

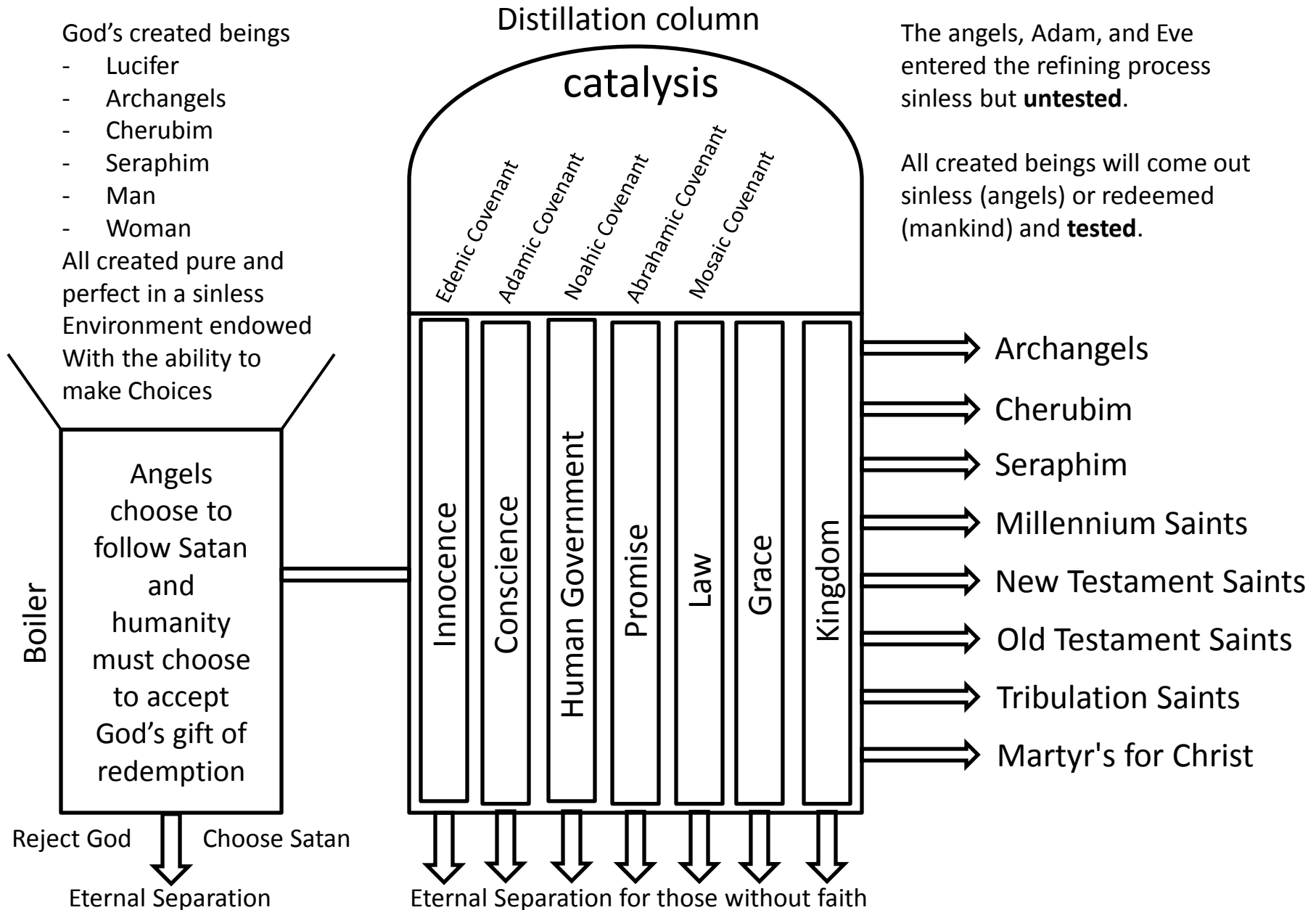
Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Revealed Plan of God from Eternity Past to Eternity Future



www.RefiningaCreation.org

God's Refining Process for His Created Beings



Refining a Creation for Eternity

God's Economies for Mankind

Overview



Edenic



Adamic

Innocence



Noahic

Human Government



Abrahamic

Promise



Mosaic

Law



Postponed

Grace

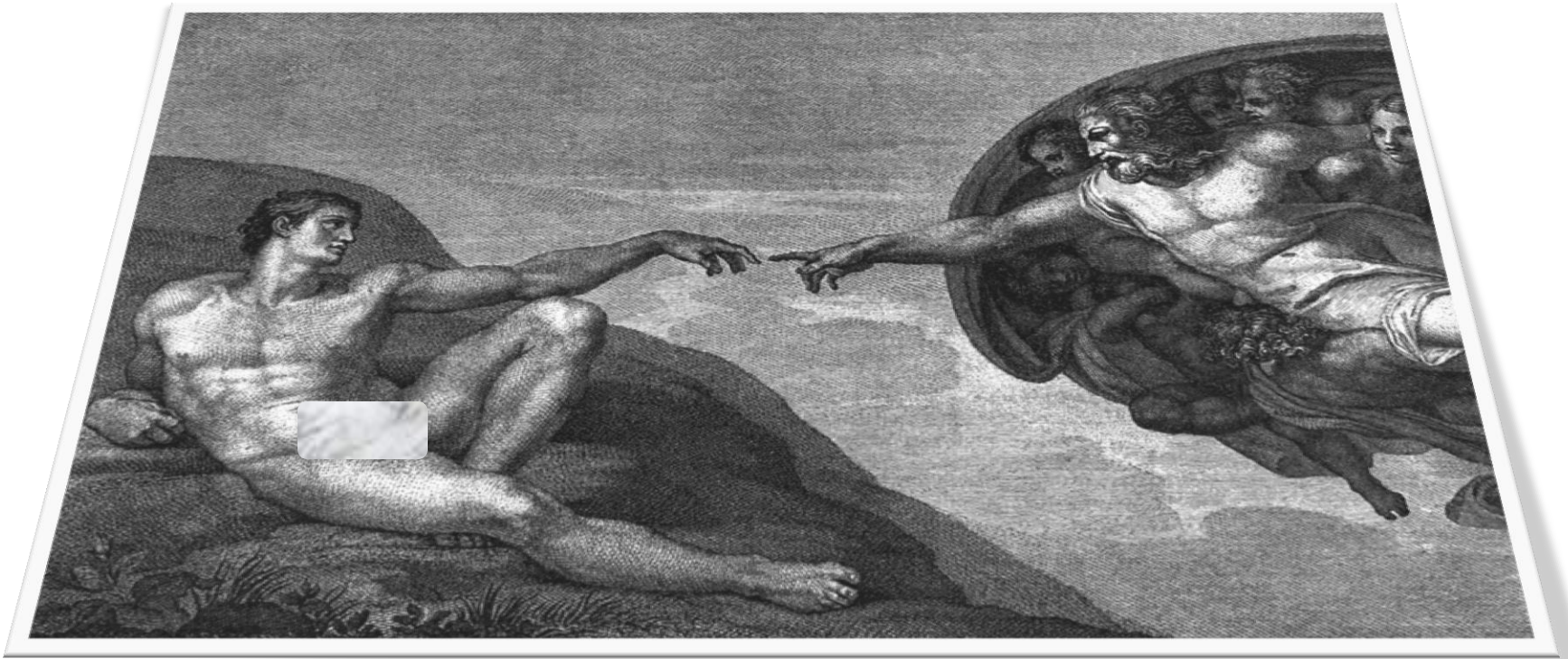


Fulfillment

Kingdom

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The First Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Edenic Covenant (Gen 1:28-30; 2:15-17; Hos 6:7)

Parties to the Covenant

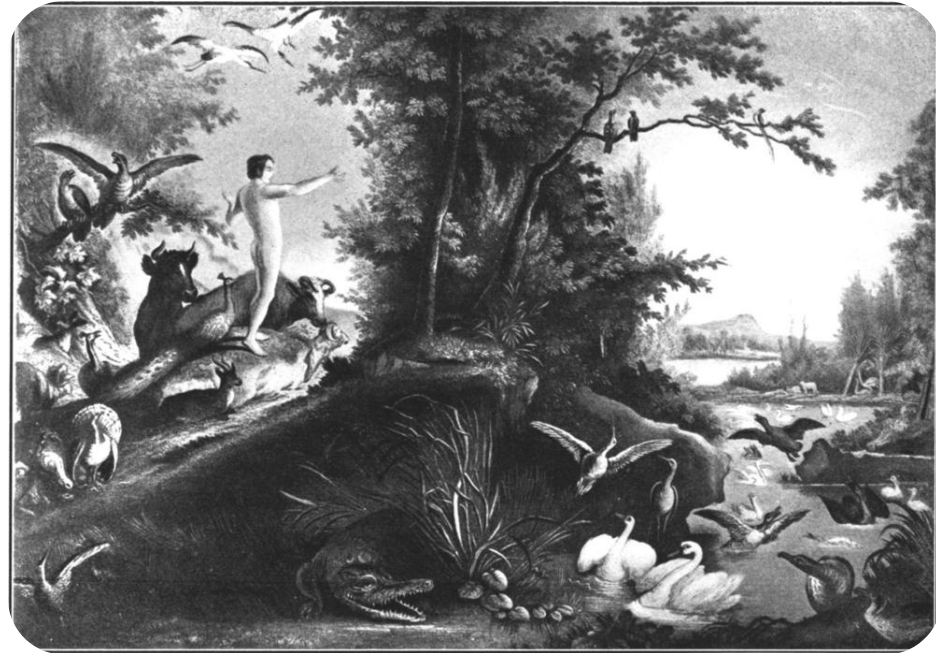
- God and Adam

Conditions of the Covenant

- Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth
- Subdue the Earth
- Rule over the animal kingdom
- Plants are for food (vegetarian)
- Defined roles
- Guard the garden
- Not eat from one tree
- Penalty for violating the commands is death

