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INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURES

FACTS CONCERNING THE BIBLE

1. Author claims to be God, both Old & New Testaments
 2. Written over a period of 1,500 years
 3. 40 different human authors, yet one in content
 4. Writers are from many various backgrounds
 5. Written in 3 different languages
 6. Translated into over 2,200 languages
 7. Has the reasons for sin, suffering and salvation
 8. Presents a clear theme from cover to cover
 9. Offers a free salvation to all peoples
 10. Reveals a simple plan of salvation
 11. Focuses on reality not fantasy
 12. Not confined to certain classes of people
 13. Clearly predicted future happenings
 14. Relevant from generation to generation
- A. *Jesus Christ honored the scriptures and He quoted extensively from them, claiming that they could not be broken.*
- B. *The wonderful knowledge of the Bible – as it touches on science, astronomy and history. It has been ahead of the knowledge of men. The Bible agrees with true science & archeology.*
- C. *The ethics of the Bible – utterly different from anything in the world. It teaches the highest code of morality known to man. Compare Jesus Christ to the other religious founders.*
- D. *One central theme – Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament Someone is coming; in the gospels He came; in the Epistles He is coming again.*
- E. *Prophecy and its precise fulfillment. Psalms 22, Isaiah 53, Isaiah 7:14; 9:6,7; Genesis 3:15. All pointing to the coming Messiah/Christ.*
- F. *Through the years no other book has stood so well against the attacks of the atheist.*
- G. *The eternal character of the Bible. – It has transformed the life of men and women throughout all ages.*

Jesus said, “Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39

UNIQUENESS OF BIBLICAL SALVATION...

- A. It is not limited to nationality or number. John 1:12 & 3:16
- B. It is void of human merit. Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8 9; Titus 3:5
- C. It is fully dependent on the work of another. Rom. 3:24 & Heb. 7:25
- D. It states that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. John 14:6
- E. One must receive Jesus Christ by faith. John 3:36; Romans 4:5
- F. Salvation is guaranteed since Christ did all the work. I John 5:13
- G. Simple faith in a risen savior. 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

The Old Testament Arrangement				
The Books of Moses <i>Genesis – Deuteronomy</i>	The Books of History <i>Joshua – Esther</i>	The Books of Poetry <i>Job – Song of Solo</i>	The Major Prophets <i>Isaiah – Daniel</i>	The Minor Prophets <i>Hosea – Malachi</i>

Books of the Bible were placed in categories rather than historical order.

The Books of Poetry and of the Prophets were written during the Books of History, other than Job which most likely took place during the times of the Patriarchs.

The New Testament Arrangement				
The Gospels <i>Matthew – John</i>	The Book of History <i>Acts</i>	Paul’s Epistles <i>Romans – Philemon</i>	General Epistles <i>Hebrews – Jude</i>	Prophecy <i>Revelation</i>

The Scripture’s Key Theme

Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

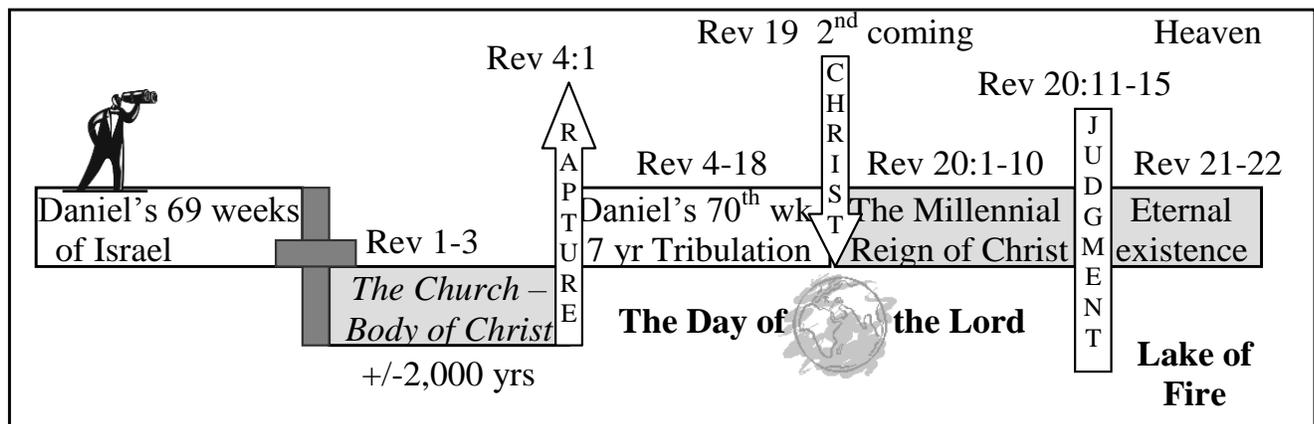
Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.” Luke 24:44-48

