

THE HISTORY OF REDEMPTION
ACCOMPLISHED IN THE ETERNAL GOSPEL OF
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
PROGRESSIVELY REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE
BY WAY OF COVENANTS

Michael A

CONTENTS:

[note: 1cor 15 speaks to a lot of issues herein addressed!!! Use it]

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Page</u>
Introduction.....	2 -3
A list of scripture verses, from across the Bible, which indicate that God had a plan from eternity past that included Christ and the Church.....	4 - 8
The term “Covenant” succinctly defined.....	8
An overview of God’s Redemptive Plan as seen in <u>Bible covenants</u> ; scripture passages containing covenant references are included in part.....	8 -20
Two genealogies: Matthew 1: Abraham to Christ; Luke 3, from Christ to Adam.....	20-21
Chart: Creation and Flood Timeline	21
Summary points.....	22

INTRODUCTION: [All underlining, emboldening and square brackets are mine, to emphasize or explain; the scripture verses in this essay are from the NLT because it is very easy to read. My words are in a different font from those of the Bible.]

At age 16, in biology class, I was introduced to two competing worldviews: creationism and evolution. Although I was not a very serious student, I distinctly remember leaving that class wondering how anyone could accept either of these unrealistic theories regarding the origin of the world. I didn’t then realize that **faith** was necessary to accept either of them as valid; it was clear to me, however, that I could only believe in what I could see.

After I enrolled in college at age 28, I became acquainted with the “scientific method” as I studied psychology; we used the scientific method to assess information from our environment, and to make predictions from the sample data we collected. I also learned about “empiricism,” a field of enquiry that rejects any data that cannot be perceived by the five senses; and “rationalism,” the belief that reason is the chief means of acquiring knowledge. So, my initial college experience seemed to support what I had always believed, that it was foolish to hold viewpoints that could not be supported by empirical data.

However, all that changed in my early 50s. My third divorce brought me to my knees, literally, and after a couple of years of seeking God, I was born-again during my first read of the entire Bible. I was apparently given faith during that read. The following verses from the Bible indicate that faith is a gift from God that enables a person to believe in spiritual realities:

Eph 2:8 God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. [Most other translations of Ephesians 2:8, 9 indicate more clearly that faith is a gift of God, e.g., the following text from the ESV]

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, Eph 2:9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2Pe 1:1 This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior.

Heb 11:1 Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

Rom 10:16 But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, "LORD, who has believed our message?" **Rom 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. ["good news" is what the NLT calls the gospel message]

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

Rom 1:17 This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

So faith is required to believe spiritual knowledge, it apparently goes beyond the limits of one's reason, to bring down to earth, so to speak, the realities of a realm of knowledge that lies beyond our senses and reason. Furthermore, a point that is inherent in the above verses and found throughout scripture is that the only true and accurate knowledge we can have of God and the spiritual realm is revealed to us by God via scripture. [I should note, that in Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, God forbids divination to obtain information about the spiritual realm that He has not revealed, see, e.g. Lev. 20:6 and Deut. 29:29; yet many Christians are currently using eastern meditation to obtain fresh revelation from their personal spirit guides-- the Bible calls these guides demonic spirits; only God's revelation can be trusted.]

Two very dramatic examples of God revealing Himself to men are clearly seen in the conversions of Moses in Exodus 3, and the apostle Paul in Acts 9. The Apostle Paul was a Pharisee (a religious teacher) of high standing and probably had memorized the first 5 books of the Bible and the psalms, yet he was not born again until God revealed Himself to him on the Damascus road (Acts 9). So, Paul was an Old Testament scholar, but the Spirit of Christ had not regenerated his heart as in John 3 where Jesus says that one must be born again to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

I am saying all this, because it is abundantly clear to me now, that faith is necessary to believe either of the worldviews mentioned above; and all I can say about the faith I have is that it was given to me by God because that is what the Bible says. I know I have it, and that faith enables me to believe the Bible is true with a certainty I never had about any holy writ (I sought God in eastern religions and philosophies for 15 years); and that I didn't obtain it by my own efforts. I cannot say anything more about it because faith is too mysterious to understand; but if we have been given faith by God, then evidence of this gift will be seen in our lives, as it was seen in Abraham's life as shown in examples on pages 11-15 below.

