

# THE COMING KINGDOM



What Is the Kingdom and  
How Is Kingdom Now Theology  
Changing the Focus of the Church?

**Andrew M. Woods**

Foreword by Thomas Ice

# The Coming Kingdom

## Chapter 11



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# Kingdom Study Outline



1. What does the Bible Say About the Kingdom?
2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations
3. Why do some believe that we are in the kingdom now?
4. Why does it matter?



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# 1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Eden                  | 6. Old Testament Prophets      |
| 2. Abrahamic Covenant    | 7. Post exile                  |
| 3. Mosaic Covenant       | 8. Offer of the King / Kingdom |
| 4. Divided Kingdom       | 9. Rejection of the Offer      |
| 5. Times of the Gentiles | 10. Interim Age                |



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# THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)
2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



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**2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)**



# Matthew 13 Parables

- Public parables (13:1-2)
  - Sower (13:1-9, 18-23)
  - Wheat and tares (13:24-30, 36-43)
  - Mustard seed (13:31-32)
  - Leaven (13:33)
- Private parables (13:36)
  - Earthen treasure (13:44)
  - Pearl of great price (13:45-46)
  - Dragnet (13:47-50)
  - Householder (13:51-52)



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# The Church Age

1. The definition of the Church
2. The beginning of the Church
3. The purposes of the Church
4. The Church is not the Kingdom
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# 1. The Definition of the Church

a. All (both Jew & Gentile) who have trusted in the very Messiah rejected by first-century national Israel (Gal. 3:28; Rom. 10:19; Eph. 2:14)

b. Intercalation

c. Does not fulfill Israel's purposes



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## 2. When Did the Church Begin?



- a. Christ referred to the Church in the future tense (Matt. 16:18)
- b. Paul referred to the Church as a “mystery” (Eph. 3:4-5, 9)
- c. The Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since Christ became the head of the Church (Eph. 5:23) after His Ascension (Eph. 1:20-22)
- d. The Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:26) only came into existence after His Ascension (Eph. 4:7-11)

## 2. When Did the Church Begin?



- e. The Church existed before Paul's conversion in Acts 9 (Acts 5:11; 8:1,3; Rom. 16:7)
- f. The Baptizing (*joining, uniting, identifying*) ministry of the Holy Spirit began in Acts 2
  - 1) 1 Cor. 12:13
  - 2) Acts 1:5
  - 3) Acts 11:15-16
  - 4) Acts 2:1-4, 37-41



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# 3. Purposes of the Local Church



- Glorify God (Eph 3:21)
- Edify the saints (Eph 4:11-16)
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

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## 4. Church ≠ Kingdom

1. Jesus Christ is never called the King of the Church
2. Jesus Christ's relationship to His Church is never depicted through the King-Kingdom metaphor
3. Prolonged Church Age carnality
4. Church Age Gospel = believe (Acts 16:30-31)
5. Kingdom's arrival is instantaneous (Dan. 2:44) while the Church's construction is gradual (Eph. 2:22)
6. Church = heir of the Kingdom (James 2:5)

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# Universal Church Word Pictures

- Shepherd/sheep – John 10:16; Acts 20:28; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 5:2-4
- Head/body – Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:12-13; Eph 1:22-23
- Bride/groom – Eph 5:22-31; 2 Cor 11:2
- Temple – 1 Cor 3:16-17; Eph 2:19-22; Gal 6:10
- High priest/priesthood – Heb 4:14-15; 1 Pet 2:5-9; Rev 1:6
- Pillar of truth – 1 Tim 3:15
- Vine and branches – John 15:1-8

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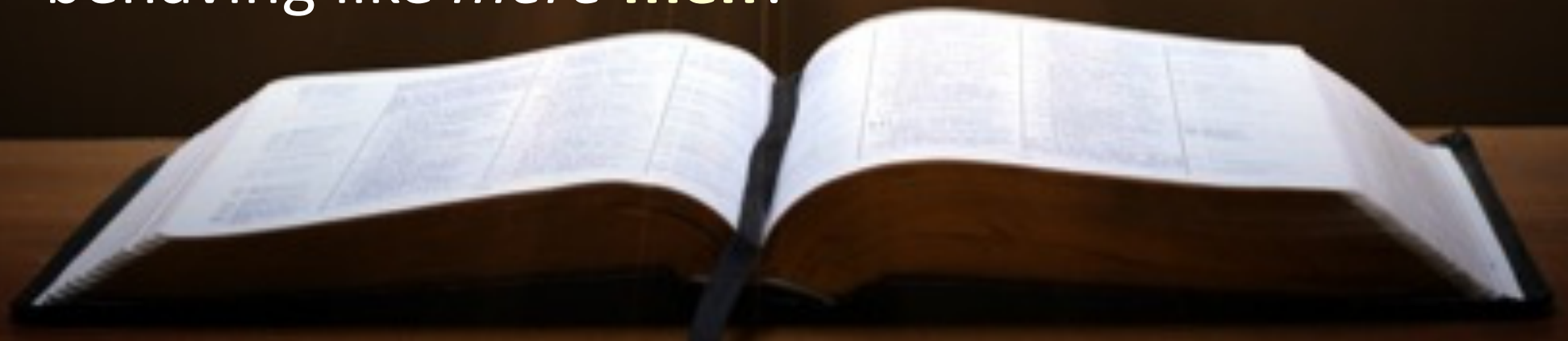
## Zechariah 14:16-18 (NASB)

“Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. <sup>17</sup> And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. <sup>18</sup> If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.”

