

OLD TESTAMENT



GOD'S SAVING PLAN

GA-S3

PATRIARCHS

RETURN

Esther

Malachi

Ezra

The GREAT
ADVENTURE

•••••
A Journey Through the Bible

Egypt

Code of Hammurabi, 1760 BC

1800

1700



COVENANT

A Family Affair

The
relationship
between
God and Man.



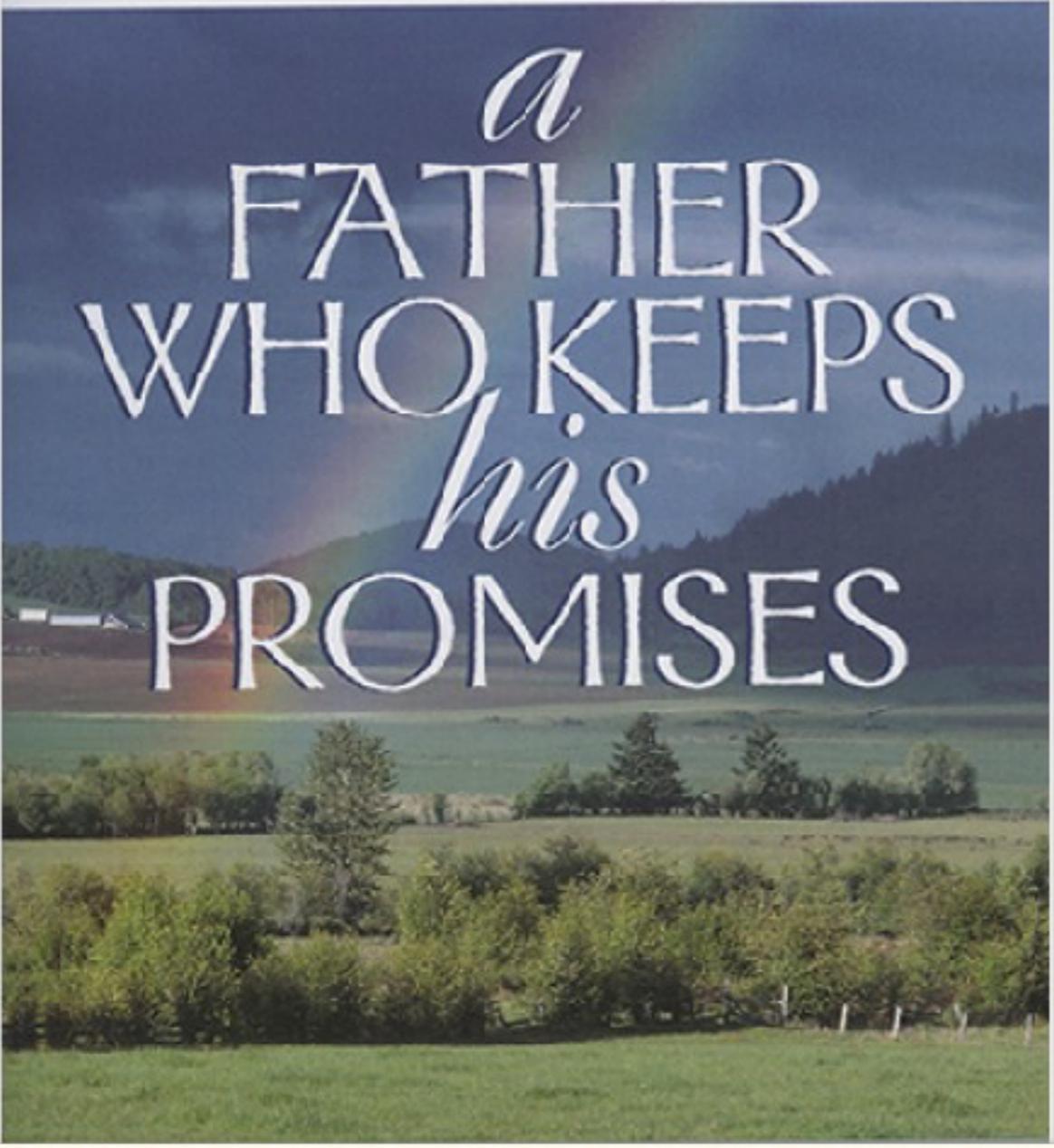
COVENANT

- ❖ As Jeff Cavins said,
“God’s method of growing His family”
 - ❖ What is a Covenant?
 - ❖ How did God employ covenants in growing His family?
 - ❖ What does a Covenantal understanding tell us about our God?