Token of the Covenant

- Tree of Life



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Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Innocence

Man's Responsibilities

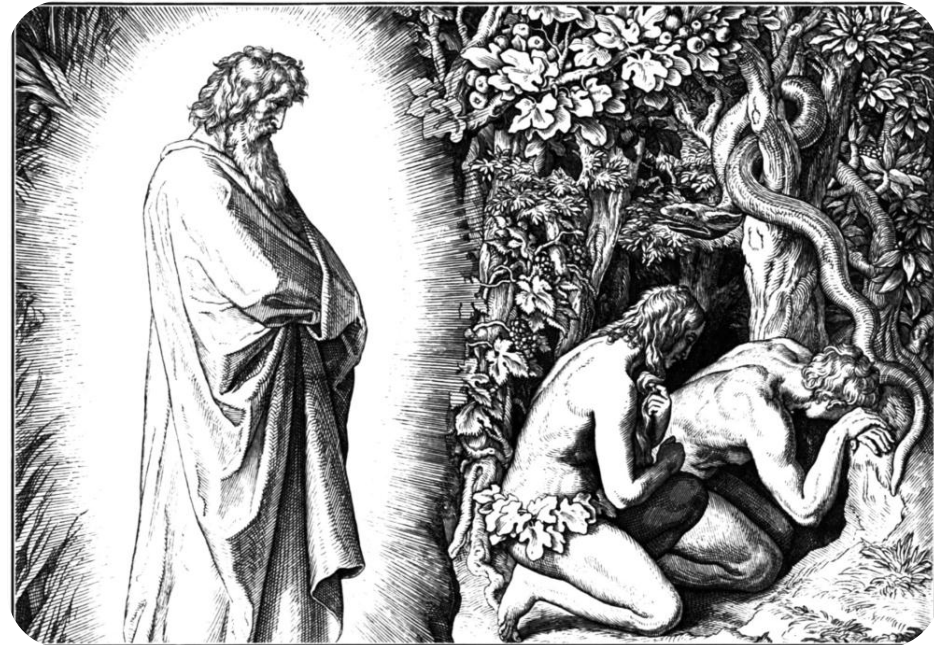
- Man's responsibilities in the garden were to fulfill the Edenic Covenant, essentially to multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it. Mankind was forbidden to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Man's Failures

- Man's failure was to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is important to note that while the woman was deceived, the man made a conscious decision to disobey God.

The Resulting Judgment

- Pain in childbirth, Authority struggle, Earth antagonistic to man, Man irresponsible to animals, Plants of the field for food, Expelled from Eden, Spiritual and physical death



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Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Innocence

God walked with man

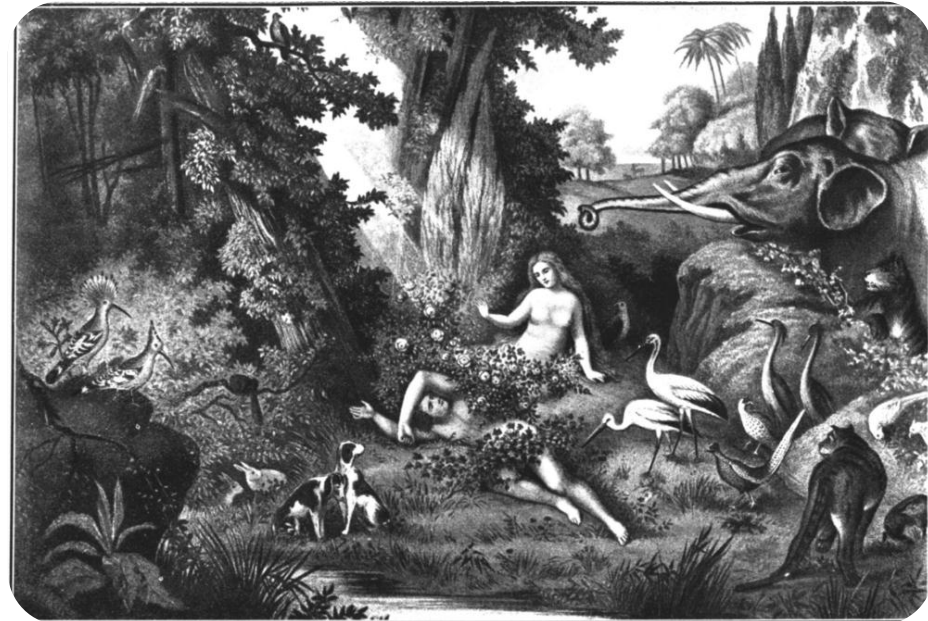
- Genesis 2:15 - Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
- Genesis 3:8 - They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,

God spoke to man

- Genesis 2:16 - The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

God had fellowship with man

- Genesis 2:19 - Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.



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The Second Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Adamic Covenant (Gen 3:14 – 3:21)

Parties to the Covenant

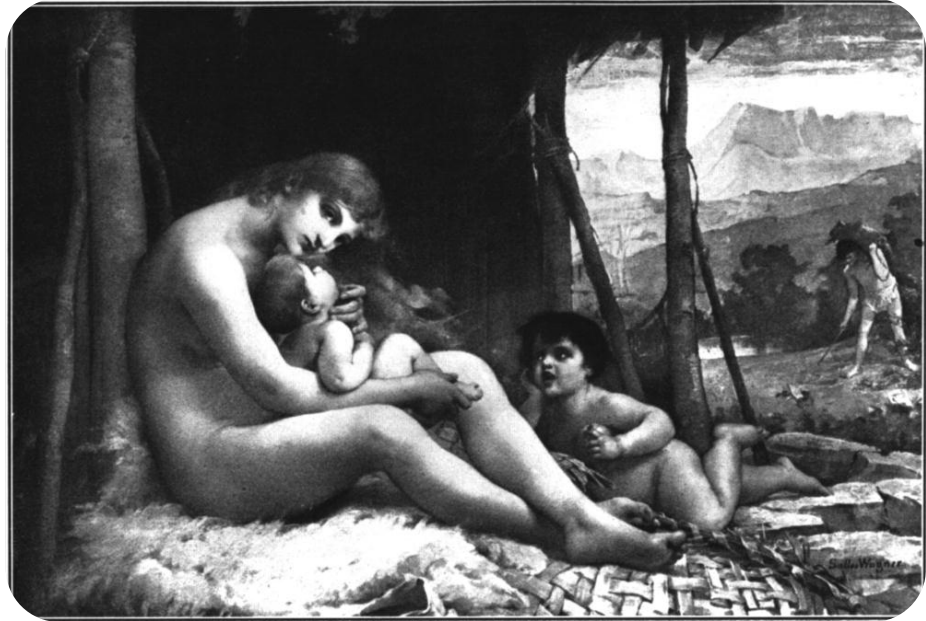
- God and Adam as the representative for mankind

Conditions of the Covenant

- Transformation of the animal kingdom
- Protevangelium (first gospel) and promise of Satan's defeat
- Woman cursed in area of assigned duties
- Man cursed in area of assigned duties
- Physical death (return to ground)
- Man remains a vegetarian

Token of the Covenant

- Spiritual death



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Conscience (Gen 3:9 to Gen 8:14)

Man's Responsibilities

- Man's responsibilities, having been ejected from the garden, was to fulfill the Adamic Covenant, essentially to multiply and fill the Earth. Mankind was to respond to God through the prompting of his conscience and as evidence of his faith in the promised seed, to bring an acceptable blood sacrifice as God had instructed them to do.

Man's Failures

- Mankind, having been given the ability, through their conscience, to desire a relationship with God and the provision, through blood sacrifices, to approach God, failed to do so and instead followed after their own evil lusts. The wickedness and evil became so great and widespread, God decided to let mankind start anew.

