

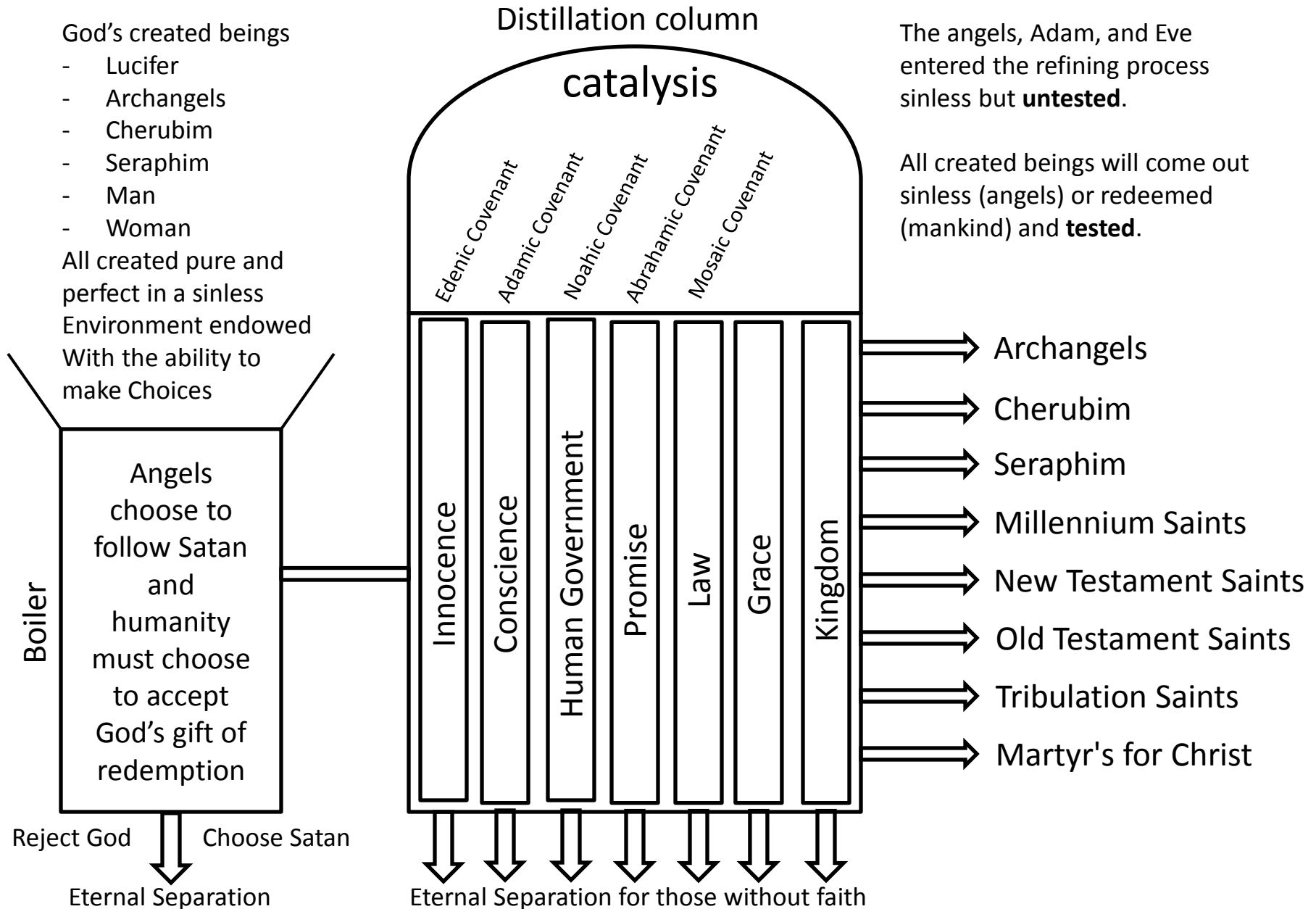
Refining a Creation for Eternity

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

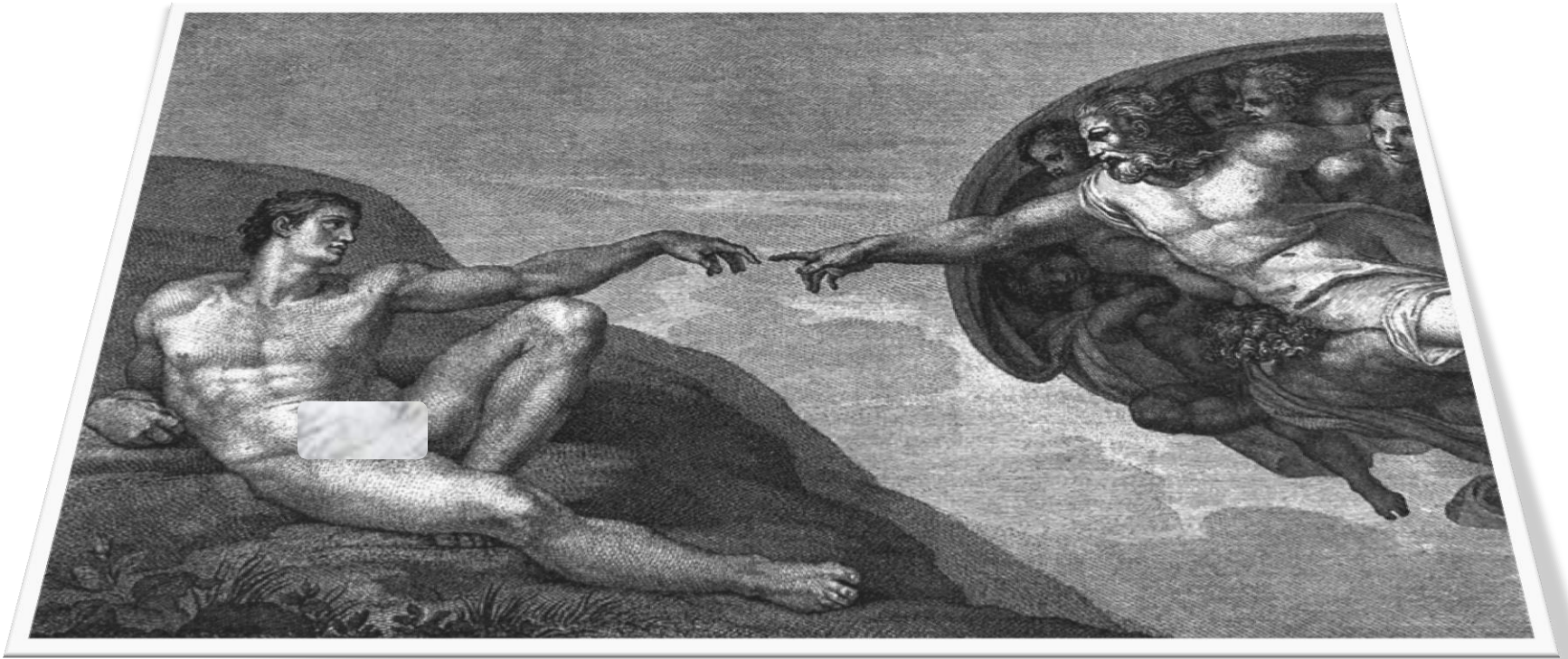


Fulfillment

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



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Innocence

Man's Responsibilities

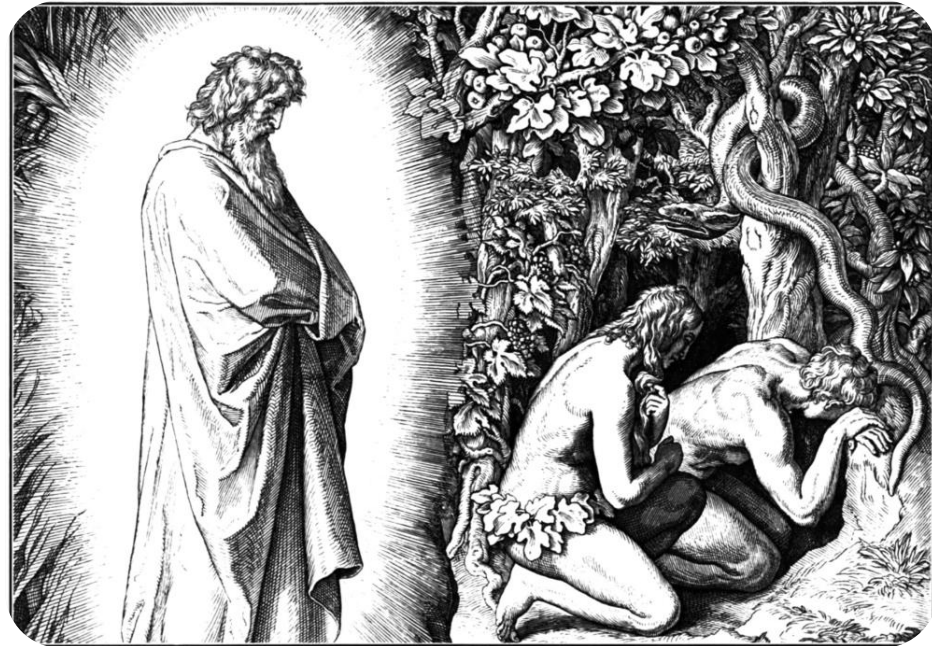
- Man's responsibilities in the garden were to fulfill the Edenic Covenant, essentially to multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it. Mankind was forbidden to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

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



Refining a Creation for Eternity

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



Refining a Creation for Eternity

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



