

BIBLE STUDY FOR 5-15-2009

INTRODUCTION TO PRETERISM

A **FRAMEWORK** FOR ANALYZING EVERYTHING

THAT TITLE IS A BIT AMBITIOUS PERHAPS. MAYBE “EVERYTHING” IS A BIT BROAD. BUT WE CAN ANALYZE THE PROGRESSION FROM PHYSICAL ISRAEL TO SPIRITUAL ISRAEL AND FORMULATE AN OVERALL HERMENEUTICAL UNDERSTANDING. THAT IS, HOW DO WE GET A “SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT” FROM A *SEEMINGLY* PHYSICAL STORY?

THE BASIC ANSWER IS THAT WE BEGIN AT THE END. IN DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO BUY A THEOLOGICAL BOOK I USUALLY BEGIN WITH THE CONCLUSION. I THEN KNOW WHERE THE AUTHOR IS GOING TO GO BEFORE I READ THE BOOK. OUR EXAMPLE IN THIS BIBLE STUDY HAS BEEN THE MOVIE “THE SIXTH SENSE”. WE WERE ALL FOOLED BY THE STORY UNTIL THE SURPRISE ENDING WAS REVEALED. NOW IF WE SEE THE MOVIE OVER AGAIN THE CLUES ARE VERY APPARENT – BRUCE WILLIS IS ONE OF THE “DEAD PEOPLE” THAT THE KID SEES – BRUCE WILLIS’ CHARACTER IS DEAD ALL ALONG. THIS UNDERSTANDING MAKES THE STORY THAT WENT BEFORE IT A DIFFERENT STORY INDEED. KNOWING THE ENDING ALLOWED US TO UNDERSTAND THE STORY MORE CLEARLY.

IN THE SAME WAY THE NEW TESTAMENT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE LAST DAYS. AND IN THESE LAST DAYS GOD IS NO LONGER TALKING TO HIS PEOPLE IN THE WAY HE DID IN THE PAST, BUT **IN SON** (THE LITERAL RENDITION OF HEB 1.2).

NIV HEB 1 ¶ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son [LITERALLY: **IN SON**], whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

1. SO PART OF OUR ENDING IS THAT GOD IS SPEAKING **IN SON**. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
2. THIS **IN SON** SEEMS TO HAVE TO DO WITH THE END (“THE LAST DAYS”)

BUT LET US GO ON.

THE BIBLE STORY IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS “REDEPTIVE HISTORY” BECAUSE IT TELLS THE STORY OF MAN BEING REDEEMED FROM DEATH (SEPARATION FROM GOD) – “BOUGHT BACK” BY THE BLOOD OF A LAMB. WE NOW HAVE “LIFE” AS OPPOSED TO “DEATH” DUE TO THE WORK OF THE SON. AND HE

PLACES US “IN SON”. LET US EXAMINE THIS METAPHOR OF SALVATION THROUGH A LAMB.

NIV JOHN 1.29 ¶ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

LET ME UNPACK THAT METAPHOR AS A PRETERIST. THE “LAMB” POINTS BACK TO THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM OF ISRAEL – BUT WITH AN ESCALATION CLAUSE. BLOOD SHED BY THE PRIEST DID NOT TAKE AWAY SINS (Heb 10:4 for it is impossible for blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.). SO THERE HAS BEEN A MOVEMENT FROM THE PHYSICAL CULT OF ISRAEL TO SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST. JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE LAMB OF GOD, THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN, THE LAMB WHO HAS CONQUERED. THIS SACRIFICE IS SLAIN “ONCE FOR ALL”. AND ITS BENEFITS ARE APPLIED IN A SPIRITUAL MANNER: I BELIEVE AND MY SINS ARE TAKEN AWAY.

A RECAP:

1. SO PART OF OUR ENDING IS THAT GOD IS SPEAKING **IN SON**. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
2. THIS **IN SON** SEEMS TO HAVE TO DO WITH THE END (“THE LAST DAYS”)
3. THIS “END” INVOLVES A SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT. “BLOOD OF THE LAMB” IS METAPHORICALLY TRANSFERRED TO CHRIST AND APPLIED IN A SPIRITUAL MANNER (BY FAITH).

ANOTHER HERMEUTICAL PRINCIPAL IS “ORIGINAL AUDIENCE RELEVANCE”, WHICH MEANS THAT ALL THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCUMENTS WERE WRITTEN TO REAL PEOPLE UNDER REAL CIRCUMSTANCES. WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES? THE CHANGE OF THE COVENANTS FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW.

WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT? BECAUSE AS WE PIECE TOGETHER THE BIBLE STORY, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENDING IS SUCH THAT WE MUST BE SURE WE HAVE THE **CORRECT** ENDING.

THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE HEARING JESUS BEING CALLED “THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD” WOULD THINK BACK TO THE CULT OF ISRAEL AND THE TEMPLE AND THE PRIESTHOOD AND THINK – COULD JESUS BE THE REPLACEMENT OF THAT SYSTEM?

4. ORIGINAL AUDIENCE RELEVANCE: WHAT WOULD BE HEARD BY JEWISH EARS?
5. THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM OF ISRAEL IS BEING “SPIRITUALIZED” IN A GOD-MAN WHO TRULY TAKES AWAY SINS

THIS FURTHER EXPLAINS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE “**IN SON**”. IT WILL BECOME MORE CLEAR THAT “IN SON” IS ALL ENCOMPASSING. BUT LET US REMAIN WITH THIS CONCEPT OF THE SACRIFICE FOR NOW.

A FURTHER POINTER TO THE TRUE END OF OUR STORY ARE THE TIMING VERSES. BEFORE WE GET THERE, HOWEVER, WE MUST ADD ONE MORE HERMENEUTICAL NECESSITY: INERRANCY. WE MUST ASSUME THAT THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT ERROR DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN BY GOD.

6. INERRANCY: AN HERMENEUTICAL ASSUMPTION (IN THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS)

7. TIMING STATEMENTS

- a. 100 VERSES STATE **TO THAT ORIGINAL AUDIENCE** THAT JESUS IS COMING “SOON”, IN “THAT GENERATION”, BEFORE HIS HEARERS ALL DIE, ETC.
- b. “NOW AND NOT YET” VERSES (ANOTHER 100) SAY THAT THE TIME **THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE** IS WAITING FOR IS NOW (A PRESENT REALITY) BUT IS ALSO “NOT YET” (THERE IS SOMETHING MORE TO COME).

THESE VERSES CAN EASILY BE SUPPLIED AND POINTED OUT AS THE NEW TESTAMENT PROGRESSES. THE NEW TESTAMENT IS A STORY: IT IS THE LAST CHAPTER OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY. IF WE BELIEVE IN INERRANCY THEN WE CANNOT LET STAND 200 VERSES THAT POINT TO A NEARBY FULFILLMENT AND YET CLAIM THAT EXPECTED NEARBY FULFILLMENT NEVER HAPPENED. THE MANY STRATEGIES I HAVE READ TO DEAL WITH THIS ALL LEAVE ONE WANTING. NO OTHER EXPLANATION IS SATISFACTORY OTHER THAN THAT THE EXPECTED END MUST HAVE HAPPENED.

8. THE TIMING STATEMENTS BOX US IN: EITHER WE DENY INERRANCY OR WE AFFIRM THE 1ST CENTURY SECOND COMING.

THIS MEANS THAT WE MUST EXPLAIN HOW THIS IS POSSIBLE. THE PRETERIST ANSWER IS SIMPLE: IT IS THE NATURE OF THE SECOND COMING THAT WAS NOT UNDERSTOOD. THE MODERN EVANGELICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE “DELAY OF THE PAROUSIA” IS TO CHANGE THE TIMING – TO SAY THAT

- THE “NOW AND NOT YET” IS STILL GOING ON,
- THAT THE TIMING VERSES ARE SEEN THROUGH GOD’S EYES (ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS TO GOD, ETC)
- THAT IT IS SOMEHOW PIOUS TO KEEP GENERATION AFTER GENERATION LOOKING FOR HIS PROMISED COMING ... AND HE DOES NOT COME.

THE PRETERIST ANSWER IS TO KEEP THE TIMING VERSES (WHICH CANNOT HAVE A REFERENT OTHER THAN TIME) INTACT: THAT IS, JESUS DID COME AS PROMISED. THEREFORE THE NATURE OF HIS COMING IS WHAT MUST BE CHANGED. HE CAME SPIRITUALLY TO BRING WITH HIM THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM, THE KINGDOM THAT DOES NOT COME WITH YOUR OBSERVATION.

