

A vibrant rainbow arches over a deep blue ocean. The rainbow's colors are bright and distinct, contrasting with the rich blue of the water. The ocean's surface shows gentle ripples, and the horizon is visible in the distance.

COVENANT

PROMISE, PROVISION
& PROGRESSIVE PURPOSE

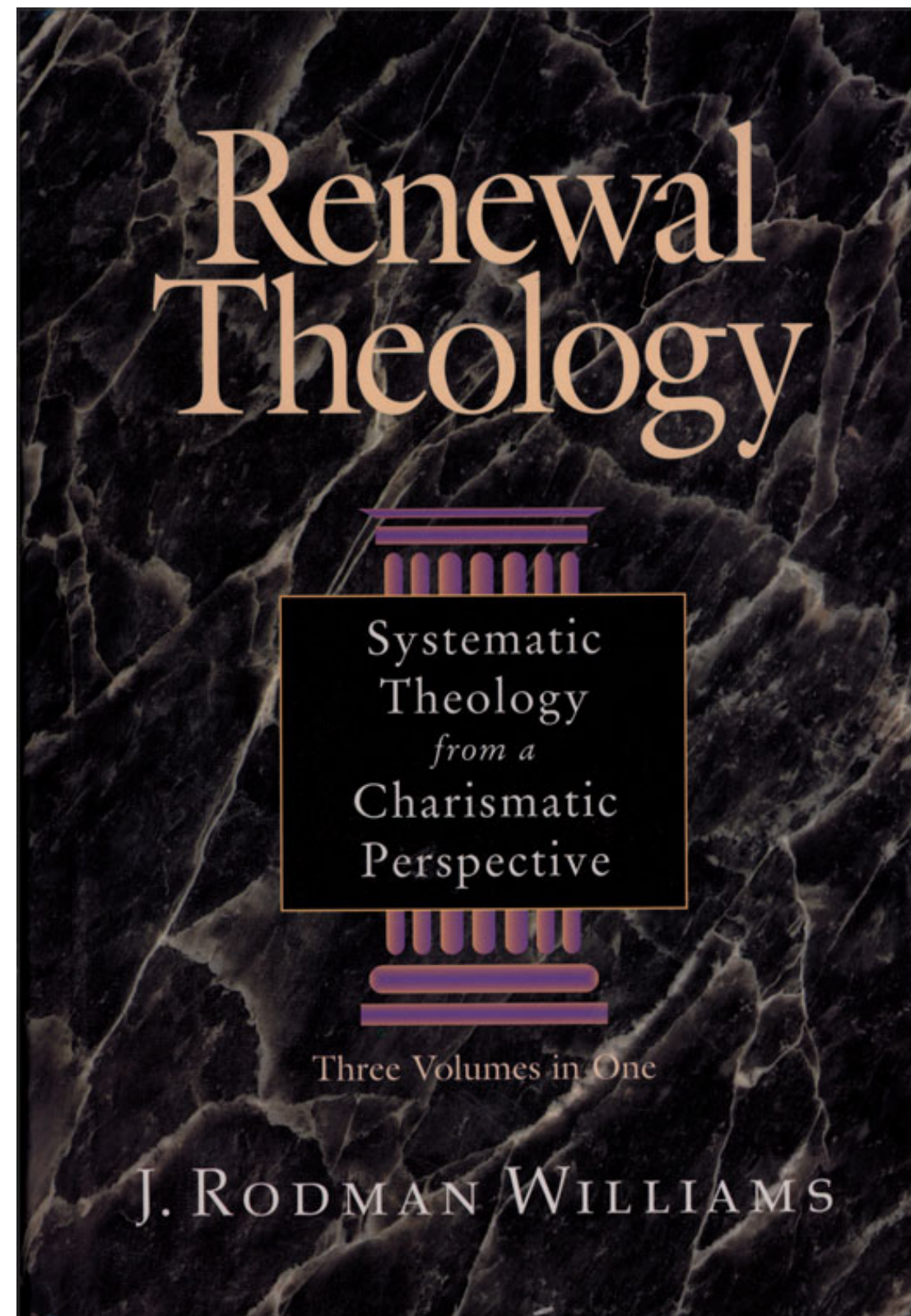
DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

#ROOTED

PART 2: EDEN TO ABRAHAM...

...In which we begin to explore the *series of covenants* God has made with His people and see that each represents a widening of the expression and scope of His eternal purpose (His pre-existing “everlasting covenant”). We will discover that the principal OT covenants - Edenic (Ge 1-2), Adamic (Ge 3), Noahic (Ge 6-9), Abrahamic (Ge 12-17), Mosaic (Ex 20-40) and Davidic (2Sa7, Ps 89, 132) - were all *looking towards* Christ and find their fulfilment in the New Covenant He’s made with mankind, and that together these great covenants express an **unfolding relationship** between God and man.

We will see that covenant is ‘God’s way with His people’; and that He is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping and covenant-enabling God...



“A DIVINE COVENANT IS A BINDING CONTRACT SOVEREIGNLY ESTABLISHED BY GOD. THERE ARE TWO PARTIES; HOWEVER, THERE IS NO MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF TERMS. THE DIVINE COVENANT IS A ONE-WAY MATTER: GOD HIMSELF TOTALLY MAKES THE PROMISE AND SETS THE TERMS....

DIVINE COVENANTS ALWAYS CONTAINS SOME BLESSING OF GOD. THEY DECLARE HIS GOODNESS AND BENEVOLENCE TO HIS CREATION, AND HIS UNSWERVING INTENTION TO FULFIL WHAT HE PROMISES. GOD’S COVENANTS, WHILE THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY HIS (“MY COVENANT”), INVARIABLY ARE FOR MANKIND’S BENEFIT. GOD IS ALWAYS FOR MAN, NEVER AGAINST HIM, AND SEEKS ONLY HIS WELL-BEING.”

