



# COVENANT

PROMISE, PROVISION  
& PROGRESSIVE PURPOSE

DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

#ROOTED

# COVENANT-MAKING...BREAKING.

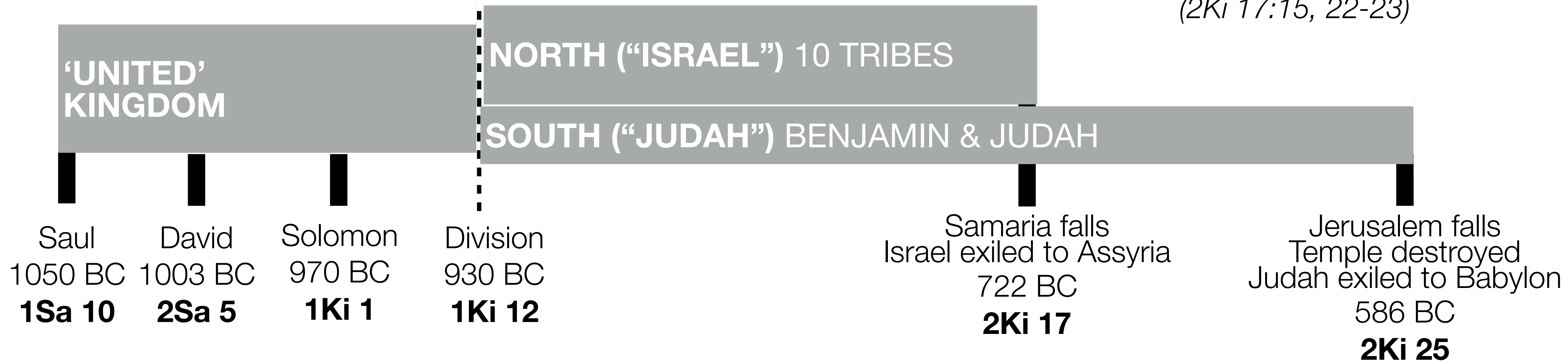
- **Adam:** covenant with *created* man – desire for men in His image - BUT he soon ate the forbidden fruit...
- **Noah:** covenant with a *righteous* man – desire for family of righteous men - BUT his descendants soon sinned...
- **Abraham:** covenant with a *faithful* man – desire for faithful people - BUT his family failed to stay faithful...
- **Moses:** covenant with a *chosen* nation – desire for Holy Nation - BUT Israel repeatedly broke the Law...
- **David:** covenant with a *worshipping* king – desire for Kingdom of Priests - BUT the kingdom was torn in two and God's people exiled...

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

# KINGDOM TRAGEDY

***“They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors, and they despised all his warnings. They worshiped worthless idols, so they became worthless themselves. They followed the example of the nations around them, disobeying the Lord’s command not to imitate them... They did not turn from these sins until the Lord finally swept them away from His presence, just as all His prophets had warned. So Israel was exiled from their land to Assyria.”***

*(2Ki 17:15, 22-23)*



***“These things happened because of the Lord’s anger against the people of Jerusalem and Judah, until He finally banished them from His presence and sent them into exile... So the people of Judah were sent into exile from their land.”***

*(2Ki 24:20, 25:15)*



# A NEW COVENANT ANTICIPATED

## DISCLOSED IN *TYPES*

Isaac & Ishmael (**Gal 4:21-3**); Abraham's justification by faith not works (Ro 4)...

## DRAMATISED IN *SIGN*

Hosea's divorce and remarriage (**Hos 1:10-11**, Ro 9:23-26 1Pe 2:9-10)...

## DECLARED IN *PROPHECY*

By Jeremiah (**Jer 31:31-34**, 32:37-41, 50:4-5), Ezekiel (**Ez 16:60-62**, 34:22-24, 36:26-27, 37:21-28) and Isaiah (**Isa 59:21**, 61:8)...





**“THE DAYS ARE COMING,”**

DECLARES THE LORD, “WHEN **I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT** WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH. IT WILL NOT BE LIKE THE COVENANT I MADE WITH THEIR ANCESTORS 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.

**“THIS IS THE COVENANT I WILL MAKE** WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AFTER THAT TIME,” DECLARES THE LORD.

