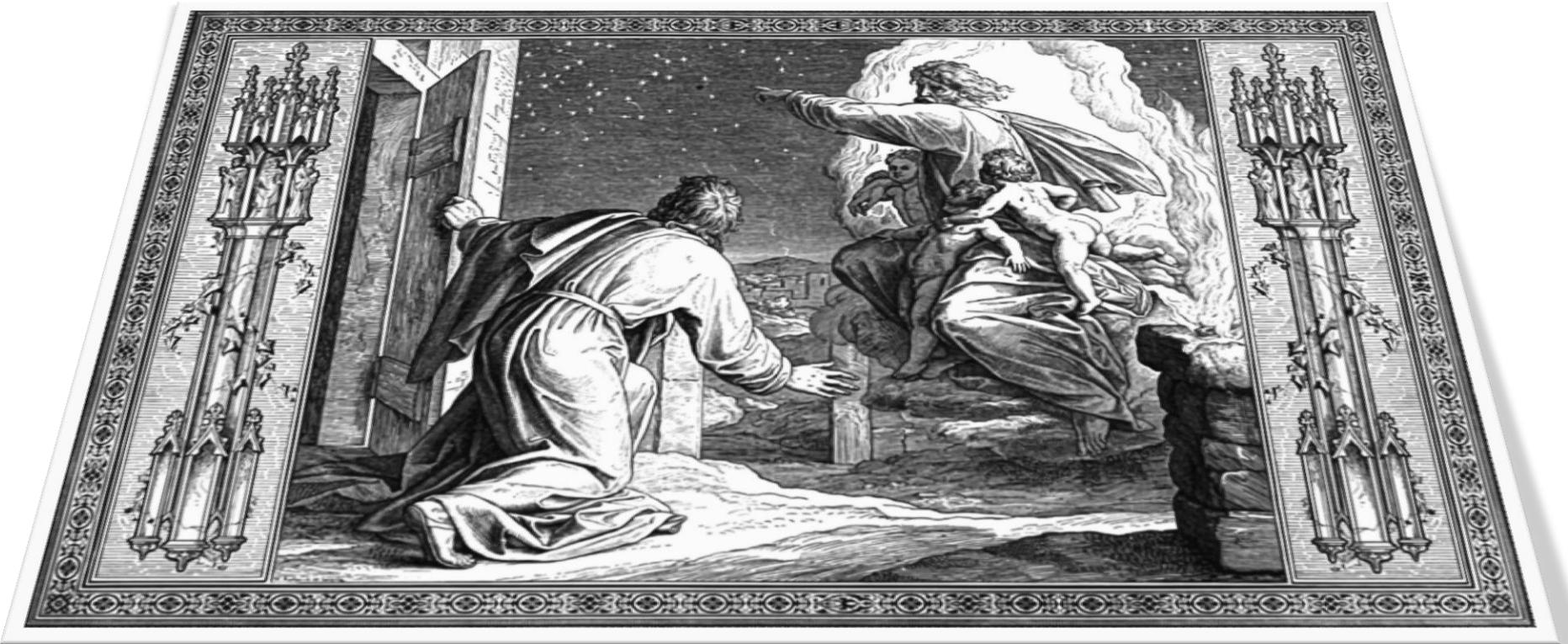
- Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Angelic Conflict - Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7

- God allows Satan to persecute the faithful that He knows are mature enough to endure the trials. This strengthens the faithful and allows God to show His grace, mercy, and love. God also demonstrates that His righteousness and justice are compatible with His love.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fourth Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Abram as the father of the Jewish race

Conditions of the Covenant

- Fourteen provisions including the token of circumcision

Token of the Covenant

- Circumcision



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Promises made to Abraham

Father of great nation (Israel)

Possess the Promised Land

Father of other nations

Many descendants became kings

Receive personal blessings

Be a blessing to others

Name to become great

Promises made to Israel

Become a great nation

Become innumerable

Possess the Promised Land

Victory over enemies

Promises to Gentiles

Blessings for blessing Israel

Cursing's for cursing Israel

Spiritual blessings through the seed of Abraham – The Messiah

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Promise (Genesis 11:10 to Exodus 18:27)

Man's Responsibilities

- The responsibility of the patriarchs was simply to believe and serve God, and God gave them every material and spiritual provision to encourage them to do this. The Promised Land was theirs, and blessing was theirs as long as they remained in the land. The people of the promise; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the children of Jacob (Israel) were to stay separate from the nations around them.

