

# A Spiritual Covenant

The New Covenant



Jeremiah 31: 31-34

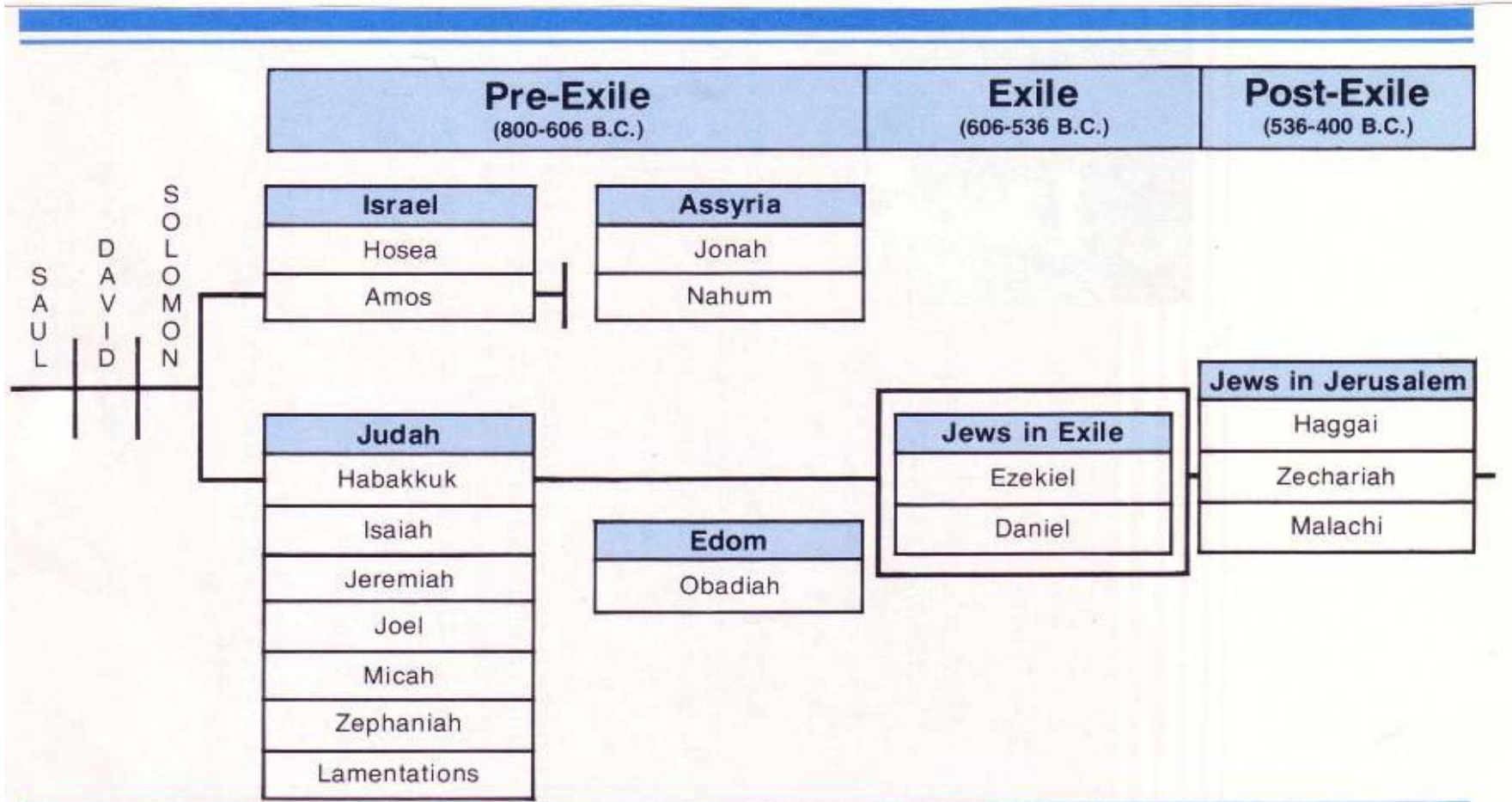
# Lessons in Spiritual Formation of Prophet Jeremiah



Michelangelo's Jeremiah on Sistine Chapel

- Lamentations and the God of Jeremiah (Lam. 3:21-25)
- The Call to Be (Jer.1:1-19)
- The Real Thing (Jer. 9: 23, 24)
- God Substitutes (Jer. 10:11)
- Run with the Horses (Jer. 12:5)
- Forming Hands (Jer. 18:3)
- Heart of Compassion (Jer. 26:13)
- Spiritual Covenant (Jer. 31:33, 34)
- A People Apart (Jer. 35:14)
- Back to Egypt (Jer. 43: 7, 8)
- Corrupted Womanhood (Jer. 44: 24, 25)