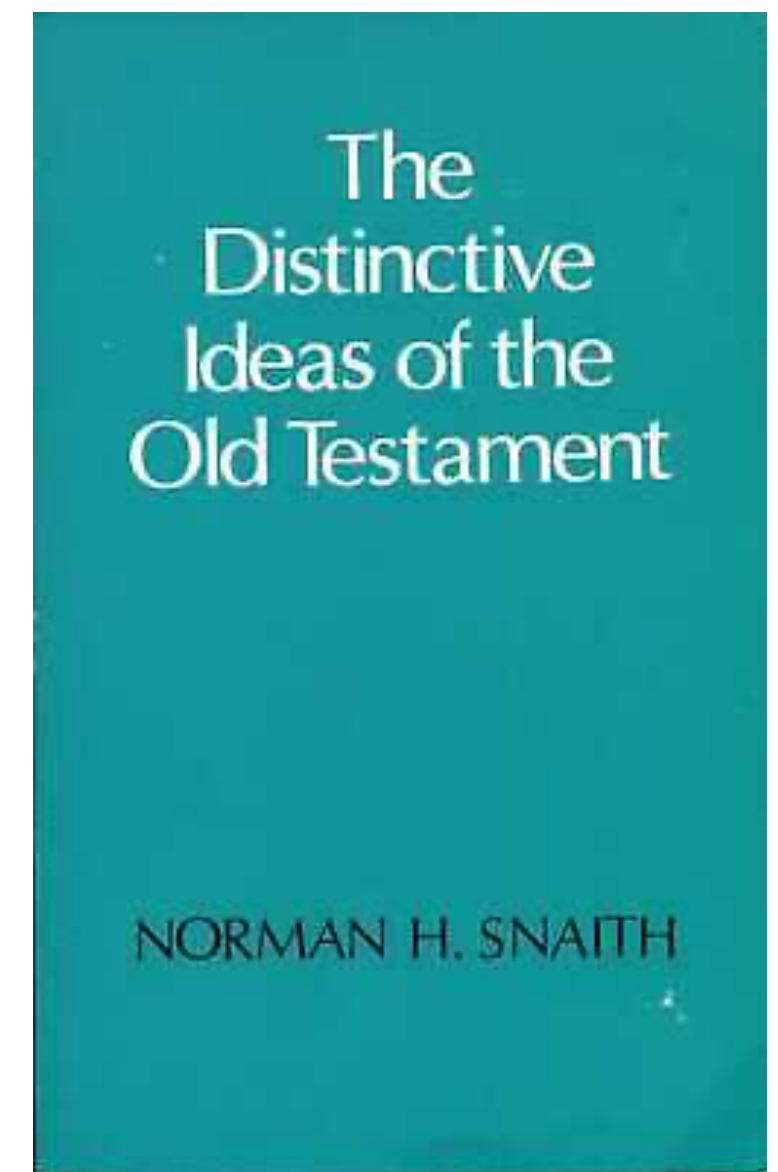
“I WILL PUT **MY LAW IN THEIR MINDS** AND WRITE IT **ON THEIR HEARTS.**  
**I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE.** NO LONGER WILL THEY TEACH THEIR NEIGHBOUR, OR SAY TO ONE ANOTHER, ‘KNOW THE LORD,’ BECAUSE **THEY WILL ALL KNOW ME**, FROM THE LEAST OF THEM TO THE GREATEST,” DECLARES THE LORD. “FOR I WILL FORGIVE THEIR WICKEDNESS AND WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”

**JEREMIAH 31:31-34, HEBREWS 8:8-12**

# SIGNS FOR THE NORTH

**HOSEA** was a prophet to northern kingdom, 735-715 BC (before and immediately after exile). His marriage to Gomer an allegory of God's relationship with Israel, eg:

- **Hos 1:2-3** "The LORD said to him, 'Go, take to yourself an adulteress wife...because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD.' So he married Gomer..."
- **Hos 3:1-2** "The LORD said to me, 'Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites...' So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver."
- **Hos 11:8** "How can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go... My heart is torn within me and my compassion overflows."
- NB: *Hesed* at Hos 2:19, 4:1, 6:4, 10:12, 12:6.