Genesis – Malachi, The Messiah is Coming

Matthew – John, The Messiah is Here

Acts – Revelation, The Messiah is Coming Back

A Simple Prophetic Timeline



Old Testament

Contrasted to

New Testament

Focus – Israel

Focus – The Church

Earthly kingdom

Heavenly kingdom

Earthly prosperity

Heavenly treasure

Earthly power

Spiritual power

Physical worship

Spiritual sacrifice

One temple

Many temples

Physical peace

Warfare/inner peace

Physical victory

Spiritual victory

*For our learning,
but not written directly
to us.*

*For our learning,
and written
directly to us.*



1. Early Life of Man

Gen. 1:1 ~ 11:26

A. Creation of earth & mankind

God's handiwork: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... Then God saw **everything** that He had made, and indeed it was **very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.* 1:1 & 31

Man's conditions: *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **tend** and **keep** it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall **not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall **surely die**."* 2:15-17

Conclusions: God created a beautiful, perfect earth and created man and placed him above all other creatures and equipped him to tend and oversee His creation. He gave Eve to Adam, to become his wife and become one with him in marriage, that they may fully enjoy the pleasures of intimacy and make a family on earth. (1:28-30; 2:21-25)

B. Fall of mankind into sin

Man's failure: *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, **she** took of its fruit and **ate**. She also gave to her husband with her, and **he ate**. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they **knew** that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.* 3:6-7

God's judgment: The snake is cursed; Eve is cursed; Adam is cursed, and as a result all of mankind is cursed. The earth also suffers because of Adam's sin. (3:14-19; 23-24)

Conclusions: Shame, blame and death entered the world through Adam's sin! (3:8-13) Yet in man's failure God provided the solutions.

*Therefore, just as through **one man** sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because **all sinned**... Rom 5:12*

*...because the **creation** itself also will be **delivered** from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God... Rom 8:21*

1. ADAMIC COVENANT (?) 3:21; 4:1-5

God's promise/sign: *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and **her Seed**; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.* 3:15

God's provision: *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of **skin**, and clothed them... Abel also brought of the **firstborn of his flock** and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering... 3:21; 4:4*

Man's conditions: Hard work for all of his days on earth, due to the results of sin. (3:4-19)

Conclusions: For the first time an animal had to die and shed its blood to cover the shameful sin of Adam and Eve. God promised that the seed of the woman would one day solve the problem of the serpent which would be death. Abel seemed to understand the need of an animal sacrifice than Cain. Abel's involved death and blood, while Cain's was simply the fruit of the land. Sadly, Adam's sin became very clear in that the first son of Adam became a murderer!

C. The great flood of Noah

Man's failure: *Then the LORD saw that the **wickedness of man** was great in the earth, and that **every intent** of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will **destroy man** whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air...." But Noah **found grace** in the eyes of the LORD. 6:5–8*

God's judgment: *Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth... So He **destroyed all living things** which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. **Only Noah** and those who were **with him** in the ark remained alive. 7:17, 23*

Conclusions: Mankind did not improve in character, but continued to sin in his thoughts and actions. God had to deal severely with mankind through a worldwide judgment. A flood covered the whole earth, and only Noah and his family were preserved. Noah did find that God was gracious, for he was a man of faith, just like Abel. (Heb 11:4)

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household... heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. Heb 11:7

2. NOAHIC COVENANT 9:1-17

God's promise and sign: God's promise was to never destroy the earth again by a flood. The promise would extend to all creatures and to all generations after Noah; the sign of the promise being the rainbow in the sky. (9:8-17)

God's provision: *Every moving thing that lives **shall be food** for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. 9:3*

Man's conditions: *Be fruitful and multiply, and **fill the earth**... But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood... Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man. 9:1, 4, 6*

Conclusions: The promise to Noah and the following generations was that God would not judge the world again by a flood, even though mankind's heart remained sinful. The rainbow represents God's faithfulness to His promise. God also put a fear in the animals for the dominance and preservation of mankind; he was now allowed to eat animals; but not the blood. Mankind was also given the responsibility of carrying out judgment on murderers as was not the case with Cain. Human government is still in place today.