Before I begin specifically discussing the covenants, I want to show that God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, like a great architect, had a blueprint for the construction of His magnificent world, its creatures, before He created His world out of nothing. This plan is revealed in great detail in the Bible; it has a beginning and an end; it is for God's glory, that readers might know that He is the Sovereign ruler of His universe. Readers might also know that God's words are true because He gave confirmation in several ways throughout the Bible: He gave hundreds of prophecies regarding special elements of His plan, for example, the Messiah; He gave confirmation via signs, miracles and healings to give credibility to his servants and their message; He broke into history with severe judgments at times; He stated through the prophets hundreds of times, "Thus says the Lord;" and "Then they will know that I am the Lord," (when they had seen Him fulfilling His predictions). He did such things because very few people in history (including the characters of the Bible) have witnessed God's works first hand, so the majority of

mankind can only believe by trusting what is written about Him from those who experienced His judgments, His Son's works, the events of His Son's life, etc.

SOME OF THE MANY SCRIPTURES THAT INDICATE THAT GOD WAS ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS PLAN REGARDING ALL THE EVENTS OF HISTORY:

Isa 14:26 I have a plan for the whole earth, a hand of judgment upon all the nations.

Isa 42:9 Everything I prophesied has come true, and now I will prophesy again. I will tell you the future before it happens."

Isa 46:10 Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

Isa 53:10 But it was the LORD's good plan to crush Him and cause Him grief. Yet when His life is made an offering for sin, He will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in His hands.

Heb 3:1 And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger and High Priest.

Heb 3:2 For He was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses served faithfully when he was entrusted with God's entire house.

Heb 3:3 But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself.

Heb 3:4 For every house has a builder, but the One who built everything is God.

Joh 13:19 I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I AM the Messiah.

Isa 45:21 Consult together, argue your case. Get together and decide what to say. Who made these things known so long ago? What idol ever told you they would happen? Was it not I, the LORD? For there is no other God but Me, a righteous God and Savior. There is none but Me.

The apostle Paul wrote the following to believers in Ephesus regarding God's plan:

Eph 1:3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

Eph 1:4 **Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ** to be holy and without fault in His eyes.

Eph 1:5 God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.

Jesus referred to God's plan as He spoke of the Judgment of the last day in Matthew:

Mat 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, **inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world**.'

Below, Jesus showed 3 of His disciples His spiritual kingdom. This event is recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Note the presence of two central Old Testament figures; and reference to a plan that was unfolding; also note that Jesus speaks of future events:

Luk 9:20 Then He asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah sent from God!"

Luk 9:21 Jesus warned His disciples not to tell anyone who He was.

Luk 9:22 "The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things," He said. "He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day He will be raised from the dead."

Luk 9:26 If anyone is ashamed of Me and My message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when He returns in His glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.

Luk 9:27 I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God."

Luk 9:28 About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray.

Luk 9:29 And as He was praying, the appearance of His face was transformed, and His clothes became dazzling white.

Luk 9:30 Suddenly, two men, **Moses and Elijah**, appeared and began talking with Jesus.

Luk 9:31 They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about **His exodus** from this world, which was about to **be fulfilled in Jerusalem.**

Luk 9:32 Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with Him.

Luk 9:33 As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, "Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Luk 9:34 But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them.

Luk 9:35 Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is My Son, My Chosen One. Listen to Him."

The apostle Peter referred to God the Father's salvation plan in the following New Testament scripture; followed by scriptures from Paul and John:

1Pe 1:18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom He paid was not mere gold or silver.

1Pe 1:19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

1Pe 1:20 God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but He has now revealed Him to you in these last days. [Biblical last days are those days between Christ's 1st and 2nd coming]

Rom 11:25 I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. [God's plan includes a specific number of Gentiles to be saved from His wrath against sin; that number has not yet been reached. That number may be reached as events unfold in Revelation, as the next two verses are the first mentioning of anyone from the tribes of Israel being redeemed. Very few from Israel are mentioned as being saved before Revelation 7.]

Rev 7:3 "Wait! Don't harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of His servants."

Rev 7:4 And I heard how many were marked with the seal of God—144,000 were sealed from all the tribes of Israel:

The following references to God's salvation plan are from Revelation, written by the apostle John; from the prophet Isaiah; and from Ephesians, by the Apostle Paul:

Rev 13:8 And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life before the world was made—the Book that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered.

Isa 14:24 The LORD of Heaven's Armies has sworn this oath: "It will all happen as I have planned. It will be as I have decided.