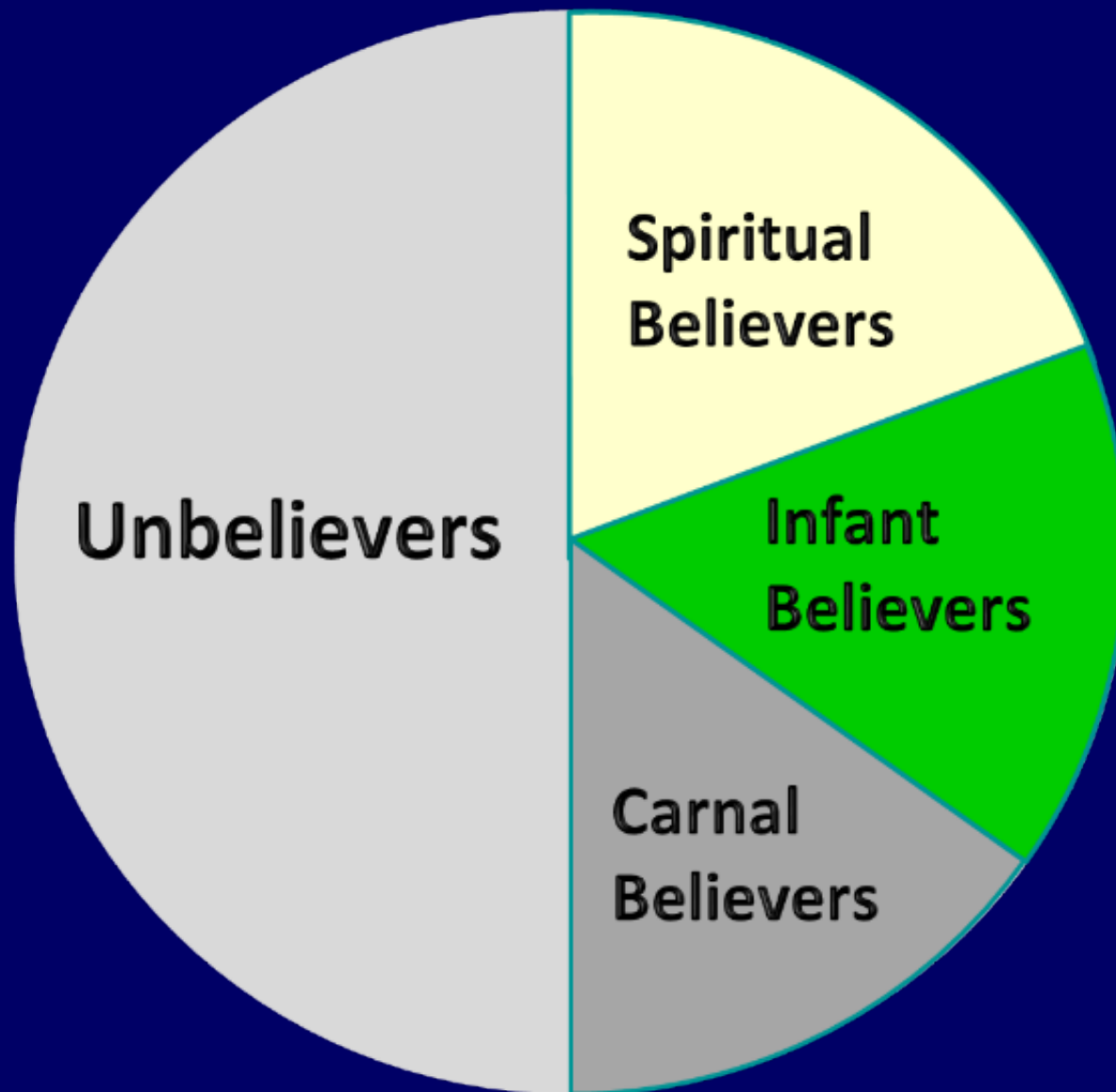


## 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people** but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup> for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere men*?



# 4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3





# The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



By Gabriel Morris

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# Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20

## Matthew 4:17 (NASB)

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”





## Matthew 10:5-7 (NASB)

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of the Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



## Acts 16:30-31 (NASB)

<sup>30</sup> and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

<sup>31</sup> They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”



# Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles

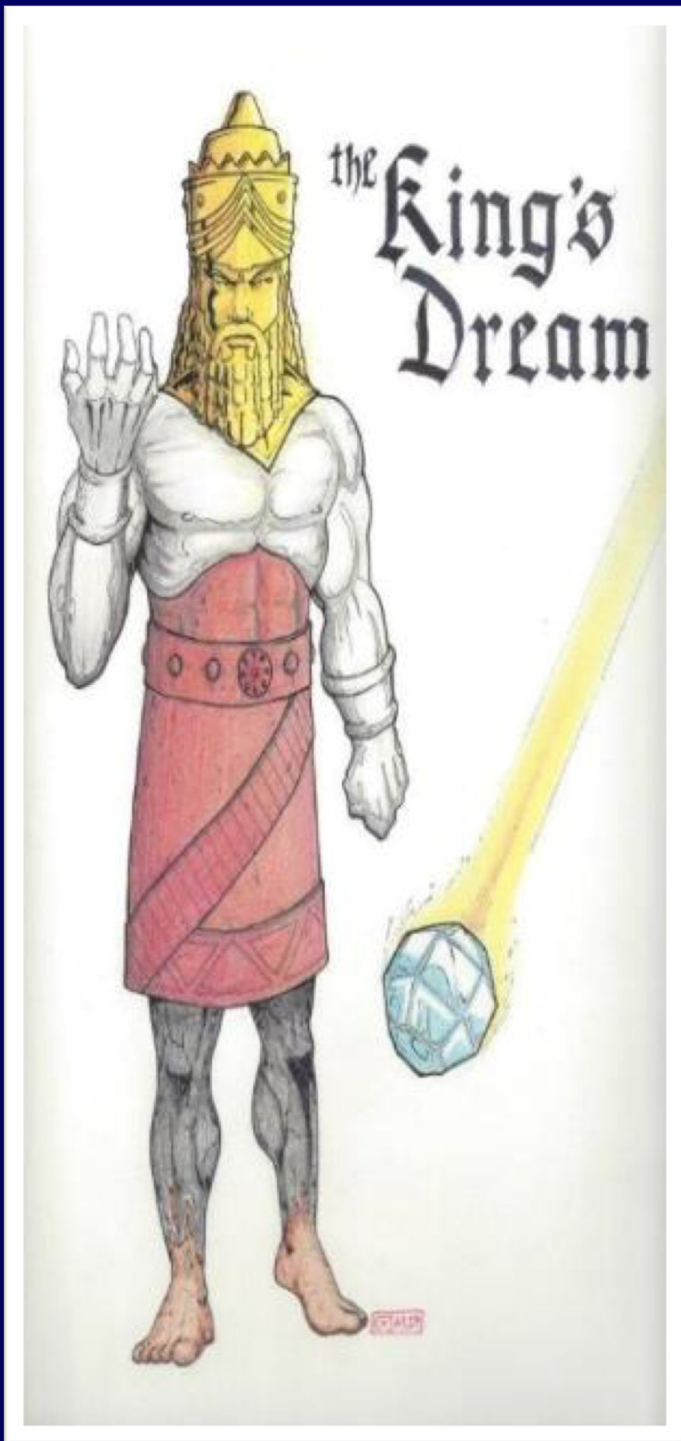




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# Statue & Stone

2. A Statue  
and a  
Stone



Statue is  
destroyed by a  
great stone,  
which represents  
Jesus Christ



HEAD  
GOLD

WORLD POWER  
BABYLON  
606-539

CHEST AND ARMS  
SILVER

WORLD POWER  
PERSIA  
539-331

STOMACH AND THIGHS  
BRASS

WORLD POWER  
GREECE  
331-323

LEGS AND FEET  
IRON & CLAY

WORLD POWER  
ROME  
322 B.C. — A.D. 476  
FUTURE

## Acts 15:14 (NASB)

Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.



# Progress Reports in Acts

- Clearest: Acts 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31
- Less clear: Acts 1:15; 2:41; 4:4, 31; 5:14, 42; 8:25, 40; 11:21; 13:49; 17:6

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## Revelation 20:4-5 (NASB)

“<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and **they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.”



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## Revelation 20:1-3 (NASB)

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.”



# Satan Uses Believers

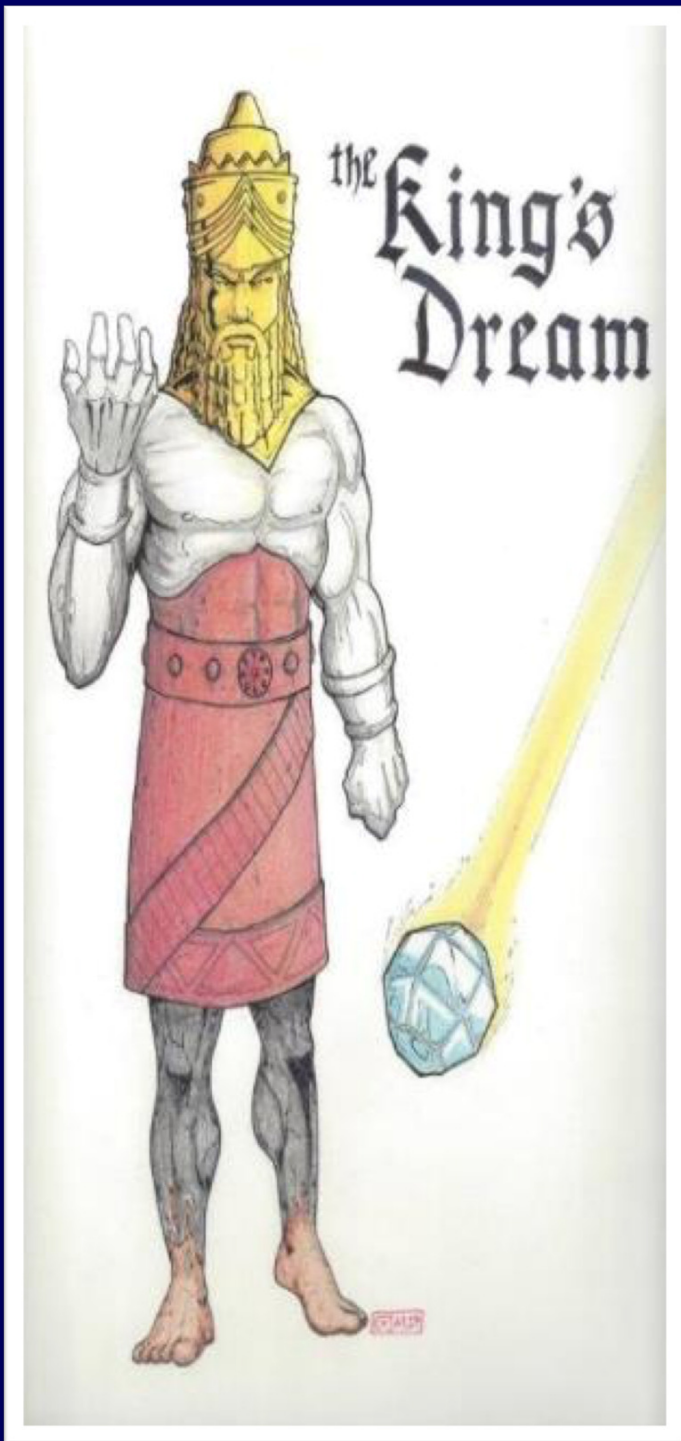


- Peter – Matt. 16:21-23
- Ananias & Sapphira – Acts 5:3-4, 11
- Ephesians – Ephes. 4:26-27