SCOTT HAHN

GOD'S COVENANT LOVE
IN SCRIPTURE

a
FATHER
WHO KEEPS
his
PROMISES



- ❖ A great **supplement** to your Old Testament studies in that it focuses on **God's Covenant** with Israel and with us.
- ❖ God is a **Father** who **keeps His promises**.

COVENANT

Covenant v. Contract

COVENANT

- ❖ A **contract** is formed when **promises** are exchanged related to an exchange of **goods and services** - **for a proper consideration**
- ❖ A **covenant** is formed when **oaths** are exchanged related to an exchange of the **gift of persons**.
 - ❖ **Marriage as an example** - of a **divine and human covenant**.



COVENANT

❖ First Covenant

❖ Form: *Marriage*

❖ Sign: Sabbath

❖ Mediator: *Adam*

❖ Role: Husband

COVENANT

❖ Second Covenant

❖ Form: Household

❖ Sign: Rainbow

❖ Mediator: Noah

❖ Role: Father

COVENANT

❖ Third Covenant

❖ Form: **Tribe**

❖ Sign: **Circumcision**

❖ Mediator: **Abram**

❖ Role: **Chieftain**

COVENANT

❖ Fourth Covenant

❖ Form: Nation

❖ Sign: Passover

❖ Mediator: Moses

❖ Role: Judge

COVENANT

❖ Fifth Covenant

❖ Form: National Kingdom

❖ Sign: Throne

❖ Mediator: David

❖ Role: King

COVENANT

❖ Final Covenant

- ❖ Form: Catholic Church
- ❖ Sign: Eucharist
- ❖ Mediator: Jesus
- ❖ Role: Royal High Priest

A FAMILY AFFAIR

- ❖ Salvation history reveals **sin** as literally **a broken home**. Once we see ourselves as members of God's family we begin to understand that sin **is primarily a broken relationship**, not just broken rules.
- ❖ Like rebellious children ... we've all turned away from God... Even as we do, **God keeps right on loving us, calling us back to himself, disciplining us in love as only a perfect Father can, while keeping His promises nonetheless.**

A Father Who Keeps His Promises, page 77

A FAMILY AFFAIR

- ❖ In Salvation History we see a repeated cycle:
 - ❖ God enters into a covenant with a man, to build His family;
 - ❖ **We, as humans fail** to meet the covenant standard;
 - ❖ God is displeased, yet enters into a new covenant;
 - ❖ **We, fail again;**
- ❖ Finally, God sends His son taking the curse of our repeated failure on himself. We are redeemed by the blood of that perfect sacrifice. (Mal 1:11)

ABRAHAM

OUR FATHER
IN FAITH



JEWISH TRADITION

Abraham

- ❖ According to Jewish tradition, Abraham was **born under the name Abram in the city of Ur in Babylonia in the year 1948 from Creation (circa 1800 BCE)**.
- ❖ He was the **son of Terach, an idol merchant**, but from his early childhood, he questioned the faith of his father and sought the truth. He came to believe that the entire universe was the work of a **single Creator**, and he began to teach this belief to others.

JEWISH TRADITION

- ❖ Abram tried to convince his father, Terach, of the folly of idol worship. One day, when Abram was left alone to mind the store, **he took a hammer and smashed all of the idols except the largest one.** *He placed the hammer in the hand of the largest idol.*
- ❖ When his father returned and asked what happened, Abram said, **"The idols got into a fight, and the big one smashed all the other ones."** His father said, **"Don't be ridiculous. These idols have no life or power. They can't do anything."** Abram replied, **"Then why do you worship them?"**