# Placing the Prophetic Books

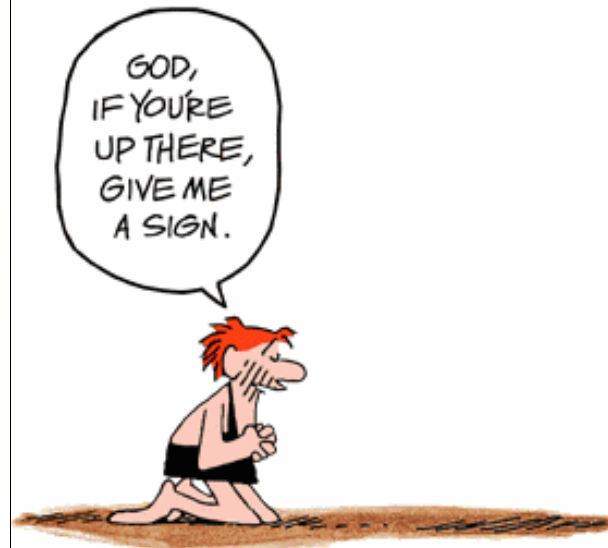


# Times of Darkness

- Political
- Socio-economical
- Religious
- Spiritual



FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE





# Worthless Public Worship



*Trusted in empty words*  
And “God will not  
destroy the temple”



**Their evil had become unthinkable.  
They even sacrificed own children!**

**Jer. 7-8**



## *Judah's Spiritual Condition*



Apkallu

- Idolatrous
- Followed the practices of the heathen nations
- Disobedient to God's Word
- Immoral
- Detestable acts



# Jeremiah in the Line of Prophets

Obadiah - Edom

Jonah - Compassion

Amos - Injustice

Hosea - Loyal

Isaiah - Restoration

Micah - Exploitation

Nahum - Nineveh

Habakkuk - Faith

Zephaniah - Day

Joel - Locusts

**Jeremiah – Inevitable**

→ Lamentations

→ Daniel, Ezekiel (Exile)





# Ample Warning For Judah

**735-710 BC Micah:** Judah will suffer exile for exploitation of poor

**c.630 BC Zephaniah:** Day of the Lord is coming - Repent!  
4 decades before Jerusalem's fall

**607-5 BC Habakkuk:** Judah will be disciplined by Babylon



**590 BC Joel:** Judgment by locusts should cause repentance before Babylon's invasion

**627-580 BC Jeremiah:** Judgment is inevitable.  
70 years captivity!



# False Prophets & Priests Oppose Jeremiah



Jeremiah is beaten and placed in stocks by Pashhur, chief officer of the temple.

**Jer. 20:1-3**

After release, Baruch, a young scribe, offers to help him.



**Jeremiah prophesies against Judah's leaders and false prophets, but they refuse to listen**

JEHOIAKIM AGREES -- AND IN SPITE OF JEREMIAH'S WARNINGS, MANY OF THE PEOPLE FOLLOW THE KING'S LEAD.

**WARNING ! WARNING!**

GO AWAY, JEREMIAH. NOBODY WANTS TO LISTEN TO YOUR FAR-FETCHED STORIES ABOUT JUDAH BEING DESTROYED!