"Hosea's love for Gomer was so strong and sure that not all her adulteries could kill it...All this speaks of Jehovah's determined, steadfast love for chosen Israel. It is a love that nothing can destroy, not all her waywardness, nor her apostasy." pp 111, 113.

# PROMISES FOR THE SOUTH

**JEREMIAH** and **EZEKIEL** were contemporary prophets to southern kingdom: Jeremiah's ministry 627-586 BC (before exile) and Ezekiel's 593-571 BC (before and during exile) share common "new covenant" themes:

- "bring them back" (Jer 32:37; Ez 37:21)
- "plant them", "establish them" (Jer 32:41; Ez 37:26)
- "bless them", "do them good" (Jer 32:40; Ez 34:25-26)
- "new heart", "my Spirit in you" (Jer 31:33; Ez 36:26-27)
- "forgive their sins" (Jer 31:34, 33:8; Ez 37:23, 50:20)
- "together", "one nation", "one king", "one shepherd" (Jer 50:4; Ez 37:22-24)
- "their God...my people" (Jer 31:33f, 32:38; Ez 37:23, 27)
- **"EVERLASTING COVENANT" (Jer 32:40, 50:5; Ez 16:60, 37:26)**





**“HERE IS MY SERVANT,** WHOM I UPHOLD, MY CHOSEN ONE IN WHOM I DELIGHT; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT ON HIM, AND HE WILL BRING JUSTICE TO THE NATIONS... THIS IS WHAT GOD THE LORD SAYS—THE CREATOR OF THE HEAVENS, WHO STRETCHES THEM OUT, WHO SPREADS OUT THE EARTH WITH ALL THAT SPRINGS FROM IT, WHO GIVES BREATH TO ITS PEOPLE, AND LIFE TO THOSE WHO WALK ON IT: “I, THE LORD, HAVE CALLED YOU IN RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL TAKE HOLD OF YOUR HAND. **I WILL KEEP YOU AND WILL MAKE YOU TO BE A COVENANT FOR THE PEOPLE AND A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES,** TO OPEN EYES THAT ARE BLIND, TO FREE CAPTIVES FROM PRISON AND TO RELEASE FROM THE DUNGEON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS. “I AM THE LORD; THAT IS MY NAME! I WILL NOT YIELD MY GLORY TO ANOTHER OR MY PRAISE TO IDOLS. SEE, **THE FORMER THINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, AND NEW THINGS I DECLARE...**”

**ISAIAH 42:1, 5-9, CF. 49:8**

# GOD'S NEW COVENANT PEOPLE

- OT anticipates a new covenant *for all people*; One Shepherd-King over Judah & Israel, and over Jew and Gentile...
- “One shepherd” (cf. Jn 10:16), “one body”, “heirs together” (Eph 3:5-6) - Gentile believers inheriting the same promises as Jewish believers.
- As we’ve seen, “Israel” is a people defined *by faith not birth*; the true sons of Abraham (Mt 3:9, Jn 8:39, Ro 2:29, Gal 3:7-9).
- THE CHURCH is a “new humanity” (Eph 2:15), and **the fulfilment** (*not* the ‘replacement’) of OT Israel (cf. 1Co 10:1-2). Hence, OT promises are fulfilled *in the Church* (eg: Ex 19:5-6 cf. **1Pe 2:9-10**; Lev 26:12, Jer 32:38 cf. **2Co 6:16**, etc...).
- God has only *one Covenant People* (Eph 4:3-4).

# THE NEW COVENANT

- Made by Jesus with the Twelve (the eyewitnesses and apostolic foundations of the Church) during Last Supper (Luke 22, Matthew 26, Mark 14).
- The New Covenant *in its wider sense* comprises all the promises and blessings that are ours “in Christ”, including, eg:
  - Salvation (forgiveness, justification, regeneration, assurance...)
  - Sanctification
  - Adoption into sonship and the indwelling Spirit
  - Life in the Kingdom (righteousness, peace, joy, healing, miracles...)
  - Resurrection to eternal life
- **Blood?** “The precious blood of Christ” (1Pe 1:19), cf. Mt 26:28, 1Co 11:25.
- **Sign/Seal?** The poured-out Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16, Eph 1:13-14, 4:30).