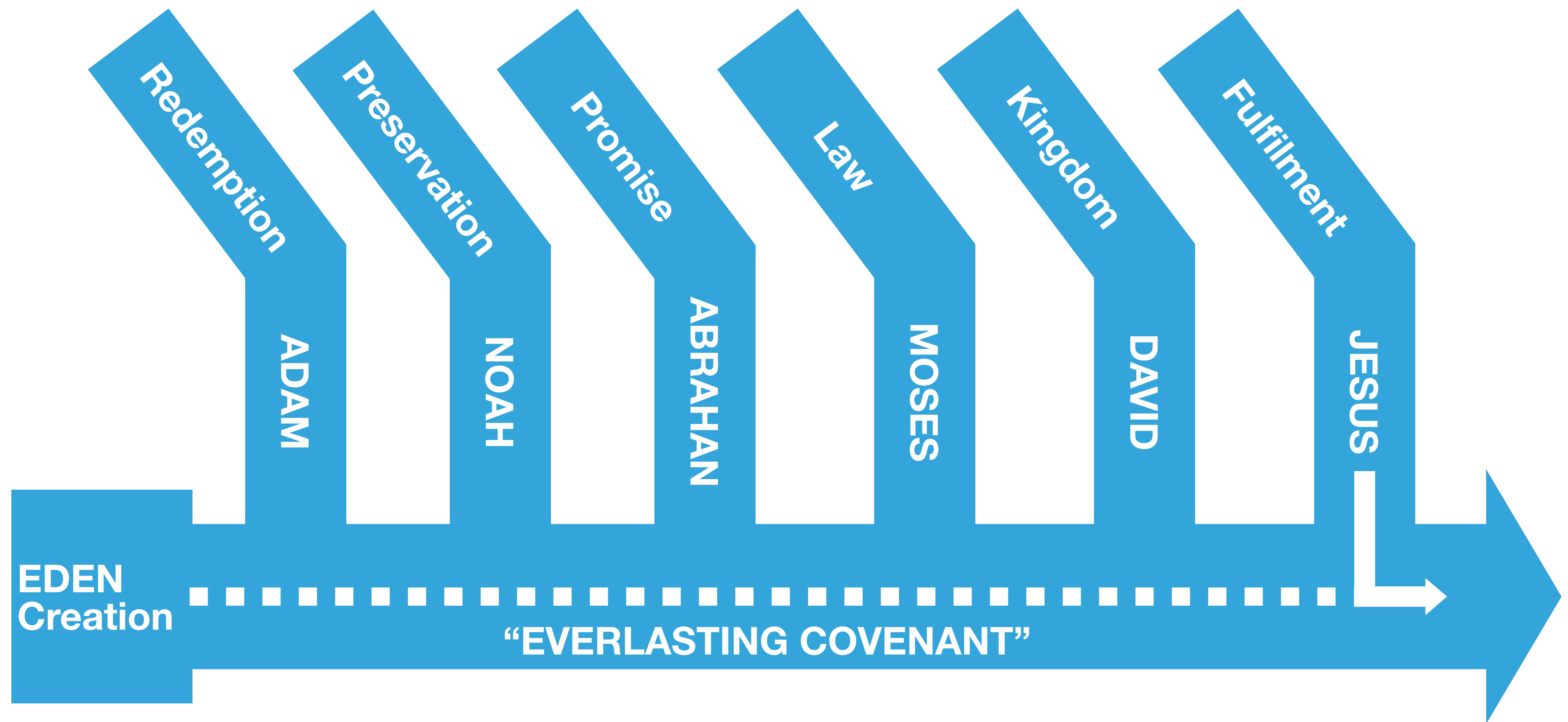
J. RODMAN WILLIAMS, VOL 1, 276.



J Rodman Williams (1918-2008) was a theologian and leading figure in the charismatic renewal of the 1960s-70s. Amongst other things, his comprehensive *Renewal Theology* was the first ‘systematic theology’ to be written from a Pentecostal-Charismatic perspective.

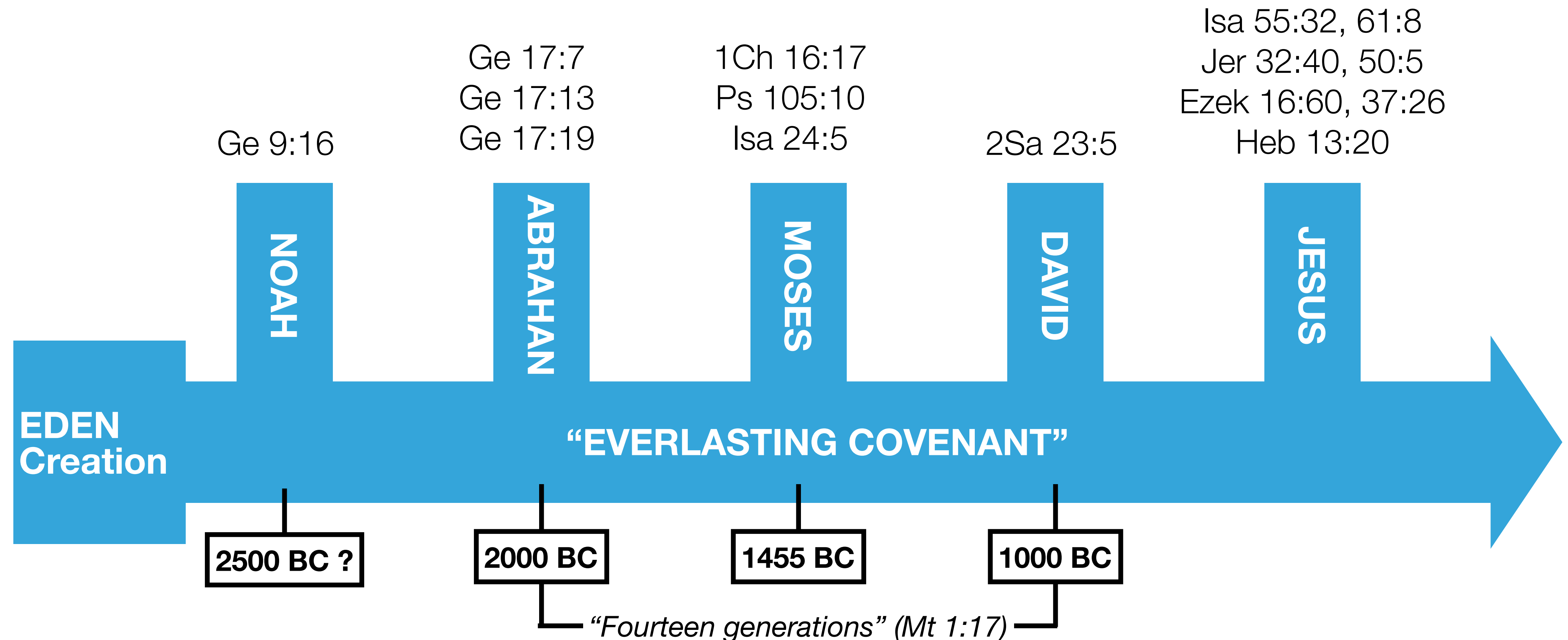
DAVID LYON/ROOTED/COVENANT

STREAMS OF COVENANT



AN “EVERLASTING COVENANT”

After Adam, each covenant is an expression of God’s *eternal purpose* that man shall live forever in fellowship with Him; hence each is also referred to as the/an “*everlasting covenant*”.