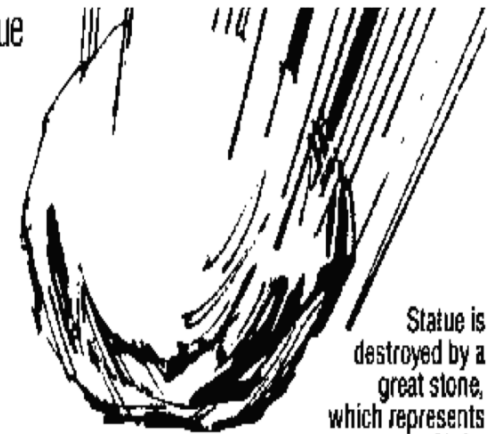
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322 B.C. — A.D. 476  
FUTURE





## Merill F. Unger

*Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody, 1981; reprint, Chatanooga, TN: AMG, 2002), 1643.

“Hence, the iron kingdom with its feet of iron and clay (cf. Dan. 3:33-35, 40, 44) and the nondescript beast of 7:7-8 envision...the form in which it will exist *after the church period*, when God will resume His dealing with the *nation* Israel. How futile for conservative scholars to ignore that fact and to seek to find literal fulfillment of those prophecies in history or in the church, when those predictions refer to events yet future and have no application whatever to the church.”

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# Christ's Three Offices

1. Prophet – 1<sup>st</sup> Coming (Matt. 4:17)
2. Priest – Present Session (Heb. 4:15)
3. King – 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (Isa. 9:6-7; Matt. 25:31)



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# Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)



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Conclusion



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PLAN IS TO STOP HERE

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## Exodus 19:5-6

“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”



## Deuteronomy 17:15

“you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.”





## Matthew 23:37-39 (NASB)

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”



## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>ISRAEL</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
<b>Marriage</b>	<b>Wife</b>	<b>Bride</b>
<b>Christ</b>	<b>Birthed Christ</b>	<b>Birthed by Christ</b>
<b>Return</b>	<b>2nd advent</b>	<b>Rapture</b>
<b>Leader</b>	<b>King</b>	<b>Head, Groom</b>
<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Gen 12</b>	<b>Acts 2</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>4/5</b>	<b>1/5</b>
<b>Covenants</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
<b>Nation</b>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>



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# Joshua 24:2-3



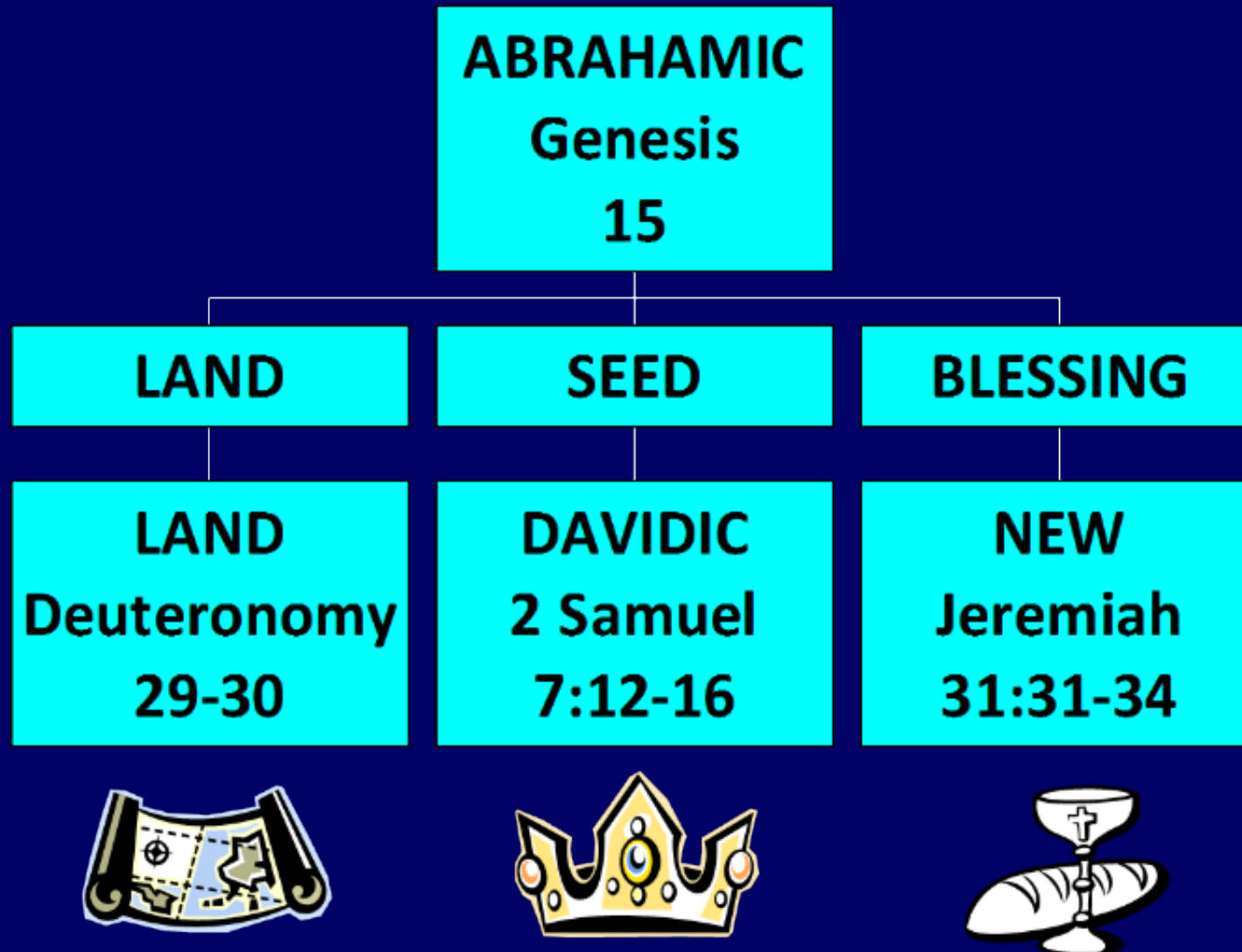
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# Abrahamic Covenant