The Resulting Judgment

- God, being true to His word, spared the only faithful humans and a small remnant of air breathing creatures and started over in order to fulfill his promise of redemption



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Conscience

Approach God by Faith

- Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Blood sacrifice as example of faith

- The test then becomes “with a conscience, guided by that conscience, will man choose to do good and approach God by means of sacrifice as the example of the sacrifice that God indicated”.
- Leviticus 17:11 - ‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.’



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Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Second Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Genesis 6:8-9, 18; 7:1

- But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.
- “But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.
- Then the LORD said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.

Angelic Conflict - 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6

- For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
- And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

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The Third Economy



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Review of past lessons

Noahic Covenant (Genesis 8:20 – 9:17)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Noah as the representative for mankind

Conditions of the Covenant

- Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth
- Man to be feared by animals
- Mankind allowed to eat meat
- Mankind not to eat or drink blood
- Institution of capital punishment
- Never again a universal flood

Token of the Covenant

- Rainbow



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Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Human Government (Genesis 9:1 to 11:32)

Man's Responsibilities

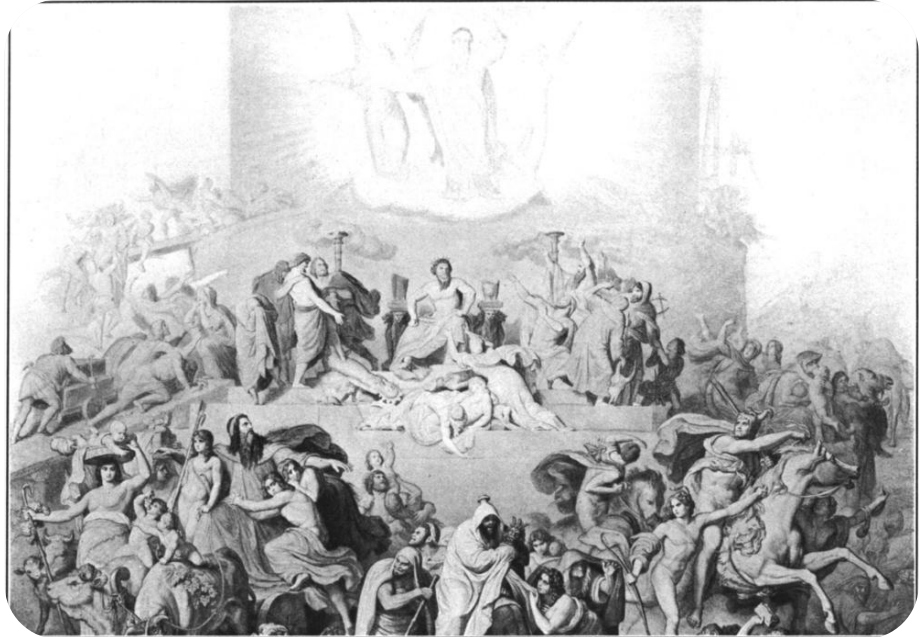
- Man's responsibilities were to fulfill the Noachic covenant. Mankind was to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. Mankind was to govern itself with the full authority of capital punishment.

Man's Failures

- Failure to govern successfully appeared on the scene almost immediately, for Noah became drunk and incapable of ruling. The people, instead of obeying God's command to scatter and fill the earth, conceived the idea of staying together and building the tower of Babel to help achieve their aim. Fellowship with man replaced fellowship with God.

The Resulting Judgment

- As a result, God sent the judgment of the tower of Babel and the confusion of languages. He also graciously intervened in that He did not utterly destroy the nations but chose to deal graciously with Abraham and his descendants.



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Review of past lessons

Small Remnant of Righteous – The Example of Job’s Theology

God’s sovereignty – Job 1:21

- He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there. **The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away.** Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

God’s justice – Job 13:15–16

- “Though He slay me, **I will hope in Him.** Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him. **“This also will be my salvation,** For a godless man may not come before His presence.

God’s promise of salvation – Job 19:25

- “As for me, I know that **my Redeemer lives,** And at the last **He will take His stand on the earth.**



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Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Third Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Genesis 12:1-3

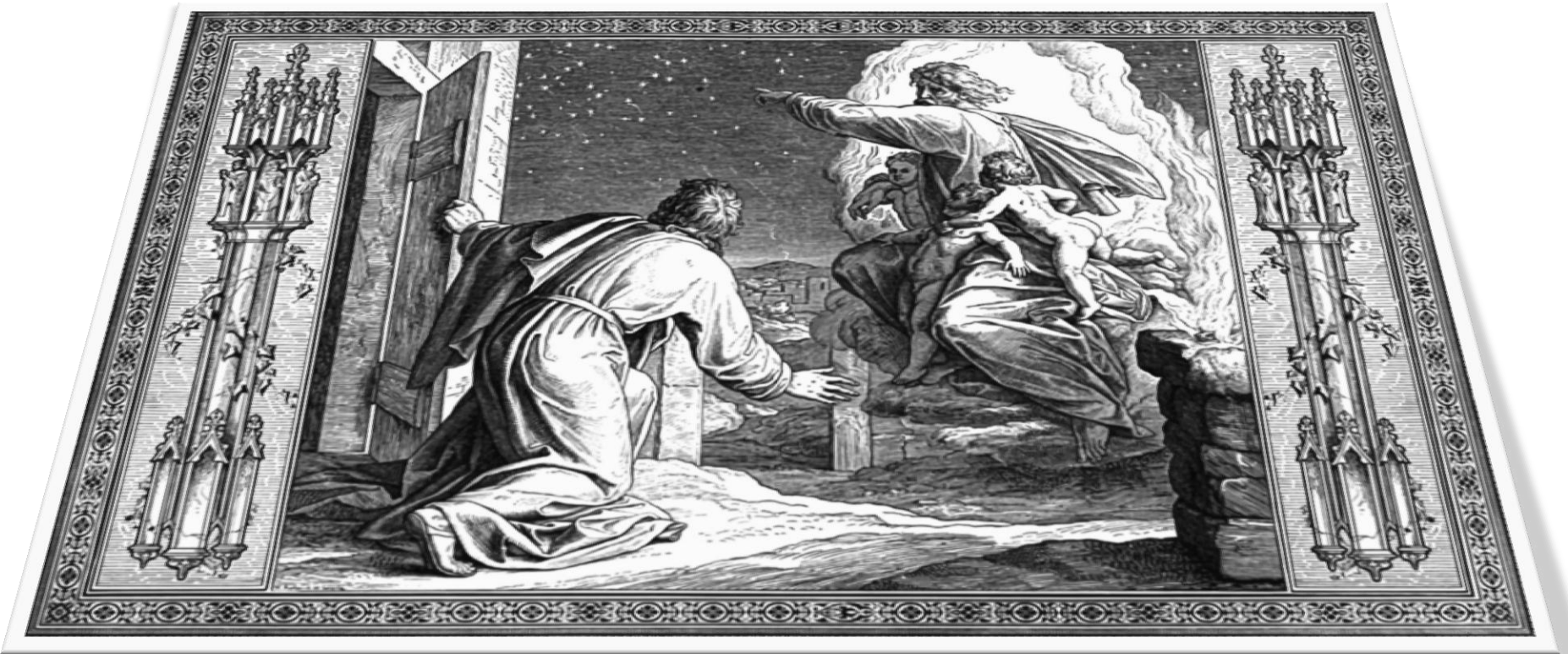
- Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Angelic Conflict - Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7

- God allows Satan to persecute the faithful that He knows are mature enough to endure the trials. This strengthens the faithful and allows God to show His grace, mercy, and love. God also demonstrates that His righteousness and justice are compatible with His love.

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The Fourth Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Abram as the father of the Jewish race

Conditions of the Covenant

- Fourteen provisions including the token of circumcision

Token of the Covenant

- Circumcision



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Promises made to Abraham

Father of great nation (Israel)

Possess the Promised Land

Father of other nations

Many descendants became kings

Receive personal blessings

Be a blessing to others

Name to become great

Promises made to Israel

Become a great nation

Become innumerable

Possess the Promised Land

Victory over enemies

Promises to Gentiles

Blessings for blessing Israel

Cursing's for cursing Israel

Spiritual blessings through the seed of Abraham – The Messiah

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Promise (Genesis 11:10 to Exodus 18:27)

Man's Responsibilities

- The responsibility of the patriarchs was simply to believe and serve God, and God gave them every material and spiritual provision to encourage them to do this. The Promised Land was theirs, and blessing was theirs as long as they remained in the land. The people of the promise; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the children of Jacob (Israel) were to stay separate from the nations around them.

Man's Failures

- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons continued to intermingle with the Canaanites and surrounding nations.

The Resulting Judgment

- God sent the family down to Egypt where the surrounding Egyptians would not associate with them. Soon after they would be enslaved.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Promise

Approach God by Faith

- Genesis 15:5–7 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”

Blood sacrifice as example of faith

- Genesis 31:54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his kinsmen to the meal; and they ate the meal and spent the night on the mountain.