#1: EDENIC COVENANT

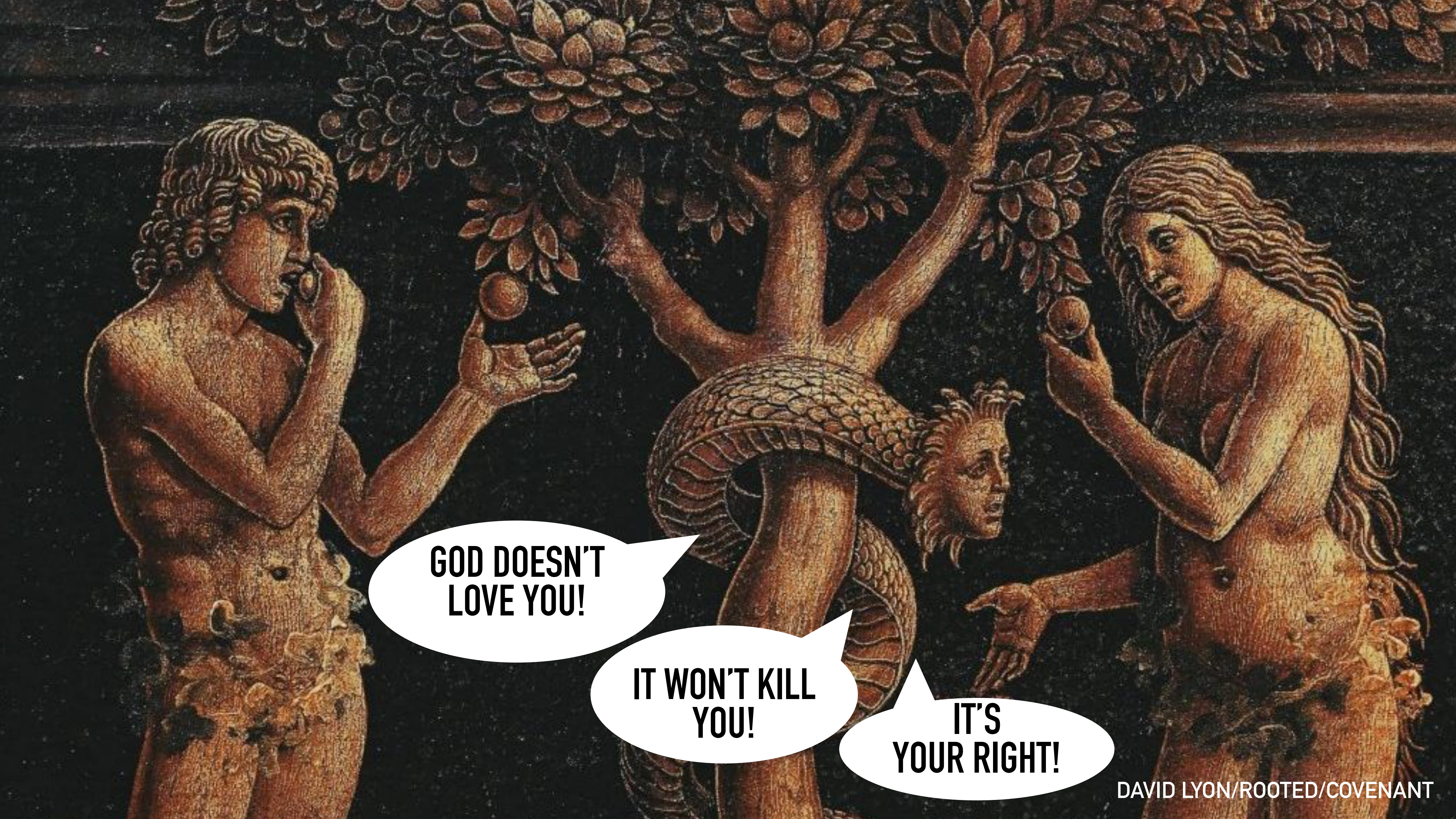


EDEN: COVENANT OF CREATION

- God's covenant with Adam & Eve *before* the Fall (**Genesis 1-2**), declaring *His purpose in creation*:
 - Man made in God's image (Ge 1:26-27)
 - Man blessed (1:28), to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth (1:28)
 - Man given authority to subdue and rule over creation (1:28)
 - God to provide for man (1:29)
 - Man to work (2:5,15)
 - Man free, and able to eat from Tree of Life *and live forever* (2:9,16)...
 - But prohibited from Tree of Knowledge (2:17), with death for disobedience (2:17)
- **Blood?** Adam's surgery (2:21); **Seal/Sign?** Tree of Life (3:22-23; Rev 2:7, 22:2,14).
- A "covenant" (Hos 6:7, Jer 33:20).
- First expression of the *pre-existent* "Everlasting Covenant" - God's intention to have eternal fellowship with His image-bearers.

FALL: CAUSES?

- The Covenant put Adam on ‘probation’ to test his faith and obedience (‘covenant-keeping’, cf. Ex 20:20); God permitted the Serpent to tempt him. Satan is a fallen angel (cf. Isa 14:13-14, Ezek 28:12-19) who usurped his position to be “like God” (Isa 14:14)...
- Envious of *Adam’s identity* (in God’s image), he aimed to break the covenant relationship between God and man, rob man of covenant blessings and put him under the covenant-breaking consequence of death. His strategy was to deceive Eve by attacking the terms (words) of the covenant - questioning: “*Did God really say...*” (3:1); lying: “*You will not surely die*” (3:4); and misinterpreting: “*You will be like God*” (3:5).
- Adam failed to cover his wife: the command was given *to him* before Eve was created (Ge 2:17-18), and he was alongside her as the serpent attacked (Ge 3:6).
- Adam & Eve “exchanged the truth of God for a lie” (Ro 1:25), placed Satan’s word above God’s word **and broke the covenant** (Hos 6:7, Ro 1:31 KJV)...