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

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

Man's Responsibilities

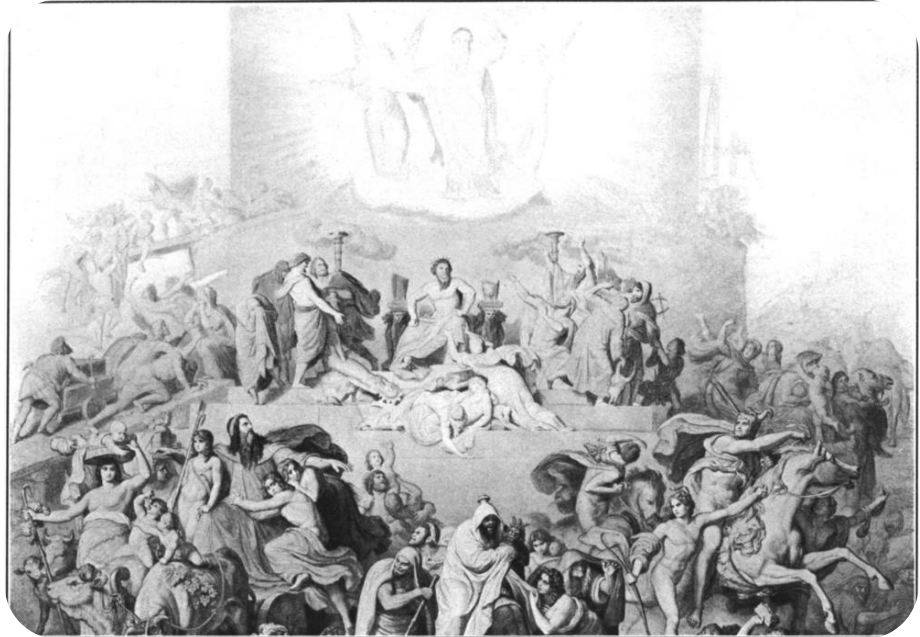
- Man's responsibilities were to fulfill the Noachic covenant. Mankind was to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. Mankind was to govern itself with the full authority of capital punishment.

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.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

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

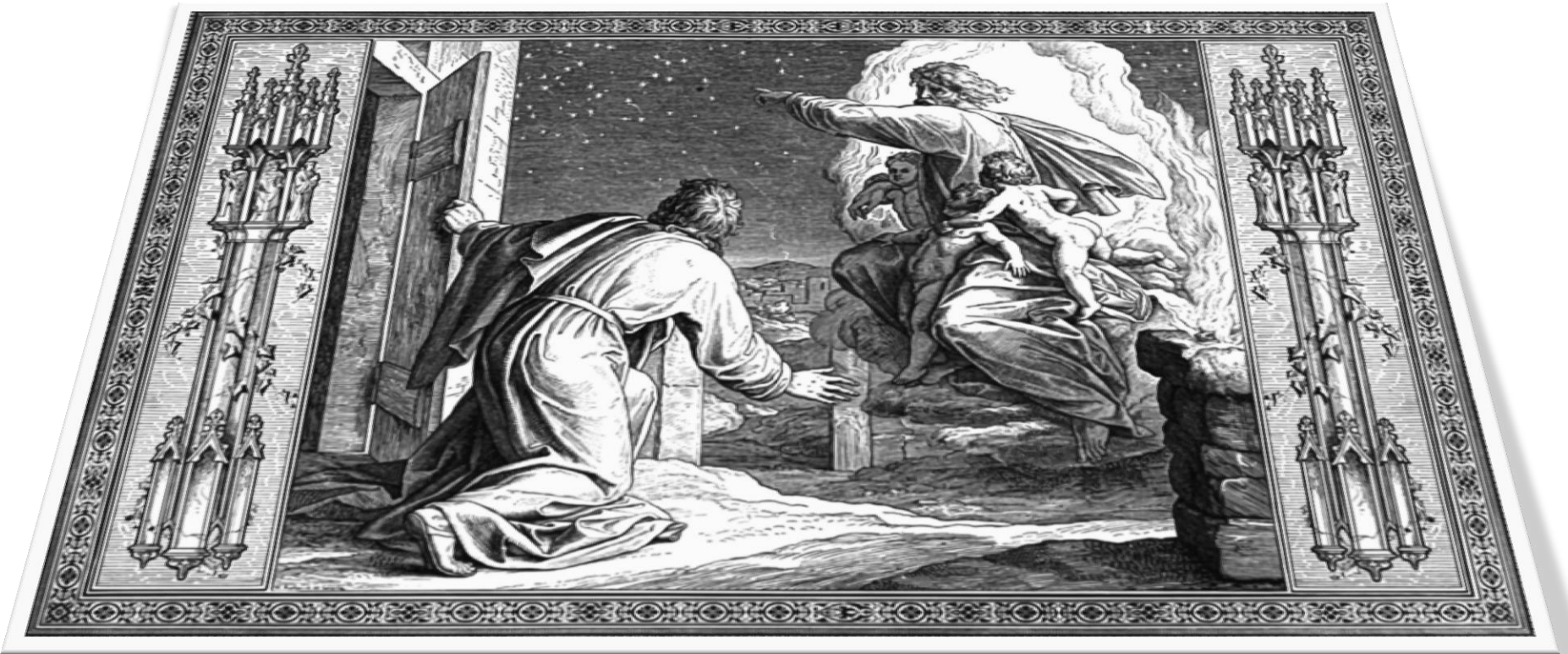
- Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, 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

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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.