**Jer. 21-23**





## Jeremiah's Imprisonment

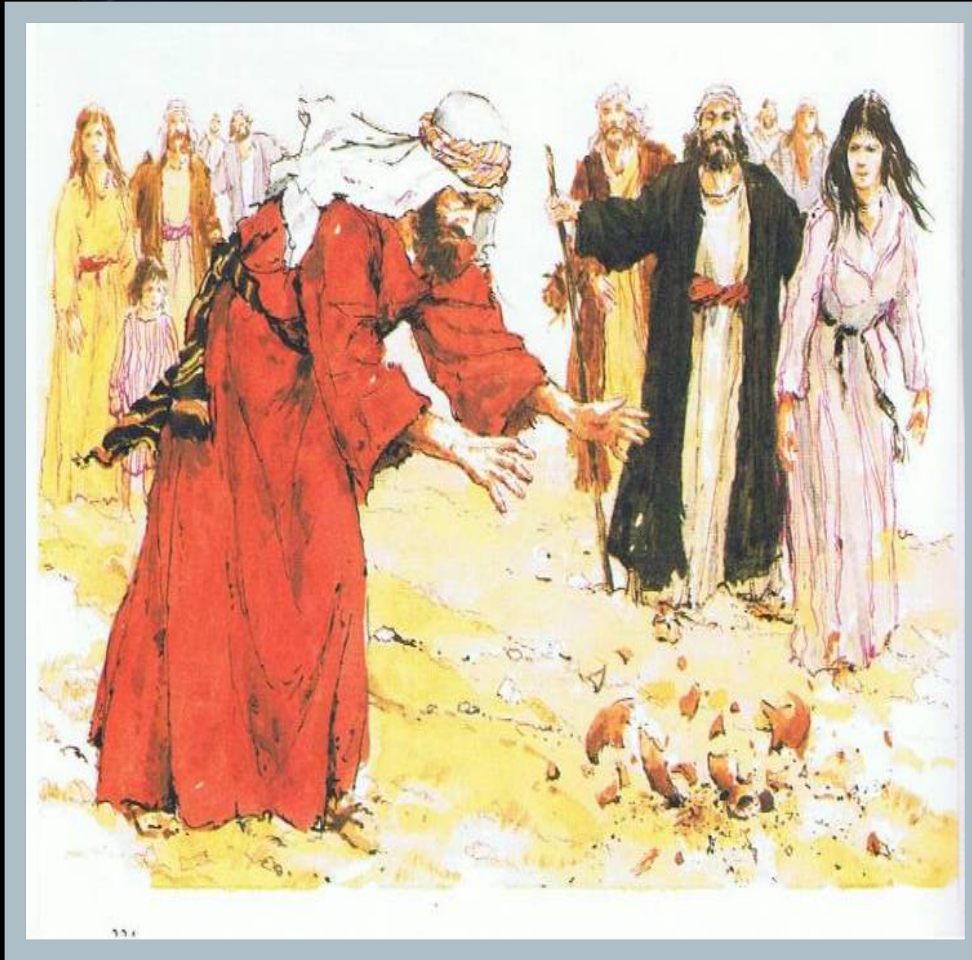
**Enemies accuse Jeremiah of defecting to the Babylonians so he is put into a dungeon.**

**Zedekiah calls for him, but refuses to listen to his message, "Babylonians will return! Surrender!"**

**He is later thrown into a cistern. Ebed-melech rescues him by pleading before the king.**

**Jer. 37-38**

# Breaking a jar of clay



**You have forsaken me for other gods and shed innocent blood. I will smash you like the pot by your enemy. **Jer. 19****

WHEN JEREMIAH LEARNS THAT THERE IS TALK OF ANOTHER REVOLT, HE PUTS AN OX YOKE ON HIS SHOULDERS AND WALKS THROUGH THE STREETS.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

BABYLON HAS STRUCK TWICE, AND IT WILL STRIKE AGAIN. THE NEXT TIME IT WILL DESTROY JERUSALEM. JUDAH'S ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVAL IS TO WEAR THE YOKE OF BABYLON AS I AM WEARING THIS ONE.



**Jeremiah wears  
a yoke to  
symbolize  
Judah's  
future  
submission to  
Babylon.**

**Jer. 27-28**



I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT  
TO DO WITH THE YOKE  
OF BABYLON.  
BREAK IT!



## Opposition by False Prophets

- The false prophet Hananiah breaks Jeremiah's yoke to symbolize God breaking Babylon's power and claims captivity is only two years. Two months later, he dies.
- The false prophet Shemaiah also preaches against Jeremiah.

**Jer. 28-29**

# Nebuchadnezzar comes (597 BC)

**70 year captivity  
predicted**



**Takes exiles and King Jehoiachin away. Places Zedekiah on throne,  
gives another chance for Judah to submit to Babylon.**

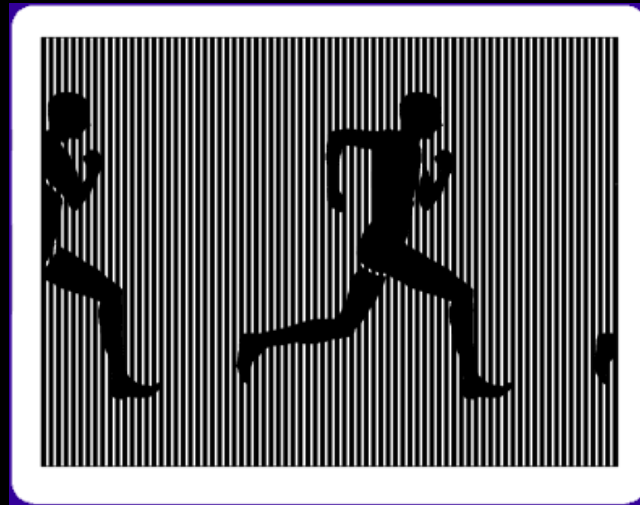




**The Prophet  
Jeremiah  
Mourning over  
the Destruction  
of Jerusalem**

by Rembrandt  
(1603)







## Jeremiah 31: 31-34

JER 31:31 "The time is coming," declares the LORD,  
"when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah.