Man's Failures

- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons continued to intermingle with the Canaanites and surrounding nations.

The Resulting Judgment

- God sent the family down to Egypt where the surrounding Egyptians would not associate with them. Soon after they would be enslaved.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Promise

Approach God by Faith

- Genesis 15:5–7 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

Blood sacrifice as example of faith

- Genesis 31:54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his kinsmen to the meal; and they ate the meal and spent the night on the mountain.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Fourth Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Exodus 15:18–19

- “The LORD shall reign forever and ever.” For the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

Angelic Conflict - Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7

- Paganism continued to spread throughout the world. The populations were coming together as powerful nations were formed. God’s chosen, the Israelites, were in the protective womb of Egypt yet Satan influenced the first cycle of young Jewish boys to be put to death in an attempt to block the birth of the Messiah.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Israel with Moses acting as a representative

Conditions of the Covenant

- Law of Moses which contained a total 613 commandments. Being a conditional covenant, it provided blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. (Ex. 15:26) The key element of the entire Mosaic Law was the blood sacrifice. (Lev. 17:11)

Token of the Covenant

- Sabbath

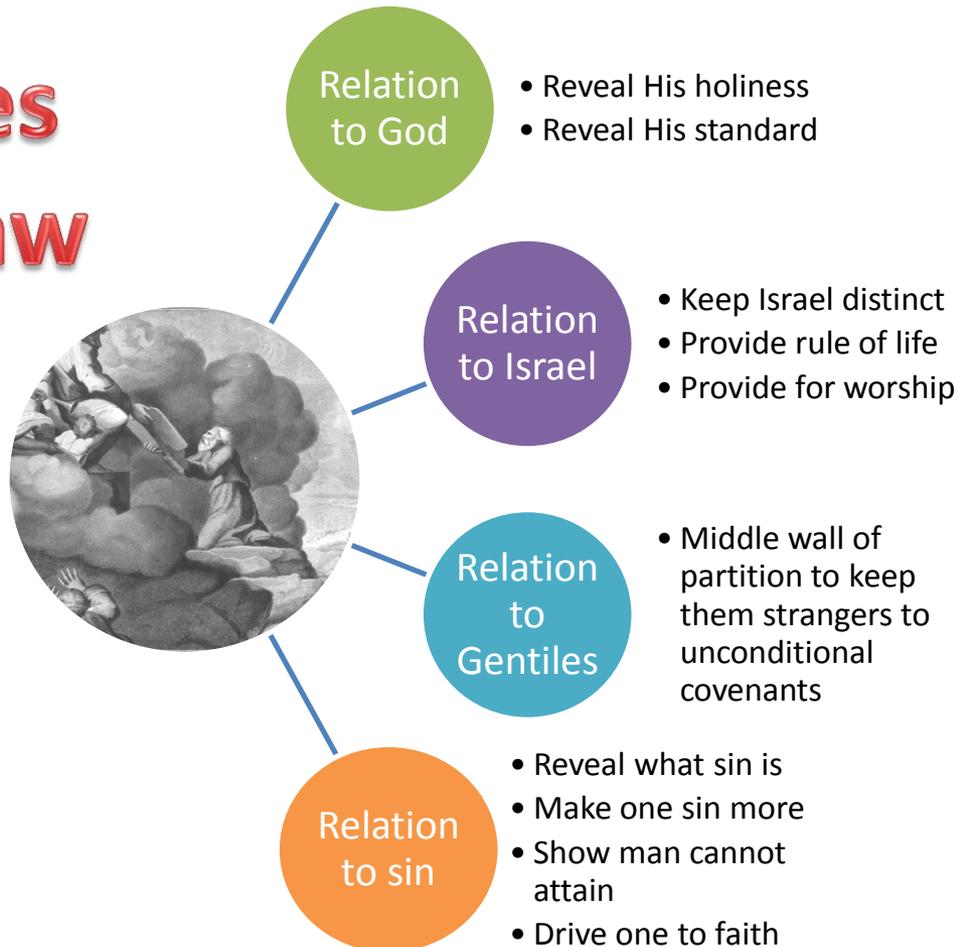


Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

Purposes of the Law

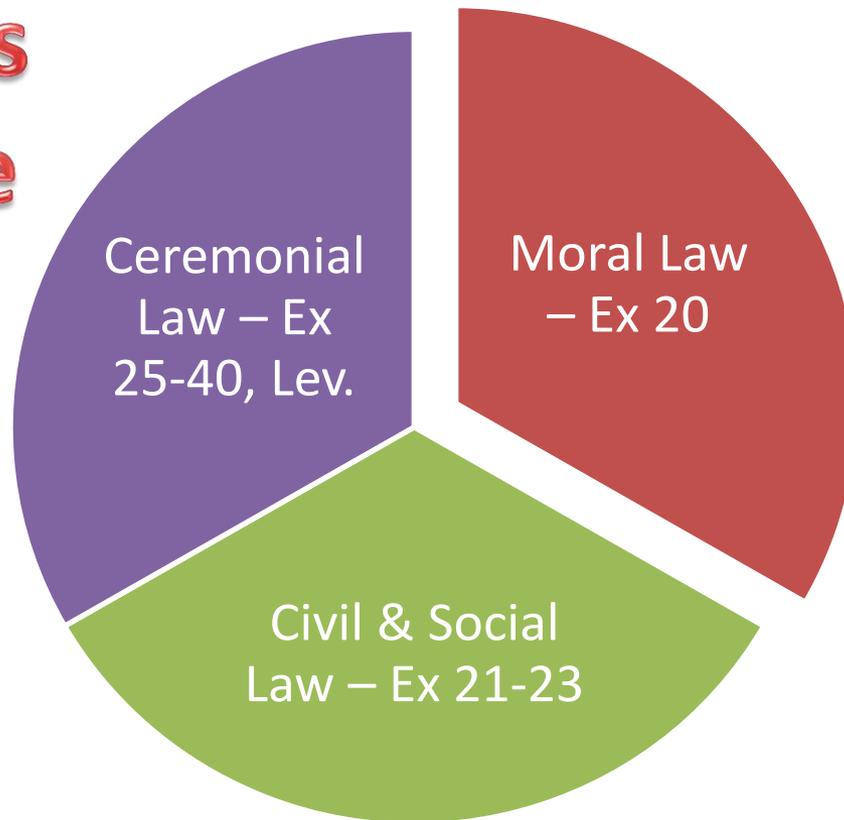


Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

**The Law is
the Entire
Pie!**



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Law (Exodus 19:1 – Acts 1:26)

Man's Responsibilities

- The responsibility of the Nation of Israel along with Gentile proselytes was to keep the Mosaic Law.

Man's Failures

- The Nation of Israel was continually disobedient and God continued to bring them back through discipline. They continued to reject the ordinances of God. (2nd Kings 17:7-23)

The Resulting Judgment

- As a result, there were many judgments throughout this long period. The ten tribes were carried into Assyrian captivity; the two tribes were carried into Babylonian captivity; and later, because of their rejection of Jesus of Nazareth, the people were dispersed into all the world (Matt. 23:37–39).



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Abrahamic Covenant



Land

- Real Estate Covenant
- Deut. 29:1-30:20

Seed

- Davidic Covenant
- 2nd Sam. 7:11b-17
- 1st Chron. 17:10b-15

Blessing

- The New Covenant
- Jer. 31:31-34

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

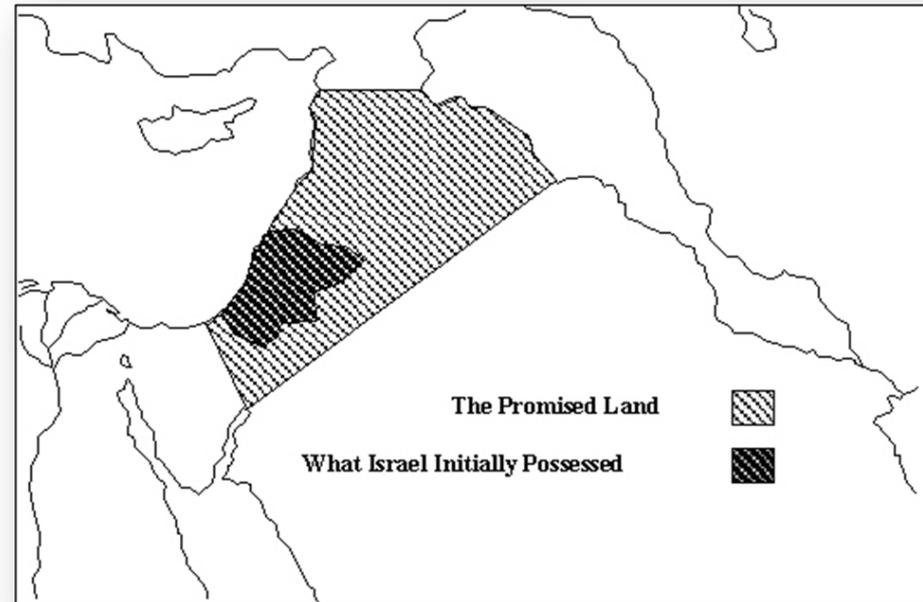
Land Covenant (Deuteronomy 29:1 – 30:20)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Moses as the representative of National Israel

