



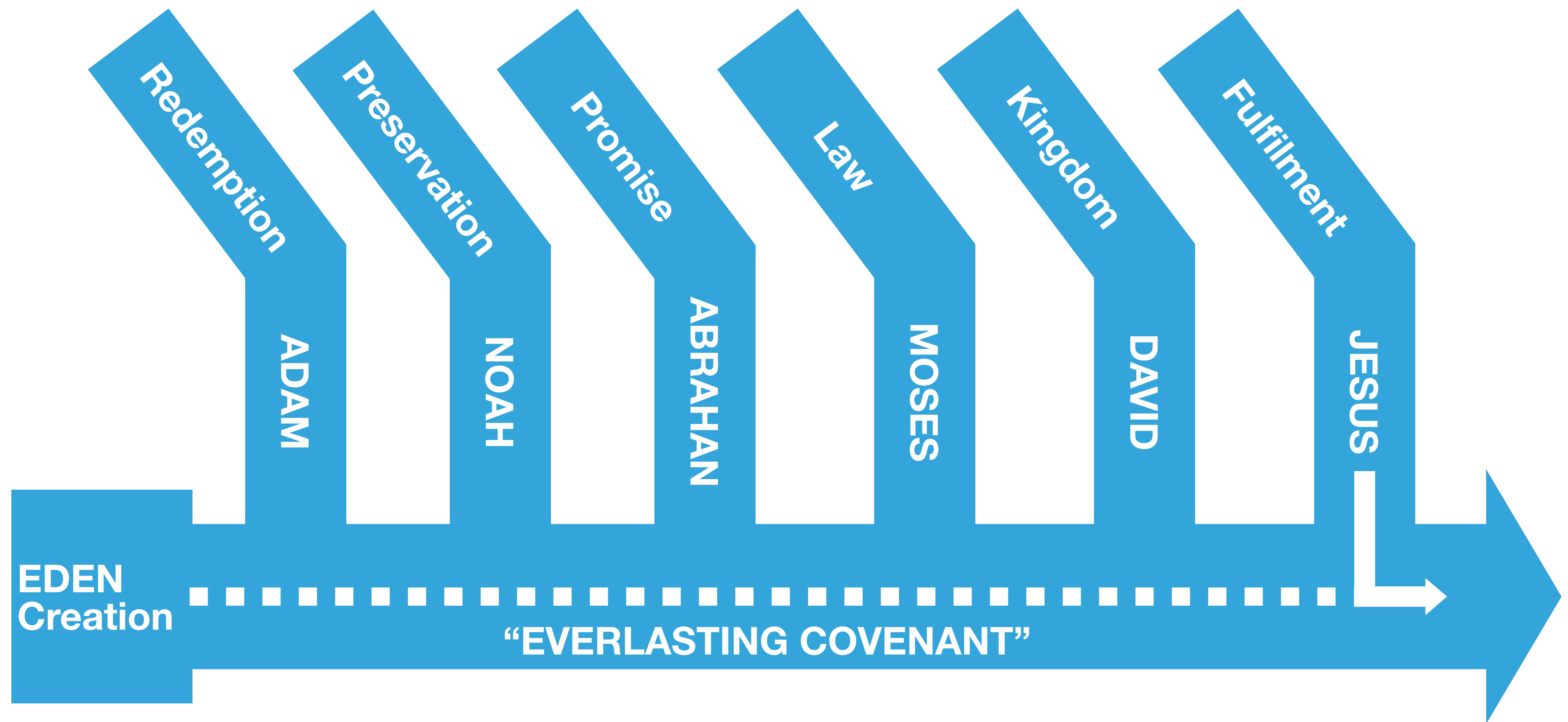
COVENANT

PROMISE, PROVISION
& PROGRESSIVE PURPOSE

DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

#ROOTED

STREAMS OF COVENANT



RECAP...

- Covenant is *God's way with His people* - He is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping, covenant-enabling God!
- Covenant is *first seen* in the Godhead; Father, Son and Spirit united in passion, purpose and plan...
- Covenant *binds people together*; each divine covenant is “a bond in blood, sovereignly administered” and containing: (1) words/terms; (2) bloodshed; (3) a sign/seal.
- The heartbeat of the covenants is *relationship*; and the lifeblood is *hesed* - covenant-love - God's 'stubborn steadfastness' and 'extraordinary persistence' in loving His people.
- The covenants reveal an *unfolding relationship* between God and His people; each is a contributory flowing into the ever-widening river of God's *eternal purpose* (that man should live forever with Him) and the *everlasting covenant* designed to achieve it.
- God first made covenants in Eden (establishing His purpose before the fall); then with Adam (after the fall), Noah (a fresh start after the flood) and Abraham (a promise of countless offspring).
- Abraham's descendants multiplied in Egypt, but worshipped idols and became slaves; so God raised-up Moses to bring them out and take them to the promised land...