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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

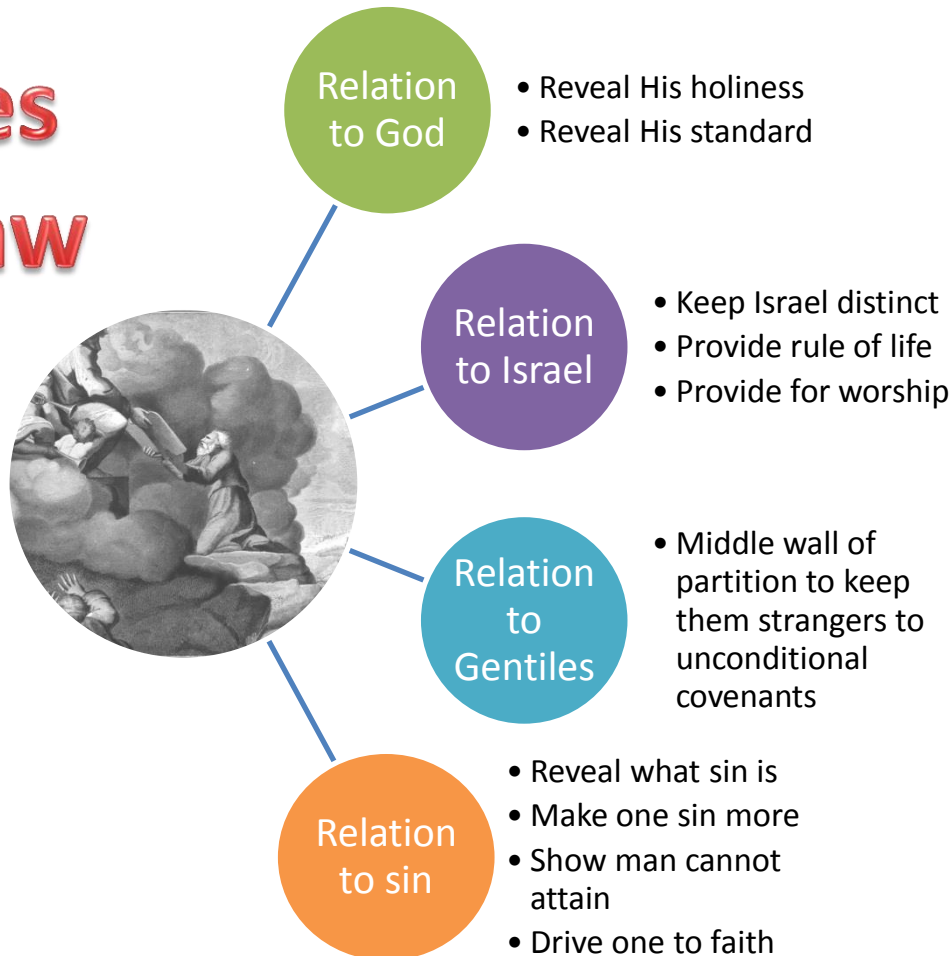


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The Fifth Economy

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

Purposes of the Law

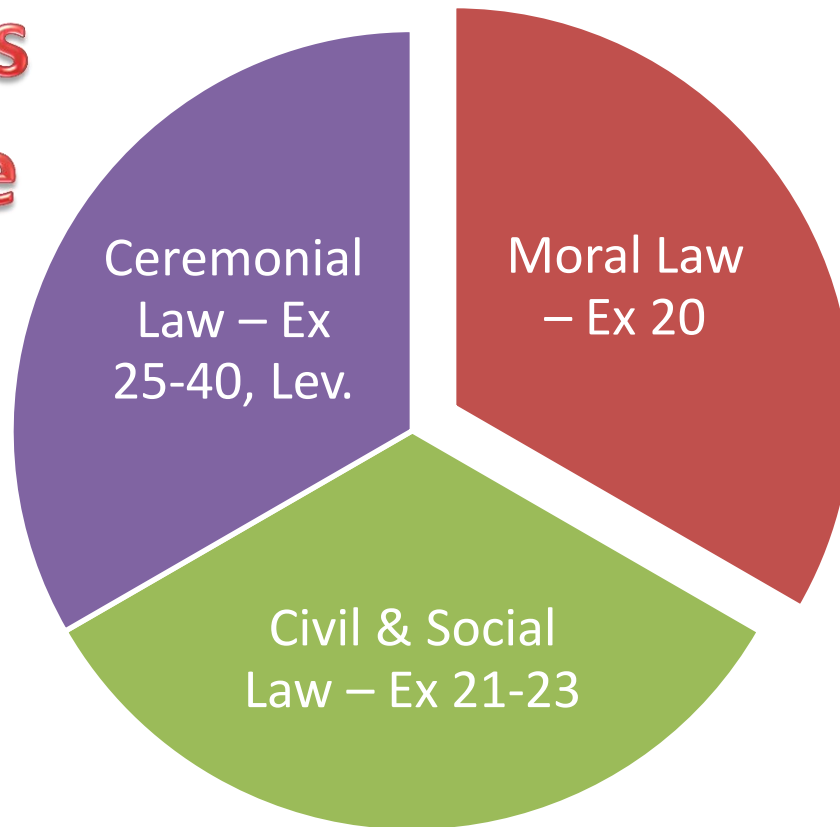


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The Fifth Economy

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

**The Law is
the Entire
Pie!**



Refining a Creation for Eternity

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).



Refining a Creation for Eternity

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

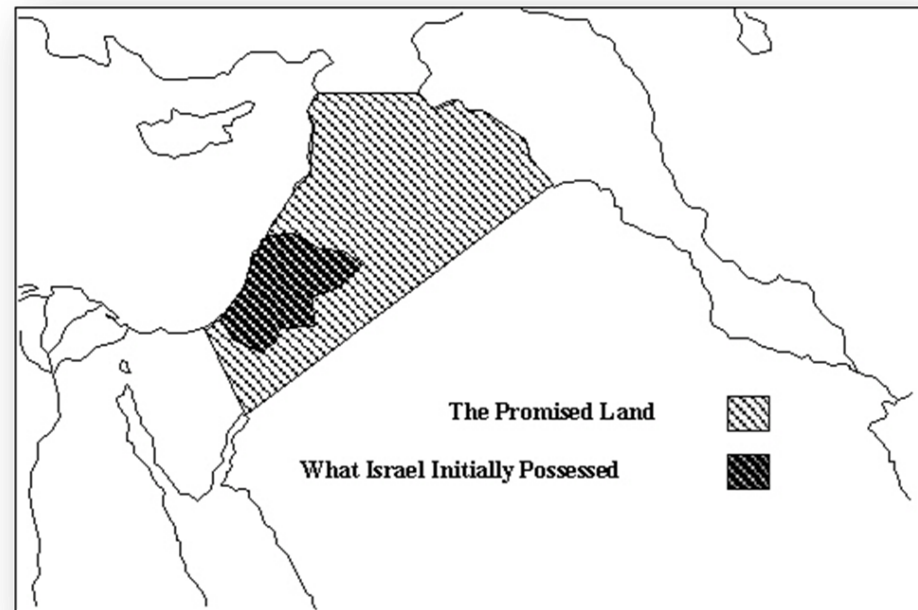
Land Covenant (Deuteronomy 29:1 – 30:20)

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.