Isa 14:25 I will break the Assyrians when they are in Israel; I will trample them on My mountains. My people will no longer be their slaves nor bow down under their heavy loads.

Isa 14:26 I have a plan for the whole earth, a hand of judgment upon all the nations.

Isa 14:27 The LORD of Heaven's Armies has spoken—who can change His plans? When His hand is raised, who can stop Him?"

Eph 1:10 And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring **everything** together **under the authority of Christ**—everything in heaven and on earth.

Eph 1:11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an **inheritance** from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan.

Eph 3:4 As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ.

Eph 3:5 **God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by His Spirit He has revealed it** to His holy apostles and prophets.

Eph 3:6 **And this is God's plan:** Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. **Both are part of the same body**, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.

Eph 3:9 I was chosen to explain to everyone **this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.**

Eph 3:10 **God's purpose** in all this was to use the **church** to **display** His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Eph 3:11 This **was His eternal plan**, which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph 3:12 Because of Christ and our faith in Him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

[The book of Daniel has much about the end times and the other spiritual realms, a few verses from Daniel are given below to explain Ephesians 3:10 above; Ephesians 6 also speaks of other realms.]

Dan 10:11 And the man said to me, "Daniel, you are very precious to God, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you." When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling.

Dan 10:12 Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer.

Dan 10:13 But for twenty-one days the **spirit prince** of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then **Michael, one of the archangels**, came to help me, and I left him there with the **spirit prince** of the kingdom of Persia.

Eph 6:11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

In scripture, events are discussed in light of the fact that God is directing all things in accordance with His plan (a read through the entire Bible would make this abundantly clear). Furthermore, man's choices and his prayers have been ordained by God to be part of the force moving God's plan towards its appointed end: God uses these to bring about His ends. For example, the story of Joseph in Genesis chapters 37 – 50 reveals this on a small scale; but it is too lengthy to include herein; consider the following verses about the role of prayer in God's plan for Israel:

Eze 36:36 Then the surrounding nations that survive will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruins and replanted the wasteland. For I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will do what I say.

Eze 36:37 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am ready to hear Israel's prayers and to increase their numbers like a flock. [read Eze 36 for fuller comprehension of this point]

The first of the following 3 short examples from Acts is an illustration of God using the choices of men to perform His own purposes regarding Christ and the church:

Act 3:12 **Peter** saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness?"

Act 3:13 For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to His servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release Him.

Act 3:14 You rejected this holy, righteous One and instead demanded the release of a murderer.

Act 3:15 You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!

Act 3:16 "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.

Act 3:17 "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance.

Act 3:18 **But God was fulfilling** what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that He must suffer these things. [Isaiah 53 e.g., speaks clearly of the suffering servant, Christ]

In Acts chapter 15, verses 16-18, (as the apostles were trying to provide direction for the growing church and to accomplish the inclusion into the church of Gentiles with Jewish converts, which was a problem because Jews formerly hated Gentiles), the following reference is made to a prophecy from the Old Testament book of Amos 9: 11, 12 which indicated that Judaism, the temple...the covenant of Moses would be replaced with a New world-wide covenant that included the Gentiles. This is a reference to the church and the everlasting covenant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Act 15:13 When they had finished, James stood and said, "Brothers, listen to me.

Act 15:14 Peter has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for Himself. [the account of that is in Acts 10]

Act 15:15 And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written:

Act 15:16 'Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house of David. I will rebuild its ruins and restore it. [the house of David fell when, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and exiled the Jews; It was restored, spiritually, at Pentecost when the church was born and the New Covenant inaugurated by David's Son, Jesus]

Act 15:17 so that the rest of humanity might seek the LORD, including the Gentiles—all those I have called to be Mine. The LORD has spoken—

Act 15:18 He who made these things known so long ago.'

One last scriptural reference about God's Plan:

Act 17:22 So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way,

Act 17:23 for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the One I'm telling you about.

Act 17:24 "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since He is Lord of heaven and earth, He doesn't live in man-made temples,

Act 17:25 and human hands can't serve His needs—for He has no needs. He Himself gives life and breath to everything, and He satisfies every need.

Act 17:26 **From one man He created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries.**

Act 17:27 "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him—though He is not far from any one of us.

Act 17:28 For in Him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.'

Act 17:29 And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

Act 17:30 "God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now He commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to Him.