#5: MOSAIC COVENANT



DAVID LYON/ROOTED/COVENANT

MOSES: COVENANT OF LAW

- Made with Israel after the exodus (“430 yrs” after Abrahamic Covenant and slavery in Egypt, Ex 12:40, Gal 3:17), establishing God’s intent that they’d be His possession: “*I will be your God, and you will be My people*” (Ex 6:7, 19:5-6; Lev 26:12; Dt 4:20; 2Sa 7:24; Jer 7:23, 11:4, 30:22; Ez 36:28)...
- Given to Moses at Mt Sinai; recorded in **Exodus 20-40, Leviticus, Numbers 5-8, 15, 19, 27-30** and *restated* (for 2nd generation) in **Deuteronomy 5-28**. Comprehensive ‘laws’ concerning sacrifices, offerings, priesthood, cleanliness, relationships, work...
- Designed to govern and regulate Israel’s national life and provide health and wellbeing; they were to be holy and set apart (“My Kingdom of priests and My holy nation”, Ex 19:6).
- Blessings or curses/consequences conditional upon obedience or disobedience (Ex 19:5-6 Lev 26, Dt 11:26-32) - but both the result of *works* and *self-effort*.
- **Blood?** Offerings at Ex 24:5-8, and numerous recurring sacrifices/offerings.
- **Seal/sign?** The Sabbath - a sign that they were “set apart” (Ex 31:12-17)

3 PARTS TO THE LAW

Helpful to distinguish 3 *aspects* of the law:

MORAL

The Ten
Commandments
(Ex 20, 34:28, Dt 5)

SOCIAL

Regulations amplifying
the basic principles of
the Moral Law
(Ex 21-23, Leviticus,
Numbers, Deut)

CEREMONIAL

Detailed laws
concerning worship,
sacrifices, priesthood,
sanctuary and festivals
(Ex 24-30, Leviticus)

VITAL we see *principles* and ‘internal’ aspects, not just the external forms and rituals...

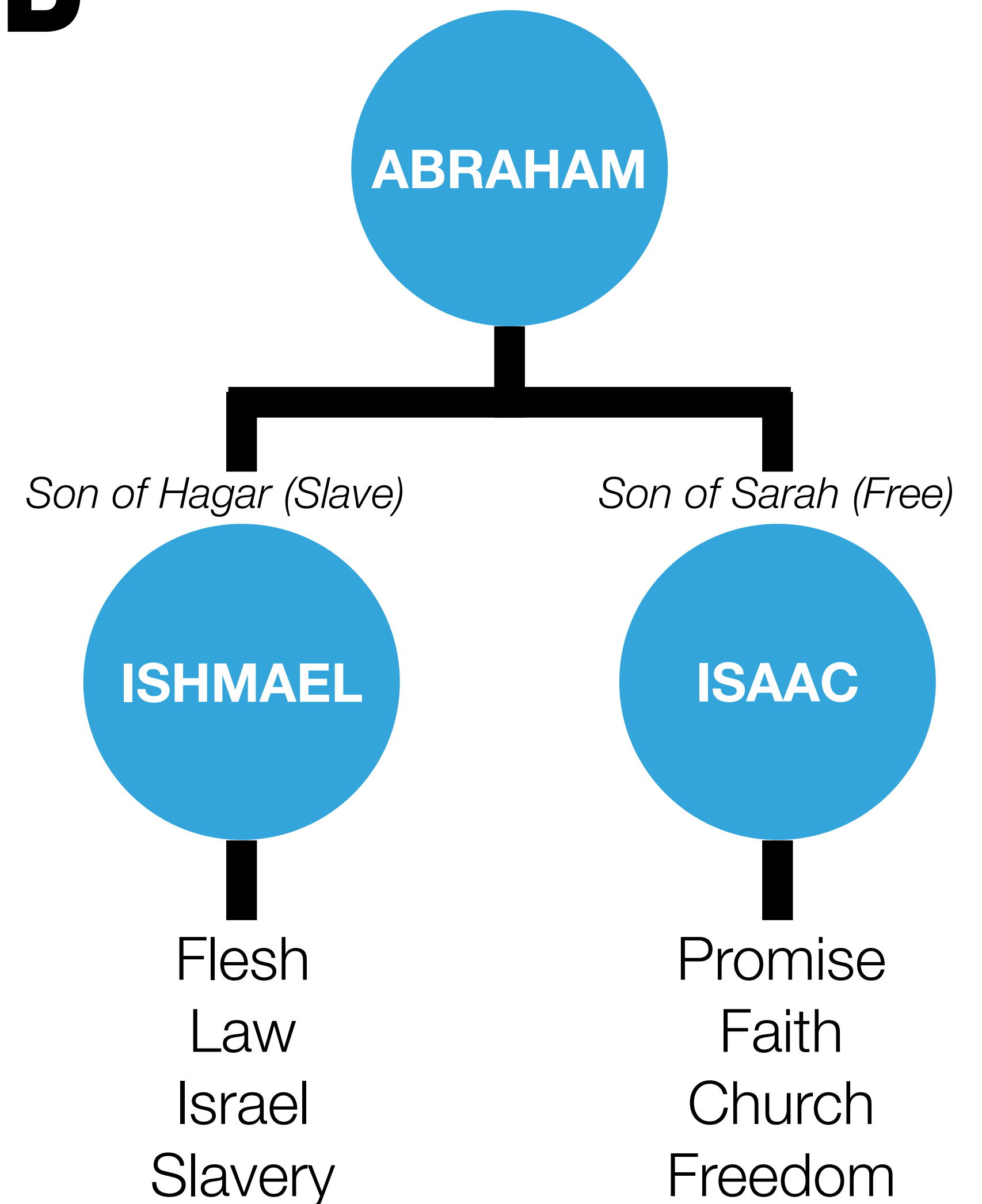
NOTE: References to “Law” or “law” in NT may be to: **(1)** the whole of the Mosaic Law, above (eg Jn 7:19, Ro 5:13), or parts thereof; or **(2)** the Pentateuch (first 5 books of OT, written by Moses) (eg Lk 24:44); or **(3)** simply, a ‘governing principle’ (eg Ro 8:2). Note also that the “Law of Moses” may refer to **(1)** (eg Lk 2:22) or **(2)** (eg Lk 24:44, Ac 15:21, 28:23)... So, care in interpreting is required!

THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM

- The heart of Israel's problem was the problem *of the heart*. Obeying the Law was only possible from a heart that loved the Lord (Dt 5:29, 6:4-6, 10:12-13).
- But this was beyond Israel's reach: the Law was "powerless... because it was weakened *by the flesh*" (Ro 8:3); self-effort cannot change the heart.
- So, the Law was designed to *prepare Israel for the New Covenant*, which would give people "a new heart" and write God's commands thereupon (Jer 31:31-34, Ez 36:24-28).

LAW & FAITH ILLUSTRATED

- Paul contrasts Law and Faith (old covenant and new covenant) in Galatians.
- In **Gal 4:21-31** he uses Abraham's sons as an illustration: Ishmael was born to a slave and born "according to the flesh", whereas Isaac was born to the free woman and was "born as the result of a promise" (**4:23**). [NLT: *"The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfilment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfilment of his promise."*]
- Thus, **Ishmael** represents Mt Sinai, the Law, earthly Jerusalem, and people enslaved (**4:24-25**), whereas **Isaac** represents Mt Zion, faith, the Jerusalem from above and people who are free (**4:26**)...



WHY WAS THE LAW GIVEN?

The Mosaic Covenant did not *replace* or *revoke* the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant, which were everlasting/unchangeable (Gal 3:17, Heb 6:13-18), nor was it “contrary to God’s promises” (Gal 3:21). Rather, it was “*added*” alongside the Abrahamic Covenant *because of Israel’s sin* (Gal 3:19). The 2 Covenants thus *co-existed*, but the Mosaic Covenant was *temporary*, given “until” Christ would come (Gal 3:19, Heb 9:10), in order to:

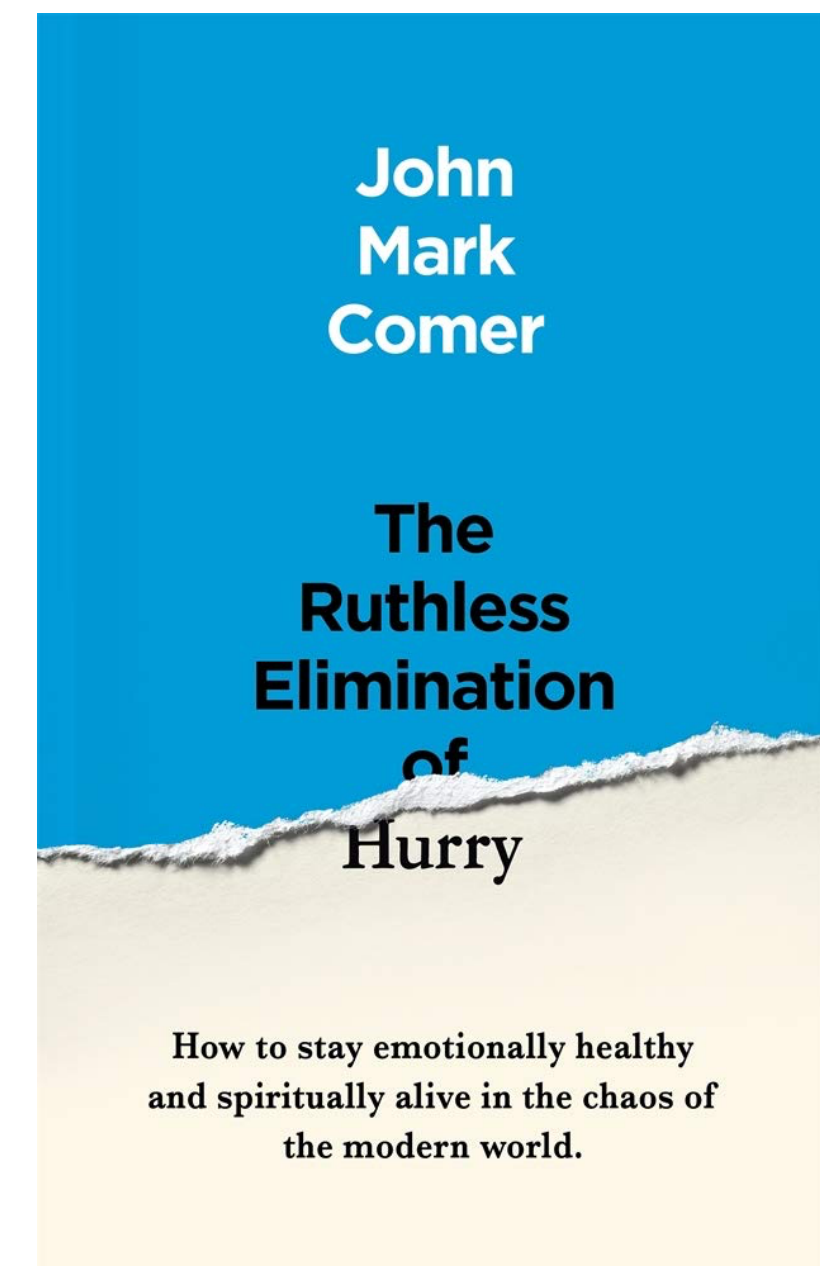
- Define sin and expose guilt (Ro 3:19-20, 7:1; 1Jn 3:4)
- Preserve Israel from total corruption (Gal 3:19)
- Prepare Israel for Christ’s coming, as a “guardian” (Gal 3:23-25)
- Provide temporary atonement for sin (Heb 9-10).
- Reveal the difference between Law and Grace (Jn 1:17)
- Show that no-one is justified by Law, but by faith (Ro 3:20, 9:30-32; Gal 3:11)
- Be a “shadow” of the Person and work of Christ (Heb 10:1, Col 2:17).

THE MORAL LAW

Ten Commandments...	...in the New Covenant
No other gods (Ex 20:3)	Mt 22:37-38
No idols (Ex 20:4-6)	Mt 22:37-38, Ac 15:20, 1Co 16:9, 1Jn 5:21
No blasphemy (Ex 20:7)	Mt 5:33-37, Mk 3:28-29, 1Ti 1:13
Keep the Sabbath holy (Ex 20:8-11)	Mk 2:27, Heb 4:9
Honour father and mother (Ex 20:12)	Mt 15:4-6, 19:19, Eph 6:1-3, Col 3:20
Do not murder (Ex 20:13)	Mt 5:21-22, 15:19, 19:18, Ro 13:9, Jas 2:11, 4:2
Do not commit adultery (Ex 20:14)	Mt 5:27ff, 15:19, 19:18, Ro 13:9, 1Co 16:9
Do not steal (Ex 20:15)	Mt 15:19, 19:18, 1Co 16:9, Ro 13:9
Do not give false testimony (Ex 20:16)	Mt 15:19, 19:18
Do not covet (Ex 20:17)	Ro 7:7, 13:9, Jas 4:2

A RHYTHM OF REGULAR REST?

- **The Sabbath** was “the Lord’s gift” to His people (Ex 16:29). Jesus said it was “made *for man*” (Mk 2:27). At creation, God “blessed” the animals (Ge 1:22), then mankind (1:28), and then *the sabbath* (2:3)...
- Sabbath principles were built into festivals/farming, ensuring men and land regularly had “a complete rest” (Ex 31:15, Lev 25:4). Israel’s covenant-breaking is seen as *a failure to keep the sabbaths*, and its effect on the land (Lev 26:34, 2Ch 36:21) – leading directly to their Babylonian captivity.
- The OT sabbath was “a shadow of the things that were to come” (Col 2:16-17): in the New Covenant Jesus is “Lord of the Sabbath” (Mt 12:8) and in Him alone we find rest from our own efforts (Mt 11:28-30, Heb 4:3). For us, it’s not about a ‘special day’ so much as a Special Person...
- **However, it’s a Commandment that Jesus did nothing to cancel or modify; the principle of a *rhythm of regular rest* is creational, eternal and therefore still essential!...**



John Mark Comer’s recent (2019) book contains a helpful modern take on the eternal principle of Sabbath-rest.