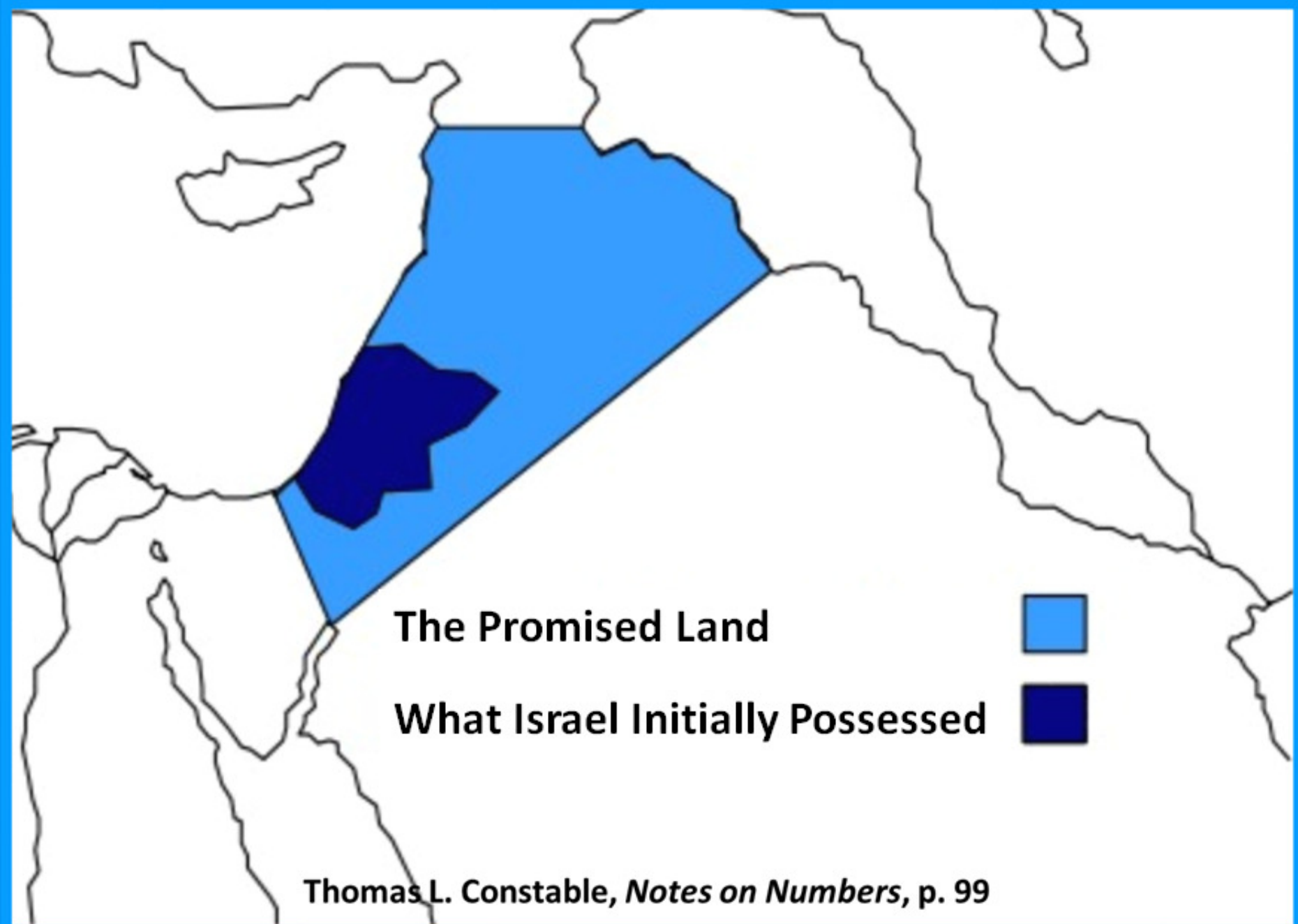


**Unconditional** covenant with a conditional blessing (Deut. 28; Lev. 26)

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<b><u>Nation</u></b>	<b><u>Political</u></b>	<b><u>Spiritual</u></b>





**The Promised Land**

**What Israel Initially Possessed**

Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Numbers*, p. 99





# Divided Kingdom

## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Wars</b>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
<b>Timing</b>	<b>A quo / ad quem</b>	<b>No time indicators</b>
<b>Priesthood</b>	<b>Have a priesthood</b>	<b>Are a priesthood</b>
<b>Temple</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Body</b>
<b>Resurrection</b>	<b>1st resurrection</b>	<b>Rapture</b>
<b>Judgment</b>	<b>Earthly (Ezek. 20:33-44)</b>	<b>Heavenly (Bema)</b>
<b>New Jerusalem</b>	<b>Gates</b>	<b>Foundations</b>
<b>Entrance</b>	<b>Physical birth</b>	<b>Spiritual birth</b>