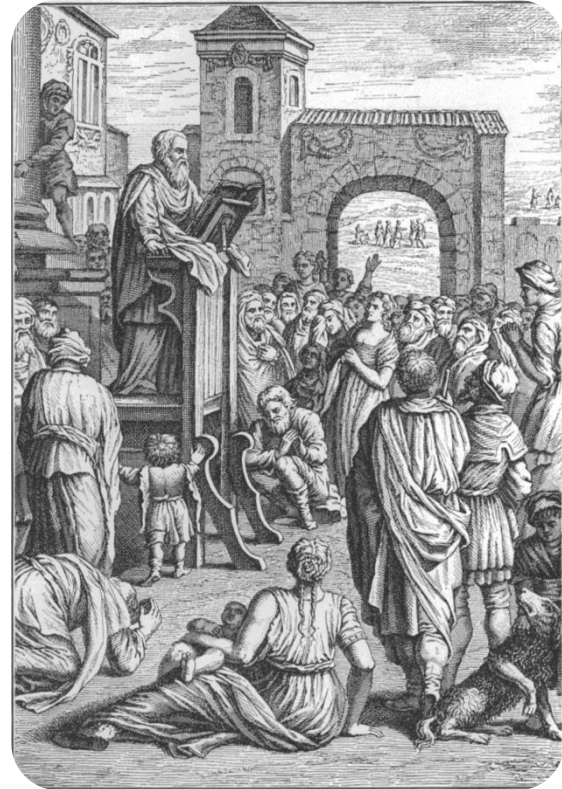
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Review of past lessons

Approaching God in the Dispensation of Law

Approach God by Faith (Heb. 11:30–34)

- By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

At The End Of 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.

Angelic Conflict

- “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.”

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of Grace (Acts 2:1 to Revelation 19:21)

Man's Responsibilities

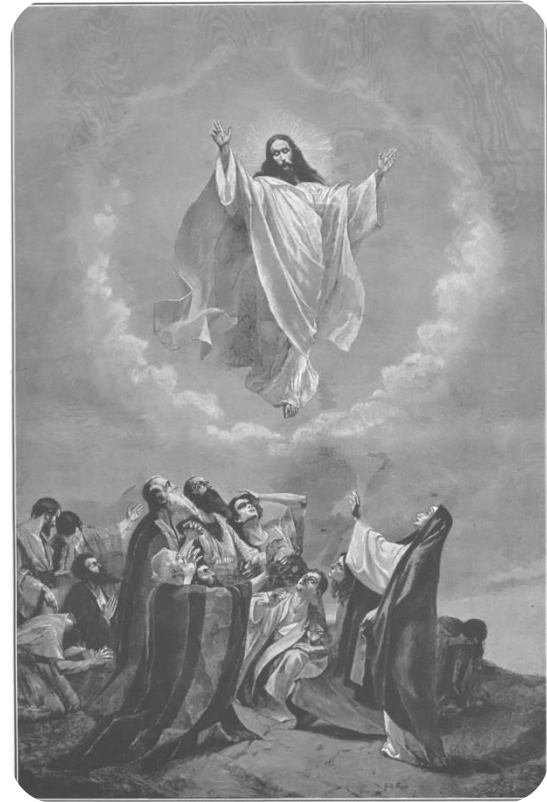
- Under Grace the responsibility on man is to accept the gift of righteousness that God freely offers to all (Rom. 5:15–18). There are two aspects of the grace of God in this economy: (1) the blessing is entirely of grace and (2) that grace is for all.

Man's Failures

- The vast majority have rejected Him and as a result will be judged. The dispensation will end at the second coming of Christ since, as suggested, the tribulation period itself is not a separate dispensation but is the judgment on those living persons who are Christ rejecters at the end of this present dispensation.

The Resulting Judgment

- The judgment to non-believers is death. The judgment to believers for not walking with Christ is a loss of rewards. The earth, which was to be controlled by Adam and handed over to Satan, will be ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ.



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

At The End Of The Sixth Economy

Promise of Redemption Maintained

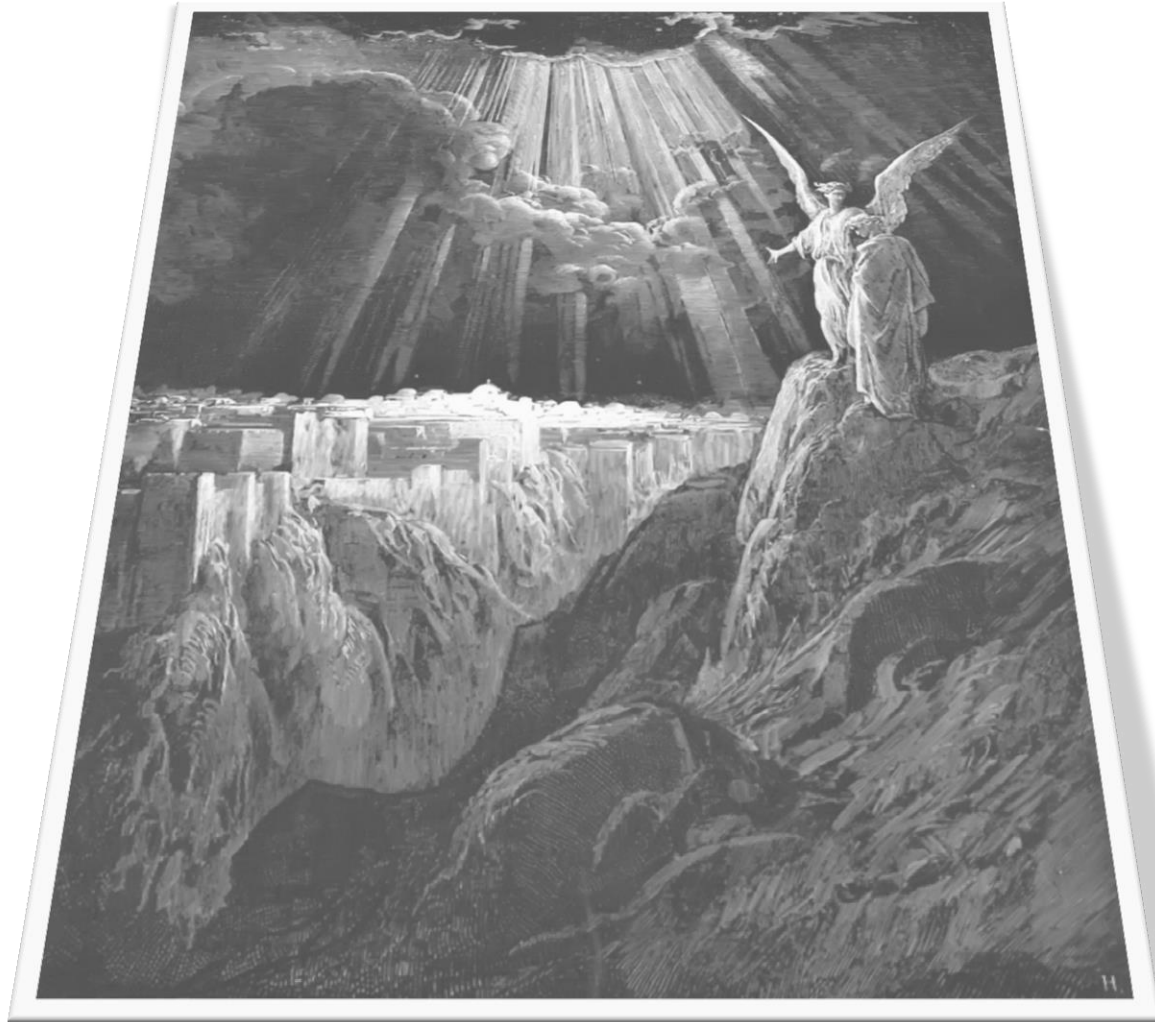
- Redemption is available to all who believe in Christ but there is a future redemption for the Nation of Israel in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. Before Christ left this earth, He told the Nation of Israel that they will not see Him until they say “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Matt 23:39). Christ will return as King in power and glory to reign for 1,000 years and He will establish Israel in the land promised to Abraham. By the end of the Tribulation, Israel will cry out to Jesus.