A person is walking away from the camera through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and branches. The trees are tall and slender, with some showing signs of decay or hollow trunks. The lighting is soft and diffused, suggesting an overcast day or a misty atmosphere. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN LAW & LEGALISM?
HOW DO WE AVOID LEGALISM?

#ROOTED

LAW & LEGALISM

LAW

Defines how principles should work in practice

Defines boundaries of ownership, rights and behaviour

Provides grounds for promises to be made and kept

Defines what's fundamental for people to live together in unity

LEGALISM

Imposes rules that don't further loving relationships

Limits freedoms by unnecessary, excessive or pedantic restraints

Leaves no room for love to respond freely.

Demands duties which don't express relationship or serve the common good

JESUS

Shone light on man-made legalisms and hypocrisies, so as to focus on the integrity of *the heart's response* to the (Moral) Law.

Eg: **Mt 5:21, 27, 33, 43...**

*"You have heard...
But I tell you..."*

■ IS THE LAW STILL RELEVANT?...

- Jesus came to “fulfil” and not destroy the Mosaic Covenant (Mt 5:17), thus making it “obsolete” (Heb 8:13 NLT). Hence, Christ is “the end of the Law” (Ro 10:4); we are now “not under law but under grace” (Ro 6:14, cf. Ro 7:6)...
- Nevertheless, the Moral Law is reiterated under New Covenant, because it contains *eternal principles* that are never old or obsolete.
- The Law was *and is* (still) “holy, righteous and good” (Ro 7:12) and “spiritual” (7:14). But now, the “righteous requirements of the Law [are] fully met in us who...live...according to the Spirit” (Ro 8:4); **we can now fulfil all of the Law’s eternal and internal requirements, through a *Spirit-empowered* life of discipleship to Jesus.**

| GOD'S HESED TO ISRAEL

"IN YOUR **HESED** YOU HAVE
LED THE PEOPLE WHOM YOU HAVE
REDEEMED"
EX 15:13

"THE
LORD IS SLOW TO ANGER
AND ABUNDANT IN **HESED**,
FORGIVING INIQUITY AND
TRANSGRESSION"
NU 14:18

"I, THE LORD YOUR GOD...
SHOWING **HESED** TO THOUSANDS,
TO THOSE WHO LOVE ME AND KEEP MY
COMMANDMENTS"
EX 20:6

"KNOW
THEREFORE THAT THE LORD
YOUR GOD IS GOD; HE IS THE
FAITHFUL GOD, KEEPING HIS **HESED** TO
A THOUSAND GENERATIONS OF THOSE
WHO LOVE HIM AND KEEP HIS
COMMANDMENTS."
DT 7:12