JER 31:32 It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their forefathers  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them, "  
declares the LORD.



## Jeremiah 31: 31-34

JER 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel

after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.

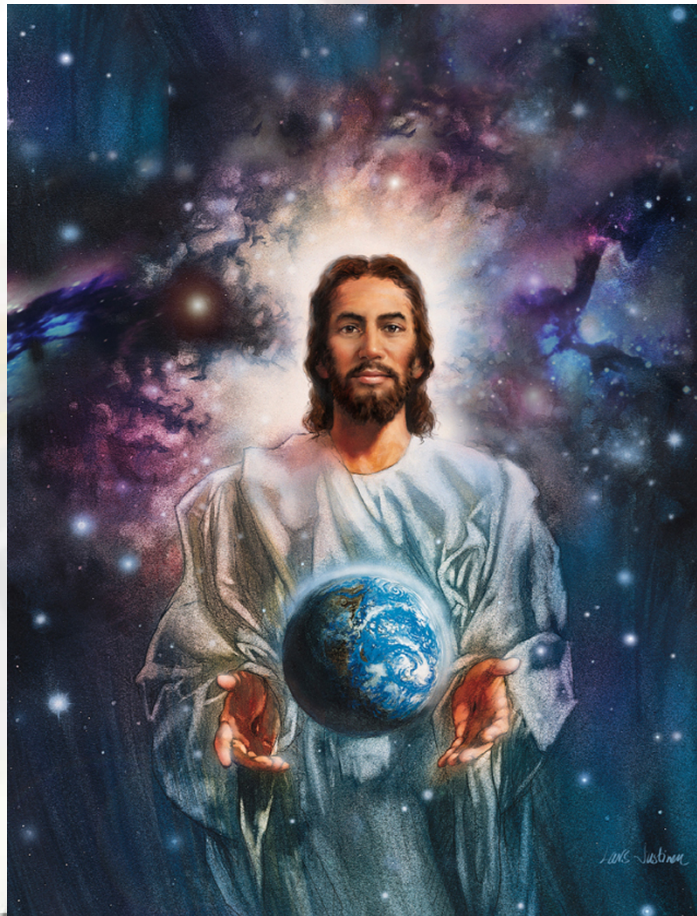
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

JER 31:34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor,  
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,'  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,"  
declares the LORD.

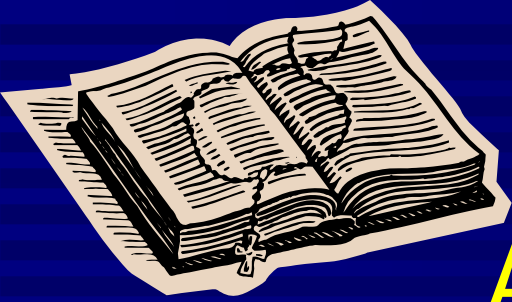
"For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more."

## Jeremiah 31: 31-34

often call the New Covenant

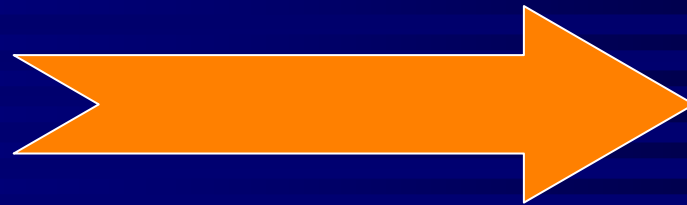


A covenant is an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified.



# An All-Encompassing Theme

Genesis



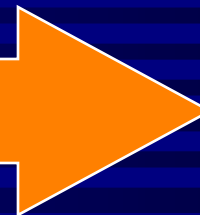
Revelation

The Bible's Theme: 'I will be their God and they shall be my people.'