Conditions of the Covenant

- The nation will be plucked off the land for its unfaithfulness (Deut. 30:1-3)
- There will be a future repentance of Israel (Deut. 30:1-3)
- The Messiah will return (Deut. 30:3-6)
- Israel will be restored to the land (Deut. 30:5)
- Israel will be converted as a nation (Deut. 30:4-8)
- Israel's enemies will be judged (Deut. 30:7)
- The nation will then receive her full blessing. (Deut. 30:9)



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and David as the representative for the House of Israel

Conditions of the Covenant

- David's child, yet to be born, shall succeed him and establish his kingdom.
- This son, Solomon, shall build the temple instead of David.
- The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever.
- The throne will not be taken away from him (Solomon).
- David's house, throne, and kingdom shall be established forever.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

The Unconditional Character of the Covenant

1. It is called eternal in 2nd Samuel 7:13, 16; 23:5; Isaiah 55:3; and Ezekiel 37:25.
2. This covenant only amplifies the “seed” promise of the Abrahamic covenant.
3. This covenant was reaffirmed after repeated acts of disobedience.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Why the Davidic covenant must be understood literally

It is solemnly covenanted, confirmed by oath, and hence cannot be altered or broken.

The grammatical sense alone is becoming a covenant.

The impression made on David, if erroneous, is disparaging to his prophetic office.

The conviction of Solomon (2 Chron 6:14-16) was that it referred to the literal throne and Kingdom.

Solomon claims that the covenant was fulfilled in himself, but only in so far that he too as David's son sat on David's throne.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Why the Davidic covenant must be understood literally (continued)

The language is that ordinarily used to denote the literal throne and Kingdom of David, as illustrated in Jer. 17:25 and 22:4.

The prophets adopt the same language, and its constant reiteration under Divine guidance is evidence that the plain grammatical sense is the one intended.

The prevailing belief of centuries, a national faith, engendered by the language, under the teaching of inspired men, indicates how the language is to be understood.

This throne and Kingdom is one of promise and inheritance and hence refers not to the Divinity but to the Humanity of Jesus.

The same is distinctively promised to David's son "according to the flesh" to be actually realized, and, therefore, He must appear the Theocratic King as promised.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Why the Davidic covenant must be understood literally (continued)

We have not the slightest hint given that it is to be interpreted in any other way than a literal one; any other is the result of pure inference.

Any other view than that of a literal interpretation involves the grossest self contradiction.

The denial of a literal reception of the covenant robs the heir of His covenanted inheritance.

No grammatical rule can be laid down which will make David's throne to be the Father's throne in the third heaven.

That if the latter is attempted under the notion of "symbolical" or "typical," then the credibility and meaning of the covenants are left to the interpretations of men.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Why the Davidic covenant must be understood literally (continued)

That if David's throne is the Father's throne in heaven (the usual interpretation), then it must have existed forever.

If such promises are to be received figuratively, it is inconceivable that they should be given in their present form without some direct affirmation, of their figurative nature.

God is faithful in His promises, and deceives no one in the language of His covenants.

No necessity existed why, if this throne promised to David's Son meant something else, the throne should be so definitely promised in the form given.