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 light-colored bark. The forest floor is covered in a thick layer of brown leaves and twigs. The person is wearing a dark jacket and blue jeans. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

## BREAKOUT GROUPS

HOW IS THE NEW COVENANT  
“BETTER” & “SUPERIOR”  
TO THE OLD (THE LAW)?  
REF: HEB 7-12

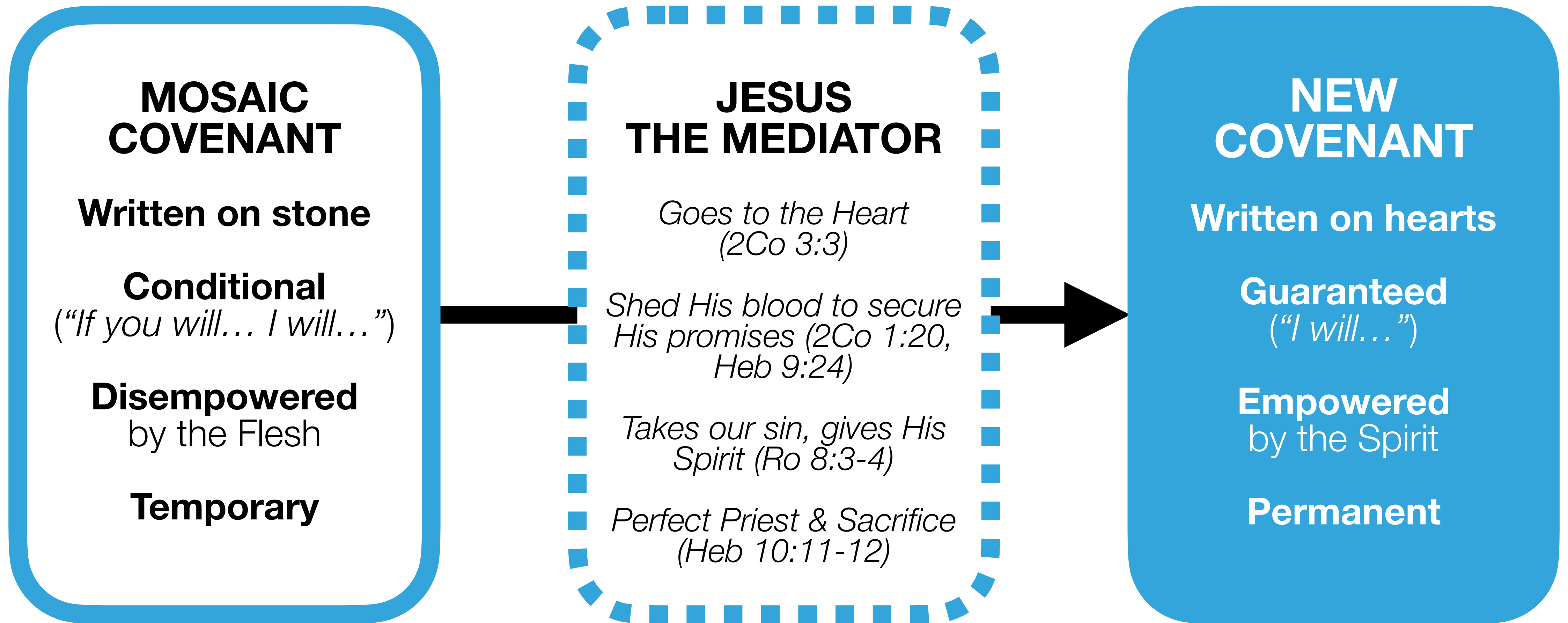


# CHRIST, THE COVENANT!

- Jesus is the Fulfiller of all prior covenants: He fulfilled all their requirements, and took all the penalties for covenant-breaking (Heb 9:15). He IS the new covenant *personified* (Isa 4:6)
- In Christ, all the *temporary* and *temporal* elements of the previous covenants are fulfilled and abolished, and all the *everlasting* and *eternal* elements become possible!...
- **In Christ, God's unchanging desire is fulfilled:** One Family, One People, One Nation, One Kingdom... The earth filled with people in His image - the CHURCH - establishing His kingdom and manifesting His glory!