Angelic Conflict

- The first epistle of Peter was written to believers who were scattered and undergoing persecution for their faith. It was not Satan personally attacking them but an indirect assault through the cosmic system: the culture, the ideas, and the unbelievers around them whose thinking was dominated by those false, human viewpoint ideas, which are also termed demonic in James 3:15. The context of 1 Peter strongly suggests indirect attacks of Satan through the cosmic system and not direct engagements with Satan and demons.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy



Refining a Creation for Eternity

Review of past lessons

Dispensation of the Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-15)

Man's Responsibilities

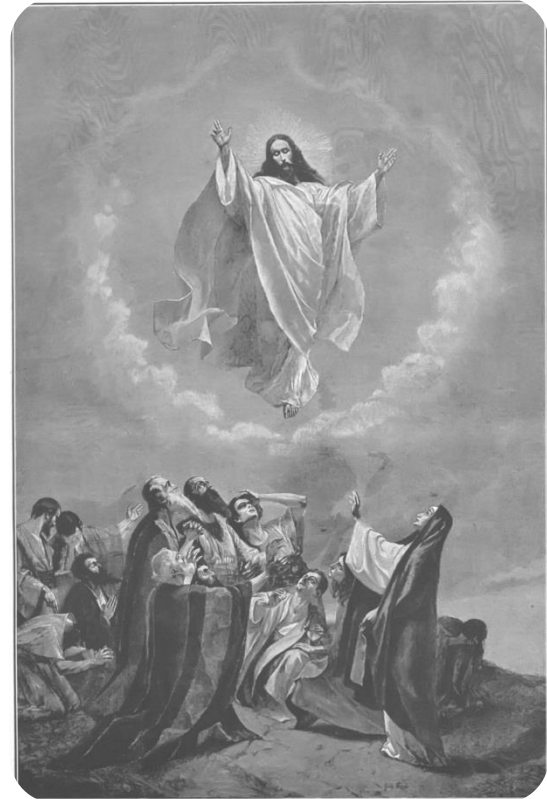
- Man will be responsible for obedience to the King and His laws. Satan will be bound, Christ will be ruling, righteousness will prevail, overt disobedience will be quickly punished.

Man's Failures

- At the end of the period enough rebels will be found to make a formidable army that will dare to attack the seat of government (Rev. 20:7-9). The revolt will be unsuccessful, and the rebels will be cast into everlasting punishment.

The Resulting Judgment

- The Great White Throne Judgment

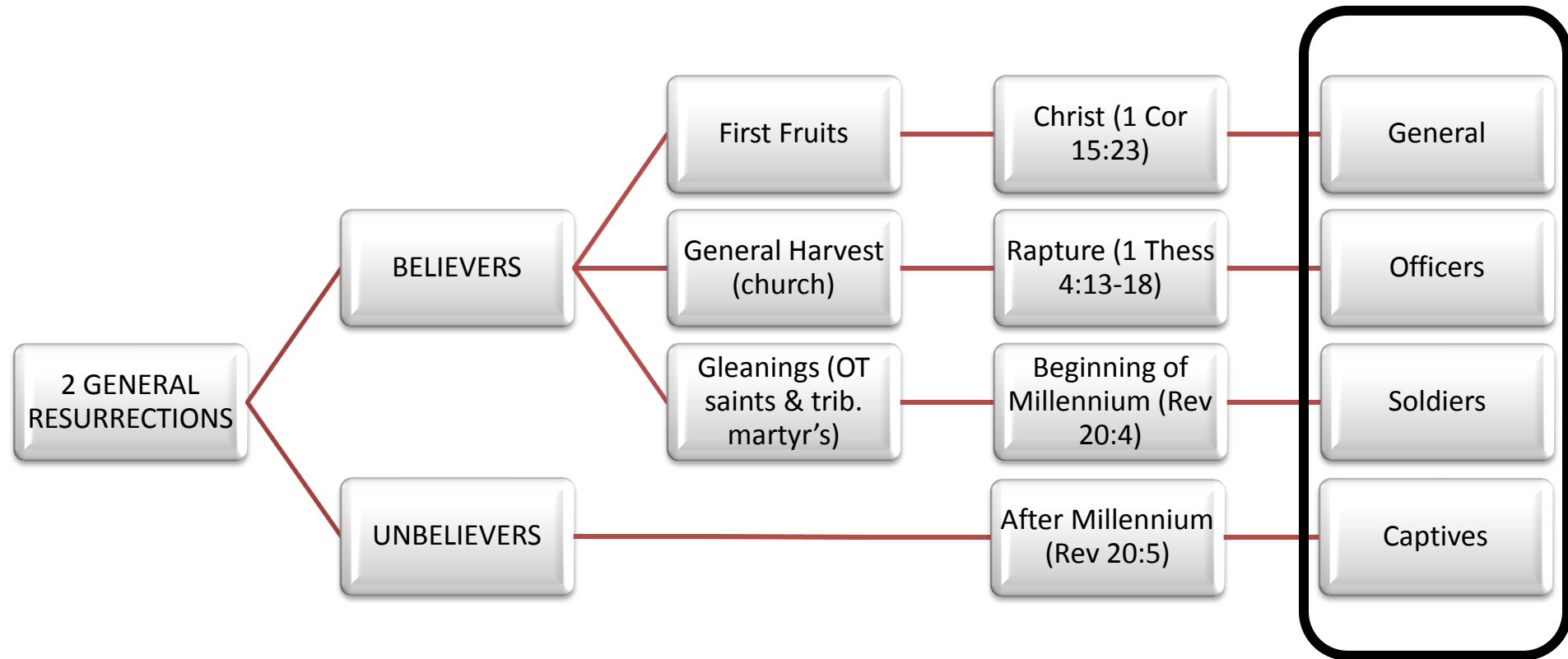


Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Sixth Economy

God's Resurrection Program

Order of *Tagma*
1 Cor. 15:23



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

The Millennium Will Begin With the Second Coming

There is no kingdom of God without God the King; there is no literal kingdom without a literal King's presence. It is Messiah's return that will inaugurate the messianic kingdom:

Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. (Matt. 24:29–30)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Christ Will Judge the Nations and Separate the Sheep (Saved) From the Goats (Lost)

So only saved people will enter the Millennium, namely, the remnant of the 144,000 Jews who are saved, plus the multitude they win to Christ (see Rev. 7:4–9).

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it.... Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives. (Zech. 14:2–4)

Also see Matt. 25:31–41

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Some Children Born During the Millennium Will Not Believe

Saved parents can have unsaved children; of those born during the Millennium, some will accept Christ as their Savior, and others will not. Of those who do not, some will go along with His reign outwardly, while others will overtly rebel against it. The latter will be judged and die prematurely (Isa. 65:20) under the rod of iron (Rev. 12:5) with which Christ will crush all opposition. At the end of the Millennium, the false believers who only followed outwardly will rebel, at the instigation of the devil's release from his prison, only to be destroyed by Christ:

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth.... They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (Rev. 20:7–9)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Resurrected Humans Will Take Part in the Heavenly New Jerusalem

The first resurrection takes place before the Millennium:

Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them,⁶¹ but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.... [These will be part of] the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev. 20:6; 21:2)

There will be a great wedding as the church, Christ's bride, is joined to her Husband and Head.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Christ Will Reign on a Throne in Jerusalem

Jesus promised His disciples that when He sits on His throne, they would also be seated on thrones and would judge the twelve tribes (Matt. 19:28; cf. Isa. 2:3). As we have seen, this will fulfill the unconditional, everlasting Davidic covenant (2 Sam. 7:12ff.; cf. Ps. 89:33–36).