**GOD DOESN'T
LOVE YOU!**

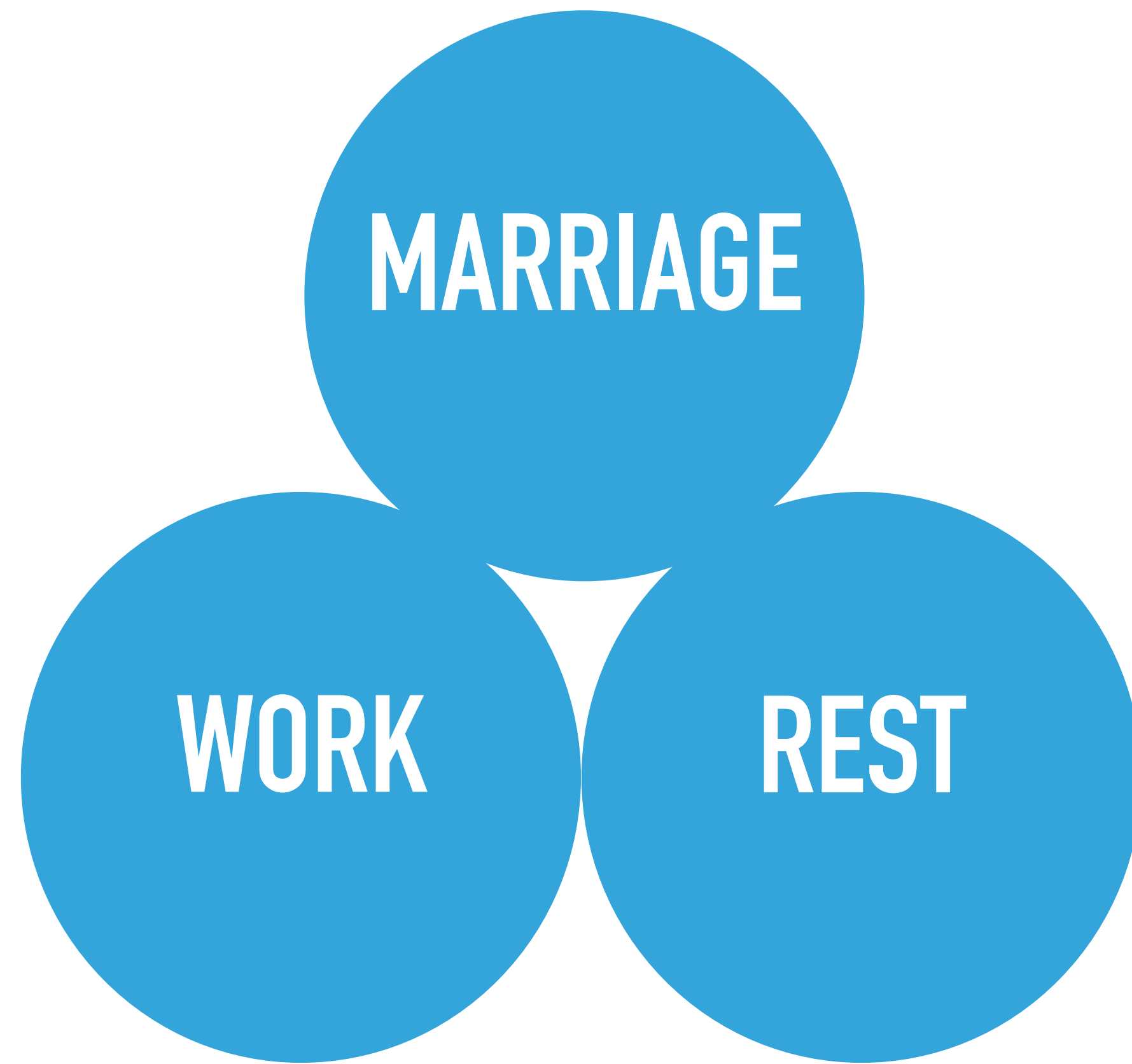
**IT WON'T KILL
YOU!**

**IT'S
YOUR RIGHT!**

FALL: CONSEQUENCES?

- *Man's character* corrupted (Ro 5:12) - the Fall opened way to all manner of abuses and misuses of authority - murder, war, violence, oppression quickly followed (Ge 4:1ff, cf. Ro 1)...
- *Man's authority* surrendered (Ge 3:17) and corrupted: Adam+Eve were to “have dominion” together (*radah*, Ge 1:28). Now (Ge 3:16) Eve’s “desire” is for Adam (*teshuqah*, stretching out after, longing), and he will “rule over” her (*mashal*, to gain control, obtain dominion) - striving and domination [cf Ge 4:7]. “Here, in embryo, are the mistrusts and passions that will ravage society”...
- *Man's world* spoiled - Fall catastrophic *for whole creation* (Ge 6:11-12, Ro 8:18-22), introducing the destructive impact of sin into every good thing...
- *Man's identity* confused. Adam *was already* like God; sin causes us to surrender what we have to try and gain what we think we need. Now issues of identity (*‘Who am I?’*) are at heart of human condition...
- *Man's relationship* with God fractured (Ge 3:8-9) and his new *destiny* is death (Ge 3:19b, Ro 5:12-14) - *Spiritual* (Eph 2:1), *Physical* (Ge 3:22) and *Eternal* (Ro 6:23). BUT...God came in grace to restore man back to covenantal relationship!...

I PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING



Some *eternal principles* embedded *in creation* (not in time, place, culture...):

- *Marriage*: between a man and a woman (Ge 2:22-23); providing order (2:18) and security (2:24).
- *Work*. God's work as a pattern for man. Subduing, ruling, tending, stewarding, cultivating requires hard work (Ge 2:5)...but results in fruit and growth!
- *Rest*. God rested and blessed the 7th day (Ge 2:3); sabbath-rest is good for man and creation (Mk 2:27).

Honouring these principles honours the Creator (see Heb 13:4, 2Th 3:10-12, Heb 4:9).