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Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Fourth Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained - Exodus 15:18–19

- “The LORD shall reign forever and ever.” For the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

Angelic Conflict - Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7

- Paganism continued to spread throughout the world. The populations were coming together as powerful nations were formed. God’s chosen, the Israelites, were in the protective womb of Egypt yet Satan influenced the first cycle of young Jewish boys to be put to death in an attempt to block the birth of the Messiah.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Israel with Moses acting as a representative

Conditions of the Covenant

- Law of Moses which contained a total 613 commandments. Being a conditional covenant, it provided blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. (Ex. 15:26) The key element of the entire Mosaic Law was the blood sacrifice. (Lev. 17:11)

Token of the Covenant

- Sabbath

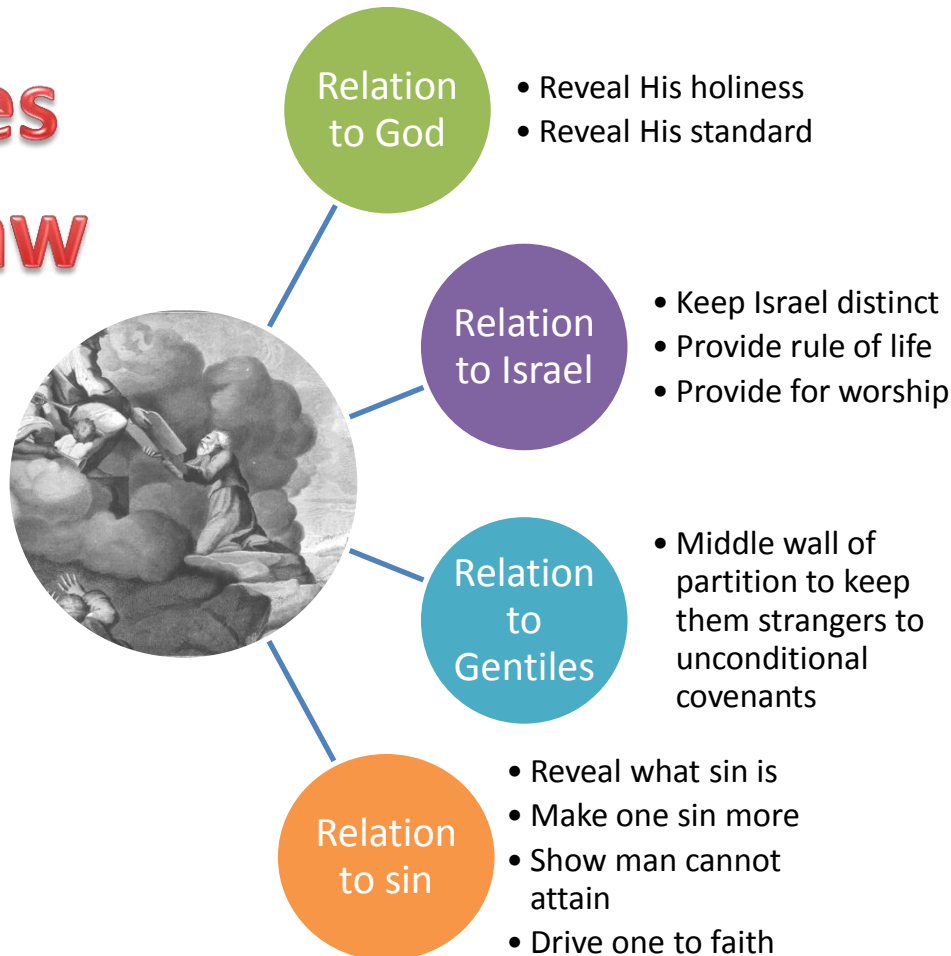


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The Fifth Economy

Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

Purposes of the Law

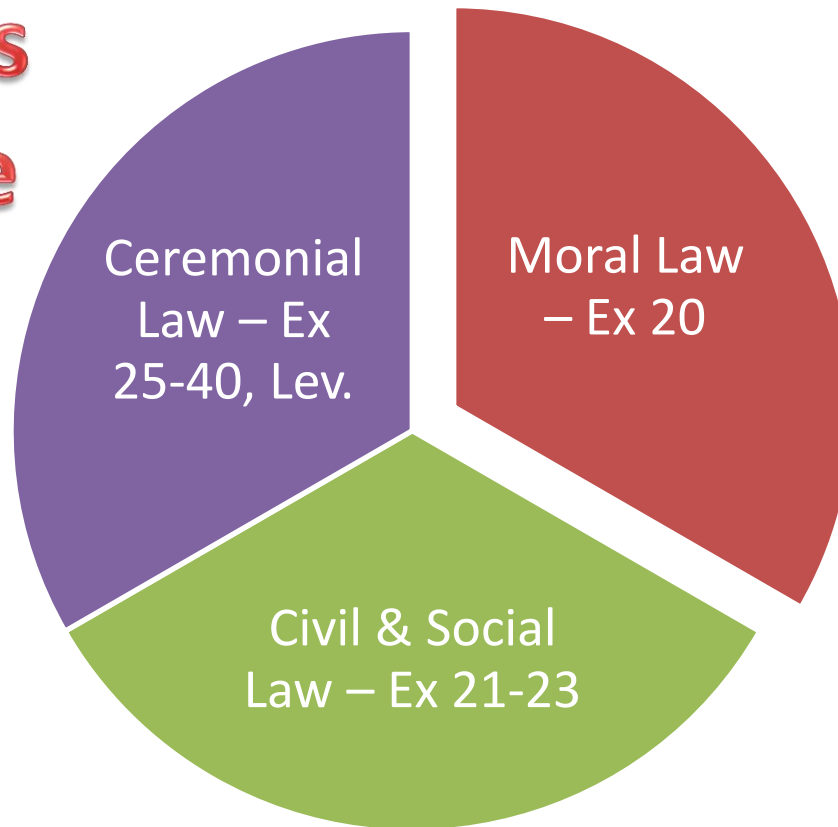


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Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1 – Deuteronomy 28:68)

**The Law is
the Entire
Pie!**



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Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Law (Exodus 19:1 – Acts 1:26)

Man's Responsibilities

- The responsibility of the Nation of Israel along with Gentile proselytes was to keep the Mosaic Law.

Man's Failures

- The Nation of Israel was continually disobedient and God continued to bring them back through discipline. They continued to reject the ordinances of God. (2nd Kings 17:7-23)

The Resulting Judgment

- As a result, there were many judgments throughout this long period. The ten tribes were carried into Assyrian captivity; the two tribes were carried into Babylonian captivity; and later, because of their rejection of Jesus of Nazareth, the people were dispersed into all the world (Matt. 23:37–39).



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The Abrahamic Covenant



Land

- Real Estate Covenant
- Deut. 29:1-30:20

Seed

- Davidic Covenant
- 2nd Sam. 7:11b-17
- 1st Chron. 17:10b-15

Blessing

- The New Covenant
- Jer. 31:31-34

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Review of past lessons

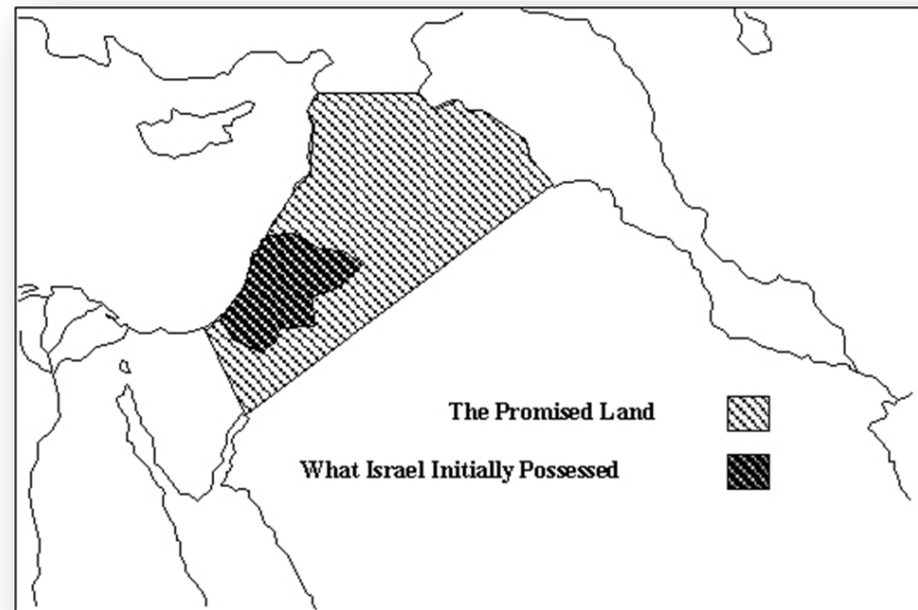
Land Covenant (Deuteronomy 29:1 – 30:20)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and Moses as the representative of National Israel