#6: DAVIDIC COVENANT

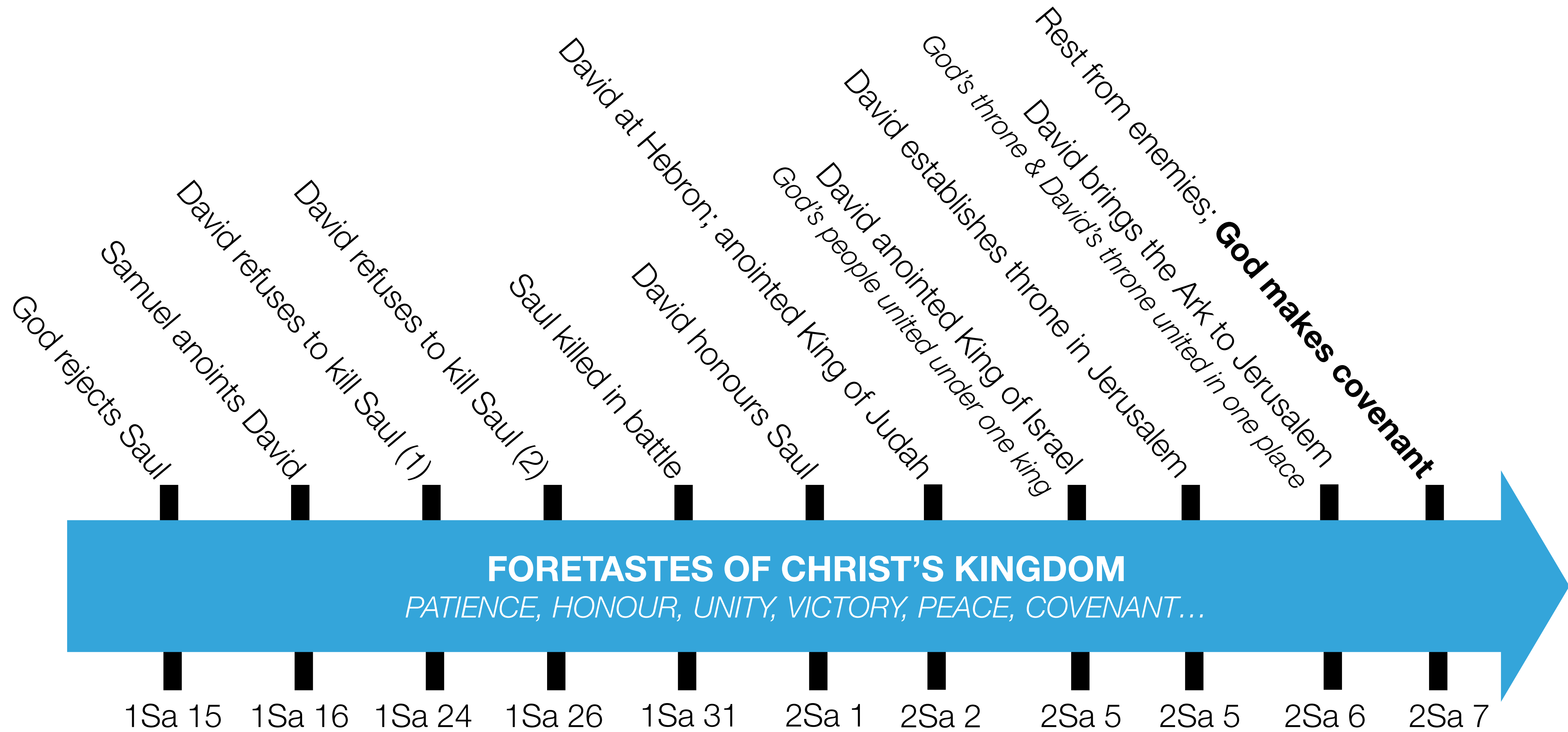


DAVID: COVENANT OF KINGDOM

- Made with King David after his enthronement (**2Sa 7**, cf Ps 89, Ps 132:10-12)
- ‘Kingship’ had already been promised in Abrahamic covenant (Ge 17:6,16, 35:11). Now, the promises include:
 - A great name (2Sa 7:9)
 - Being planted in the land (7:10)
 - Victory over enemies (7:11)
 - Successors to the throne (7:12)
 - Mercy in God’s dealings with his descendants (7:14-15)
 - The kingdom and the throne established “forever” (7:13,16, cf. Lk 1:31ff)
- **Blood?** David sacrificed offerings (2Sa 6:17-18)*
- **Seal/sign?** The sun, moon and stars! (Ps 89:35-37, Jer 33:19-26)

* Only the priest could sacrifice (compulsory) Sin and Guilt Offerings, but others could make (voluntary) Burnt, Grain and Fellowship/Peace Offerings (see Lev 1-7).

DAVID'S KINGDOM TIMELINE



A person in a dark jacket and blue jeans is walking away from the camera down a path in a forest. The forest is filled with tall, slender trees, likely spruce or fir, with their trunks reaching high into the sky. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and branches. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

WHAT ARE THE
VITAL CONTRASTS
BETWEEN SAUL AND DAVID?

#ROOTED

KING SAUL & KING DAVID

- God's intention was always to give Israel a king of His choosing, from the tribe of Judah (Ge 17:6, 35:11, 49:10). As they developed as a nation a king became necessary (Jdg 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25).
- However, Israel demanded a king *prematurely*, and one "like all the other nations" (1Sa 8:5) - a rejection of God as their King (8:8).
- Saul was the *people's choice*; a 'head-and-shoulders' man (1Sa 9:2) from the wrong tribe (1Sa 9:1) whom God ultimately rejected (1Sa 15:23). David was *God's choice*; a 'heart' man (1Sa 16:7) from the tribe of Judah (1Sa 17:12).
- Just as Israel's *unbelief* meant they entered the promised land 40 yrs later than God intended (Num 13-14), so their *impatience* meant they had a king 40 yrs sooner than God desired (Ac 13:21). **Lessons?...**

KING DAVID & KING JESUS!...