Command



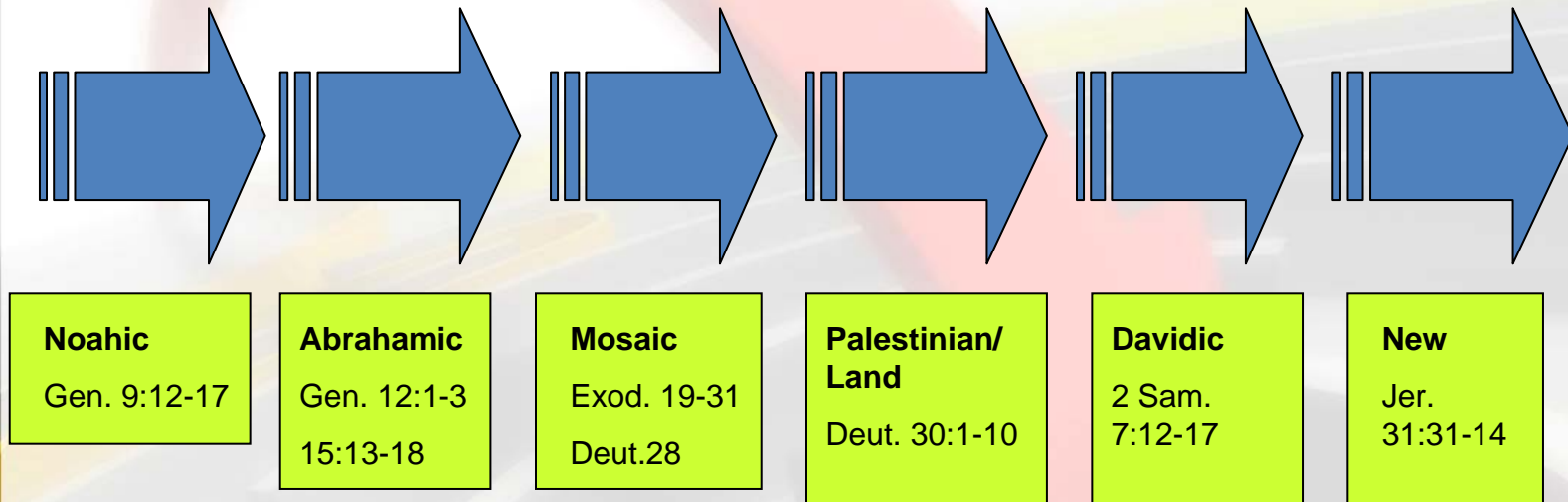
Covenants



Fulfillment

# Covenants in the Bible

## Covenant of Grace (Covenant Theology)



God's Plan for Creation of a People for Him



# Dispensational Theology

Eternity Past

Eternity Future

## GOD'S PLAN OF THE AGES

(Time is but a parentheses in the infinite existence of God known as eternal life)

### The Seven Dispensations of God



**Christ**  
The "Last Adam" and  
God's Elect One The "Lamb Slain"  
Rev. 13:8

**The New Genesis**  
"The Regeneration"  
Matthew 19:28  
"Whoever" - "born Again" - "by grace through faith" - "in Christ": The Elect

**Christ**  
The "Bridegroom"  
Out from the Dead

**Resurrection Translation**  
Of the  
"Church of the Resurrection"

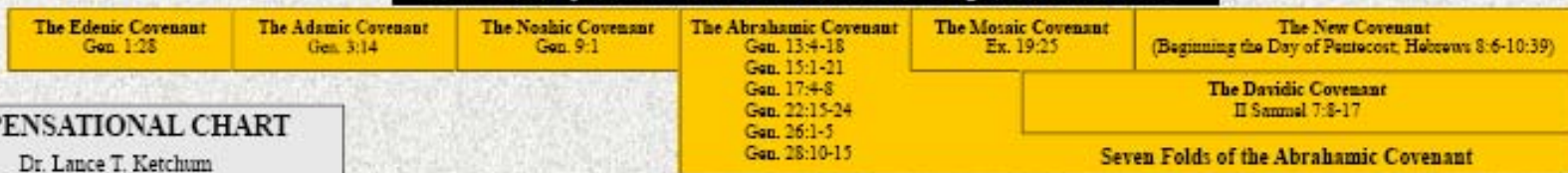


**DEATH WARNING**  
Separation from God

Paradise or Abraham's Bosom; Luke 16:22; Luke 23:43; II Cor. 12:4; Rev. 2:7

Gen. 3:15 - Salvation "by grace through faith" - Eph. 2:8-9 and the progressive unfolding of "the regeneration"

Bottomless Pit; Abyss; Place of Torments; Tartarus; Prison of Fallen Angels; II Peter 2:4 and Jude 6



**DISPENSATIONAL CHART**

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**The Seven Covenants of God**

"Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me" (John 5:39).