Conditions of the Covenant

- The nation will be plucked off the land for its unfaithfulness (Deut. 30:1-3)
- There will be a future repentance of Israel (Deut. 30:1-3)
- The Messiah will return (Deut. 30:3-6)
- Israel will be restored to the land (Deut. 30:5)
- Israel will be converted as a nation (Deut. 30:4-8)
- Israel's enemies will be judged (Deut. 30:7)
- The nation will then receive her full blessing. (Deut. 30:9)



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Seed (Davidic) Covenant (2 Sam. 7:10-14)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and David as the representative for the House of Israel

Conditions of the Covenant

- David's child, yet to be born, shall succeed him and establish his kingdom.
- This son, Solomon, shall build the temple instead of David.
- The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever.
- The throne will not be taken away from him (Solomon).
- David's house, throne, and kingdom shall be established forever.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Blessing (New) Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Parties to the Covenant

- God and the houses of Israel and Judah

Conditions of the Covenant

- The new covenant is an unconditional, grace covenant resting on the “I will” of God.
- The new covenant is an everlasting covenant.
- The new covenant also promises the impartation of a renewed mind and heart which we may call regeneration.
- The new covenant provides for restoration to the favor and blessing of God.
- Forgiveness of sin is also included in the covenant.
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is also included.
- The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit will be manifested, and the will of God will be known by obedient hearts.
- As is always the case when Israel is in the land, she will be blessed materially in accordance with the provisions of the new covenant.
- The sanctuary will be rebuilt in Jerusalem.
- War shall cease and peace shall reign according to Hosea 2:18.
- The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of all the blessings of the new covenant.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

Example of bondage under the Law

One of the most important points, both with respect to its extent and the value attributed to it, was that of Sabbath sanctification... For of course the Rabbis could not rest satisfied with a simple prohibition. They must also accurately define what work was forbidden. And consequently they at last, with much ingenuity, got out of it, that on the whole thirty-nine kinds of work were prohibited, but very few are of course anywhere alluded to in the Pentateuch. These thirty-nine prohibited works are:

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

Example of bondage under the Law

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. sowing | 16.spinning | 29.preparing its skin |
| 2. ploughing | 17.and warping it | 30.scraping off the hair |
| 3. reaping | 18.making two chords | 31.cutting it up |
| 4. binding sheaves | 19.weaving two threads | 32.writing two letters |
| 5. threshing | 20.separating two | 33.blotting out for the |
| 6. winnowing | threads | purpose of writing |
| 7. cleansing crops | 21.making a knot | two letters |
| 8. grinding | 22.untying a knot | 34.building |
| 9. sifting | 23.sewing two stitches | 35.pulling down |
| 10.kneading | 24.tearing to sew two | 36.putting out a fire |
| 11.baking | stitches | 37.lighting a fire |
| 12.shearing wool | 25.catching a dear | 38.beating smooth with |
| 13.washing | 26.killing | a hammer |
| 14.beating | 27.skinning and | 39.carrying from one |
| 15.dyeing | 28.salting it | tenement to another |

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

How to approach God – Gentiles

Example of Rahab – Joshua 2:1-24

James 2:25–26

In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Hebrews 11:31 (NASB95)

By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

How to approach God – Gentiles

Example of Rahab – Joshua 2:1-24

Before the spies went to sleep, Rahab opened her heart to them, and revealed the reason for her protection of their lives. What she said to the spies would document their report and recommendation to Joshua concerning the Canaanites. Rahab was emphatic in her disclosures:

- 1) **her own conclusion:** *that the Israelites would take Canaan by the help of their Lord: “I know that Jehovah hath given you the land” (2:9).*
- 2) **her people’s defeatism:** *that the Canaanites were fearful and benumbed after hearing the report of God’s drying up the Red Sea and Israel’s slaughter of the Amorites (2:10).*
- 3) **her own faith:** *this was faith in seed stage, identifying Israel’s Lord as God over all—heaven above, and earth beneath (2:11).*

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

How to approach God – Gentiles

Example of Rahab – Joshua 2:1-24

In return for Rahab's sparing their lives, the spies gratefully consented to her request for protection. Rahab and the other members of her father's household would be spared death in the day of Israel's assault on Jericho on three conditions:

1. they should remain in the house during the assault (2:19)—the very house which was the haven for the spies;
2. a cord of scarlet thread or yarn should hang from the very window through which the spies were let down by a strong rope (2:18); and
3. the mission of the spies must be kept secret (2:20).

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The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

How to approach God – Gentiles

Example of Rahab – Joshua 2:1-24

On Rahab's acceptance of the conditions, the spies departed into the wilds of the nearby mountain, while she lost no time in binding the scarlet thread in the window, sealing her deliverance. What a beautiful picture of the believer's salvation, very much like the earlier experience of the Israelites in Egypt, when God said to them, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). When Joshua's army saw the scarlet thread, they would spare the lives of all in the house.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

How to approach God – Gentiles

Example of Ruth – Book of Ruth

Ruth 1:14–18

And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ Then she said, “Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you *or* turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God. ¹⁷ “Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if *anything but* death parts you and me.” ¹⁸ When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

How to approach God – Gentiles

Example of Ruth – Book of Ruth



Naomi's first admonition

• 1:8-9

Ruth's 1st response

• 1:10

Naomi's second admonition

• 1:11-13

Ruth's 2nd response

• 1:14

Naomi's third admonition

• 1:15

Ruth's 3rd response

• 1:16-17

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

How to approach God – Gentiles

Example of Nineveh – Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah 3:5–10

Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. “But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. “Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.” When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Life Under the Law

How to approach God – Gentiles

Example of Nineveh – Jonah 3:1-10



Heard God's Message

- 3:4
- God would overthrow Nineveh in same way He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah

Believed God's Message

- 3:5
- People believed in God

Acted On Belief

- 3:5
- Proclaimed a fast
- Put on sackcloth
- Entire city

Saved By Faith

- 3:10
- God relented

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Ancient Chinese Religion

Fu His – 2953-2838
BC

- First Emperor to organize sacrifices to, and worship of , spirits

Yellow Emperor –
2698-2598 BC

- Built a temple for the worship of god and first sacrificed to the mountains and rivers. Also established worship of sun, moon, five planets, and ancestors.

Shao Hao – 2598-
2514 BC

- “instituted the music of the Great Abyss in order to bring spirits and men into harmony”

Chuan Hsü – 2514-
2436 BC

- Appointed an officer “to preside over the worship of God and Earth, in order to form a link between the spirits and man.”

Ti K’u – 2436-2366
BC

- Through astronomy, “came to a knowledge of spiritual beings, which he respectfully worshipped”

Yao – 2357-2255 BC

- Caused dances to be performed for the enjoyment of God on occasions of special sacrifice and communication with the spiritual world.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Ancient Chinese Religion (cont.)

Shun – 2255-2205
BC

- Consulted stars, then sacrificed to god, the “six honored ones” (unknown), mountains and rivers, and to general spirits

K’ung Chia – 1879-
1848

- Treated the “spirits” with reverence then fell into evil ways and “was abandoned by god”

T’ang – 1766 BC

- Sacrificed to Almighty God. Quoted as saying “God has given to every man a conscience; and if all men acted in accordance with its dictates, they would not stray from the right path...the way of God is to bless the good and punish the bad. He has sent down calamities on the House of Hsia, to make manifest its crimes.”

T’ai Mou – 1637
BC

- Following the supernatural, overnight growth of two mulberry trees, taken as a sign to reform his government.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

Ancient Chinese Religion (cont.)

Wu Ting – 1324-
1264 BC

- Refused to speak for first three years of reign while he “gained experience”. Features of a sage appeared in a dream which he had a portrait made and circulated throughout empire. He reformed his government following the occasion of a sacrifice when a pheasant perched on the handle of the sacrificial tripod and crowed.

Wu I – 1198-1194
BC

- Made an image in human form which he called god. Played dice with the image having someone throw for the image, if “god” lost, he would overwhelmingly insult it.