D. The Tower of Babel

Mankind's failure: *Come, let us **build ourselves** a city, and a tower whose top is in **the heavens**; let us **make a name** for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 11:4*

God's judgment: *And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; **now nothing** that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there **confuse** their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." So the LORD **scattered** them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 11:6–8*

Conclusions: God graciously judges man in order to preserve them from their ungodly ways. Evil Babel or Babylon will one day be judged as promised in the book of Revelation.

2. Patriarchal Life

Gen. 11:27 - 50:26 & Job

A. The choosing of Abram

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you." 12:1 (Acts 7:1-4)

3. ABRAHAMIC COVENANT 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:7-21; 17:1-21

God's promises: *I will make you a great nation (People and land of Israel); I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. 12:2-3*

*I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an **everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. 17:7*

God's provisions: (Unconditional covenant) *On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram... 15:18. (The son of promise) Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. 21:1-2*

God's sign: *And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations... 17:11-12*

Abraham's conditions: *"Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he **believed in the LORD**, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. 15:5-6*

Conclusions: Abraham was called into a special everlasting covenant to God; the 3 main promises included a *land*, a *seed*, and *blessing*. He was promised to be a special people, with a land and that he would be special blessing. Other covenants will be promised to Israel which find their beginnings in the Abrahamic Covenant; the land covenants, the Davidic Covenant and the New Covenant (Christ, the offspring of Abraham will bring to fulfillment all of God's promises to Abraham).

B. Birth of Isaac, Jacob & Israel

*"... Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name **Isaac**; and I will establish My **covenant** with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. 17:19*

Note: As Abraham passed the blessing to Isaac, so he passed the covenant blessings to Jacob. (28:3-4)

C. The migration of (Jacob) Israel to Egypt

God revealed this to Abraham (15:13-14), and it came to pass in Jacob's day. (Gen 47-48)

4. ABRAHAMIC COVENANT ORDER

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and then his 12 sons which are the 12 tribes of Israel. (Gen 49)

I am the God of your father - the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Exo 3:6

3. Early Israelite Life

Exodus - 1 Sam. 7 & Ruth

A. Birth of Israel's deliverer – Moses

*And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to **deliver them** out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to **bring them** up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey..."* Exo 3:7–8

... and I have remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of Israel: "I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments." Exo 6:5–6

B. The exodus of Israel

God's deliverance: *Thus all the children of Israel did (Passover meal); as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel **out of the land of Egypt** according to their armies.* Exo 12:50–51

God's sign: *It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that **you shall keep** this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'* Exo 12:25–27

Conclusions: Again, blood had to be shed in order that the Israelite's firstborn would live. Passover became 1 of the 3 main feasts of Israel, always reminding them of God's special redemption for their nation. It would be Passover when Jesus identified Himself as the true Passover Lamb, and that His blood would be the blood of the New Covenant. (Matt 26:28; John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7)

5. MOSAIC (OLD) COVENANT

Recipients: Moses and all of Israel. *Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And **all the people answered with one voice** and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do."* Exo 24:3

Details: The core of the Mosaic Covenant is the "Law of Moses." It contained 613 commands; 365 were negative, 248 were positive. This covenant is one unit and inseparable (James 2:10), and that is also why it is called the *Law*, not *Laws* of Moses. The covenant contained 3 major aspects; the moral, ceremonial and sacrificial. Circumcision was also reaffirmed, while the Sabbath became essential to Israelite life under the Law.

Purposes: The Law confirmed the character of God; provided a rule of law for Israel; kept Israel separate from other nations; it revealed sin, and in actuality made more sin. The greatest aspect of the Law was that it served as a preparation for the Gospel of Christ, or the New Covenant.

Basis: Unlike the Abrahamic covenant, the Mosaic was a conditional covenant. Blessing came by keeping the Law, not by believing in God's promises.

*The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, **if you keep** the commandments of the LORD your God and **walk** in His ways.* Deut 28:9

Conclusions: The Mosaic Covenant was offered to Israel alone, and they agreed to it. The Israelites broke the Law the moment they received it. It revealed and provoked their sin. The Law ultimately was a teaching tool, teaching Israel about God's character, their sin and the need of blood sacrifice. The Law could only hold the sinner guilty, the Law could not save or perfect, revealing the need of something or *someone* much better. The Law was simply a shadow of the reality of Jesus. It was a conditional covenant that was temporary until the establishment of the New Covenant. Israel's blessing would not come under the Mosaic, but under the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant. Shavuot, the 2nd of the 3 main feasts honors the receiving of the Mosaic Law/Covenant.