Act 17:31 For He has set a day for judging the world with justice by the Man He has appointed, and He proved to everyone who this is by raising Him from the dead."

Act 17:32 When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, "We want to hear more about this later."

The Idea of Covenant

The term "covenant" is of Latin origin (con venire), meaning a coming together. It presupposes two or more parties who come together to make a contract, agreeing on promises, stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities. In religious and theological circles there has not been agreement on precisely what is to be understood by the biblical term. It is used variously in biblical contexts. In political situations, it can be translated treaty; in a social setting, it means a lifelong friendship agreement; or it can refer to a marriage....

The covenants referred to above were between two equal parties; this means that the covenant relationship was **bilateral**. The bond was sealed by both parties vowing, often by oath, that each, having equal privileges and responsibilities, would carry out their assigned roles. Because a covenant confirmed between two human parties was **bilateral**, some scholars have concluded that the covenant Yahweh established with human beings is also bilateral. This is **not the case**. God initiated, determined the elements, and confirmed his covenant with humanity. It is **unilateral**. Persons are recipients, not contributors; they are not expected to offer elements to the bond; they are called to accept it as offered, to keep it as demanded, and to receive the results that God, by oath, assures will not be withheld.

[see Dictionaries - Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology - Covenant, for the full definition, online.]

The distance between God and the creature is so great that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.

[Williamson, G.I.. The Westminster Confession of Faith: for Study Classes (p. 81). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.]

COVENANTS FROM SCRIPTURE:

GOD'S FIRST COVENANT WAS WITH ADAM: [Approximately 4100 BC, see page 21]

Gen 2:15 The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

Gen 2:16 But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden

Gen 2:17 —except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

[The death mentioned here, occurred spiritually. Being “born-again,” for example, is a reference to being spiritually born by the Holy Spirit as Jesus talked about it in John 3. The Bible makes it clear therein and elsewhere that it is the Holy Spirit that gives spiritual birth, see the next example, although I am getting off track with these examples from John, they seem necessary here; also, it seems necessary to state that Jesus’ kingdom is a spiritual one. And a new spiritual birth is required before one can perceive His kingdom.]

Joh 3:3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Joh 3:4 "What do You mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

Joh 3:5 Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the **Spirit**."

Joh 3:6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.

Joh 1:12 But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.

Joh 1:13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human **passion or plan**, but a birth that comes from God.

[Incidentally, consider also that no person chooses when he is born physically either.]

Regarding Jesus’ Kingdom:

Joh **18:35** "Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought You to me for trial. Why? What have You done?"

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, My followers would fight to keep Me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. **But My Kingdom is not of this world.**"

Joh 18:37 Pilate said, "So You are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. **Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.**"

Joh 18:38 "What is truth?" Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, "He is not guilty of any crime.

Luk 17:20 One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs.

Luk 17:21 You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you. "

Back to the discussion of the first covenant: Scholars call this covenant in the Garden with Adam a covenant of works because life was promised to Adam (and his posterity) by his being obedient to God’s covenant stipulation. [Obeying God is a work]

Following are words God spoke through His prophet Hosea, regarding God’s covenant with Adam.

Hos 6:5 I sent My prophets to cut you to pieces—to slaughter you with My words, with judgments as inescapable as light.

Hos 6:6 I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know Me more than I want burnt offerings.

Hos 6:7 But like Adam, you broke My covenant and betrayed My trust.

In Genesis 3: 15, below, God indicated that a Redeemer would crush the head of Satan and the Redeemer would bruise His heel in the process. This, as the rest of scripture makes clear, is a reference to Christ's work on the Cross.

Also, Genesis 3:14 – 23 was God's first Judgment against sin. Throughout the Bible, God judged His people Israel after they had committed significant transgressions of His covenant stipulations. (In Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, Moses outlined blessings for covenant obedience and curses for covenant disobedience; these are also seen in part in many other scriptures.)

Gen 3:14 Then the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.

Gen 3:15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and **between your offspring and her Offspring.** He will strike your head, and you will strike His heel."

Gen 3:16 Then He said to the woman, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you. "

Gen 3:17 And to the man He said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

Gen 3:18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains.

Gen 3:19 By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."

Gen 3:23 So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and He sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.

Note: In Genesis chapters 1 and 2, God had fellowship with His creatures, then, in Genesis 3, sin entered into His creation and from that point, through Revelation 20, God was dealing with sin. The means He used are written on the pages of scripture, including the covenants.