The identical throne and Kingdom overthrown are the ones restored.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Why the Davidic covenant must be understood literally (continued)

David's throne and Kingdom are made a requisite for the display of that Theocratic ordering which God has already instituted (but now holds in abeyance until the preparations are completed) for the restoration and exaltation of the Jewish nation (which is preserved for this purpose), for the salvation of the human race (which comes under the Theocratic blessing), and for the dominion of a renewed curse-delivered world... Such a throne and Kingdom are necessary to preserve the Divine Unity of Purpose in the already proposed Theocratic line.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Why the Davidic covenant must be understood literally (continued)

It can be shown that in all the preaching concerning the kingdom by John (Matt. 3:2), by Christ (Matt. 4:17), by the twelve (Matt. 10:5-7), by the seventy (Luke 10:1-12), not once is the kingdom offered to Israel anything but an earthly literal kingdom. Even after the rejection of that offer by Israel and the announcement of the mystery of the kingdom (Matt 13) Christ anticipates such a literal earthly kingdom (Matt. 25:1-13, 31-46). The New Testament never relates the kingdom promised to David to Christ's present session.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Why the Davidic covenant must be understood literally (continued)

Luke 1:31–33

³¹ “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the **throne** of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the **house** of Jacob forever, and His **kingdom** will have no end.”



Throne

House

Kingdom

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Parties to the Covenant

God and the houses of Israel and Judah

Provisions of the Covenant

1. The new covenant is an unconditional, grace covenant resting on the “I will” of God.
2. The new covenant is an everlasting covenant.
3. The new covenant also promises the impartation of a renewed mind and heart which we may call regeneration.
4. The new covenant provides for restoration to the favor and blessing of God.
5. Forgiveness of sin is also included in the covenant.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Provisions of the Covenant (cont.)

6. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is also included.
7. The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit will be manifested, and the will of God will be known by obedient hearts.
8. As is always the case when Israel is in the land, she will be blessed materially in accordance with the provisions of the new covenant.
9. The sanctuary will be rebuilt in Jerusalem.
10. War shall cease and peace shall reign according to Hosea 2:18.
11. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of all the blessings of the new covenant.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The Character of the New Covenant

1. It is called eternal. (Isa. 24:5; 61:8; Jer. 31:36,40; 32:40; 50:5)
2. Gracious and depends entirely upon the “I will” of God for fulfillment. Jer. 31:33)
3. Amplifies the Blessing area of the Abrahamic covenant.
4. Occupied with salvation from sin and impartation of a new heart.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The Fulfillment of the New Covenant (explained in three categories)

1. The nation with whom the covenant is made.

This covenant was made with Israel, the physical seed of Abraham according to the flesh, and with them alone.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The Fulfillment of the New Covenant (explained in three categories)

2. The time of the fulfillment of the New Covenant.
 1. When it was spoken of in the Old Testament, it was viewed as always being future.
 2. This covenant cannot be realized by Israel until God has effected her salvation and restoration to the land.
 3. It must follow the return of Christ” because of the order given in Romans 11:26–27 and because the “blessings anticipated in the covenant will not be realized until Israel’s salvation, and this salvation follows the return of the Deliverer.
 4. Will be realized in the millennial age” because the description of “the blessings to be experienced in the time of the fulfillment of the new covenant ... will be realized by Israel in the millennial age.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The Fulfillment of the New Covenant (explained in three categories)

3. Why the church is not now fulfilling Israel's new covenant.
 1. term Israel is nowhere used in the Scriptures for any but the physical descendants of Abraham.
 2. While the Church is promised the spiritual blessings such as "salvation, the forgiveness of sin, the ministry of the Holy Spirit," the Church is never promised the physical blessings.
 3. The Abrahamic Covenant also promised both physical and spiritual blessings so the church may receive blessings from the new covenant without being under or fulfilling that new covenant."
 4. "the tribulation, second advent, and millennial age are yet future, the fulfillment of this promise must be yet future, and therefore the church can not now be fulfilling this covenant."

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Summation of the New Testament's Presentation of the New Covenant

The New Covenant that was first announced in Jeremiah 31:31-34 was ratified when Christ died. Moreover, the epistles make it clear that the church participates in at least some of the New Covenant's blessings. However, just because the church shares in some of the New Covenant's blessings, it should not be concluded that the church is a party to the New Covenant.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Summation of the New Testament's Presentation of the New Covenant (cont.)