- A virgin from “the House of David” would bring forth Immanuel (Isa 7:13-14); a righteous Branch “from David’s line” (Jer 33:15)...
- Jesus is “the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David” (Rev 5:5), “the son of David” (Mt 1:1), a “descendant of David” (Ro 1:4), the “Root and Offspring of David” (Rev 22:16).

“FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS.... OF THE GREATNESS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND PEACE THERE WILL BE NO END. HE WILL REIGN ON DAVID’S THRONE AND OVER HIS KINGDOM, ESTABLISHING AND UPHOLDING IT WITH JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM THAT TIME ON AND FOREVER. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD ALMIGHTY WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS.”

ISAIAH 9:6-7

GOD'S HESED TO DAVID

"MY **HESED**
SHALL NOT DEPART FROM
HIM, AS I TOOK IT AWAY FROM SAUL,
WHOM I REMOVED FROM BEFORE YOU.
YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR KINGDOM SHALL
ENDURE BEFORE ME FOREVER; YOUR
THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED
FOREVER"
2SA 7:15-16

"O GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS
GOOD; FOR HIS **HESED** IS
EVERLASTING."
1CH 16:34

SOLOMON SAID
TO GOD: "YOU HAVE DEALT
WITH MY FATHER DAVID WITH
GREAT **HESED**, AND HAVE MADE
ME KING IN HIS PLACE."
2CH 1:8

"I ENTER YOUR HOUSE BY
THE ABUNDANCE OF YOUR HESED;
I BOW DOWN TOWARD YOUR HOLY
TEMPLE IN REVERENTIAL AWE OF YOU."
PS 5:7
PLUS: 125 OTHER REFS TO **HESED** IN THE PSALMS!
(BY DAVID & OTHER PSALMISTS)



REFLECTION

HOW DOES PSALM 136
EXPAND OUR UNDERSTANDING
OF HESED?

#ROOTED

PSALM 136: CELEBRATING HESED!

- A vital refrain in Israel's history and journey: **“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His *hesed* endures forever”**. A ‘national anthem’?
- Each of the 26 verses declare attributes of God...and emphatically remind us that *every one of them is an expression of hesed*:
- God expressed HESED through His goodness (v1), supremacy (v2-3), wondrous creative power (v4-9), Kingdom rule (v7-9), deliverance (v10-15), leadership and guidance (v16), defeat of powers and enemies (v17-20), promise and inheritance (v21-22), remembrance of us (v23), deliverance (v24), provision (v25)...

And this *hesed* “endures forever” – all He did then He does now; all He did for them He does for us. All His actions and attributes are expressions of *hesed* - His STUBBORN STEADFASTNESS and EXTRAORDINARY PERSISTENCE!

■ HESED: REFRAIN & RESPONSE!...

The refrain is sung at significant times...and has a powerful effect:

- When ark brought to Jerusalem, and Levites appointed to praise (1Ch 16:34, 41)
- When ark brought into temple...leading to God's glorious presence (2Ch 5:13-14)
- When temple dedicated...and fire came down from heaven (2Ch 7:1-4)
- When Jehoshaphat went to war...and God set ambushes to defeat enemy (2Ch 20:18-22)
- When exiles returned and laid foundation of new temple (Ezra 3:10-11)
- To be declared as God promises restoration (Jer 33:11)

NB: Link between declarations of God's HESED and manifestations of God's PRESENCE+POWER! Cf. Ps 118:1-4 "Declare his *hesed*: people, leaders, everyone!..."