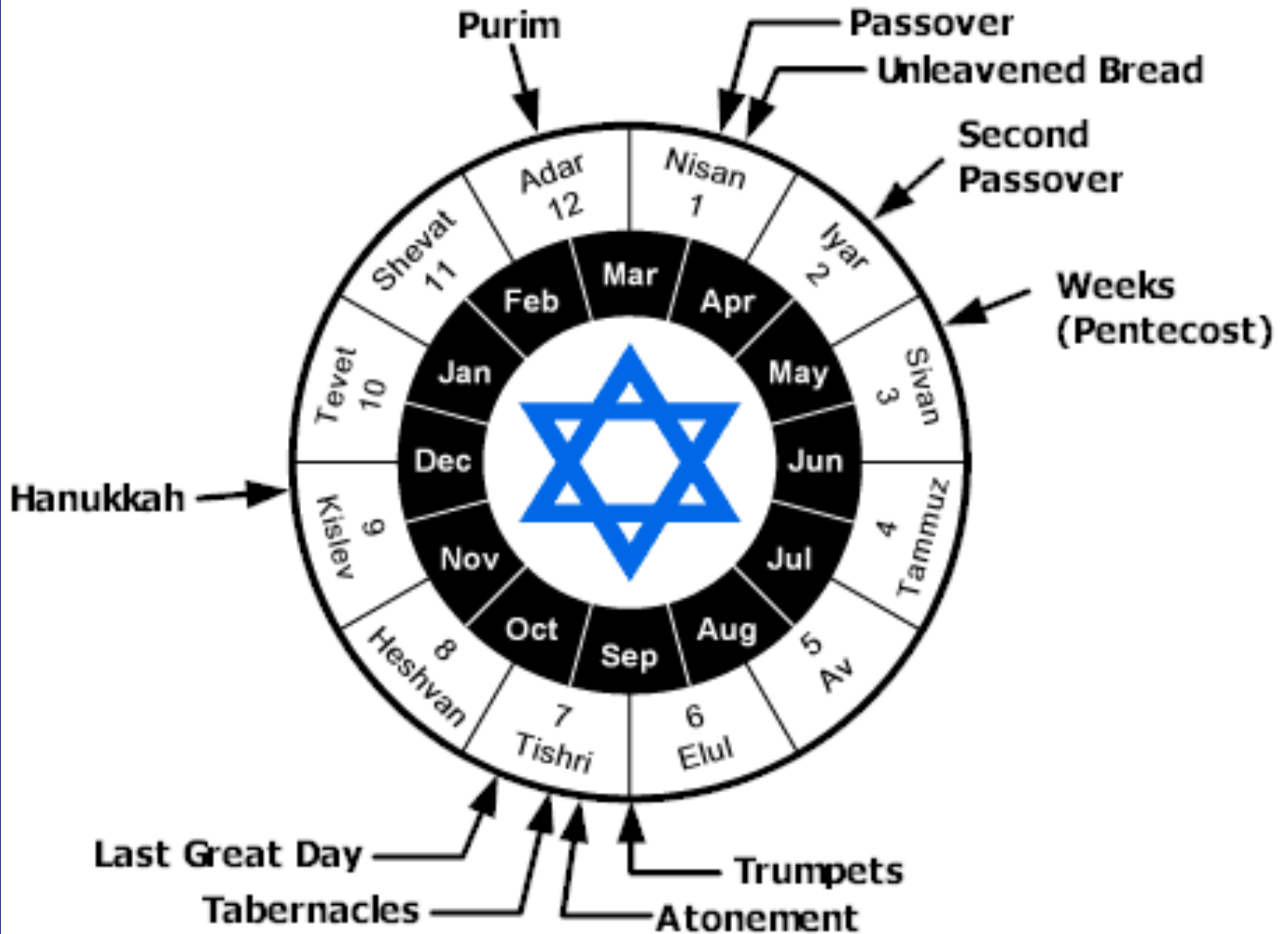
## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Wars</b>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
<b>Timing</b>	<b><u>A quo / ad quem</u></b>	<b><u>No time indicators</u></b>
<b>Priesthood</b>	<b>Have a priesthood</b>	<b>Are a priesthood</b>
<b>Temple</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Body</b>
<b>Resurrection</b>	<b>1st resurrection</b>	<b>Rapture</b>
<b>Judgment</b>	<b>Earthly (Ezek. 20:33-44)</b>	<b>Heavenly (Bema)</b>
<b>New Jerusalem</b>	<b>Gates</b>	<b>Foundations</b>
<b>Entrance</b>	<b>Physical birth</b>	<b>Spiritual birth</b>



# Levitical Feasts (23)

<b>Feast</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>Passover</b>	Spring	Redemption	1 Cor 5:7
<b>Unleavened Bread</b>	Spring	Separation	John 6:35
<b>1st fruits</b>	Spring	Praise	1 Cor 15:20
<b>Pentecost</b>	Spring	Praise	Acts 2:1-4
<b>Trumpets</b>	Fall	New Year	Matt 24:31
<b>Atonement</b>	Fall	Lev 16	Zech 12:10
<b>Booths</b>	Fall	Wilderness provision	Zech 14:16-18





## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Wars</b>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
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## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
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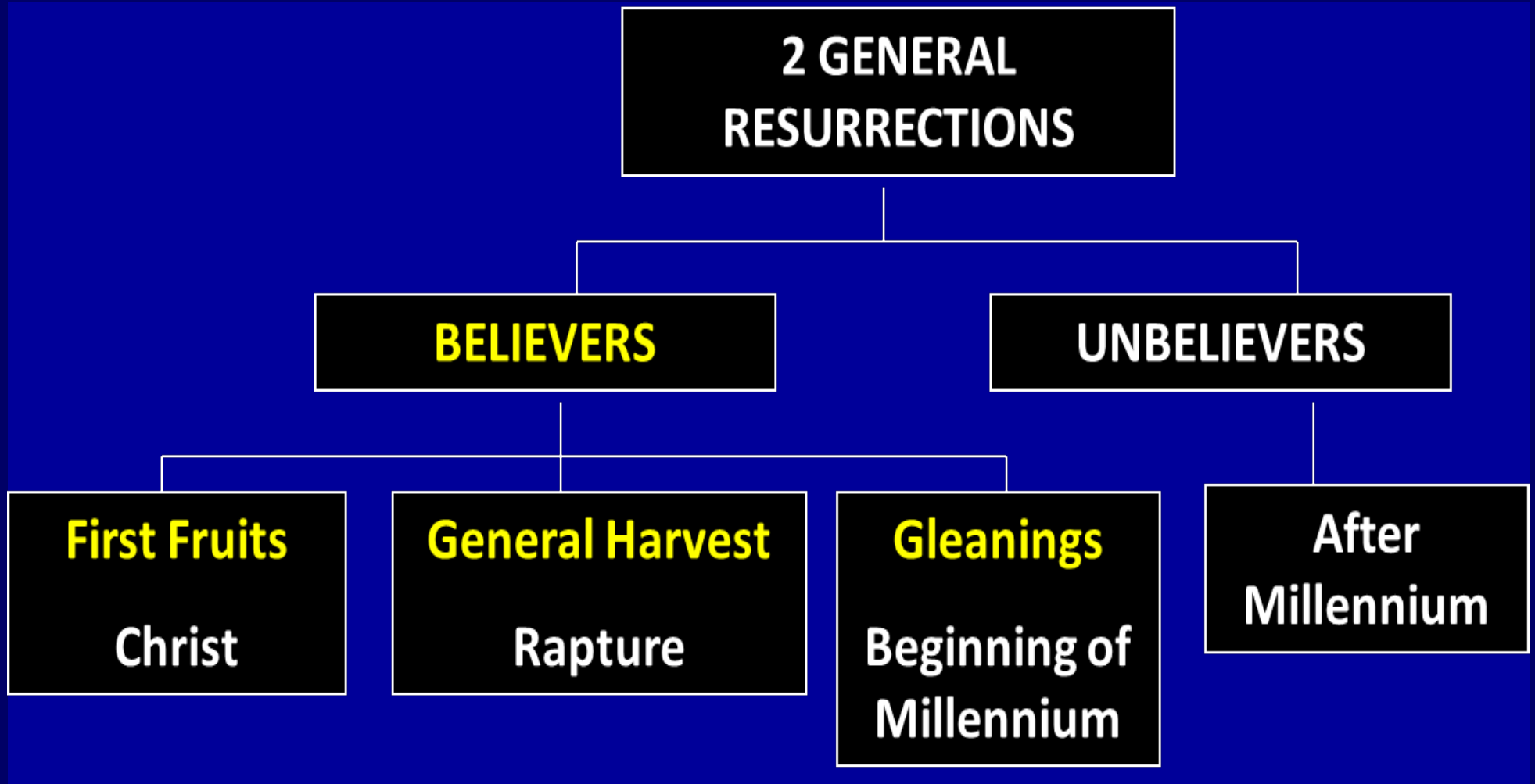
# ISRAEL'S FOUR TEMPLES

- A. Solomon's pre exilic temple (Kings and Chronicles)
- B. Zerubbabel's post exilic temple (Ezra 1-6; John 2:20)
- C. Antichrist's temple (Dan 9:27; Matt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 11:1-2)
- D. Millennial temple (Ezek 40-48)

## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Wars</b>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
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<b>Entrance</b>	<b>Physical birth</b>	<b>Spiritual birth</b>

# God's Resurrection Program



## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Wars</b>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
<b>Timing</b>	<b>A quo / ad quem</b>	<b>No time indicators</b>
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<b>Entrance</b>	<b>Physical birth</b>	<b>Spiritual birth</b>



## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Wars</b>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
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<b>Entrance</b>	<b>Physical birth</b>	<b>Spiritual birth</b>

## Ephesians 2:20 (NASB)

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*.”



## 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
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# 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Governing principle</b>	<b>Law</b>	<b>NT</b>
<b>Relation to HS</b>	<b>Selective, temporary, subsequent</b>	<b>Universal, permanent, at moment of salvation</b>
<b>Farewell address</b>	<b>Olivet Discourse</b>	<b>Upper Room Discourse</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>First Born Son</b>	<b>Bride of Christ</b>
<b>Revealed in OT</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Evangelism</b>	<b>Come &amp; See</b>	<b>Go &amp; Proclaim</b>
<b>Blessings</b>	<b>Earthly</b>	<b>Heavenly</b>
<b>Composition</b>	<b>Believers &amp; Unbelievers</b>	<b>Believers Only</b>

# 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

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# Work of the Spirit in the OT & Gospels

- Pattern of Holy Spirit's present work is not found in the OT or Gospels
  - ◆ John 7:37-39
  - ◆ John 14:16-17
  - ◆ Acts 1:5