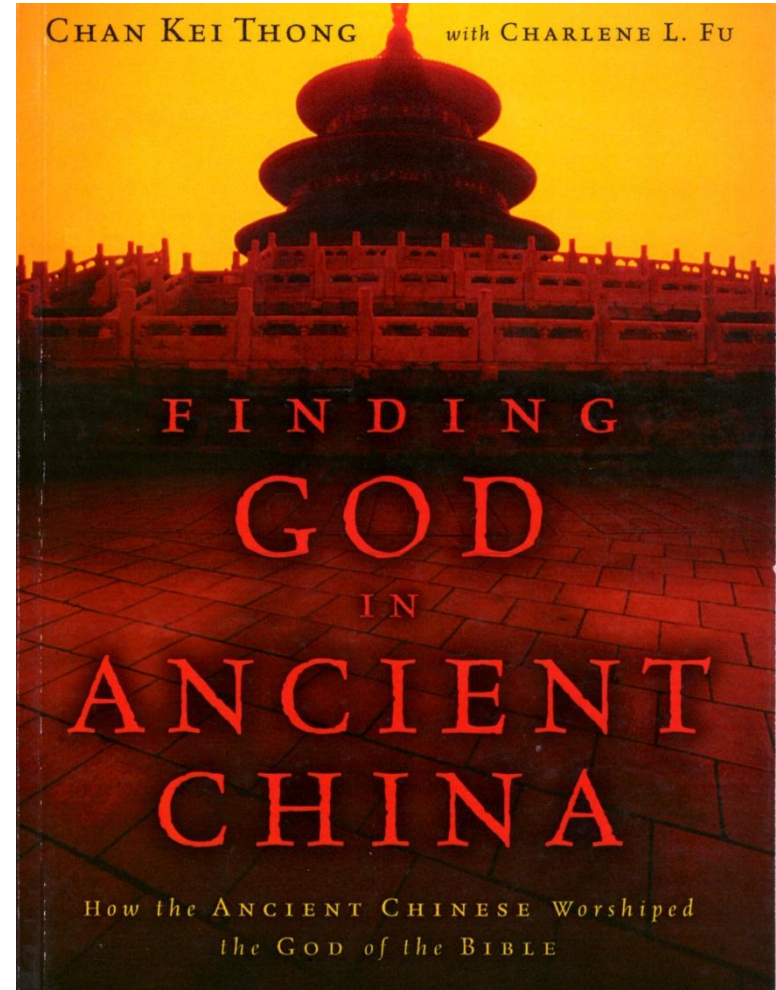
King Wu

- Overthrown the Shang dynasty because the King of Shang, “does not reverence God above, and inflicts calamities on the people below. Almighty God is moved with indignation.” King Wu offered sacrifices to Almighty God and having successfully overthrown the Shang dynasty, declared that he was acting in the matter of punishment merely as the instrument of God.

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Ancient Chinese Religion (cont.)

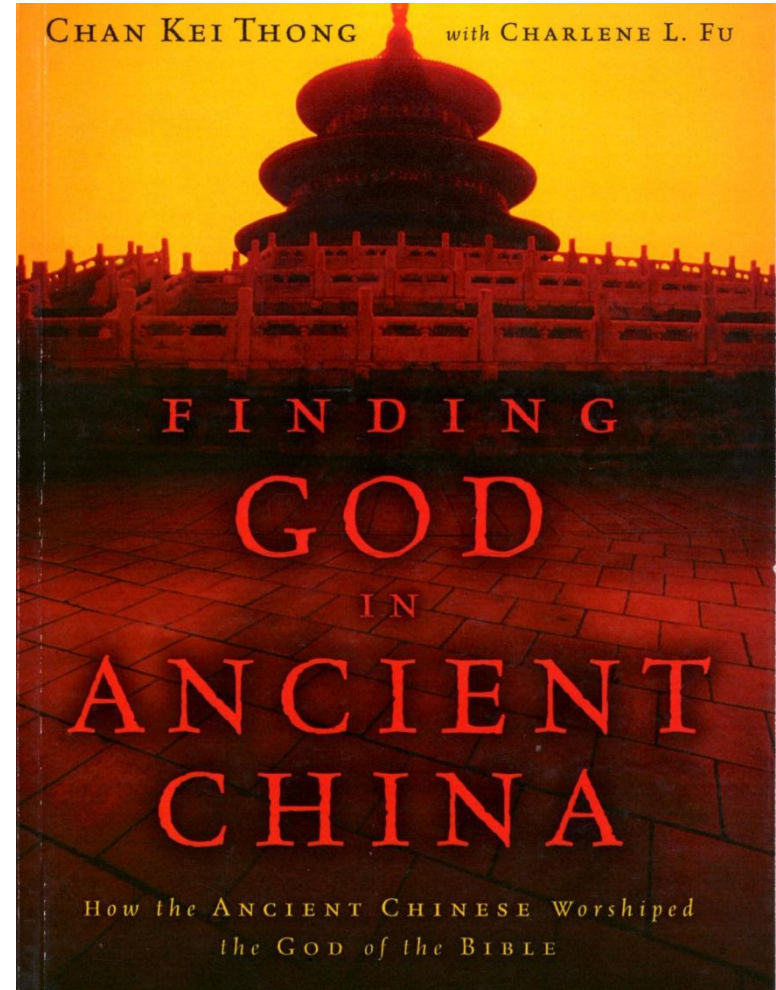
“As in the previous chapters, we have discovered here many similarities between ancient China and ancient Israel in their understanding of the One True God. China’s centuries-old written language even today reflects knowledge of God’s earliest relationship with man. Ancient writings show that the Shang Di who was worshipped of old had the same attributes as the Hebrew God of the Old Testament. The sacrificial rites that China’s emperors all through the centuries were careful to observe were based on reverence for the Name Above All Names.”



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Ancient Chinese Religion (cont.)

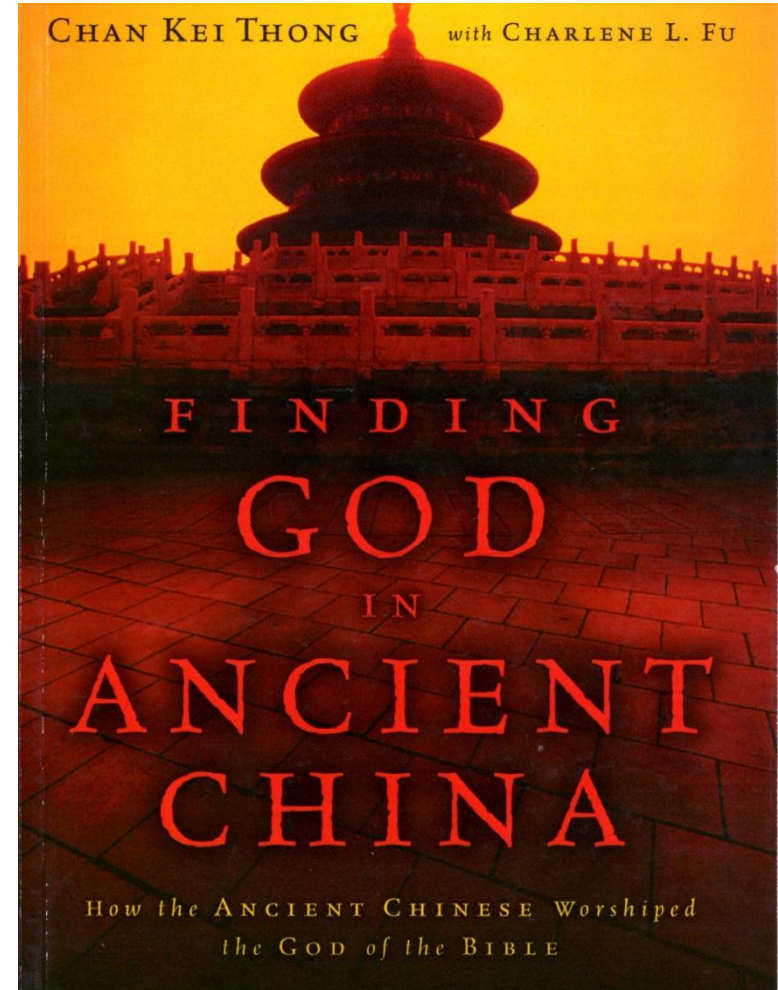
“At some point in China’s long history, however, this intimate, widespread knowledge of the One True God faded and became confused with other beliefs and rituals in Chinese culture. This occurred when China lost sight of the blood and its significance in the blood covenant...The Record of Rites pinpoints the first symptoms of decline as occurring during the reign of Yi, the ninth emperor of the Zhou Dynasty (894-879 B.C.)...It was during this period of 2,138 years – from the beginning of the Eastern Zhou in 77 B.C. to the beginning of the Ming Dynasty in A.D. 1368 – that most of the corruption of the original faith in Shang Di took place.”



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Ancient Chinese Religion (cont.)

“It was also during this time that Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism, which were to become the three main religions of China, grew to dominate the Chinese people and to fill them with fears of evil spirits and false teachings about the One True God. Emperors of the earliest dynasties had carefully observed the Border Sacrifice that was a cornerstone of China’s covenant relationship with Shang Di, but during this long period of more than two millennia, the ceremony was corrupted.”