Decker is correct when he notes: The partners of the New Covenant are, in biblical terms, God and Israel. This is quite clear in the Old Testament. Although participation of Gentiles may well be implied in the Old Testament, they do not participate as covenant partners. Even if it could be argued that additional partners might be added, the New Testament never explicitly adds the church as a covenant partner. It seems best to avoid expressing the church's relationship to the covenant in terms of covenant partnership—the church is not a party with whom the New Covenant was made.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

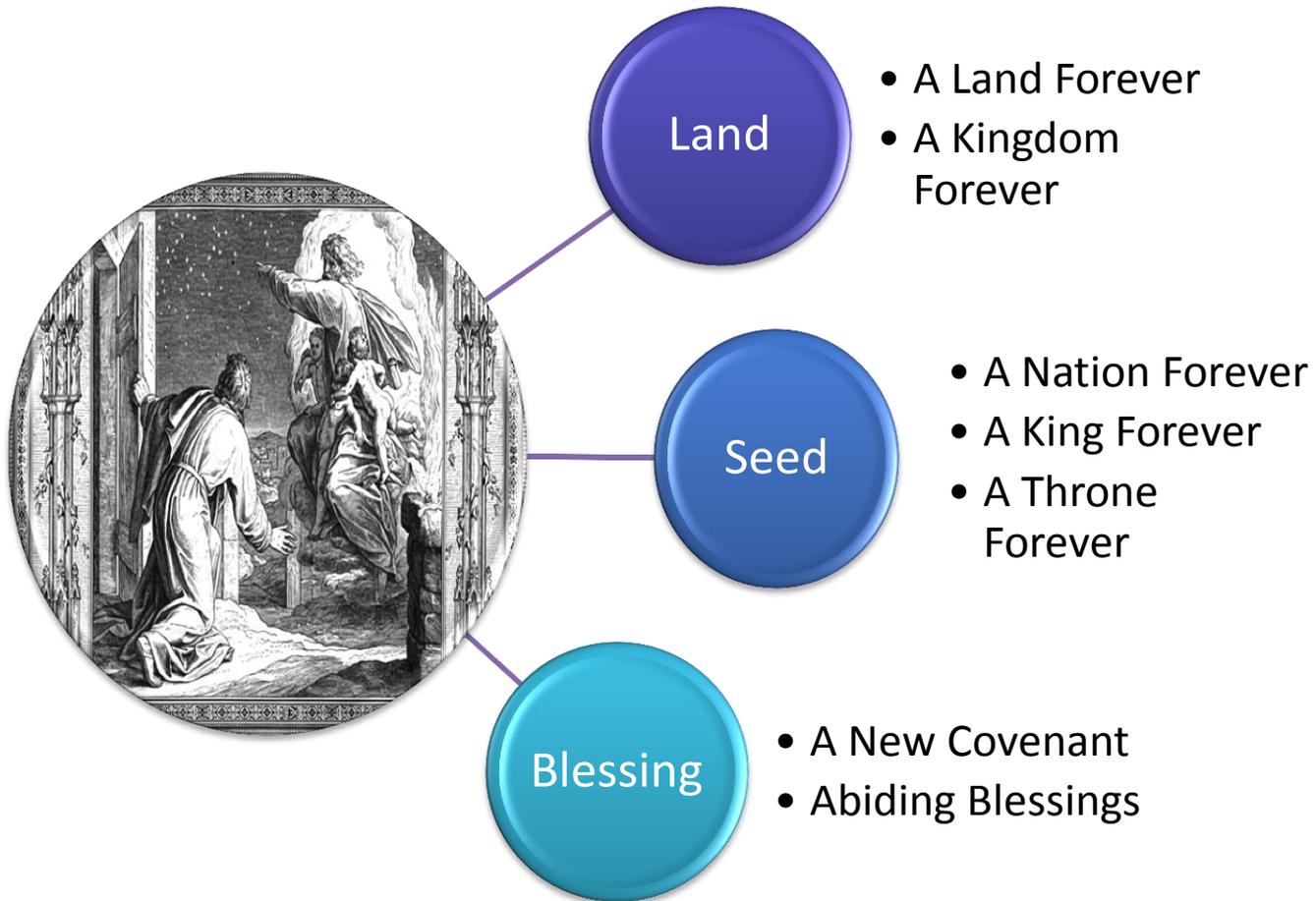
Summation of the New Testament's Presentation of the New Covenant (cont.)