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The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Christ's Followers Will Be Positionally Rewarded in His Reign

Christ's disciples will reign with Him, each being rewarded according to his works (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:11–15); in a parable of a king entrusting servants with resources, those who were faithful and industrious were congratulated and promoted (Luke 19:16–19). Jesus said, “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done” (Rev. 22:12).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

One Faith Will Be Established Over All the Earth

The millennial kingdom will not only be a divine but also a religious monarchy. The King will be the Priest (Ps. 110), the one object of worship for all nations: “‘From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,’ says the Lord” (Isa. 66:23).

Every nation must comply:

If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain.... The Lord will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zech. 14:16–18)

A central sanctuary, established for all worship (Ezek. 37:27–28), will be filled with God’s shekinah (43:1–7). God’s original intention for Israel will be established as she becomes a spiritual beacon to the nations (Isa. 61:6), making universally known the knowledge of the true God (59:19; Ezek. 37:28).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Peace Will Be Restored to the Earth

There will be no real peace until the Prince of Peace comes back: “While people are saying, ‘Peace and safety,’ destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape” (1 Thess. 5:3). But when Christ returns,

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
(Micah 4:3; cf. Isa. 2:4)

What the current peace movement tries to do impotently, God will accomplish by His omnipotent hand. There will be no more war (Zech. 9:10).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Prosperity Will Be Restored to Earth

Not only peace but also prosperity will be restored. The earth will be fruitful and prosperous. None will want, and everyone will be supported physically and financially:

“In that day each of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and fig tree,” declares the Lord Almighty.... They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.... [It will again be] a land flowing with milk and honey. Zech. 3:10; Isa. 65:21; cf. Amos 9:13–15; Isa. 11:6–9; Ezek. 34:25–29.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Creation Will Be Delivered From Bondage

Adam's sin brought toil, suffering, and bondage to God's creation, but Paul reminds us that in the Millennium the effects of the Fall will be reversed:

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. [For] the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. (Rom. 8:18–23)

At the Millennium's commencement, the Paradise lost will become the Paradise regained. The dead who believed will be raised and reverse the curse on the body; nature will be restored and reverse the curse on creation.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

There Will Be No Carnivorous Animals

The curse on the animal kingdom likewise will be reversed. No longer will nature be red in tooth and claw; no animals will be carnivorous; rather, they will be herbivorous, as in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:9; 3:2). “ ‘The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,’ says the Lord” (Isa. 65:25).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Longevity Will Be Restored

Before the time of the Flood, people commonly lived 900 or more years, and apparently this kind of longevity will be restored during the Millennium:

As the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands.... Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

(Isa. 65:22, 20)

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Life Under the Perfect King

Death Will Result From Rebellion and Punishment

Even though life is lengthened in the Millennium, death will still occur; those who survive the Tribulation will still be mortal. Apparently, though, there will be no death of natural causes—decay, disease, or degeneration. It will be by judgment for rebellion against God (Rev. 12:5; Isa. 65:20) and perhaps by accident.

The Millennium is not heaven—it will not be absolutely perfect, but it will be as perfect as it can be on earth with unsaved people still in the mix (Matt. 13:29–30). **The Millennium is not the first chapter of heaven but the last chapter of earth**—not the completed victory but the last chapter in the ultimate victory: *“He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet”* (1 Cor. 15:25; cf. 13:10–12). Nonetheless, the Millennium will be a vast improvement over the world before the Second Coming: There will be no more poverty, sickness, famine, plagues, or war, and, instead, there will be peace, prosperity, and tranquility. *“They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea”* (Isa. 11:9).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

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Life Under the Perfect King

Continued Sinfulness of Mankind

As predicted in Rev. 20:3, Satan will be loosed at the close of the thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth. He will find plenty of people who will follow his deception, their number being as the “sand of the seashore.” “Gog and Magog” in verse 8 remind one of Ezekiel 38–39, but this is obviously not the same battle, since the time is different (Ezek. 38:16) and the judgment is dissimilar (Ezek. 38:19–22). Satan’s host of followers will besiege the “camp of the saints” in Jerusalem and be put to death quickly by an act of God, which sends fire down out of heaven to devour them. Then the devil is cast into the Lake of Fire, where the Beast and false prophet have already been for a thousand years.

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Continued Sinfulness of Mankind (cont.)

Where will this large number of followers of Satan come from? In the space of a thousand years there can be thirty or forty generations of people. When the Millennium begins, people with earthly bodies will enter it, but apparently none of them will be unsaved at the very beginning. But quite soon (perhaps in the first minutes) babies will be born, and in a thousand years many children will come into the world, grow up, and live unusually long lives. All of them will be obliged to give outward allegiance to Christ, who reigns on the throne, but as in every age He will not compel them to believe in their hearts.

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Life Under the Perfect King

Continued Sinfulness of Mankind (cont.)

Consequently, there will be many living who have never turned to Christ for salvation, though they have obeyed Him as Head of the government. These will seize on the chance to give expression to the rebellion of their hearts when Satan arises to be their leader in this last revolt. The Millennium will prove, among other things, that a nearly perfect earthly environment (Isa. 35) and universal knowledge of the Lord (Isa. 11:9) will not change human hearts. This must be done personally and voluntarily, and multitudes will never do that during this long period.

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Life Under the Perfect King

Millennial Temple (Ezekiel chapters 40-48)

The returning exiles were quite familiar with Ezekiel's priestly language from the descriptions of the actual sanctuary and its service in the books of Exodus and Leviticus. Thus, they would have expected to see these instructions literally fulfilled.

The vision should be interpreted literally because:

1. The first section of the book of Ezekiel concerns the literal destruction of the first temple, so the second section with the temple vision should also be understood as a literal reconstruction of the temple.
2. Like Ezekiel, God gave a vision plan for the tabernacle to Moses and the temple to David, and Moses and David went on to prepare the construction of a literal, physical sanctuary from the vision.
3. The description of the temple in Ezekiel is extremely detailed, just like the instructions for building the first temple.

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Life Under the Perfect King

Millennial Temple (Ezekiel chapters 40-48)

The restoration of the temple on the very summit of Mount Zion will be the last event to be completed on earth during this forty-five-day period preceding the Millennium. This restored temple is described in considerable detail in the Book of Ezekiel, as well as in other prophetic books in the Old Testament.

Thus Ezekiel writes that he was brought to the “nave” (i.e., the sanctuary) of the temple, where he was told by the Lord:

“Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. And the house of Israel will not again defile My holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their [spiritual] harlotry and by the corpses of their kings when they die” (Ezek. 41:1; 43:7).

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Millennial Temple (Ezekiel chapters 40-48)

The millennial temple then will be the throne room in which Christ not only “will dwell among the sons of Israel forever,” but from which He will rule over the nations of the earth—that is, over all those peoples who will survive both the Day of the Lord and the Sheep and Goat Judgment of Christ that will occur on the first day of the Millennium.

As the prophet Zechariah writes,

“Yes, it is He [Christ] who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices” (Zech. 6:13).