Note: each covenant was established by blood, because God requires the life of one who sins against Him, but He graciously permitted the life of an animal to atone for one's sin in the Old Testament; and now, Christ's blood atones for the sins of those who believe He is God's sacrifice for sin. Those who do not accept God's WAY of atonement must pay for their sins with their own blood (consider the Passover in Exodus and the entire book of Leviticus and the epistle of Hebrews). God unfolded his eternal covenant promised in Genes 3:15, by way of covenants that build on each other in a very meticulous manner. God's goal was to put away sin so that He and His creatures could again dwell together in righteousness which will occur as pictured in Revelation 21. The following scripture from Daniel states this, this is apocalyptic literature and very difficult to understand; a few other New Testament scriptures conveying a similar message are included:

Dan 9:24 "A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

1Jn 3:8 But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

Mat 1:21 And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Heb 9:26 If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, He has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by His own death as a sacrifice.

2Co 5:18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him.

2Co 5:19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this **wonderful message of reconciliation.**

2Co 5:20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

2Co 5:21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

GOD'S SECOND COVENANT WAS WITH NOAH: [Approximately 2450 BC, see page 21]

God judged the world the second time in Genesis.

Gen 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years."

Gen 6:5 The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and He saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.

Gen 6:6 So the LORD was sorry He had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke His heart.

Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them."

Gen 6:8 But Noah found favor with the LORD.

Gen 9:11 Yes, I am confirming My covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth."

Gen 9:12 Then God said, "I am giving you a sign of My covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come.

Gen 9:13 I have placed My rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of My covenant with you and with all the earth.

Gen 9:14 When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, [Please read Genesis 6-10 for the full account]

Three New Testament accounts of the flood:

2Pe 2:5 And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah **warned the world of God's righteous judgment.** So God protected Noah when He destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood.

Heb 11:7 It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

Mat 24:37 "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day.

Mat 24:38 In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat.

Mat 24:39 People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. [Jesus words re: His second coming]

GOD'S THIRD COVENANT WAS WITH ABRAHAM: [Approximately 2100 BC, see page 21]

When reading the following scriptures about Abraham believing, about Abraham's faith, note that Abraham believed God's promises. Abraham did not just have some mystical faith like people often speak of these days. His faith had a specific object, God's covenant promises and provisions, that is, God's words. And as James explains in one example below, we and Abraham know for certain that he had real faith because that faith produced fruit, obedient actions, when God told Abraham to sacrifice his son in Genesis 22. The omniscient, sovereign God knew what Abraham would do before he tested him, because He knows our hearts. The test was to reveal to Abraham and to us what kind of faith Abraham actually had.

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you.

Gen 12:2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." [Gen. 12:1-3 are God's words CALLING Abraham out of his paganism, to be the head of God's chosen people.]

Gen 15:1 Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."

Gen 15:2 But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all Your blessings **when I don't even have a son?** Since You've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth.

Gen 15:3 You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."

Gen 15:4 Then the LORD said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir."

Gen 15:5 Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"

Gen 15:6 And Abram believed the LORD, and **the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.**

The following scriptures mention the Lord's unilateral covenant with Abram, and a foretelling of Abram's descendants for the next 400 years: (in the making of covenants, animals were typically cut in half to indicate what would happen to anyone who violated a covenant, that is, when men made such covenants between themselves; but Abraham was not required to walk through the animals, because it was a unilateral, not a bilateral covenant. (See definition of pages 7-8.))

Gen 15:9 The LORD told him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

Gen 15:10 So Abram presented all these to Him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side; he did not, however, cut the birds in half.

Gen 15:11 Some vultures swooped down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away.

Gen 15:12 As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him.

Gen 15:13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years.

Gen 15:14 But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. [A reference to Egypt and the 10 plagues in Exodus.]

Gen 15:15 (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.)

Gen 15:16 After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction."

[Statements such as this indicate that God is Sovereign and is monitoring sin and all things in all of His creation. When the iniquity quota set by God has reached its limit, God **judged** this nation via the Israelites under the leadership of Joshua in the book by his name. So, when the Israelites inherited the Promised Land in Canaan, they took it off the people residing there, terminating them, and it is stated that God went before them in those wars. Since He owns the earth and sets the criteria for its inhabitants, He also determines when a nation is established and when it is removed, by His judgments. His Sovereignty is clearly stated in the Old Testament in such ways; but if you are familiar with this reality, then you will easily see it operating in the New Testament also. For example, Jesus said in Matthew 12:36 that every idle word would be judged on judgment day (so, even your words are a concern of God's); for another Old Testament example that states that God will go before his people and destroy and dispossess nations for them: see Deuteronomy 31:3 – 5.]