Furthermore, while participating in some of the New Covenant's blessings, the church does not take over all of the New Covenant's blessings. This becomes obvious by observing some of the provisions of the New Covenant as enumerated in Ezekiel 36:28-30. These include predictions that Israel will dwell in the Promised Land in peace and prosperity. Only through the adoption of an allegorical method of interpretation is it possible to argue that the church is currently fulfilling these provisions. Dispensationalists believe that Israel will fulfill these provisions during the millennial age.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Seven Features of the Unconditional Covenants



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Mosaic Law

In order to function as a legitimate nation, Israel needed a code of laws to live by. Israel had become enslaved to the Egyptians during the period between Genesis and Exodus, but was miraculously set free by God and His human leader Moses. After their mighty deliverance, recorded in the book of Exodus, the people of Israel journeyed to Mount Sinai, where they received their constitution, laws covering all aspects of life. They camped at Mount Sinai for about a year, receiving the law and constructing their portable worship center, the Tabernacle.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Promised Land

When the year at Mount Sinai was completed, Israel left to possess the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. This land was part of the covenant God had made with Abraham about four hundred years before. With the taking of this land, the third and last element would be fulfilled, and Israel would begin her role as a “great” nation. However, the third foundational book, Numbers, records a terrible moment in Israel’s history. At that time, Israel refused to believe and obey God, which kept her from possessing the land. Instead of living in Canaan, Israel wandered aimlessly in a wilderness region for almost forty years.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Promised Land (cont.)

When that period of discipline was over, Israel headed to the east side of the Jordan River and prepared to cross into her land. It was at this time that Israel's great leader Moses died. Just before Moses' death, God chose Joshua to lead the nation. He led Israel across the river and into the land of the wicked Canaanites. He directed the armies of Israel in the destruction of the main strongholds of the Canaanites. This period of warfare lasted from five to seven years.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Promised Land (cont.)

With the breaking of Canaanite power, the people of Israel could lay claim to the entire land. Israel now had people, laws, and a land. The period of the formation of the nation was over. Joshua then divided the land, giving each of the twelve tribes of Israel a clearly delineated area. It was now the task of each individual tribe to complete the conquest of the land by eliminating every single Canaanite living in its tribal area. God had specifically commanded them not to intermarry with the Canaanites, not to make treaties with them, and not to allow any to live among them. Unfortunately, Israel once again chose not to obey.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The National Rulers

When Joshua died, Israel entered a new era in its national life. God did not replace Joshua with a new leader for His people. It was God's intention that the newly formed nation be a theocracy (God ruling) with no single human leader. God would govern through the law given at Sinai and through the priests as the interpreters and enforcers of the law. But the theocracy turned out to be a failure because Israel would not obey her own constitution. The fifth foundational book, Judges, records these years, known primarily for their defeat and failure.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The National Rulers (cont.)

During the more than three hundred years of the theocracy, judges had to be raised up again and again in crisis situations. The judges would deliver Israel from her enemies and bring in a time of obedience and peace. But those times eventually gave way once again to sin, unbelief, and idolatry. Another judge would be raised up by God, and the cycle would repeat itself. After three centuries of repeated failure, Israel demanded a human king. Even though this was a repudiation of God's rulership, He allowed Saul to become Israel's first king.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The National Rulers (cont.)

With Saul's coronation Israel entered a third era in her history—the period of the monarchy. The next four foundational books (1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings) record the next 450 years of Israel's history. First and 2 Samuel tell the stories of Israel's first king, Saul, and Israel's greatest king, David. It was with King David that God made a marvelous covenant, much of which is fulfilled in David's "great son," the Lord Jesus Christ. David's son Solomon reigned after the death of David and was the third and last king to rule over all of Israel's twelve tribes.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Divided Nation

Because of Solomon's sinful ways, God judged the family of David by dividing the nation into two separate kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom, Israel, consisted of ten tribes. The Southern Kingdom was called Judah and was made up of two tribes ruled by the family of David. For two centuries these two kingdoms coexisted, sometimes as friends and other times as foes. But the time of the divided kingdom came to an end when, because of sin and idolatry, the Northern Kingdom was destroyed by the nation of Assyria.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Divided Nation (cont.)