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Life Under the Perfect King

Millennial Temple (Ezekiel chapters 40-48)

The millennial temple will be built by Christ as a final restoration of sorts of the temple built initially by Solomon in the city of Jerusalem. The seventieth-week temple, profaned by Antichrist, will have been destroyed during the Day of the Lord, probably at the seventh bowl judgment when all the cities of the nations are destroyed by the worldwide earthquake, and the city of Jerusalem (where the temple will have been located) will be split into three parts.

The work will need to be done quickly, but as a supernatural act of the Lord, rebuilding the temple will pose no difficulty to Christ, who created all things in six days. Compared with His complete restoration of the heavens and earth on the first day of the Millennium, the rebuilding of the temple will be as nothing.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Millennial Temple (Ezekiel chapters 40-48)

The important truth is that Christ Himself, not the redeemed Jews, will build that final temple, and He will do so sometime during the forty-five-day Restoration Period immediately preceding the Millennium, in preparation for His millennial reign over earth. Exactly as the Lord predicted through Zechariah,

“Behold, a man whose name is Branch...will build the temple of the Lord. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne” (Zech. 6:12, 13).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Renewal Of The Animal Sacrifices

In Eden animal sacrifices were first inaugurated. During the Patriarchal Age they were observed by the command and the instruction of God. When He gave the law to Israel through Moses, He incorporated these animal sacrifices in His revelation and in the requirements for Israel. They were all typical of the one supreme sacrifice of the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

When our Lord came and offered Himself as the all-sufficient atonement for mankind, the animal sacrifices, which were simply typical, were abolished: "And you, being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, you, I say, did he make alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses; having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and he hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross..." (Col. 2:13,14).

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Renewal Of The Animal Sacrifices

Thus those animal sacrifices served their purpose in typifying the all-sufficient atonement of our Lord. When He made His sacrifice, there was therefore no further need--so far as the present Christian Age is concerned--for any further sacrifices.

But according to Ezekiel's prophecy, when this temple of Jehovah is built in Jerusalem and becomes a house of prayer for all the nations, there will be offerings and sacrifices made daily. The question immediately arises, For what purpose will they serve? At first it may seem strange to us that they should again be brought into service--especially since they have been discontinued for two thousand years.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Renewal Of The Animal Sacrifices

In approaching this problem, let us remember this one fact: That when the sacrifices were discontinued, our Lord instituted what is called the Supper, which is a memorial observance to celebrate His laying down His life for us and shedding His blood for the remission of our sins. Believers are urged to observe this constantly "till he come." By observing this ceremony, we are reminded of the fact that our Lord purchased redemption for us. It is most essential that we remember that fact and keep His atonement ever before our eyes--for we are too prone to forget.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Life Under the Perfect King

Renewal Of The Animal Sacrifices

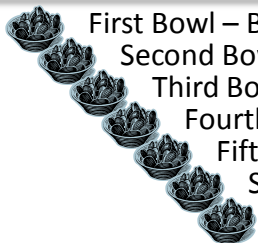
When our Lord returns in glory, lifts the curse, and establishes a reign of righteousness and peace upon the earth, ideal conditions will exist. People will not know from experience the ravages and wreckage that have been caused by sin. They naturally will take for granted that such an ideal world is their rightful inheritance. It will be rather hard for them to recognize the necessity of Calvary, of the Lamb of God, and of the sacrifice which He made for them. By the Lord's re-inaugurating those bloody, animal sacrifices, there will be constantly kept before the people of the world, who will go up to Jerusalem from year to year to worship Jehovah, the thought that their redemption was very costly and precious. I can therefore see why it is that the Lord will re-inaugurate those sacrifices to keep ever before the people of that era the price of their redemption.

T + 3 ½ years (42 months)

T + 7 years

Dispensation of Grace

Dispensation of the Kingdom



First Bowl – Boils

Second Bowl – Sea to Blood

Third Bowl – Rivers to Blood

Fourth Bowl – Great Heat

Fifth Bowl – Darkness

Sixth Bowl – Euphrates Dried Up

Seventh Bowl – Hail

Nation of Israel in unbelief

Israel in belief

Postponement of Messiah's second coming and Kingdom

The Messiah reigns from Jerusalem

Tribulation believers

The Abomination of Desolation

Assembling of Antichrist Armies

National Regeneration of Israel

Destruction of Babylon

Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Fall of Jerusalem

Battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat

Antichrist Armies at Bozrah

Victory ascent upon the Mount of Olives

Abrahamic Covenant (Land, Seed, & Blessing)

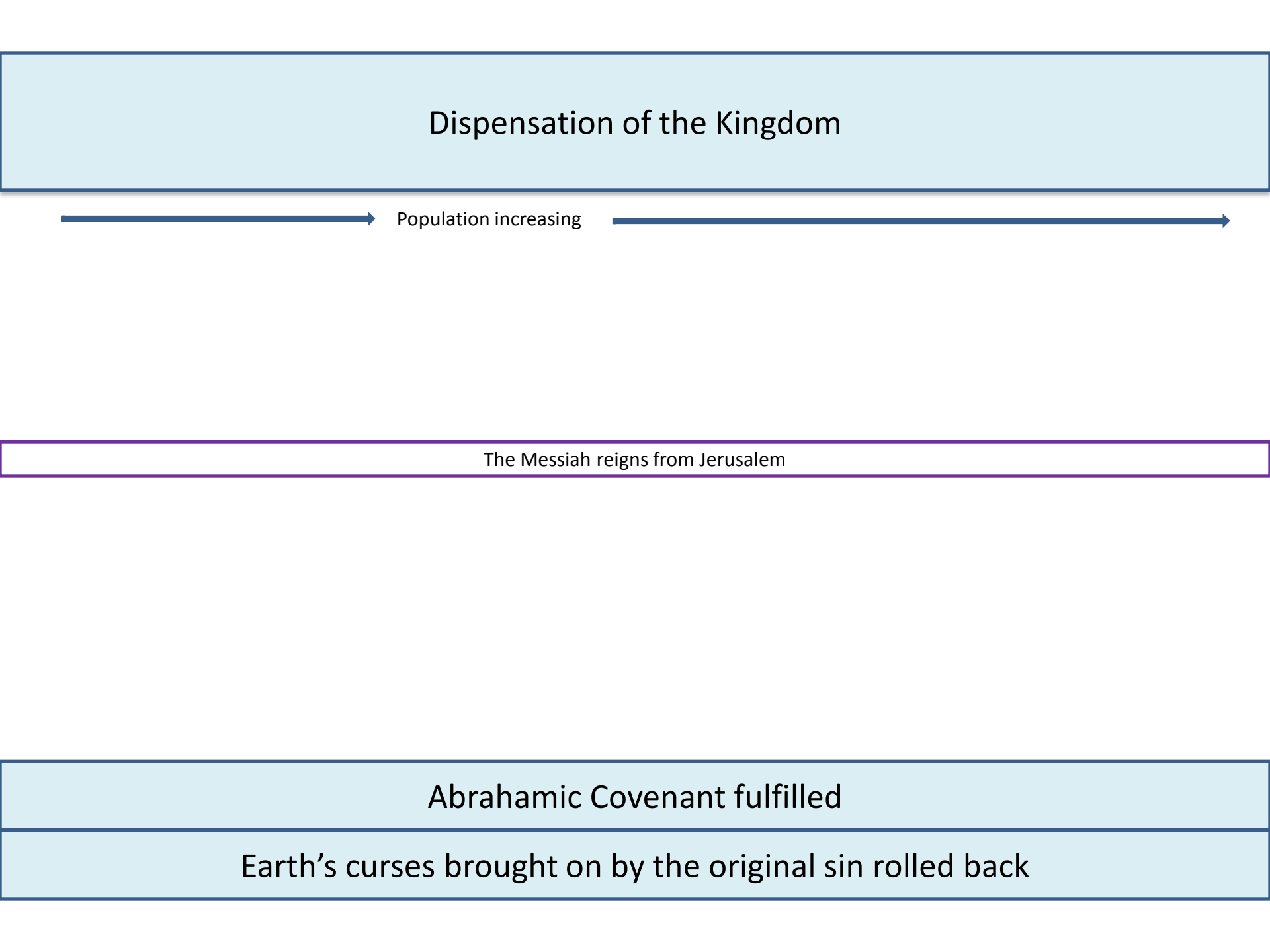
Abrahamic Covenant fulfilled

Noahic Covenant (Gentiles)