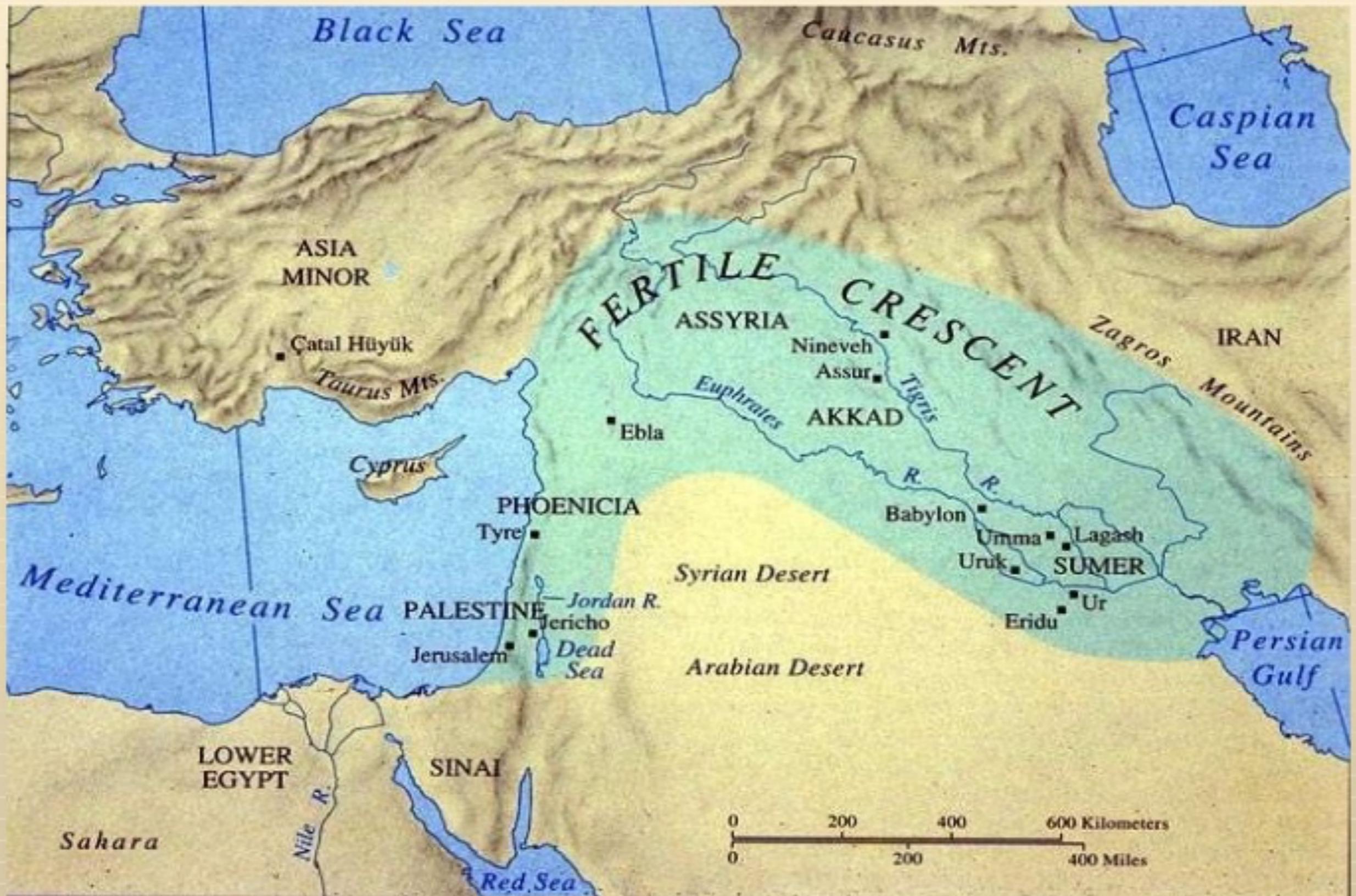
JEWISH TRADITION

- ❖ Eventually, the one true Creator that Abram had worshipped called to him, and made him an offer:
- ❖ If Abram would leave his home and his family, then G-d would make him a great nation and bless him. Abram accepted this offer, and the b'rit (covenant) between G-d and the Jewish people was established. (Gen. 12).
- ❖ <http://www.jewfaq.org/origins.htm>

PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

- ❖ **Gen 12: 1-3** - The LORD said to Abram: “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.
- ❖ “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
- ❖ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.”