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

# I “NEW THINGS I DECLARE...”





# POWERFUL BLOOD

- JESUS'S IMPERISHABLE BLOOD redeems mankind (1Pe 1:18-20). His “sprinkled blood...speaks” to the Father (Heb 12:24)!...
- Through *His blood* we have:
  - Cleansing and purification (1Jn 1:7)
  - Justification (Ro 5:9)
  - Redemption (Eph 1:7)
  - Reconciliation (Col 1:20)
  - Peace (Col 1:20) and intimacy with the Father (Eph 2:13)
  - Cleansed consciences (Heb 9:14)
  - Victory over the Enemy (Rev 12:11)
  - Eternal life (Jn 6:53ff)
- The crucifixion was an accomplishment, not an accident.

# EMPOWERING SPIRIT

- JESUS'S HOLY SPIRIT enables us to live-out the new covenant life. The new covenant is “of the Spirit” who “gives/produces life” (2Co 3:6)!...
- Under the Mosaic Covenant, God's people had commands to keep but no power to keep them, because “the law...was weakened by the flesh” (Ro 8:3) - the Law told them what to do but couldn't help them do it!
- Under the New Covenant “the law of the Spirit who gives life has set [us] free from the law of sin and death” (Ro 8:2). We have power to obey and live righteously (Ro 8:4), by allowing the Spirit *to live His life through us*.
- Jesus lived his sinless, righteous life by the divine power of the Spirit, not by His divine attributes (which He laid aside in his incarnation, Phil 2:6-7). That same “divine power” is now ours (2Co 10:4, 2Pe 1:3), with endless opportunities!... (Hence Jn 14:12).

# A BETTER COVENANT!

Of NT's 33 refs to covenant (*diatheke*), 17 are in Hebrews, where the new covenant is shown to be **"better"** (Heb 7:22) and **"superior"** (8:6) to the Law *in every way*. Eg:

**"BETTER  
HOPE"  
(7:19)**

Anchoring our soul  
(6:19, 10:23).

**"BETTER  
PROMISES"  
(8:6)**

The 'law' in our  
heart; knowing God  
(8:10-11).

**"BETTER  
SACRIFICE"  
(9:23)**

A permanent,  
perfect Priest  
(7:22-28, 10:11-12).

**"BETTER  
POSSESSIONS"  
(10:34)**

The powers of the  
Age to Come, here  
and now (6:4-5).

**"BETTER  
INHERITANCE"  
(11:16)**

Eternal life (9:15) in  
an unshakeable  
kingdom (12:25-28).

**"BETTER  
RESURRECTION"  
(11:35)**

No more fear of  
judgment (12:25-29).

**"BETTER  
BLOOD"  
(12:24)**

Forgiveness (8:12),  
sanctification (10:29),  
peace (13:20).