# Work of the Spirit in the OT vs. Church Age

	<b>OT/Gospels</b>	<b>Today</b>
<b>Reception of all of the Spirit at the moment of salvation?</b>	<b>Subsequent to salvation (Exod 31:3)</b>	<b>At moment of salvation (Rom 8:9)</b>
<b>How long is the indwelling?</b>	<b>Temporary indwelling (1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11)</b>	<b>Permanent indwelling (John 14:16)</b>
<b>Who is indwelt?</b>	<b>Selective indwelling (Joel 2:28)</b>	<b>Universal indwelling (1 Cor 12:13)</b>

# 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
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<b>Composition</b>	<b>Believers &amp; Unbelievers</b>	<b>Believers Only</b>

# Discourse

	<b>OLIVET</b>	<b>UPPER ROOM</b>
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	<b>Matt 24–25</b>	<b>John 13–17</b>
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Mount of Olives</b>	<b>Upper Room</b>
<b>PASSION WEEK</b>	<b>Third day</b>	<b>Sixth day</b>
<b>GENERAL FOCUS</b>	<b>Farewell: Israel</b>	<b>Hello: Church</b>
<b>SPECIFIC FOCUS</b>	<b>Israel's future</b>	<b>Divine provisions</b>
<b>PROMPTING</b>	<b>Temple's destruction</b>	<b>Christ's imminent departure</b>
<b>EXPLANATIONS</b>	<b>Written OT</b>	<b>Unwritten NT</b>

# 5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church

	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Governing principle</b>	<b>Law</b>	<b>NT</b>
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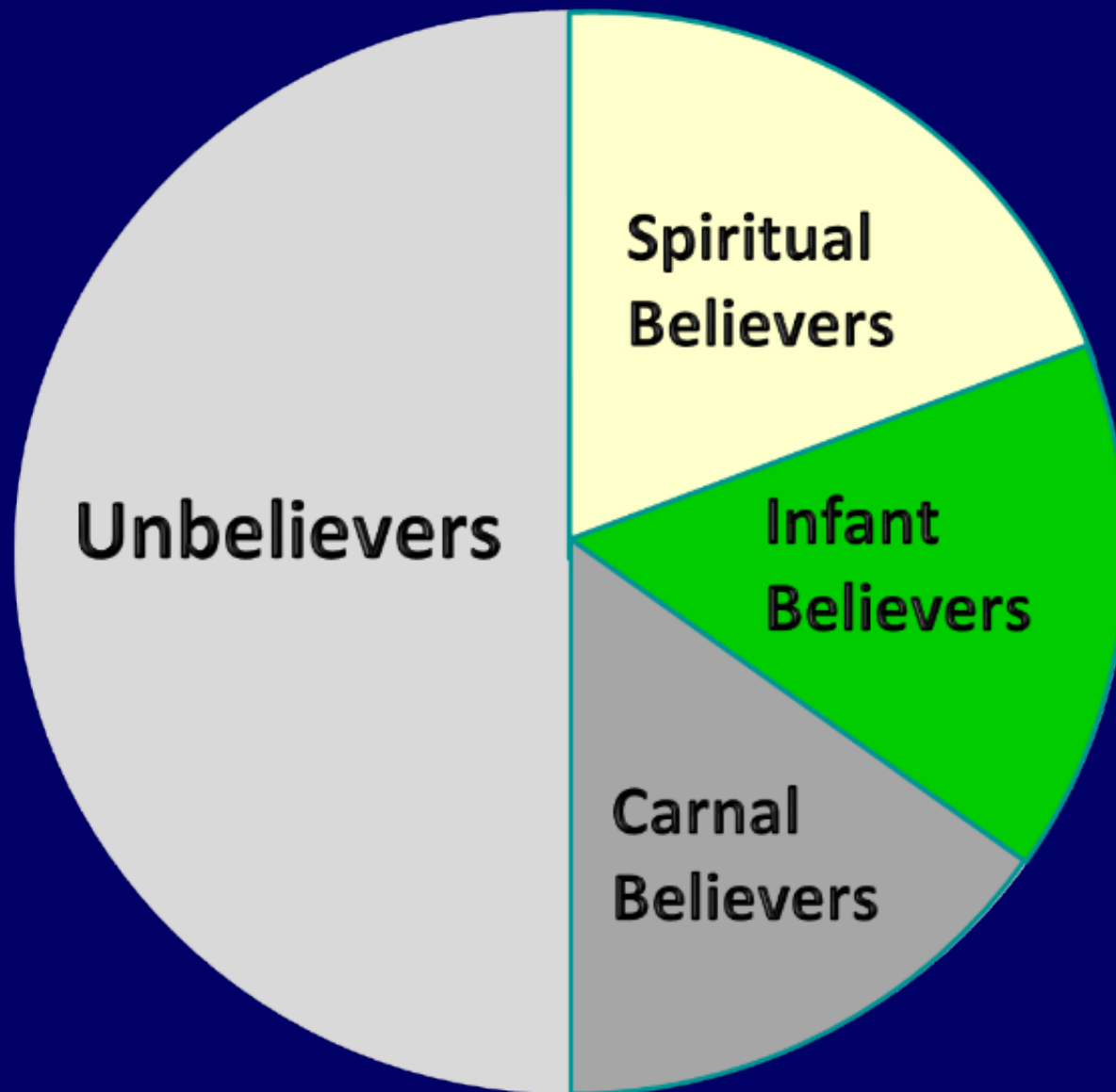
## 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people** but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup> for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere men*?





# 4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



Conclusion

# THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)

2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



# The Church Age

1. The definition of the Church
2. The beginning of the Church
3. The purposes of the Church
4. The Church is not the Kingdom
5. The Church is not Israel