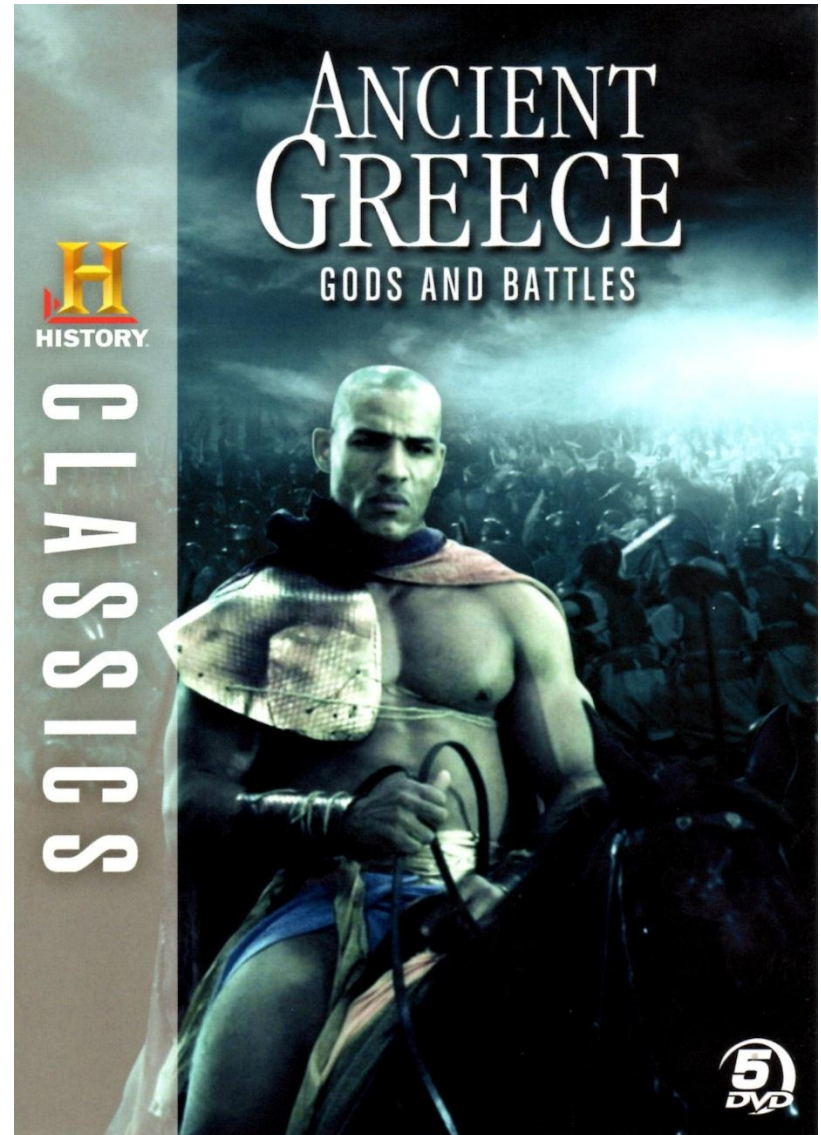
Refining a Creation for Eternity

Ancient Greece

Gods and goddesses

Start: 7:15

End: 23:05



Refining a Creation for Eternity



FIG. 172.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

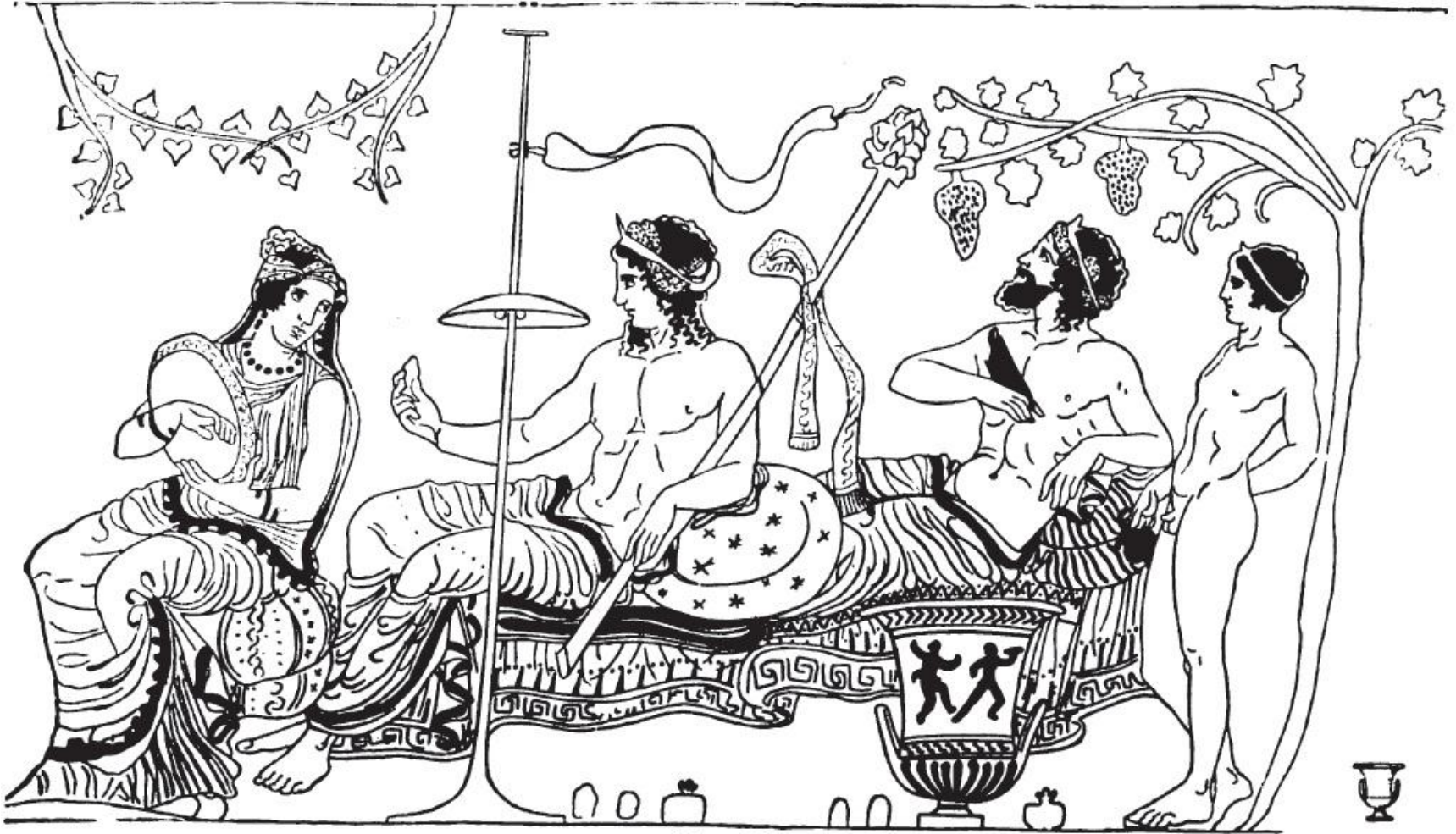


FIG. 101.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

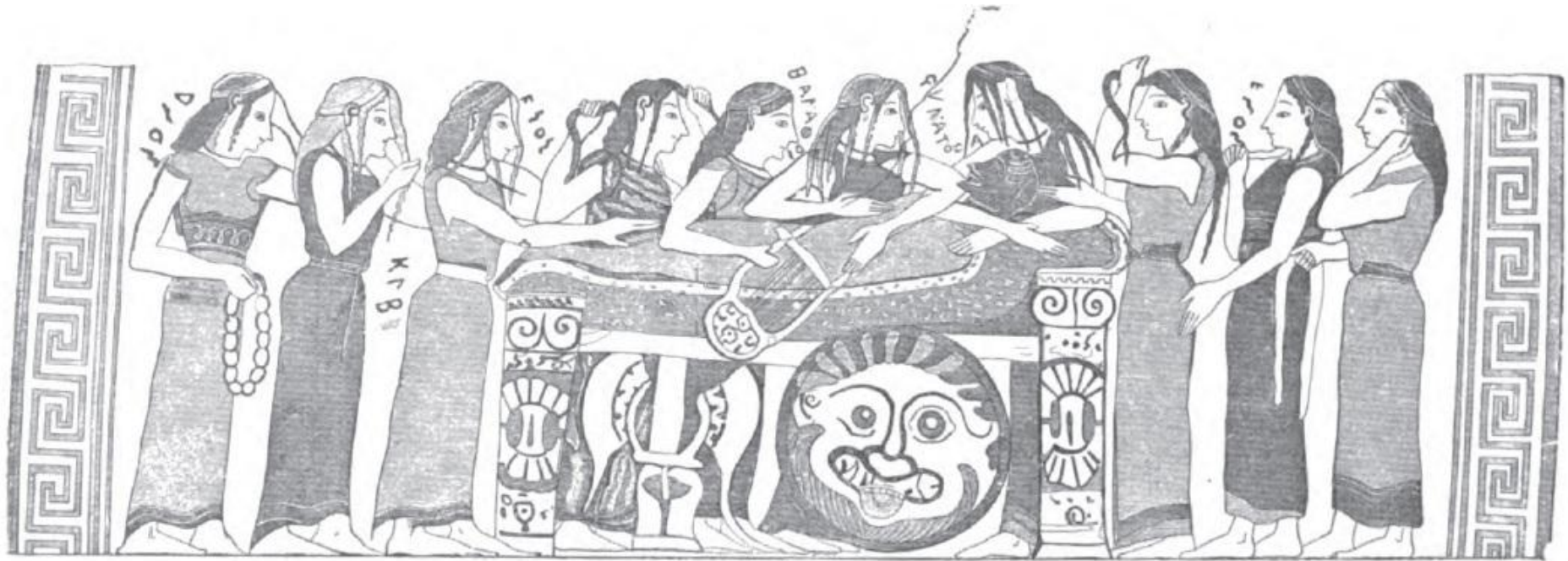


FIG. 109.