SOME OTHER OT COVENANTS

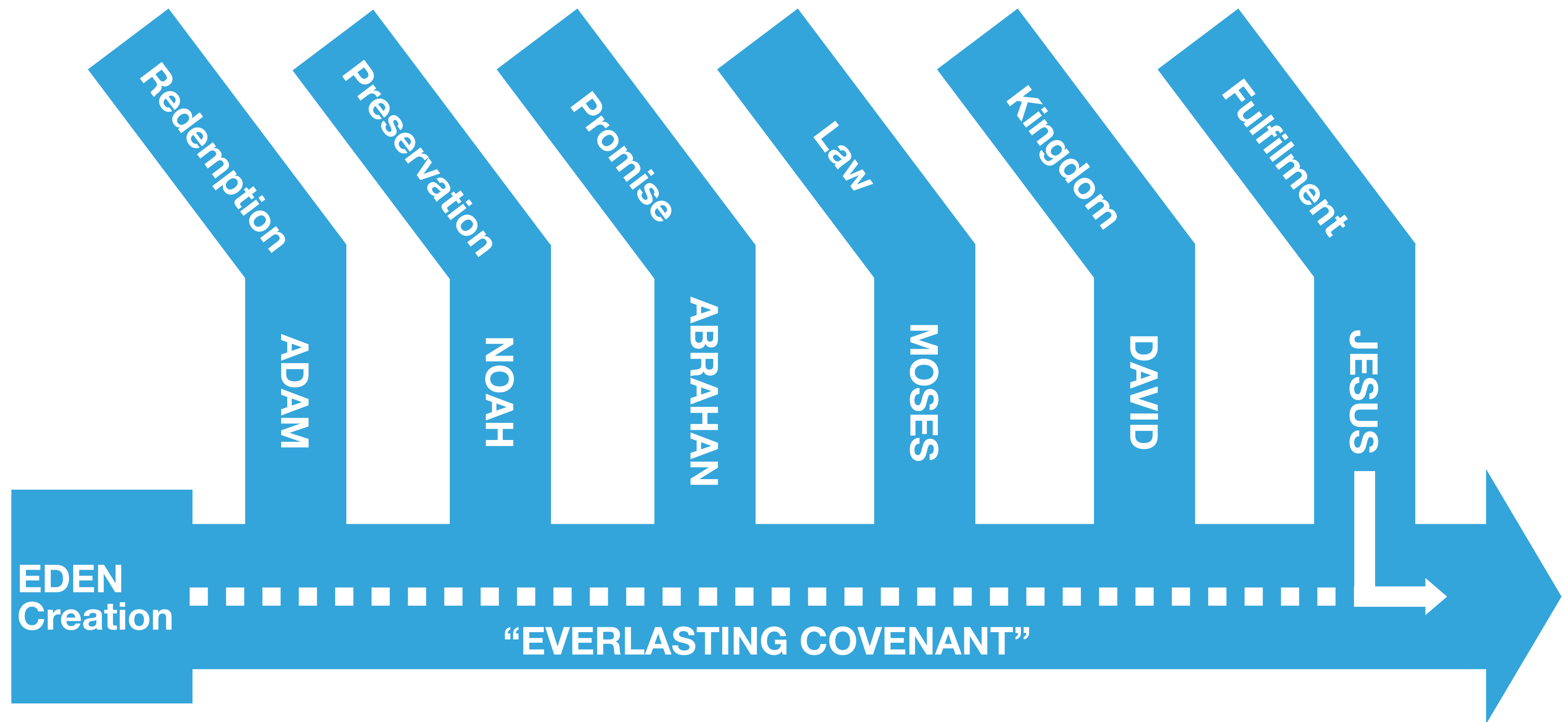
Made by men, with God...

- Jacob (Ge 28:20ff) – to serve God and tithe
- Joshua (Josh 24:24ff) – to serve and obey the Lord
- Jehoiada (2Ki 11:17) – to serve the Lord
- Josiah (2Ki 23:3) – to follow and obey the Lord
- Asa (2Kin 23:12) – to seek the Lord with heart and soul
- Nehemiah (Neh 9:38-10:29ff) – to follow the Law

Made by men, with men...

- Abraham & Abimelech (Ge 21:22ff) – mutual kindness
- Isaac & Abimelech (Ge 26:26ff) - peace
- Jacob & Laban (Ge 31:44ff) – respect and peace
- Jonathan & David (1Sa 18:3f, etc) – to love one another
- King Zedekiah & his subjects (Jer 34:8) – to free slaves

STREAMS OF COVENANT



GOD'S UNFOLDING PURPOSE...

- **Adam:** covenant with created man – desire for men in His image...
- **Noah:** covenant with a righteous man – desire for family of righteous men...
- **Abraham:** covenant with a faithful man – desire for faithful people...
- **Israel:** covenant with a nation – desire for Holy Nation...
- **David:** covenant with a king – desire for Kingdom of Priests...

GOD'S UNCHANGING DESIRE?

ONE FAMILY, ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION, ONE KINGDOM IN ALL THE EARTH.
PEOPLE IN HIS IMAGE, DISPLAYING HIS GLORY!

“The cumulative evidence of the Scriptures points definitely toward the unified character of the biblical covenants. God’s multiple bonds with his people ultimately unite into a single relationship. Particular details of the covenants may vary. A definite line of progress may be noted. Yet the covenants of God are one.” O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, 28.

GOD'S COVENANTS BROKEN

- Adam ate the forbidden fruit...
- Noah's sons became sinful and murdered...
- Abraham's family failed to stay faithful...
- Israel broke the Law repeatedly...
- David's kingdom was divided and torn...

BUT...GOD'S UNCHANGING DESIRE:
ONE FAMILY, ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION, ONE KINGDOM IN ALL THE EARTH.
PEOPLE IN HIS IMAGE, DISPLAYING HIS GLORY!



FURTHER STUDY

**WHY WAS A NEW COVENANT
NEEDED AND WHAT'S 'NEW'
ABOUT IT?
(START: HEBREWS 7-12)**