Note: Shavuot is the same as Pentecost. When Israel was celebrating this feast in Jerusalem after the resurrection, which is when Peter and the disciples were first filled with the Holy Spirit and preached the New Covenant which replaced the Mosaic!

C. 40 years of wilderness wanderings

*For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they **could not** enter in because of unbelief. Heb 3:16–19*

Note: Sukkot became the 3rd of the 3 major feasts of Israel. This feast celebrates not only their 40 years of wilderness wanderings as a nomadic people, but also the harvest. This feast will be fully understood with Christ's 2nd coming.

D. Claiming of the promised land

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. Joshua 1:1–2

Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. Joshua 24:31

E. Life under the rule of Judges

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25

Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel... But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. 1 Sam 8:1, 3

Conclusions: The early life of Israel was very unstable. Israel sought the Lord while in Egypt, and yet rebelled during the 40 years of wilderness wanderings; they fought for victory under Joshua and gained the Promised Land, and yet failed under the Judges.

Moses became Israel's most popular figure. He was their leader, deliverer and giver of the Law; he was also their prophet who was a figure of Christ. *The LORD your God will raise up for you a **Prophet** like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear...* Deut 18:15

The 3 major feasts that Israel celebrates today all reflect this time period: *Passover*, deliverance from bondage; *Shavuot*, receiving the Law at Mt. Sinai; and *Sukkot*, a wandering people. It was Israel's early life as a people that still defines them today.

4. Israelite Monarchies

1 Sam. 8 - Malachi

A. The anointing of Israel's 1st King

Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations... "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them." 1 Sam 8:5, 7

*For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after **His own heart**... 1 Sa 13:13-14*

B. The anointing of King David

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. 1 Sam 16:13

6. DAVIDIC COVENANT

***I will** appoint a place for My people Israel... that they may dwell in a place of their own... nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore... Also the LORD tells you that **He will** make you a house... When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, **I will** set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and **I will** establish his kingdom... **I will** establish the throne of his kingdom forever... **I will** be his Father, and he shall be My son... My mercy shall not depart from him... And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever. 1 Sam 7:8-17.*

Recipients: King David and his seed, and ultimately Jesus Christ (1 Chron 17:11-15).

God's Promises: An eternal kingdom and dynasty (2 Sam 7:11-16; 1 Chron 17:10), an heir (2 Sam 7:12), and his seed would be a privileged son. Disobedience by his son would not cause the covenant to be taken away. (Psa 89)

God's Purposes: To further bless Israel with a true eternal king and kingdom based on the original promises made to Abraham; especially the land and seed promises. God narrowed down the seed aspect of the Messiah; 1st, the seed of Eve; 2nd, the seed of Judah; 3rd, the seed of Abraham; and now 4th, the seed of David.

Basis: Similar to the Abrahamic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant is based upon God's gracious promises. David accepted the promised "I wills" of God as did his father Abraham.

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of **David**, the Son of **Abraham**: Mt 1:1*

C. The building of God's temple

*Now it was in the **heart** of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. But the LORD said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.' So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. And there I have made a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt." 1 Kings 8:17-21*

The kingdoms of Israel and Judah united with David & divided after Solomon's reign (1 Kings 12).

D. The judgment of Israel – 722 BC

In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maachah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria. 2 Kings 15:29

7A. PROMISE OF A NEW COVENANT

*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when **I will** make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah- not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that **I will** make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will** put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and **I will** be their God, and they shall be My people. Je 31:31–33*

*Then **I will** sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; **I will** cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **I will** give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; **I will** take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will** put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. Eze 36:25–29*

Recipients: All of Israel and Judah

God’s Promise: To establish a New Covenant with all of Israel based on the “I wills” of God; in order to give all Israelites spiritual life through cleansing and forgiveness of sins, and regeneration of the Holy Spirit; and to establish them in their Promised Land.

God’s Purposes: To restore Israel both *spiritually* and *physically* based on an unconditional covenant, very different from the Mosaic Covenant. The New Covenant reflects the blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Basis: Similar to the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants, it is based upon God’s gracious promises; the “I wills” of God. This covenant would be begun and established by Jesus Christ. The full blessing of all the unconditional covenants find their fulfillment by Jesus Christ.