LUKE 17: 20 ¶ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is **within you.**" **[IN YOUR MIDST]** [JESUS WAS NOT TELLING THESE SINFUL PHARISEES THAT THE KINGDOM WAS WITHIN THEM]

SO NOTICE: THE TIMING VERSES CANNOT BE SPIRITUALIZED. HOWEVER, THE KINGDOM CAN BE AND IS SPIRITUALIZED. THE FULFILLMENT **IN SON** IS SPIRITUAL.

LET ME REMIND YOU THAT I AM EXPOSING TO YOU PRETERIST PRESUPPOSITIONS LISTED IN A PROGRESSIVE AND LOGICAL MANNER.

1. GOD SPOKE IN MANY WAYS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. NOW GOD IS SPEAKING **IN SON**. WE SHALL BE LOOKING AT WHAT THAT MEANS.
2. THIS **IN SON** SEEMS TO HAVE TO DO WITH THE END ("THE LAST DAYS") BECAUSE IT IS "IN THESE LAST DAYS" THAT THE SON COMES
3. THIS "END" INVOLVES A SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT. "BLOOD OF THE LAMB" IS METAPHORICALLY TRANSFERRED TO CHRIST AND APPLIED IN A SPIRITUAL MANNER (BY FAITH). IT IS THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM OF ISRAEL FULFILLED **IN SON**.
4. ORIGINAL AUDIENCE RELEVANCE: WHAT WOULD BE HEARD BY JEWISH EARS? REMEMBER, THE BIBLE IS A JEWISH DOCUMENT FROM FIRST TO LAST. REDEMPTIVE HISTORY DEALS WITH THE JEWS – THROUGH WHOM GOD WOULD BLESS ALL THE FAMILIES ON THE EARTH. IT IS JEWISH THOUGH-FORMS WE ARE STRIVING TO RECOVER.
5. THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM OF ISRAEL IS BEING "SPIRITUALIZED" IN A GOD-MAN WHO TRULY TAKES AWAY SINS. AS WE PROCEED WE WILL SEE THAT JESUS IS NOT ONLY THE SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE BUT ALSO THE SPIRITUAL HIGH PRIEST – HE IS IN HEAVEN. JESUS IS ALSO THE TEMPLE (HIS BODY). THE JEWISH SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM IS BEING FULFILLED IN SON IN A SPIRITUAL MANNER (INVISIBLE TO SENSE EXPERIENCE).
6. INERRANCY: AN HERMENEUTICAL ASSUMPTION (IN THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS). IF WE DO NOT ASSUME THAT THE BIBLE WAS WITHOUT

ERROR WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN THEN WE HAVE NOTHING TO BASE ANYTHING ON. MANY “TYPOS” APPEARED THROUGH THE AGES OF MANUSCRIPT TRANSMISSION AND COPYING ETC. BUT IF WE IGNORE WHAT IS OBVIOUS ERROR, SUCH AS IGNORING TIMING VERSES, WE DO SO AT OUR OWN PERIL.

7. TIMING STATEMENTS

- a. 100 VERSES STATE *TO THAT ORIGINAL AUDIENCE* THAT JESUS IS COMING “SOON”, IN “THAT GENERATION”, BEFORE HIS HEARERS ALL DIE, ETC.
 - b. “NOW AND NOT YET” VERSES (ANOTHER 100) SAY THAT THE TIME *THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE* IS WAITING FOR IS NOW (A PRESENT REALITY) BUT IS ALSO “NOT YET” (THERE IS SOMETHING MORE TO COME).
8. THE TIMING STATEMENTS BOX US IN: EITHER WE DENY INNERANCY OR WE AFFIRM THE 1ST CENTURY SECOND COMING. VERSES DEALING WITH TIME CANNOT BE TWISTED “SOON” MEANS “SOON” AND “THIS GENERATION” MEANS “THIS GENERATION”.
9. THE NATURE OF THE SECOND COMING: THEN THE ISSUE IS NOT TIMING BUT NATURE. JESUS WAS INAUGURATING AND ULTIMATELY CONSUMMATING A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM.

AND LET ME TAKE THIS ONE STEP FURTHER SO THAT WE CAN GET OUR OVERALL STORY IN TO OUR MINDS. JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD TAKING AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD. HE IS THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR SINS. HE IS THAT WHICH ALL THE OTHER SACRIFICES POINTED TO.