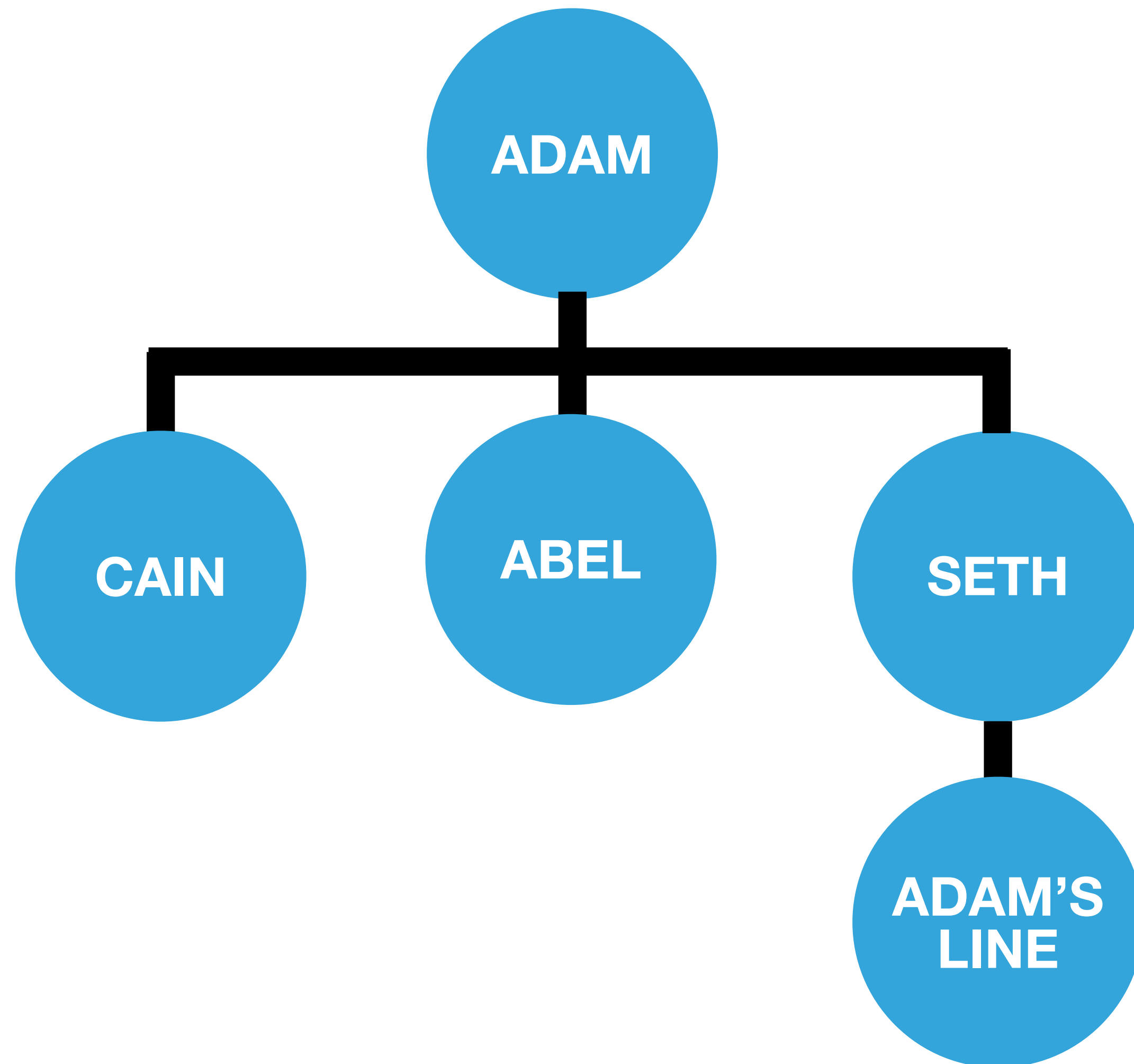


#2: ADAMIC COVENANT

ADAM: COVENANT OF REDEMPTION

- God's covenant made with Adam & Eve *after* Fall (**Genesis 3**), expressing God's purpose in redeeming man and judging Satan:
 - Satan is cursed (Ge 3:14)
 - The ground is cursed (3:17-18)
 - Man and woman are judged (3:16-19) but clothed (3:21)
 - Man expelled from Garden, and Tree of Life (3:23-24)
 - BUT...Woman's seed will crush Satan's head! (3:14)
- **Blood, Seal/sign?** Innocent animals killed for their skins (3:21), a sign of God's promise (the innocent will die for the guilty)...
- Adamic Covenant introduces *a series of redemptive covenants* (leading ultimately to the New Covenant).

THE SONS OF ADAM



- Cain cultivated land and Abel shepherded flocks (Ge 4:2). Cain offered “some” crops to God but Abel gave “the *best* of the *firstborn*” lambs (4:3-4)
- Only Abel’s gift was acceptable (4:5). It was an act of FAITH (Heb 11:4) and a gift of ‘first-fruits’. Abel becomes the first to embody the heart of a ‘tither’...
- God warned Cain to rule over (*mashal*) his anger (4:7), but Cain murdered Abel (4:8) and he and his work were cursed in consequence (4:11-12).
- Eve gave birth to Seth through whom Adam’s line was extended (Ge 5)



BREAKOUT GROUPS

WHAT DO THE EDENC
AND ADAMIC COVENANTS
TELL US ABOUT GOD?