E. The judgment of Judah – 586 BC

Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land. 2 Kings 25:21

Conclusions: Israel and Judah both failed as a sinful people under the Mosaic Law and eventually lost their kingdoms; yet within the books of the prophets there is an abundance of prophecy regarding a glorious future for Israel under their One Messianic King, the Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ who inaugurated the New Covenant. God would yet fulfill every promise He has made to Abraham, Israel and to King David, for these promises are based on the unconditional covenants that God established with them. All the promises made to Israel will be fulfilled not by their own goodness but the greatness and goodness of their Messiah. Jesus Christ is the hero of the story! He is Abraham’s seed, King David’s seed and He is the prophesied covenant promise.

I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people... Isa 42:6

5. Messiah's Life With Israel

Matthew ~ John

A. The birth of the Messiah

*So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**," which is translated, "**God with us**." Matt 1:22–23*

*For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is **Christ the Lord**. Luke 2:11*

B. The teachings & miracles of the Messiah

*And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people **were astonished** at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Matt 7:28–29*

*And they **were astonished** beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." Mark 7:37*

C. The rejection of the Messiah

*Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes **were amazed** and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except **by Beelzebub**, the ruler of the demons." Mt 12:22–24*

D. The reality of the Passover is the New Covenant

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." Mt 26:26–29

7B NEW COVENANT REALITY SECURED

*By that [God's] will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**, **sat down** at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by **one offering** He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, "This is the [New] covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: **I will** put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds **I will** write them," then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds **I will** remember no more." Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. Heb 10:10–18*

Note: The true purposes of Passover and the animal sacrifices was to teach Israel about the reality of them, which is Jesus Christ, the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He was the perfect NC sacrifice who had to die only once, since He was perfect. We CANNOT add to His work!

E. The resurrection of Jesus Christ

*Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man **attested by God** to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know- Him, being delivered by **the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by **lawless hands**, have crucified, and put to death; **whom God raised up**, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. Acts 2:22–24*

*And with great power the apostles gave witness to the **resurrection of the Lord Jesus**. And great grace was upon them all. Acts 4:33*

*...separated to the gospel of God which **He promised** before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the **seed of David** according to the flesh, and **declared to be the Son of God with power** according to the Spirit of holiness, by the **resurrection from the dead**. Rom 1:1-4*

*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand... For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was **buried**, and that **He rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 1 Cor 15:1–8*

*But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our **preaching is empty** and **your faith is also empty**. 1 Cor 15:13–14*

Conclusions: The centerpiece of the gospel was the resurrection of Christ. Jesus Himself declared, *Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that **I may take it again**. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and **I have power to take it again**. This command I have received from My Father (John 10:17-18).*

His resurrection proved the value of His death for our sins, as God accepted His sacrifice. His resurrection also secures the promise of His coming back again! He is able and will yet fulfill His many promises to Israel and to us because HE IS ALIVE. No resurrection, no eternal future!

*Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, **I am alive forevermore**. Amen. Rev 1:17–18*

6. Church's Beginnings

Acts

A. Pentecost – the birth of the church Acts 2

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and **will be in you**. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you**. John 14:16–18*

*Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**. Acts 1:4–5*

*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. Eph 1:13–14*

Conclusions: According to the OT prophecies and the promise of Christ Himself, the NC promise of the Holy Spirit was first given to the Apostles, and then to those afterward who believed in Christ. The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Trinity and is received when one places their faith in Christ alone.

7C. THE NEW COVENANT INITIATED

B. Jerusalem & Judea hear the gospel

*But you shall **receive power when the Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

*...they were **all scattered** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Therefore those who were **scattered** went everywhere preaching the word. Acts 8:1, 4*

C. The calling of the Apostle Paul

But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake. Acts 9:15–16

Note: With no doubt, Paul became the apostle who was given the task of spreading the gospel throughout the Mediterranean region. He was also given special revelation regarding the great NC truths.

D. The Gentile nations hear the gospel

*They sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had **opened the door of faith** to the Gentiles. Acts 14:26–27*

E. Churches of Jew & Gentile are born

Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.” And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. Acts 17:2–4

7. Church's Growth

Romans – Rev. 3

7D. NEW COVENANT TEACHINGS CLARIFIED

A. The breadth of the Gospel from Romans (My own emphasis added to the scripture)

The Gospel...

...is the authority and righteousness of God, received and lived out by faith alone:

1:16–17, For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power of God** that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel **the righteousness of God** is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will **live by faith**.”

...declares that all peoples are helpless sinners and fall short of God's righteousness:

3:10–12, As it is written: “There is **no one righteous, not even one**; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is **no one** who does good, **not even one**.” **3:23**, ...for **all have sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God...