Unbelievers of All Ages Cast Into The Lake of Fire

Kingdom Age Believers  
Great White Throne Judgment



# Types of Covenants

## Covenants

```
graph TD; Covenants --> Conditional; Covenants --> Unconditional; Conditional --- Suzerain-Vassal; Unconditional --- Royal-Land-Grant[Royal Land Grant]
```

**Conditional**

Suzerain-Vassal

**Unconditional**

Royal Land Grant

# Types of Covenants

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```

**Conditional**

**Unconditional**

Noahic

Abraham

Davidic

<b><i>Covenant</i></b>	<b><i>Definition</i></b>	<b><i>Promise</i></b>	<b><i>Fulfillment</i></b>	<b><i>Sign</i></b>
<b>Noahic</b>	<b>Unconditional promise not to flood earth again</b>	<b>Gen. 9:12-17</b>	<b>No more sea (Rev. 21:1)</b>	<b>Rainbow (Gen. 9:12-17)</b>
<b>Abrahamic</b>	<b>Promise to provide Israel a land, rule, and spiritual blessing</b>	<b>Gen. 12:1-3; 15:13-18</b>	<b>Continues at present (Gal. 3:17) but Israel still has a future (Rom. 11:25-27)</b>	<b>Circumcision (Gen. 17:11)</b>
<b>Davidic</b>	<b>Promise of eternal, <u>political</u> rule of a descendant of David</b>	<b>2 Sam. 7:12-17</b>	<b>Rule renewed (Amos 9:11-12)</b>	<b>Christ seated at the Father's right hand (Acts 2:34-36)</b>

# Abrahamic Covenant

## Genesis 12

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

**A LAND**

# Abrahamic Covenant

2. **“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.**

**A SEED**



# Abrahamic Covenant

**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.”**

**A BLESSING**

# Abrahamic Covenant

## Abrahamic

**Land**

**Davidic**

**New**

**Land**

**Seed**

**Blessing**

**Physical**

**Political**

**Spiritual**

**Deut. 30:1-10**

**2 Sam. 7:12-16**

**Jer. 31:31-34**

# Borders of the Land Promised to Abraham



Genesis 15:18

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates" (ESV)