The Fertile Crescent/Mesopotamia



PROMISES THAT BIND

- ❖ UNILATERAL - the **IF** promise. The *person being asked* is not required to do the action asked of, but if he does - then the *promisor* is obligated to follow through with the promise.
- ❖ BILATERAL - **Mutual** promises that form an agreement when exchanged. Both are obligated at the same time to do what has been agreed.
 - ❖ Lawn mowing v. Car Purchase

PROMISES THAT BIND

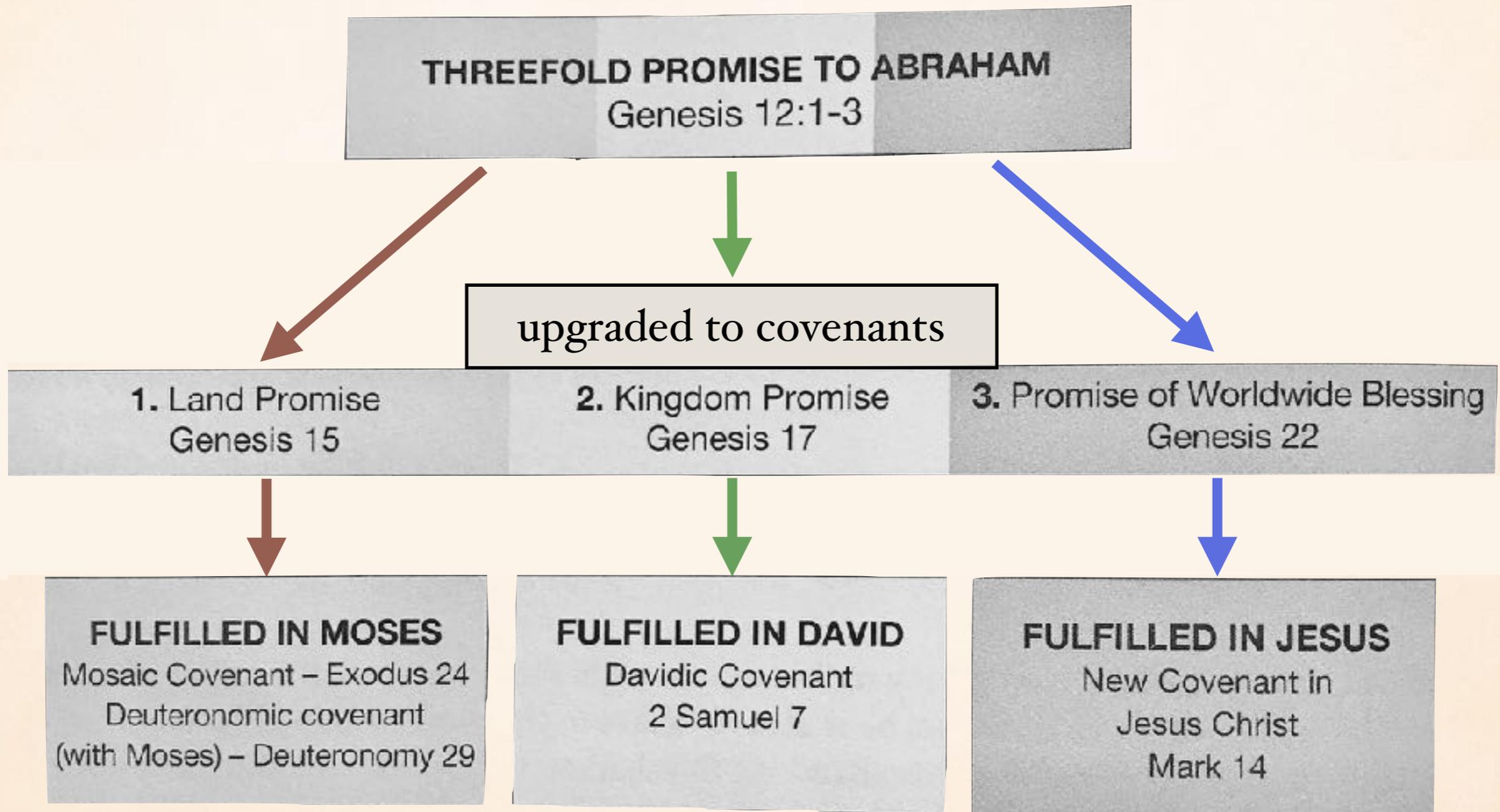
- ❖ A **unilateral promise** - requires that the person performing the act, believe that the promisor will follow through with the promise, after the person had done the required act.
 - ❖ A Unilateral contract requires faith by the one who goes first.
 - ❖ God is asking Abram to have faith in Him.
(cf. Gen 15:6)

PROMISES THAT BIND



- ❖ Sarai - (Sarah) does she show faith as well?
- ❖ What do you think?