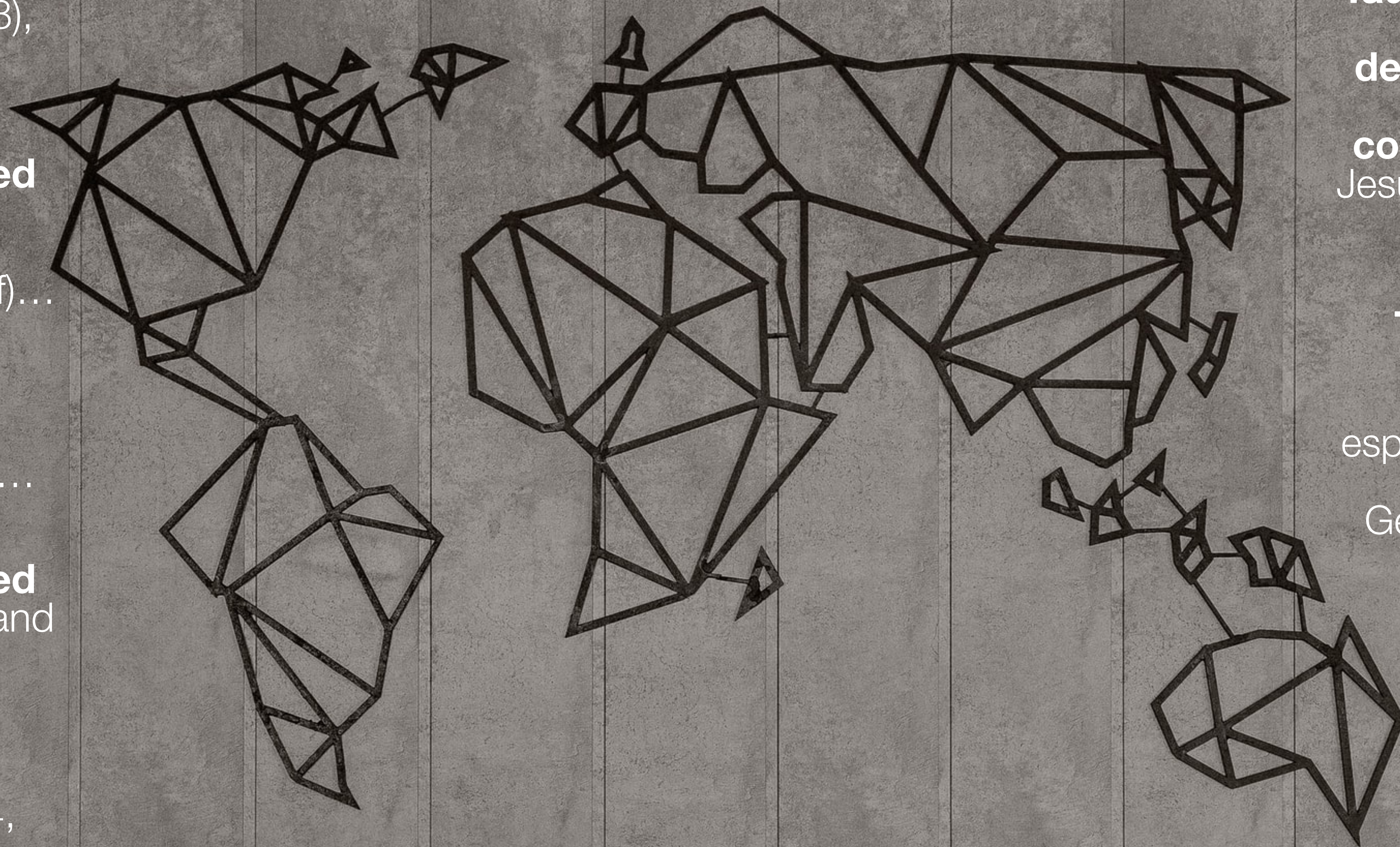
**Anticipated** in Eden (Ge 1:28),  
**promised** to Abraham (Ge 12:3) and  
**foreshadowed** in Mosaic  
Covenant (Nu 10:29, 15:14ff)...

**Hinted** in  
Psalms (Ps 18:49, 117:1)...

**Demonstrated**  
(Jonah 4:11) and  
**spoken** by  
prophets (Isa 11:10, 19:25  
[“Egypt My  
people”], 42:4,  
49:6, 52:15,  
60:3, 65:1-2)...