# Types of Covenants

## Covenants

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graph TD; Covenants --> Conditional; Covenants --> Unconditional;
```

**Conditional**

**Unconditional**

**Mosaic**

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<b>Mosaic</b>	<b>Conditional stipulations for blessing on Israel</b>	<b>Exod. 19-31; Deut. 28</b>		<b>Sabbath (Exod. 31:13)</b>

**Israel wants to rule themselves as their own nation and was given the Law to do so**

# Contrasting Two Key Covenants

## Abrahamic

## Mosaic

*Recipient  
(Date &  
Place)*

Abraham as mediator for all nations in 2060 BC at Ur of the Chaldees

Moses as mediator for Israel in 1445 BC at Mount Sinai

*Scripture*

Genesis 12:1-3 (but formalized into a covenant in Genesis 15)

Exodus 20–31 is the heart of the covenant

*Between God  
&*

A person (for a future nation)

A nation

*Scope*

Universal (“all peoples will be blessed through you”)

Only Israel received the Law (Deut. 4:8; Ps. 147:20)



# Contrasting Two Key Covenants

## Abrahamic

## Mosaic

### *Promises*

Land, seed, and blessing  
(without indication of time of fulfillment)

Blessing for obedience and cursing for disobedience  
(Lev. 26; Deut. 28)

### *Conditions*

Unconditional: “I will...”

Conditional: “If you will...then I will...”

### *Participation*

Abraham asleep  
(Gen. 15:17)

Israel agreed to obey (Exod. 19:8)

### *Analogy*

Father to son (royal grant)

Suzerain (superior king) to vassal (servant nation)

# Contrasting Two Key Covenants

## Abrahamic

## Mosaic

<i>Form</i>	Oral (no written stipulations)	Written on tablets of stone & Pentateuch
<i>Emphasis</i>	Blessing over discipline/judgment (five “blessings” in Gen. 12:1-3)	Judgment/discipline over blessing (contrast Deut. 28:1-14 & 28:15-68)
<i>Christology</i>	Ultimate seed (Gen. 12:3)	Typified in tabernacle (Heb. 8–10)
<i>Sign</i>	Circumcision (Gen. 17:11)	Sabbath (Exod. 31:13, 17)

<b><i>Covenant</i></b>	<b><i>Definition</i></b>	<b><i>Promise</i></b>	<b><i>Fulfillment</i></b>	<b><i>Sign</i></b>
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Mosaic	Conditional stipulations for blessing on Israel	Exod. 19-31; Deut. 28	Death of Christ (Rom. 7:4-6)	Sabbath (Exod. 31:13)
Land	Promise of <u>physical</u> land from the Wadi of Egypt to the River Euphrates	Deut. 30:1-10	Land blessed (Amos 9:13-15)	No sign (that I know of)
Davidic	Promise of eternal, <u>political</u> rule of a descendant of David	2 Sam. 7:12-17	Rule renewed (Amos 9:11-12)	Christ seated at the Father's right hand (Acts 2:34-36)