PROMISES TO ABRAHAM



MELCHIZEDEK



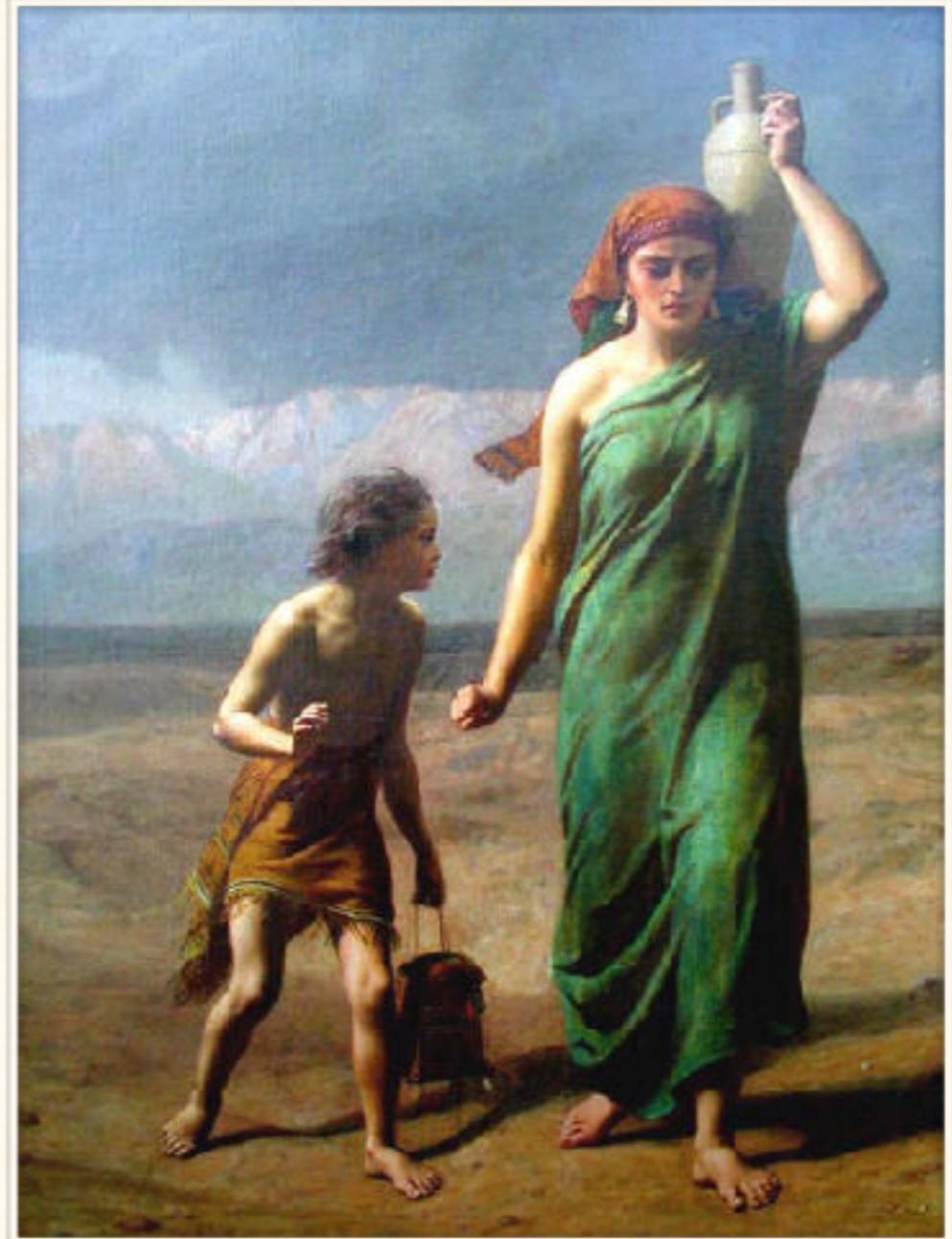
- ❖ Genesis 14:18-20*
 - ❖ bread and wine
 - ❖ A king of Salem, whose name means peace.
 - ❖ receives tithes from Abram
- ❖ Type of Christ - who is King and Priest, who blesses and gives bread and wine. Ps 110
 - ❖ (Heb 7:1-17)* - Messianic allegory.