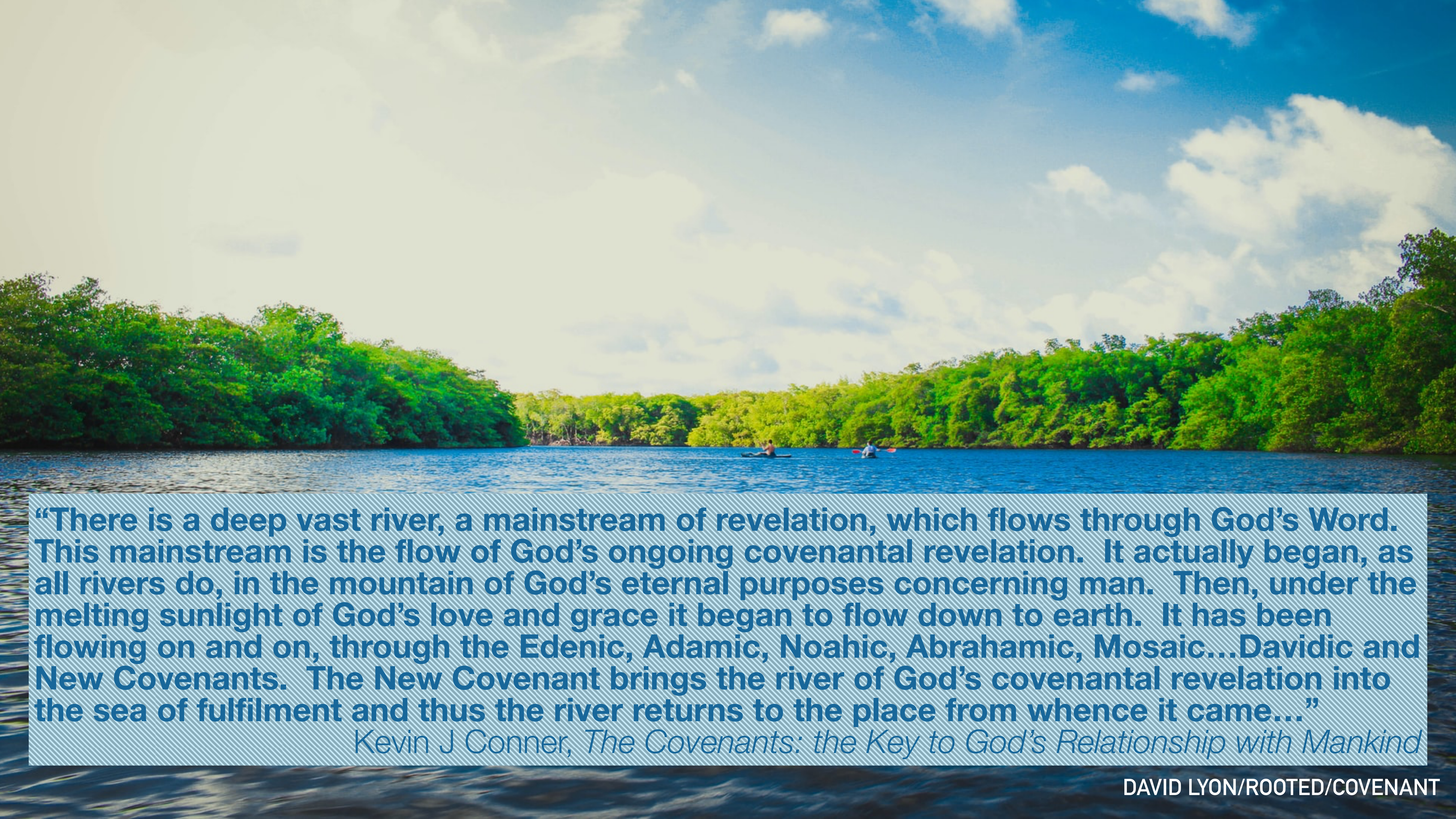
**Taught**, (Mt 8:5-12,  
15:21-18),  
**demonstrated** (Jn  
4:7-42) and  
**commissioned** by  
Jesus (Mt 28:18-20,  
Ac 1:8)...

**Taken up** by the  
apostles (Acts  
10-11), and  
especially Paul, “the  
apostle to the  
Gentiles” (Gal 2:8).



**A NEW COVENANT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD!**





**“There is a deep vast river, a mainstream of revelation, which flows through God’s Word. This mainstream is the flow of God’s ongoing covenantal revelation. It actually began, as all rivers do, in the mountain of God’s eternal purposes concerning man. Then, under the melting sunlight of God’s love and grace it began to flow down to earth. It has been flowing on and on, through the Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic...Davidic and New Covenants. The New Covenant brings the river of God’s covenantal revelation into the sea of fulfilment and thus the river returns to the place from whence it came...”**

*Kevin J Conner, The Covenants: the Key to God’s Relationship with Mankind*



# COMING UP...

## **NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY**

What are the implications of the new covenant for the way we relate together?...

## **NEW COVENANT MEAL**

What happens when we gather around the Lord's Table and share the covenant meal?...

## **NEW COVENANT LEADERSHIP**

What does it mean for church leaders to dwell together in harmony and what is the impact on our churches?...