...declares God's own righteousness is received by faith in Christ alone and His sacrifice:

3:22–24, This **righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe**. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and **all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus**.

...shows Christ's sacrifice requires no works; justification (righteousness) is by faith only:

3:28, For we maintain that a person is **justified by faith apart from the works of the law**. **4:3–5**, What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one **who does not work but trusts God** who justifies the ungodly, **their faith is credited as righteousness**.

...teaches us to live by faith in God's promises, the same way as we are saved:

4:20–22, Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was **strengthened in his faith** and gave glory to God, **being fully persuaded** that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”

...promises peace with God and access by faith to God's goodness which belongs to us:

5:1–2, Therefore, since we **have been justified through faith**, we **have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have **gained access by faith** into this grace in which we now stand.

...declares God's love and our reconciliation (righted relationship to God) through Christ:

5:8, But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

5:10, For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

promises that we are free from sin, no longer slaves to our sinful nature:

6:11–12, In the same way, count yourselves **dead to sin** but **alive to God** in Christ Jesus. Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **6:22**, But now that you have been **set free from sin** and have become **slaves of God**, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

...declares that we are not judged, but set free from the law of sin and death through the perfect completed redemptive work of Christ on Calvary.

8:1-2, Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has **set you free** from the law of sin and death.

Through Christ we are given the Holy Spirit, so we can fully enjoy our Sonship and security:

8:15-16, The **Spirit you received** does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we **are God’s children**. **8:38-39**, For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Through the example of Christ’s gospel we are taught how to live for God, and to serve others:

12:1-2, Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **Do not conform** to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**.

13:9-10, ...and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “**Love your neighbor as yourself**.” Love does **no harm to a neighbor**. Therefore **love** is the fulfillment of the law.

The Gospel of Christ saves us, seals us, changes us, and gives us an eternal hope; all by simple faith!

B. The Church is distinguished from Israel

Romans 9-11

C. Church directives are established

Especially in the Apostle Paul’s teachings. See page 19 for NC clarification.

D. Churches continue to grow & spread

Acts, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

E. Many false teachers of Christ arise

2 Peter 2, Jude

AN OVERVIEW OF EPHESIANS

Chapter 1, The Churches NC Blessings

Chapters 2 & 3, The Churches NC Calling

Chapter 4 -6 , The Churches NC Responsibilities

Conclusions: By God's grace the Gentile nations were welcomed into God's NC family through Jesus Christ, because of the Jewish nation's rejection on their Messiah. It does not mean that the Church has replaced Israel; it only means that all the covenant promises made to Israel are delayed until the time of the prophesied Tribulation when Israel as a nation will repent.

As Gentile sinners we should praise Christ because He has reached out to us! It is obvious that since Christ has not taken us from this world, our job is to continue to spread the blessed news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and continue to invite all peoples to trust in Him alone for their salvation.

Romans 15:7-13

8. Future of Israel & the Church

Rev. 4-22

A. The unveiling of Jesus Christ

Rev 4-5

B. The beginning of sorrows/tribulation

Rev 6-7

C. The great tribulation

Rev 8-18

D. The restoration of Israel

Takes place throughout the book and comes to fulfillment by chapter 22.

E. The final judgments of the world

Rev 19-20

F. The restoration of all things

Rev 21-22

Conclusions: The Unveiling of Jesus Christ to the world is yet to come. The majority of Revelation is future and yet to take place, in which God will systematically crush His enemy Satan and his kingdom. God will accomplish this with 3 sets of judgments, the 7 seal, 7 trumpet, and 7 bowl judgments.

After this God will restore His theocracy for Israel over all the earth through the second Adam, Jesus Christ; in which He will also bring an end to all sin with war at the Great White Throne judgment. After this He will create the new heavens and earth where all believers from all time will live in perfect unity and love in the presence of God. That is when all the *covenants of promise* will all be perfectly fulfilled by our Lord Jesus Christ.

8. COVENANTS OF PROMISE FULFILLED

New Covenant Implications

If the Old Covenant offered what the New Covenant delivers, why the need of Calvary?
Who is right, Jesus or Paul? Or is it that they are on different sides of the Cross?

Old Covenant

New Covenant

Psa. 51:11

Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Eph. 1:13, 4:30

...in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise...
And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Matt. 6:14–15

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

...forgiving each other... just as the Lord forgave you...

Lev. 19:18

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Jn. 13:34; 15:12

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you...
This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.