ISHMAEL



A BIT OF A MYSTERY
- FATHER OF ARABS -



HAGAR - ISHMAEL

- ❖ **Ishmael** was the first son of Abraham - through Hagar, the maidservant of Sarai. Abraham was 86 years old (Gen 16:16). **Hagar was Egyptian.**
- ❖ Ishmael was 13 when the covenant of circumcision was established, because Abram was then 99. (Gen 17:1)
- ❖ Ishmael would have been circumcised at 13 in accordance with Egyptian custom, and this was not inconsistent with God's command he be circumcised as a member of the house of Abraham. (Gen 17:11-13, 23-25)

HAGAR - ISHMAEL

- ❖ **Hagar** runs away from the Abram's household while pregnant because Sarai mistreats her badly.
- ❖ Yet it is a messenger of the Lord that tells her "The Lord has heard you, God has answered you." He then urges Hagar to return to Abram's house, suffer further abuse, even as she later observes the birth of Isaac to Sarah.
- ❖ Gen 16:13 - Hagar realizes she has seen God and lived!

HAGAR - ISHMAEL

- ❖ **Isaac** would be born a year later, when Abraham was 100 years old (Gen 21:5)
- ❖ But *first* note God's words regarding Ishmael:
"As for Ishmael, I am heeding you: I hereby bless him. I will make him fertile and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve chieftains, and I will make of him a great nation." Gen 17:20.

ISAAAC



❖ Gen 17:21-22

- ❖ “But my covenant I will maintain with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you by this time next year. When He had finished speaking to him, God departed from Abraham.”



JOSEPH - THE VIZIER

- ❖ Great Grandson of Abraham - vizier to Pharaoh of Egypt
- ❖ A precursor to a Davidic Kingdom vizier,
- ❖ and a precursor to the vizier of Christ.



JOSEPH - THE VIZIER

- ❖ Genesis 41 story
- ❖ Dreamer - who could interpret correctly the signs of the times
- ❖ Inspired by God - cupbearer, chief baker
- ❖ Pharaoh has a Question no one can answer
- ❖ Joseph gives the explanation.

JOSEPH - THE VIZIER

- ❖ Recognized by Pharaoh to be inspired by God
- ❖ Pharaoh compliments Joseph's wisdom
 - ❖ Pharaoh changes his name - consistent with his new role
 - ❖ Makes Joseph his Vizier (Al Bayith)
 - ❖ Signet Ring - second only to Pharaoh



SHEBNA - THE VIZIER

- ❖ 800 years later - King Hezekiah (Davidic King) also has a vizier (Al Bayith)
- ❖ 12 ministers, but only 1 vizier
- ❖ Isaiah 22 - Shebna vs. Helkiah
- ❖ Keys to the house of David
- ❖ What he opens none shall shut, what he shuts none shall open.



PETER - THE VIZIER



- ◆ Mt 16: 13 - Jesus the Messiah, a son of David and a Davidic King has a question that no one seems to be able to answer

PETER - THE VIZIER

- ❖ Simon inspired by God the Father provides the answer
- ❖ Jesus blesses Simon knowing that his statement could not have come from Simon alone.
- ❖ Wisdom by inspiration from God

PETER - THE VIZIER

- ❖ Jesus changes Simon's name to Peter - according to his new role.
- ❖ On Peter - a rock, Jesus will build His church.
- ❖ Simon is given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, the symbol of a vizier.
- ❖ What he holds bound on earth will be bound in heaven, what he looses on earth will be loosed in heaven.



QUESTIONS?