#ROOTED

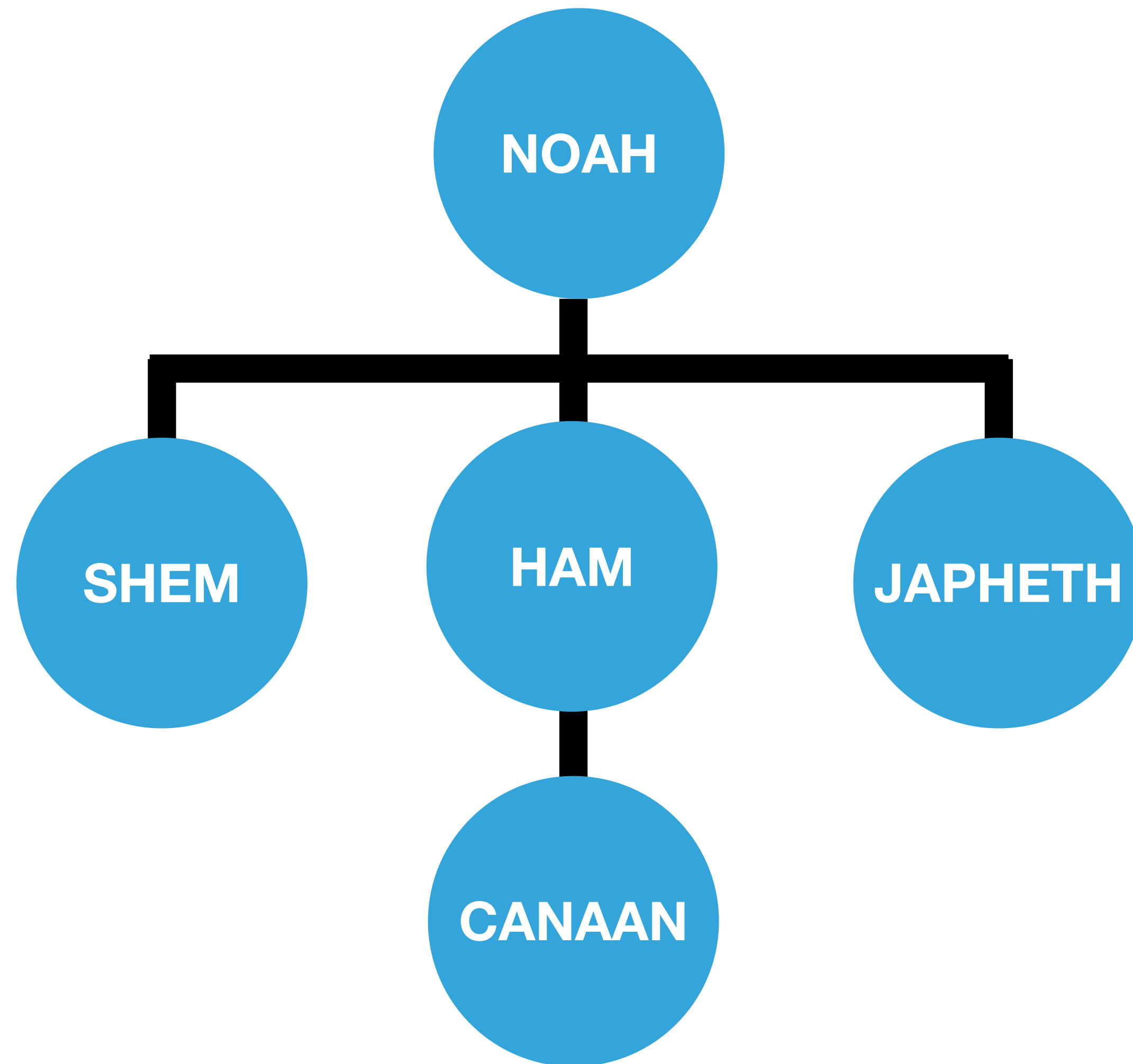
#3: NOAHIC COVENANT



NOAH: COVENANT OF PRESERVATION

- First direct mention of “covenant” (Ge 6:18); made by God with Noah and creation after Flood (**Genesis 9**), *re-stating* and *amplifying* the Edenic Covenant.
- Flood brought death for mankind’s sinfulness (Ge 6:5ff) and washed the earth clean.
- Noah was different (Ge 6:8-9), and covenant represented a *fresh start*:
 - Noah blessed (Ge 9:1), to be fruitful and multiply (9:1,7)
 - Noah to rule over creatures (9:2) and eat meat (9:3)
 - Seasons and rhythms established (8:22)
 - Murder forbidden (9:5-6)
 - No further curse on ground or creatures (8:21)
 - No further worldwide flood (9:11,15)
- **Blood?** Burnt offerings (8:20). **Seal/sign?** Rainbow (9:12ff, Rev 4:3, 10:1)

THE SONS OF NOAH



- Shem, Ham and Japheth re-populated the earth after Flood (Ge 9:18-19), their descendants forming the nations.
- Ham's sin of 'uncovering' his father (Ge 9:22) led to a curse on his descendants (9:25ff) - forefathers of the pagan enemies of God's people (Ge 10:6-20).
- However, Shem's family line was blessed, leading to Abram (Ge 11:10-26), Moses (a Levite), David and Jesus (cf. Mt 1:1-17, Lk 3:23-38) – all those *with whom God subsequently made covenants!*...

A full-page background image showing a person's silhouette standing on a dark, grassy hill at night. The person is looking up at a vast, starry sky where the Milky Way galaxy is clearly visible, stretching from the horizon towards the top of the frame. The stars are numerous and bright, creating a sense of cosmic scale.

#4: ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

PHOTO BY GREG RAZOKY AT UNSPLASH.COM

ABRAHAM: COVENANT OF PROMISE

- Made with Abraham (**Genesis 12-17**), and re-stated with his descendants.
 - Abraham blessed, and to be a blessing (Ge 12:2-3)
 - All nations to be blessed through him (12:3, 18:18)
 - Abraham to multiply (13:16, 15:5)
 - Abraham to become a great nation (12:2) and father of many nations (17:4ff).
 - Abraham's descendants to inherit the land (17:7-8).
 - Divine relationship ("I will be your God...") (17:7-8, cf. Ex 6:1ff, etc.)
- An unconditional "oath" by God (Heb 6:17) which stands even when the Law is later given (Gal 3:19ff).
- **Blood?** Animals sacrificed (15:7ff) **Seal/sign?** Circumcision (Ge 17:11-14, Ro 4:11).

ABRAHAM: FATHER OF FAITH

*“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”
(Ge 15:6; Ro 4:3, 9, 22; Gal 3:6, Jas 2:23)*

- Abraham is referred to 76 times in NT, by all writers except Jude; *opening verse* announces “Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham” (Mt 1:1)...
- Renowned *for his faith* (Gal 3:9) - believing God’s covenant-promises, against all circumstances (Ro 4:17-21; Heb 6:15, 11:8,17).
- Israel regarded (relied upon) him as their father (Lk 1:55, 13:28; Jn 8:33,53), but Jesus declared he is father only of those *who have faith* (Mt 3:9, Jn 8:39). Central to Paul’s gospel of ‘justification by faith’ (Ro 4, Gal 3) is that Abraham was declared righteous because of *his faith*. He’s “the father of all *who believe*” (Ro 4:11), incl Gentiles “who are of Abraham’s faith” (Ro 4:16, Gal 3:7) - “it is not the children by physical descent...but it is the *children of the promise* who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring” (Ro 9:8, cf Gal 3:6-7).
- Abraham is “the father of *many nations*” (Ge 17:5, Ro 4:17-18). The promise that “all nations” will be blessed through his seed/offspring (Ac 3:25) was *an early announcement of the gospel of Jesus Christ* (Gal 3:8)...

ABRAHAM: FAITH IN ACTION!

GOING

Leaving Haran to go to Canaan (Ge 12:1-5, **Heb 11:8**)

Cf. Terah set-out for Canaan but settled and died at Haran ('crossroads'), Ge 11:31

TITHING

Tithing to Melchizedek (Ge 14), an OT appearance of Christ ('theophany', see **Heb 7:1-10**)

PERSEVERING

Believing God would give him a child (Ge 15:6) and "waiting patiently" for the promised son (**Heb 6:15**)...