# The Mosaic Law failed!



<sup>5</sup> He will bring you to **the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it.** He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

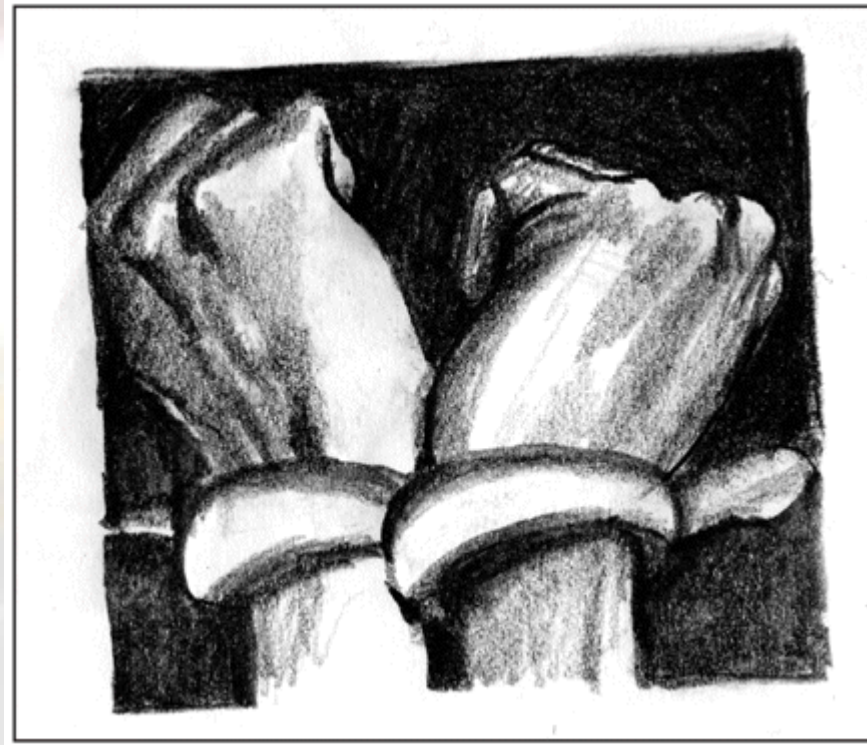
<sup>6</sup> The Lord your **God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants** so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

(NIV)

**<sup>1</sup>When** all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the Lord your God disperses you among the nations,  
**<sup>2</sup>and when** you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today,  
**<sup>3</sup>then** the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. **<sup>4</sup>Even** if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back (NIV).



# The Mosaic Law



‘The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.’ (Rom 7:10).

# Jesus Christ

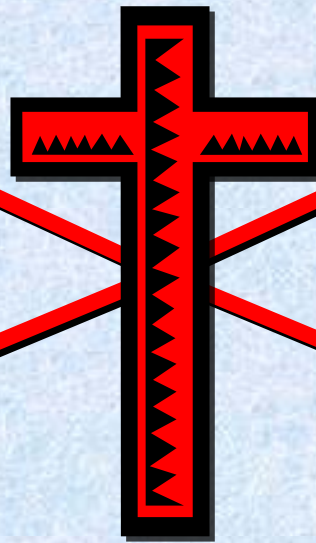


# The Centrality of Christ in Scripture

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# The New Covenant

- **Israel and Judah will be reunited (Jer. 31:31)**
- **Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Jer. 31:33 with Ezek. 36:27)**
- **New nature, heart & mind (Jer. 31:33; Isa. 59:21)**
- **Everyone will know the Lord (Jer. 31:34a)**
- **Forgiveness of sins (Jer. 31:34b)**
- **Sign of the New Covenant**



# Sign of the New Covenant

At the Last Supper Jesus announced, "This cup is the New Covenant at the cost of my blood."

The birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus is the gospel.

In Christ, the prophetic promises became a reality.



# Kingdom & Covenants Timeline

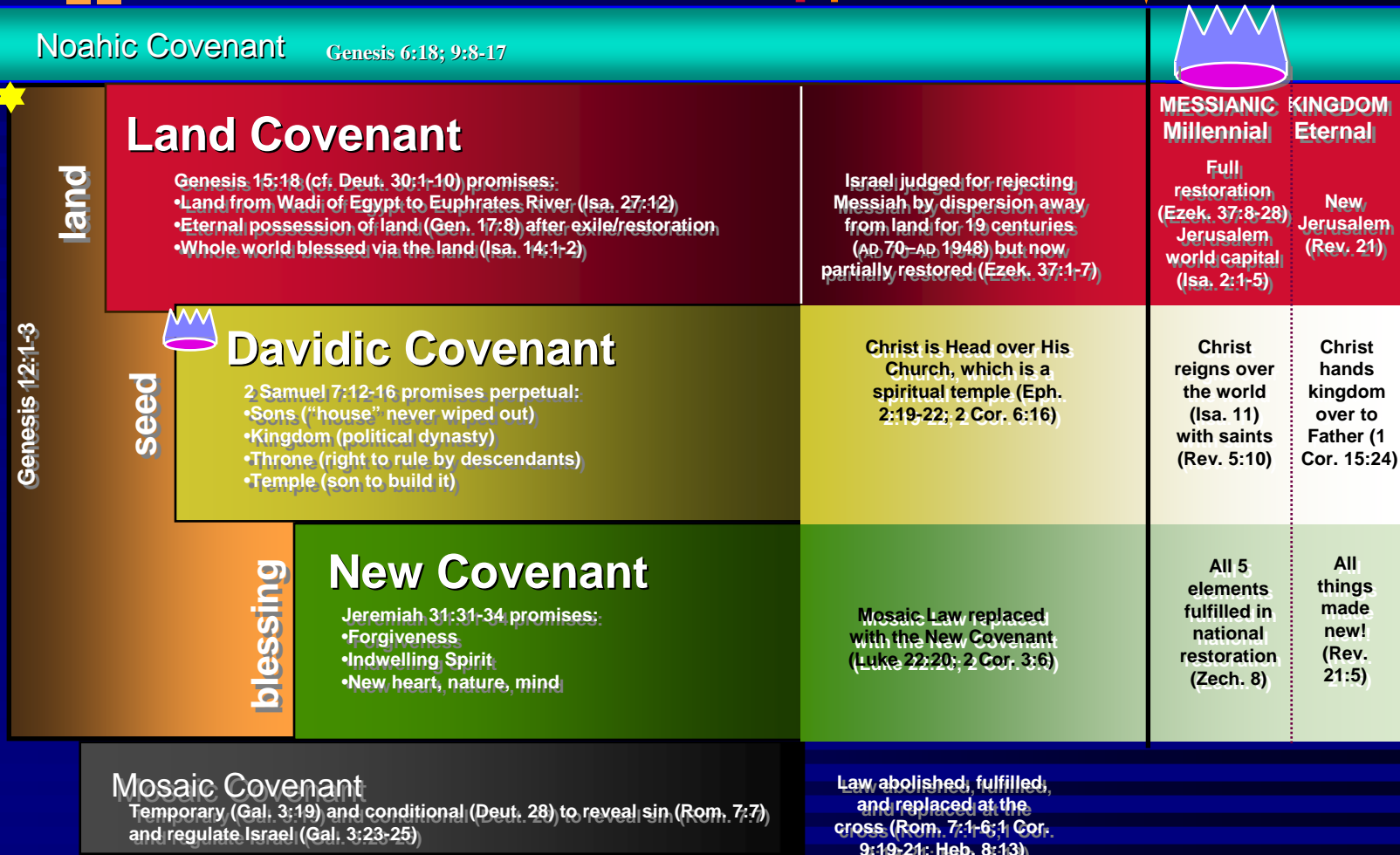


## Kingdom Teaching...

Adam rules with God (Gen. 1:26, 28; 2:19) → Satan rules 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 Israel 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)

# Abrahamic Covenant



Scripture contains a covenant emphasis. Israel's role from Abraham to Christ is expanded to include the Church. Modified from diagram by Dr Rick Griffith, Singapore Bible College to show New Covenant Theology



## Lessons for us

1. No external law, internal law
2. God promises that all of his people will know him in that covenant relationship of 'I will be their God and they shall be my people.'
3. The forgiveness of sins: 'I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.'
4. God's covenant people are secure, because God is a faithful covenant maker.

## Sermon Statement

I will be their God, and they shall be my people