Earth's curses rolled back

Dispensation of the Kingdom

Population increasing



The Messiah reigns from Jerusalem

Abrahamic Covenant fulfilled

Earth's curses brought on by the original sin rolled back

1000 years after second coming

Dispensation of the Kingdom

Population increasing

Satan released for final deception.

Satan and his followers surround Jerusalem and are devoured by fire from heaven.

Final judgment

The Messiah reigns from Jerusalem

Faithful reign with God for eternity in the New Heaven and New Earth

Faithless to the Lake of Fire.

Faithful to the New Heaven.

Abrahamic Covenant fulfilled

Earth's curses rolled back

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Seventh Economy

Redemption Completed

The refining process is completed at the end of the Kingdom. God's creation is once again perfect. The angels that remained faithful are perfect and tested. Mankind has been redeemed and restored to perfection having been tested to their faithfulness.

Revelation 20:13–15

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Into Eternity with a Perfect Population (Revelation 21:1 – 22:6)

Mankind, having been redeemed and tested will enter into the eternal city to reign with God forever.

Revelation 21:1–22:6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband...And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper...Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street...There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ...and they will reign forever and ever.

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Into Eternity with a Perfect Population



Genesis

- Heavens and earth created (1:1)
- Sun created (1:16)
- The night established (1:5)
- The seas created (1:10)
- The curse announced (3:14–17)
- Death enters history (3:19)
- Man driven from the tree (3:24)
- Sorrow and pain begin (3:17)



Revelation

- New heavens and earth (21:1)
- No need of the sun (21:23)
- No night there (21:25; 22:5)
- No more seas (21:1)
- No more curse (22:3)
- No more death (21:4)
- Man restored to paradise (22:14)
- No more mourning, crying or pain (21:4)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Fellowship with Him

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12, NASB95)

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.” (1 John 3:2, NASB95)

““If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:3, NASB95)

*“they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.”
(Revelation 22:4, NASB95)*

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Rest

“And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.”” (Revelation 14:13, NASB95)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Full Knowledge

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12, NASB95)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Holiness

“and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

(Revelation 21:27, NASB95)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Joy

“and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4, NASB95)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Service

“There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;” (Revelation 22:3, NASB95)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Abundance

“Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.” (Revelation 21:6, NASB95)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Glory

“For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,” (2 Corinthians 4:17, NASB95)

“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:4, NASB95)

Refining a Creation for Eternity

The New Heaven and Earth

Life in the Eternal City

A Life of Worship

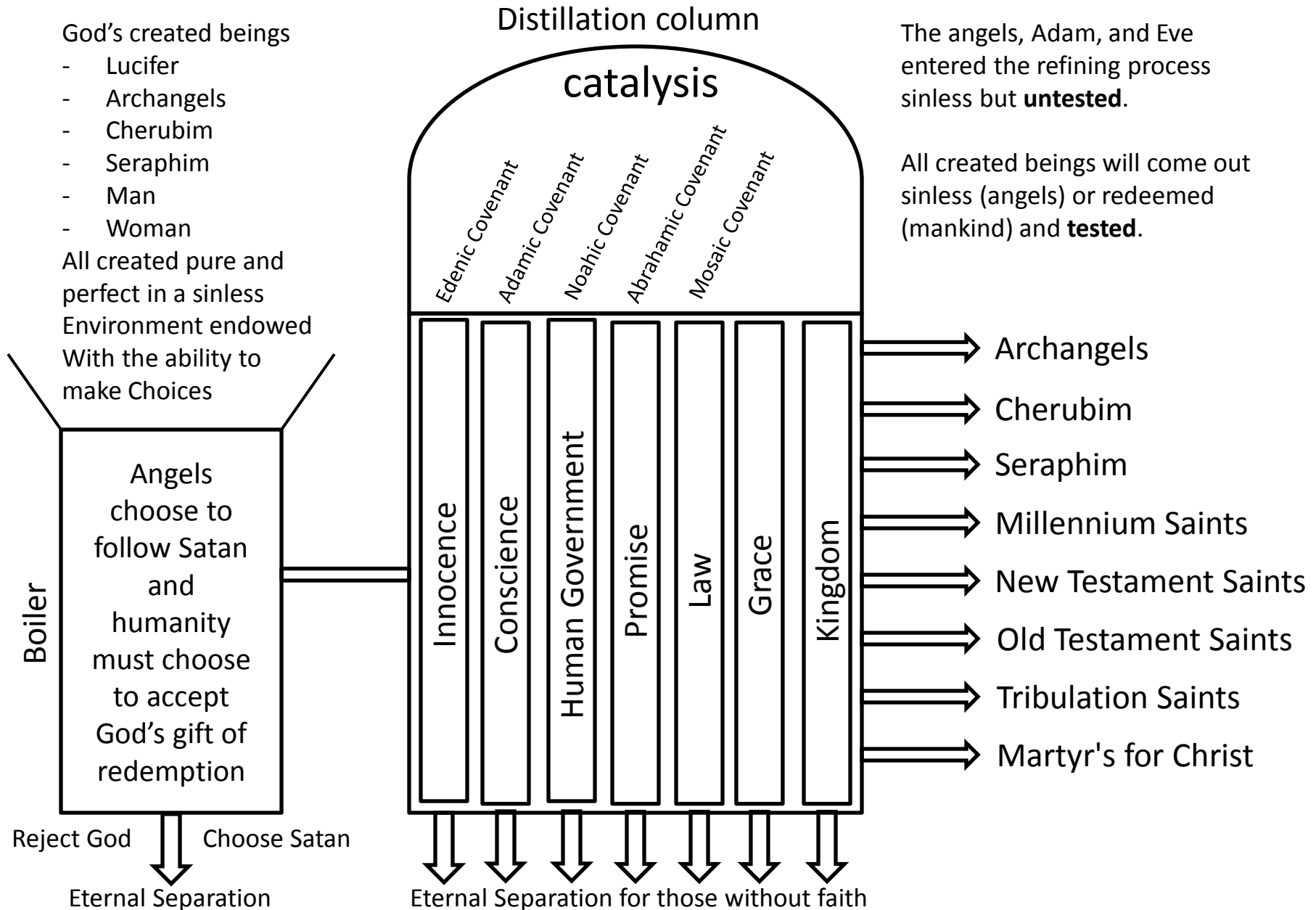
“After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;”

(Revelation 19:1, NASB95)

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.””

(Revelation 7:9–12, NASB95)

God's Refining Process for His Created Beings



Refining a Creation for Eternity

The Revealed Plan of God from Eternity Past to Eternity Future



www.RefiningaCreation.org