Refining a Creation for Eternity



FIG. 143.

Refining a Creation for Eternity



FIG. 144.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

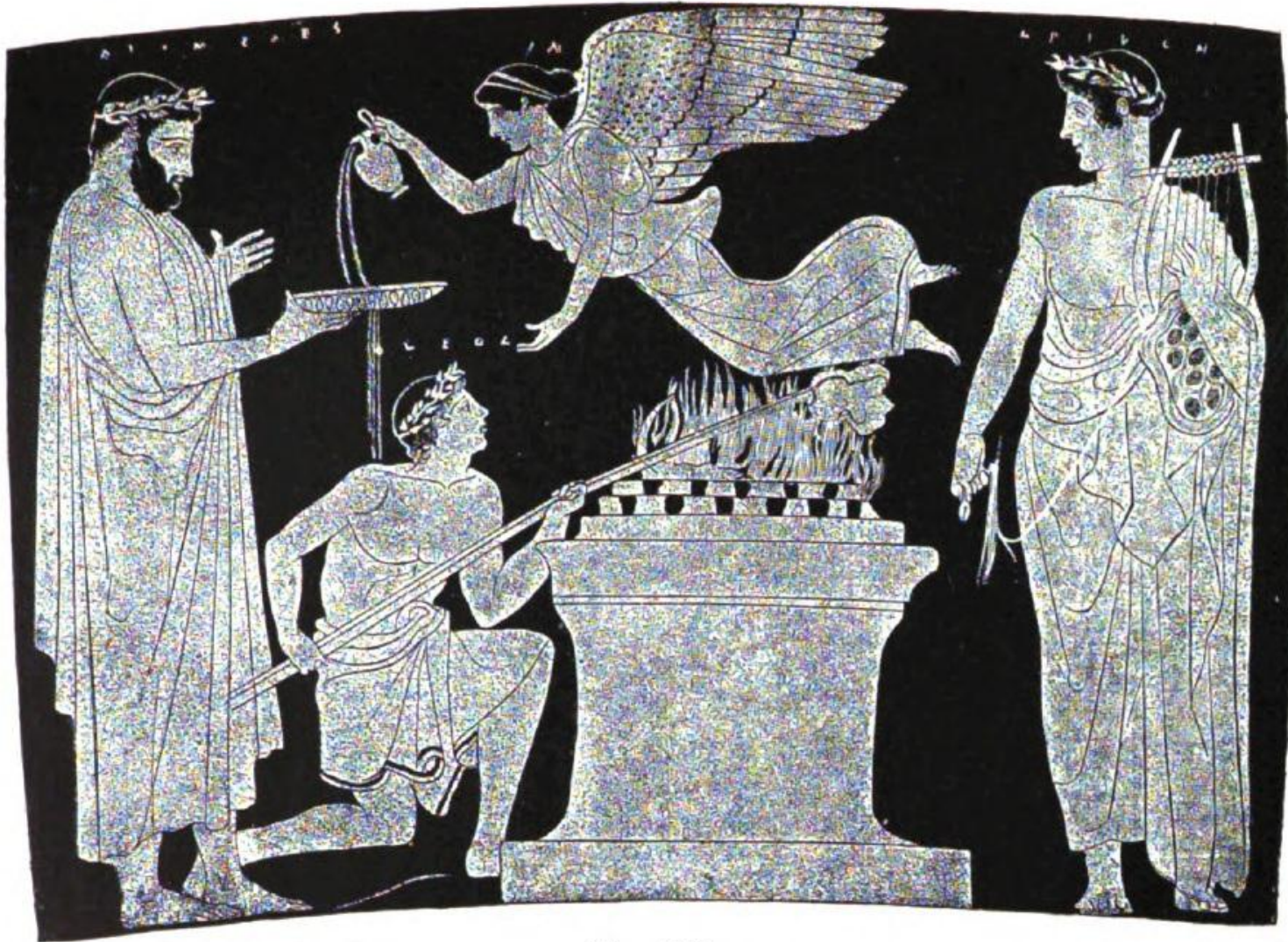


FIG. 147.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Display of Grace Under the Law

1 Grace was displayed by God's electing of Israel.

This was an act of unmerited favor. It brought with it certain promises that made available to the individual Israelite a multitude of blessings (Lev. 26:4–8; Deut. 7:14–16).

2 Grace was displayed in God's frequent restoration of His sinning people.

The law had not even reached the people before it had been broken, and yet God, because of His grace, did not cast them off. During the conquest of Canaan, in the lives of David and Solomon, and even during the captivities, God's grace was never absent from His people (Jer. 31:20; Hos. 2:19).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Display of Grace Under the Law (cont.)

- 3 The giving of the new covenant, which was announced during the law period, was also a display of grace.**

The promise of a new age was given during the time when the law lay broken and trampled beneath the feet of the people who had proved themselves unworthy in every way (Jer. 31:32).

- 4 God displayed His grace under the law by the enablement He gave.**

Dispensationalists have often pictured the law as a period when enablement was completely lacking.²³ It is true that there was a sharp contrast between the enabling under the law and the work of the Holy Spirit today (John 14:17), but it is not accurate to say there was no enabling under the law. The Spirit indwelt many (Dan. 4:8; 1 Peter 1:11) and came upon many others for special power (Ex. 28:3; Judg. 3:10; 1 Sam. 10:9–10), but there was no guarantee that He would permanently or universally indwell God's people as He does today.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Display of Grace Under the Law (cont.)

- 5 It was during the period of the law that God revealed Himself experientially to His people as Yahweh.**

The name is associated with many specific acts of God's grace toward His people (Ps. 143:11; Jer. 14:21).

- 6 The great covenant with David was made during the Mosaic economy, and its very institution was an act of great grace on God's part.**

The steadfast loving-kindness of God (*hesed*) is linked with the Abrahamic covenant (Mic. 7:20), with the Mosaic covenant (Ex. 34:6–7), with the new covenant (Jer. 31:3), and with the Davidic covenant (Isa. 55:3). The covenant was not only established on God's *hesed*, but David was assured that God's *hesed* would not be thwarted and that the covenant would not be altered (Ps. 89:33–34). A promise like this was one of the most evident displays of God's grace.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

The Display of Grace Under the Law (cont.)

Therefore even in the Old Testament the prophets and psalmists exult (Ps. 32:11; 33:1; 68:4) over the blessings and life-giving effects of the Law. For them the Law was not only exposure of guilt and a leading on to despair (comp. Rom. 7), but “joy of heart” (Ps. 19:8), “delight” (Ps. 119:47; 36:9), “bliss” (Ps. 32:1).

“Knowledge of sin,” says Paul (Rom. 3:20):

Of “crowning with grace” speaks David (Ps. 103:4).

“The letter kills,” says the apostle (II Cor. 3:6):

“The law is refreshing [quickenning],” says the psalmist (Ps. 19:8).

“Miserable man!” is read in the epistle to the Romans (Rom. 7:24):

“Blessed is the man,” says the Psalter (Ps. 1:1; 32:1).

Of the “curse,” the one-time Pharisee speaks (Gal. 3:13):

“The Lord bless thee,” says the high priest (Num. 6:24).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained

By rejecting Jesus as the Messiah, the Nation of Israel opened the door for God to display the supreme demonstration of His grace. This unique demonstration, never previously revealed, is the elimination of the Jew/Gentile distinction in Christ. Further, God indwelling His people is also never known in history.

Acts 2:37–39

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Fifth Economy

Angelic Conflict

Satan and his minions consistently targeted the Nation of Israel for annihilation. Satan's goal in constant persecution of the Jews was to prevent the birth of the Messiah and preventing the salvation of humanity. Satan's consistent failure finally led to the cross.

“Satan suffered a specific judgment at the time that the Messiah died. Satan knew it was coming, and that is why he tried to do everything he could to keep the Messiah from the cross. He constantly tried to have Yeshua killed either prematurely or in the wrong manner; such as, by sword or by stoning. But all such attempts failed because: his hour was not yet come. When His hour finally did come, and when Yeshua was dying on the cross, Satan was no longer in control; rather, the Messiah was in total control. The cross, which brought salvation to humanity, brought judgment upon Satan.”