SACRIFICING

...Then obediently offering-up Isaac, and believing God could raise him from the dead (Ge 22, **Heb 11:17-19**)

YOU SEE THAT FAITH WAS ACTIVE TOGETHER WITH HIS WORKS, AND BY WORKS, FAITH WAS PERFECTED. SO THE SCRIPTURE WAS FULFILLED THAT SAYS, ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HE WAS CALLED GOD'S FRIEND... FOR JUST AS THE BODY WITHOUT THE SPIRIT IS DEAD, SO ALSO FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

JAMES 2:22-23, 26

THE LAND & THE SEED

Vital we interpret OT (Old Covenant) *in light of* NT (New Covenant); see *beyond* any natural/immediate fulfilment of OT promises and *look ahead* to their greater, ultimate fulfilment!... Eg:

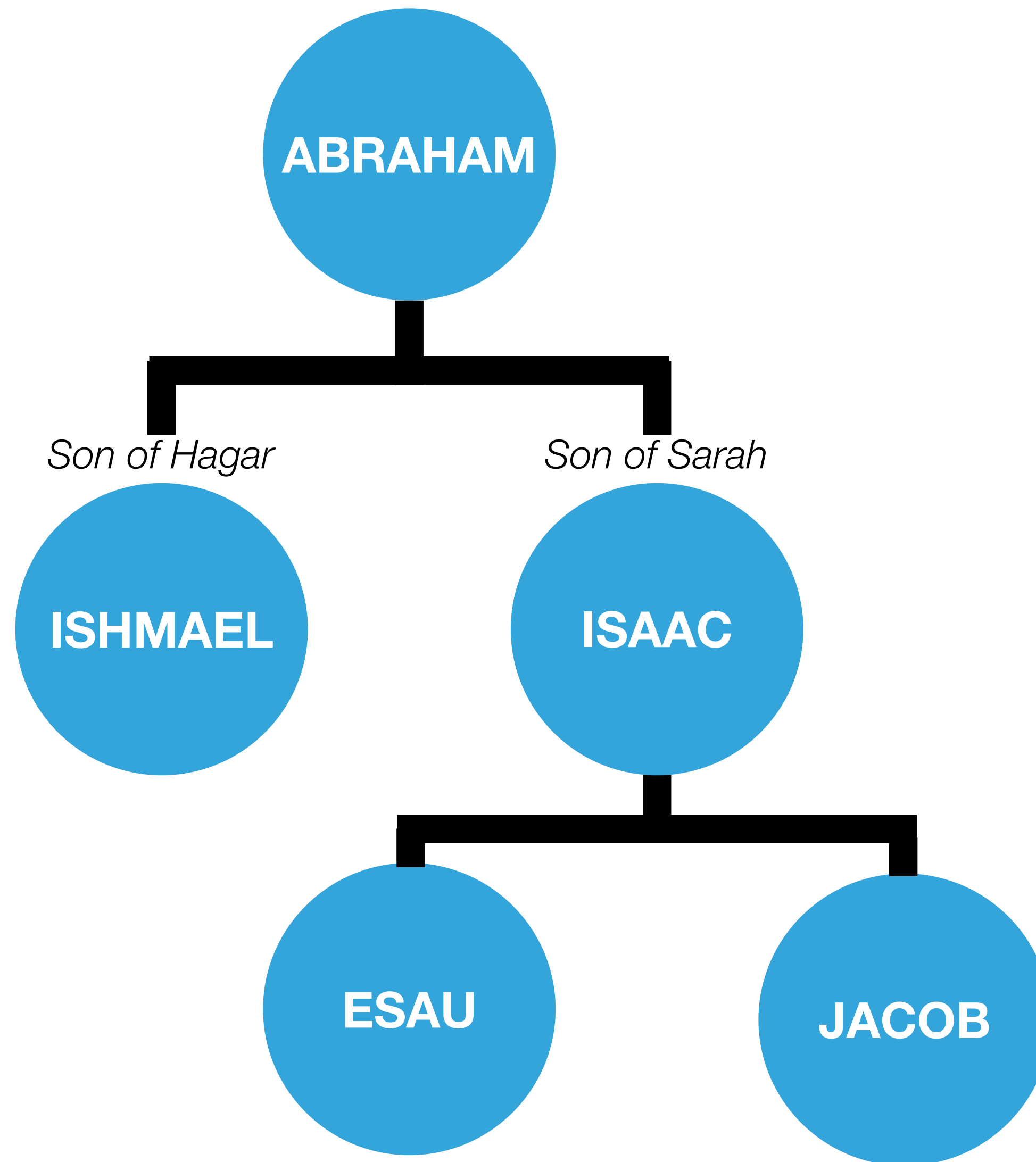
- God promised Abraham's descendants would "inherit the land" (Ge 12:7, 17:8, 24:7) - fulfilled in part when Israel took possession of Canaan, but NT makes clear Abraham was "looking forward to the city...whose architect and builder is God" (**Heb 11:10**) and was "seeking a homeland" that wasn't earthly (**11:14**), "a better land - a *heavenly one*" and that "God...has prepared a city" for these OT heroes of faith! (**11:16**)...
- God promised all the nations would be blessed by "Abraham's seed/offspring" (Ge 22:18, 26:4, Ac 3:25) and Paul makes plain that the "seed" referred to *is Christ* (**Gal 3:16**) - the blessing of the nations is not through the sons of Abraham or the nation that came from them, but *through the Saviour* that came from him and all who are now "in Christ" (**Gal 3:29**).



**"THE NEW IS
IN THE OLD
CONCEALED;
THE OLD IS
IN THE NEW
REVEALED."**

AUGUSTINE
(354-430)

THE SONS OF ABRAHAM



- Abraham's family line is through Isaac (= promise/faith) not Ishmael (= flesh/works). See Ge 17:19, 21:12; Ro 9:7-9; Heb 11:18. A vital "illustration" of "the two covenants" (Gal 4:22-23) - OT Law v NT Grace...
- The covenant with Abraham is reconfirmed with Isaac (Ge 26), Jacob (Ge 28, 35) and Israel (Dt 7:12ff, Ex 2:24). But each had to persevere *in faith* for children, despite the promises.
- Isaac's line is through Jacob not Esau (Ge 25: 23, Ro 9:12-13) - a man of *tenacious faith*...