BUT ASK YOURSELF: ALL WHAT OTHER SACRIFICES? THE SACRIFICES PERFORMED IN THE TEMPLE IN ISRAEL! THE JEWISH SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM. SO THAT JESUS IS TAKING OVER THE ROLE PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED BY THE PRIESTHOOD OF ISRAEL.

NOW, LET US MAKE THIS AN HERMENEUTICAL PRINCIPLE. WHAT WOULD THAT MEAN IF THIS IS TRUE ACROSS THE BOARD?

ROM 15. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews {8 Greek <circumcision>} on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs

JESUS CHRIST HAS COME TO FULFILL THE PROMISES TO ISRAEL BY FORMING THE CHURCH. IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT IF JESUS WAS THE NEW ISRAEL IN EVERY WAY? LET’S LOOK AT SOME EXAMPLES.

BUT LET ME STATE IT AS A NOW ACCEPTED HERMENEUTICAL AXIOM: THE CHURCH IS ISRAEL NOW. OR, AS BETTER FITS THIS STUDY, CHRISTIANITY IS SPIRITUALIZED JUDAISM.

10. THE CHURCH IS SPIRITUALIZED JUDAISM (JUDAISM FULFILLED IN HEAVEN OR ON A HEAVENLY PLANE)

EXAMPLES: TABERNACLE, PRIEST & COVENANT

HEBREWS 8:

1 ¶ The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a **high priest**, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

WE HAVE A HIGH PRIEST JUST LIKE PHYSICAL ISRAEL HAD A HIGH PRIEST
OUR HIGH PRIEST IS IN HEAVEN (AND IS KING AS WELL SITTING ON A
THRONE)

2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

THE TRUE SANCTUARY IS THE ONE IN HEAVEN

3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer.

4 If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.

5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." {5 *Exodus 25:40*}

THE SANCTUARY IN ISRAEL WAS BUT A COPY OF OURS: THE TRUE ONE

6 ¶ But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

THE COMPARISON IS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF THE PRIESTHOOD IN OC
ISRAEL TO THE NEW COVENANT **IN SON**

7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.

8 But God found fault with the people and said: [AND HE NOW QUOTES JEREMIAH]

"The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

NOTE: THE NEW COVENANT (THE CHURCH) IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND
THE HOUSE OF JUDAH RE-UNITED

9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

AGAIN: COMPARISON TO THE OC

EXAMPLE: NEW TORAH:

10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put **my laws** in their minds and **write them on their hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

THE LAW IS SPIRITUALIZED: IT IS WRITTEN IN THE HEART

11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." {12 *Jer. 31:31-34*}

13 By calling this **covenant** "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

VERSE 13 IS A TIMING VERSE. WHEN THE AUTHOR OF HEBREWS WROTE THIS EPISTLE-SERMON THE OLD COVENANT HAD NOT YET PASSED AWAY. THE NEW HAD ARRIVED. THEREFORE THERE IS AN OVERLAP. THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE TIME OF THE "BATTLE OF THE COVENANTS" TO SEE WHICH WOULD GAIN SUPREMACY. OF COURSE THE OUTCOME WAS ALWAYS KNOWN. HOWEVER, SINCE WE ARE FORMING A STORY PLOT AS THE END OF THE OVERALL STORY IT IS BEST TO ADD THIS TO OUR LIST OF HERMENEUTICAL ASSUMPTIONS.

11. THE TRANSITION BETWEEN OLD COVENANT JUDAISM (WHICH WILL BE DESTROYED IN AD 70) AND NEW COVENANT SPIRITUALIZED JUDAISM (THE CHURCH) IS WHAT CAN BE CALLED THE "BATTLE OF THE COVENANTS" BETWEEN 30-70 AD. THE FIRST ONE HAS BECOME OBSOLETE, and what is obsolete and aging **will soon** disappear.

THE OLD COVENANT STILL EXISTED UNTIL 70 AD. BOTH COVENANTS EXISTED SIDE BY SIDE BETWEEN THE RESURRECTION (30 AD) AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE (70 AD). HOWEVER, AFTER 70 AD THERE IS ONLY ONE COVENANT LEFT STANDING – THE OLD HAS DISAPPEARED!

MORE EXAMPLES OF THE CHURCH AS SPIRITUALIZED JUDAISM: REPLACEMENT:

HEBREWS 9

- 1 ¶ Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also **an earthly sanctuary**.
- 2 A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place.
- 3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,

4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

5 Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. {5 Traditionally <the mercy seat>} But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry.