The Southern Kingdom existed alone for more than one hundred years. It lasted longer because it was blessed with the presence of some godly kings. But, like the North, the Southern Kingdom went into idolatry. This time God used the nation of Babylon as His rod of discipline. Many people from the Southern Kingdom, including Daniel and Ezekiel, were deported from Judah to Babylonia. The nation lived in captivity for about seventy years.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

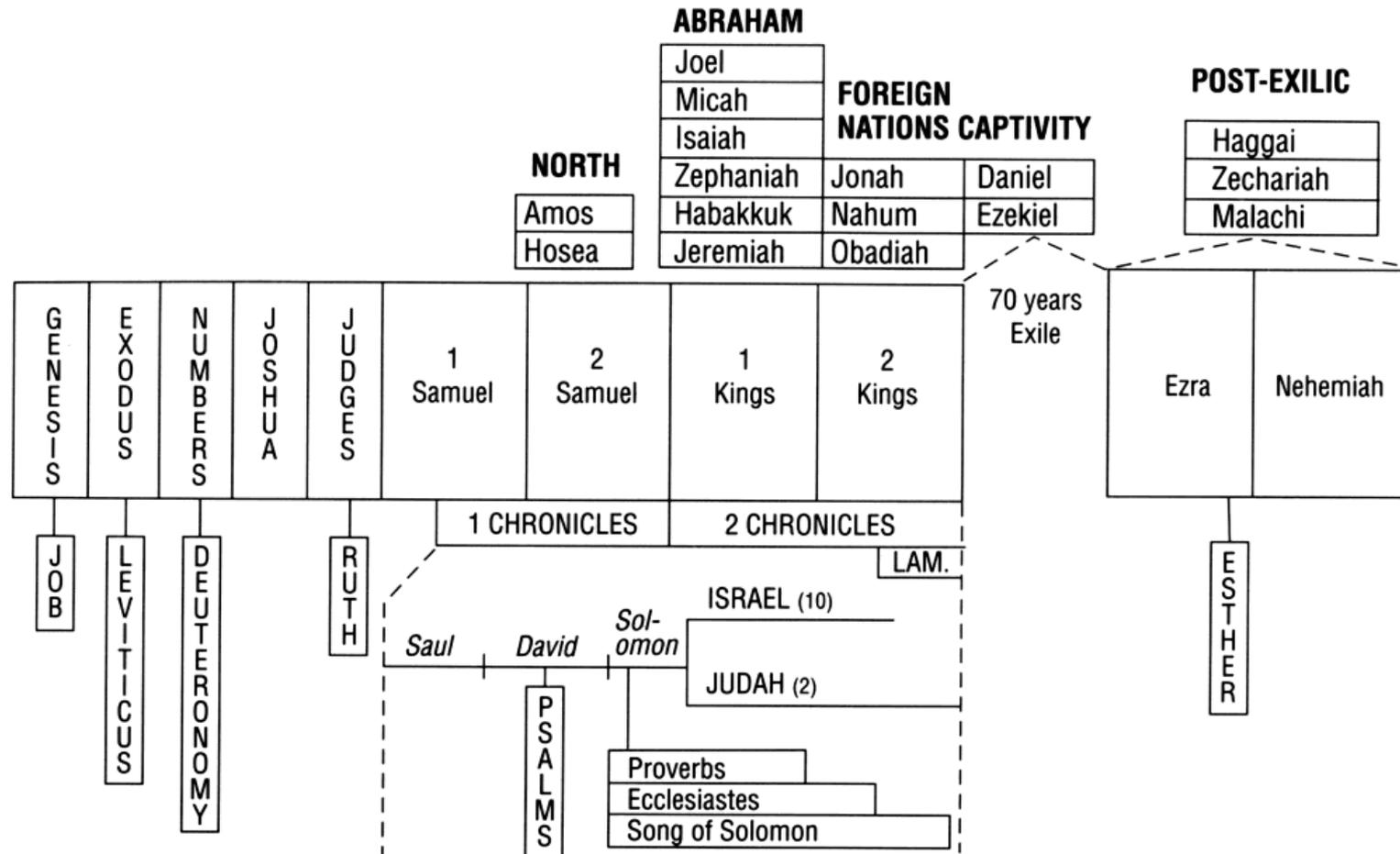
The Partial Restoration

Finally, in fulfillment of His promise, God restored many of the people to their own land. The final period in the Old Testament history of Israel is recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah, the final two foundational books. This 150-year period focuses on both the political and spiritual restoration of Judah, and on several great men who were used in that restoration. With the end of the book of Nehemiah, the story of the Old Testament comes to a close. Some four hundred years would go by before the Scriptures would pick up the story again. The years of silence would be broken by an angelic messenger, Gabriel, who would announce the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the “great son” of David. God had not forgotten or gone back on His covenant promises to Abraham and his descendants.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Chronological Relationships of Old Testament Books



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Eras of Old Testament History