THE PATRIARCHS & THE PROMISES

ABRAHAM

“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. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you**.” (Ge 2:2-3)

I will make your **offspring like the dust** of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. (Ge 13:16)

He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and **count the stars**—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” (Ge 15:5)

your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a **father of many nations**. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. (Ge 17:5-6)

The **whole land** of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, **I will give** as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. (Ge 17:8)

ISAAC

Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants **I will give all these lands** and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your **descendants as numerous as the stars** in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring **all nations on earth will be blessed**, because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.” (Ge 26:3-5)

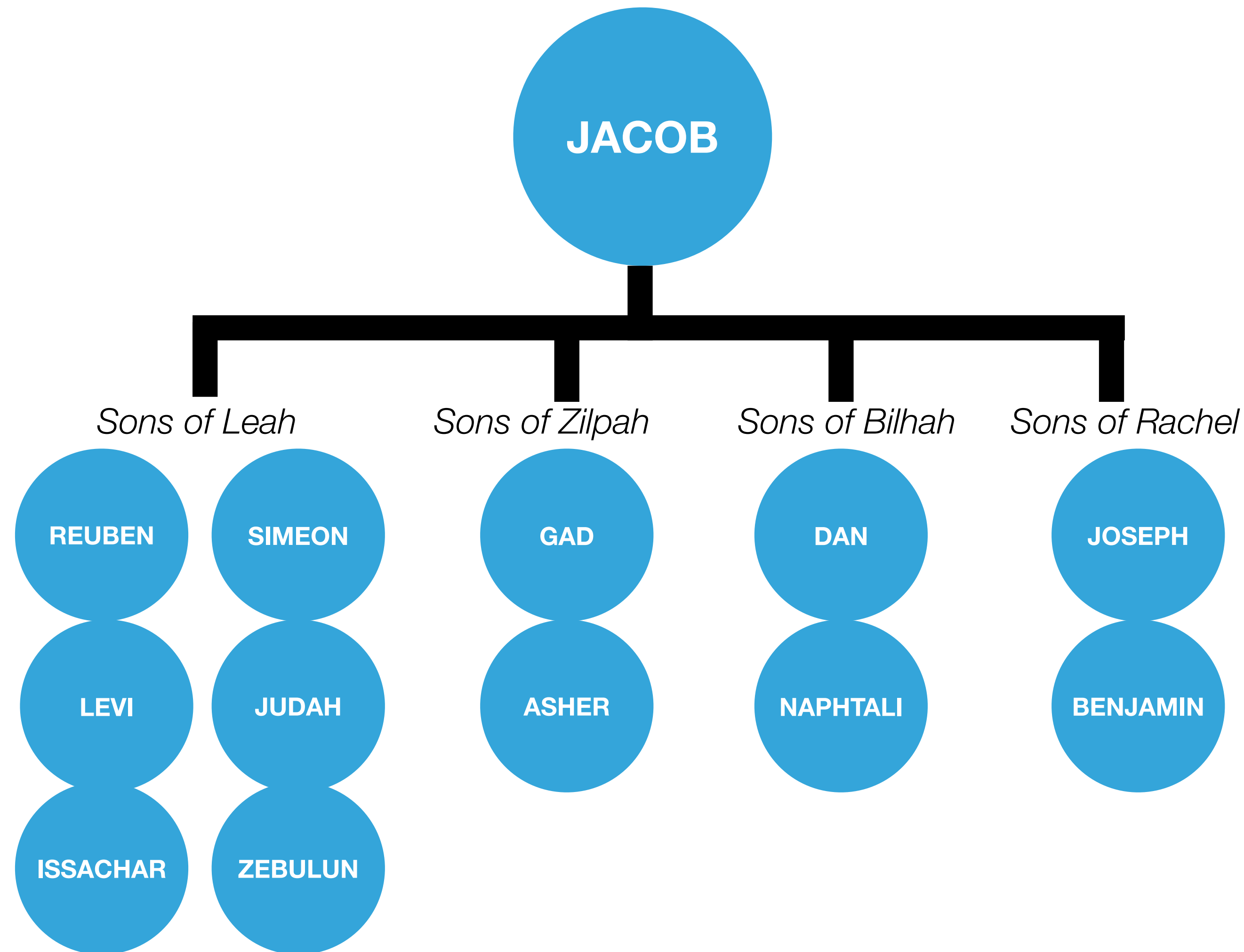
That night the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; **I will bless you** and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.” (Ge 26:24)

JACOB

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. **I will give you** and your descendants **the land** on which you are lying. Your **descendants will be like the dust** of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. **All peoples on earth will be blessed through you** and your offspring. (Ge 28:13-14)

And God said to him, “I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a **community of nations will come from you**, and kings will be among your descendants. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and **I will give this land** to your descendants after you.” (Ge 35:11-12)

THE SONS OF JACOB



- Reuben sinned against his father by sleeping with Bilhah (Ge 35:22), with consequences (49:3-4).
- The brothers' envy leads them to try and kill Joseph (Ge 37)...
- But he is a 'messiah-type' through whom the family line is saved (Ge 45:7).
- Jacob's 12 sons form the 12 tribes of Israel.

! GOD'S HESED TO ABRAHAM & HIS SONS

"O LORD, THE GOD
OF MY MASTER **ABRAHAM**,
PLEASE GRANT ME SUCCESS
TODAY, AND **SHOW HESED** TO MY
MASTER ABRAHAM."
GE 24:12

JACOB: "I AM
UNWORTHY OF **ALL THE**
HESED AND OF ALL THE
FAITHFULNESS WHICH YOU HAVE
SHOWN TO YOUR SERVANT..."
GE 32:10

"BLESSED BE THE
LORD, THE GOD OF MY
MASTER **ABRAHAM**, WHO HAS NOT
FORSAKEN **HIS HESED** AND HIS
TRUTH TOWARD MY MASTER..."
GE 24:27

BUT THE LORD WAS WITH
JOSEPH AND EXTENDED **HESED** TO
HIM. HE GRANTED HIM FAVOUR...
GE 39:21

SONS, SINS...& SLAVES

- Abraham's descendants multiplied in Egypt (Ge 50:22ff, Ex 1:1-7), but rebelled and worshipped idols, so God allowed them to become slaves (Josh 24:14, Ezek 20:5-9). But God made provision for them because of the Abrahamic Covenant (Ex 2:23-25, 6:1-8), raising up Moses to turn the people back to Himself and deliver them from their bondage.
- God led them out of Egypt and into the wilderness *to test their hearts* (Dt 8:2f), but even between Egypt and Mt Sinai they failed 4 tests of faith and obedience: at Red Sea (Ex 14:10ff); Marah (Ex 15:23ff); in Desert of Sin (Ex 16:1ff) and at Rephidim (Ex 17:1ff). Despite their boast (Ex 19:8, 24:3), their unbelief was exposed (Dt 32:5,20)...
- Thus they *fell from faith to works*, so God prepared to give them a Covenant of Law, to expose their inability to keep covenant apart from the grace of God...



FURTHER STUDY

READ AND REFLECT UPON “THE
BLESSEDNESS OF POSSESSING
NOTHING” BY A.W. TOZER.

(CH 2 OF ‘THE PURSUIT OF GOD’,
AVAILABLE ONLINE)