7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

8 ¶ The Holy Spirit was showing by this that **the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing.**

IN OTHER WORDS, THE WAY INTO THE TRUE TABERNACLE THAT WE NOW ENJOY IN SON COULD NOT BE FULLY ACCESSED UNTIL THE OLD TABERNACLE WAS DESTROYED. THE BATTLE OF THE COVENANTS FROM 30-70 AD GAVE THE JEWS TIME TO ACCEPT THE NEW COVENANT, AND THEN THE OLD TEMPLE WAS DESTROYED. THE SIGN OF THAT DESTRUCTION WAS THE INDICATOR THAT THE NEW WAY HAS NOW BEEN OPENED.

CHRIST OBTAINS ETERNAL REDEMPTION, REPLACING THE JEWISH SYSTEM:

CONTINUING IN HEBREWS 9

9 This is an illustration for **the present time**, [THE FIRST CENTURY] indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were **not** able to clear the conscience of the worshiper.

10 They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings— external regulations **applying until the time of the new order**.

THE OLD COVENANT SYSTEM WAS SET UP AS A TEMPORARY ORDER UNTIL THE TIME CHRIST CAME – THE TIME OF THE NEW ORDER.

11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here [NOW & NOT YET], he went through **the greater and more perfect tabernacle** that is **not** man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.

JESUS IS SERVING AT AN INVISIBLE TEMPLE NOT PART OF THIS CREATION AND NOT VISIBLE TO THE SENSES.

12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all **by his own blood**, having **obtained eternal redemption**.

IT WAS NEVER GOD’S PLAN TO HAVE THIS FULFILLED “ON THE EARTH” IN A TEMPLE MADE BY HANDS THAT IS A PART OF THIS CREATION. JESUS DID HIS WORK IN HEAVEN.

13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

14 **How much more**, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, *{14 Or <from useless rituals>}* so that we may serve the living God!

THE REPLACEMENT OF THE OLD WITH THE NEW ALLOWS US TO BE IN THE ACTUAL PRESENCE OF GOD (IN GOD’S HOUSE IN HEAVEN) AND TO SERVE HIM (IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH). ETERNAL REDEMPTION IS IN THE INVISIBLE TEMPLE, NOT IN THE ONE ON THE EARTH.

HEBREWS 9. 15 ¶ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance— now that he has died as a ransom **to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant**.

JESUS SAVED ISRAEL FROM THE SIN-CAUSING FIRST COVENANT OF LAW BY INSTITUTING THE SIN REMOVING COVENANT OF GRACE.

THE IMPORTANT THING FOR OUR STORY IS TO SEE THAT THIS WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN. THE FIRST COVENANT HAD CATEGORIES ESTABLISHED BY PHYSICAL MEANS AND ACCESSED VIA SENSE EXPERIENCE. THERE WAS A:

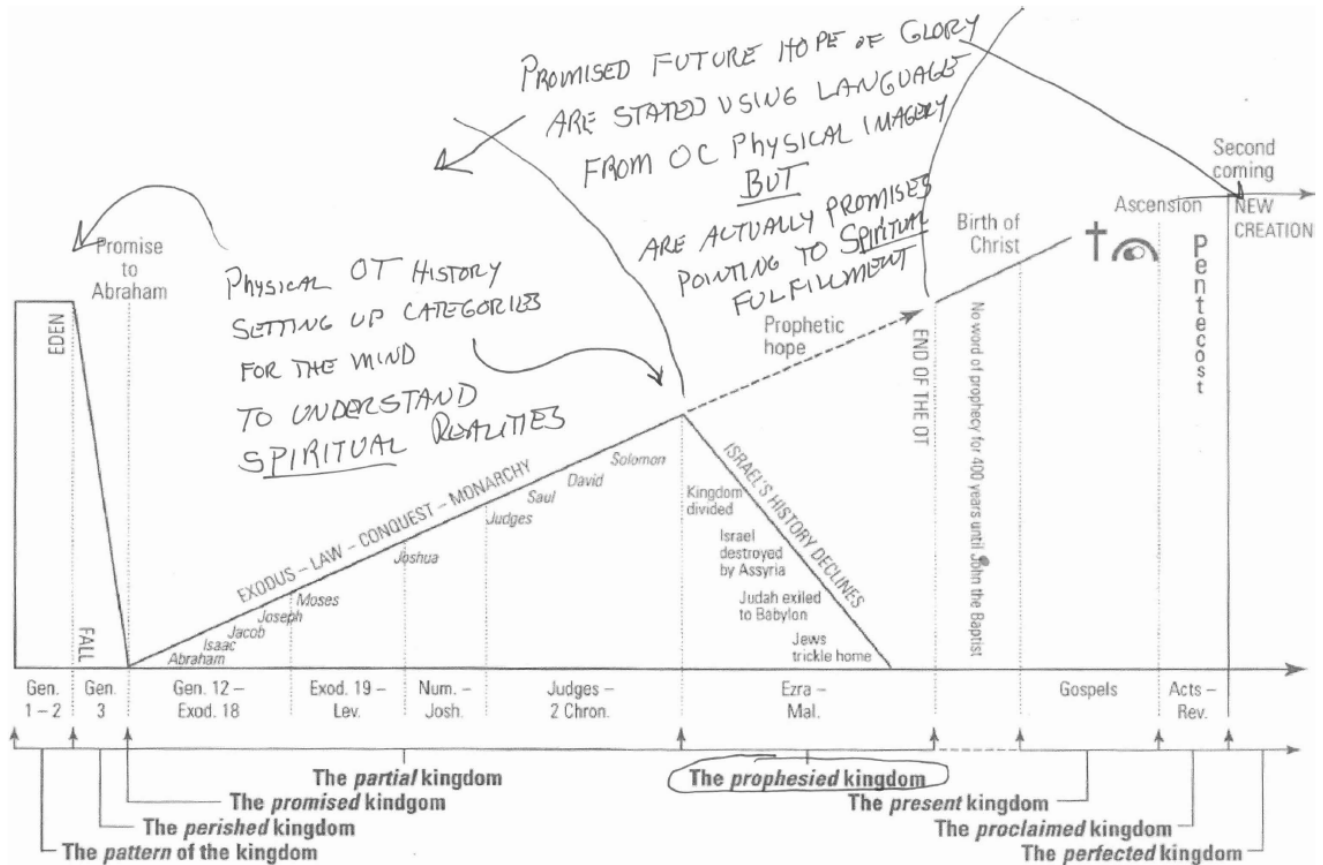
- PHYSICAL NATION
- PHYSICAL KING
- PHYSICAL PRIESTHOOD
- PHYSICAL TEMPLE
- PHYSICAL SACRIFICE
- PHYSICAL KINGDOM
- ETC.

BUT THESE SET UP CATEGORIES SO THAT OUR MINDS COULD GRASP THE FULFILLMENT THAT IS OTHERWISE NOT GRASP-ABLE. THAT IS: SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT.

SO HERE IS A MAJOR STORY PATTERN:

- OLD COVENANT PHYSICAL (TYPES AND SHADOWS)
- POINTS TO NEW COVENANT SPIRITUAL (REALITIES IN HEAVEN)

LOOK AT THE CHART ON THE NEXT PAGE:



- 1 PHYSICAL EXAMPLES ARE FROM THE FALL OF ADAM TO THE FALL OF ISRAEL
- 2 ONCE THESE CATEGORIES ARE ESTABLISHED THE "PROPHESIED KINGDOM" BEGINS TO UTILIZE THE PHYSICAL CATEGORIES (TYPES AND SHADOWS) TO DESCRIBE A FULFILLMENT THAT USES PHYSICAL LANGUAGE BUT ARE ACTUALLY SPIRITUAL PROMISES.
- 3 THIS PARTICULAR CHART IS USING THE THEME OF "KINGDOM", BUT WE COULD USE ANY OF THE CATEGORIES WE HAVE USED IN THIS STUDY: PRIEST, SACRIFICE, TEMPLE, ETC.
- 4 WHEN THE FULFILLMENT ULTIMATELY ARRIVES WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE CATEGORIES AND REALIZE THAT THEY POINT TO THAT WHICH IS SPIRITUAL IN NATURE (THEIR REFERENT IS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM NOT THE PHYSICAL REALM)

AND SO, WHEN WE "SEE" THIS, WE HAVE OUR ENDING. THE BIBLE, LIKE THE MOVIE THE SIXTH SENSE, TAKES ON NEW MEANING AS WE RE-READ IT. OUR FULFILLMENT IS INTO A REALM FAR ABOVE WHAT WE EXPECTED. AND IT IS ALL FINISHED BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS SO, NOT BECAUSE WE NEED TO SEE IT.