Gen 15:17 After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses.

Gen 15:18 So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, "I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—

Gen 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve Me faithfully and live a blameless life.

Gen 17:2 I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants."

Gen 17:3 At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him,

Gen 17:4 "This is My covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations!

Gen 17:5 What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations.

Gen 17:6 I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them!

Gen 17:7 "I will confirm My covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the **everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you.**

Gen 17:8 And I will give the entire land of Canaan, where you now live as a foreigner, to you and your descendants. It will be their possession forever, and I will be their God."

Gen 22:1 Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

Gen 22:2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

Gen 22:7 Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

Gen 22:10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice.

Gen 22:11 At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

Gen 22:12 "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from Me even your son, your only son."

Gen 22:13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

Gen 22:14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." [In Genesis 12, when Abram was 75, God **called** him to leave his country and **promised** to

make him a great nation; in Gen. 21, at age 100, Abraham's son of promise, Isaac was born. In Gen. 22, God asked Abraham to sacrifice him; his faith enabled him to wait 25 years for the fulfillment.]

Below are scriptures that provide a New Testament interpretation of the events of this Covenant between God and Abraham. The covenant with Moses is also spoken of as they relate to God's overall plan of redemption that He was unfolding via covenants. The epistle of Galatians and Romans were written by the apostle Paul, and that of James, was written by Jesus' half-brother, James:

Gal 3:6 In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

Gal 3:7 **The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.**

Gal 3:8 What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would declare the Gentiles to be righteous because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when He said, "**All nations** will be blessed through you."

Gal 3:15 Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case.

Gal 3:16 God gave the promises to **Abraham and his child**. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say "to his children," as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says "to His child"—and that, of course, means **Christ**.

Gal 3:17 This is what I am trying to say: **The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking His promise.**

Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But **God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.**

Gal 3:19 Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave His law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people.

Gal 3:21 Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! **If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it.**

Gal 3:22 But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom **only by** believing in Jesus Christ. [Romans 1 – 3 make this very clear]

Gal 3:23 **Before the way of faith in Christ** was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, **until the way of faith was revealed.**

Gal 3:24 Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us **until** we could be made right with God through faith.

Gal 3:25 And now that the **way of faith** has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

Gal 3:26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.

Gal 3:28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And **now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.**

[There never was a way of salvation by the law; yet the Pharisees thought there was, and it is a common misconception even today, that one can earn merit with God by being obedient to His commandments. However, a born-again believer strives to follow the law out of gratitude for his salvation; he can obtain forgiveness each day for his failures. And he knows that salvation is by grace through Christ's work.]

Rom 4:1 Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did He discover about being made right with God?

Rom 4:2 If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, He would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way.

Rom 4:3 For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and **God counted him as righteous because of his faith**

Rom 4:4 When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned.

Rom 4:5 But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

Rom 4:6 **David** also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it: [in Psalm 32]

Rom 4:7 "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight.

Rom 4:13 Clearly, **God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants** was based **not** on his obedience to God's law, but on a **right relationship with God that comes by faith.**

Rom 4:14 **If** God's promise is only for those who obey the law, **then** faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless.

Rom 4:15 For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!) [Consider Matthew 5:28ff on adultery]

Rom 4:16 So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe.

Rom 4:17 That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

Rom 4:18 Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"

Rom **4:23** And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded

Rom 4:24 for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in Him, the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

Jas 2:19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! **Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.**

Jas 2:20 How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? [Demons have no good deeds; this is also true of many professed believers.]

Jas 2:21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see, his faith and his actions worked together. **His actions made his faith complete.**

Jas 2:23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.

Jas 2:24 So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

Jas 2:26 Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

GOD'S FOURTH COVENANT WAS MADE WITH MOSES: [Approximately 1440 BC]

[I am noting a few verses from Exodus 24, but this covenant has extensive criteria including the 10 commandments which are in Ex. 20; the rest of Exodus; all of Leviticus...; please refer to these areas for a fuller understanding; I am only citing the confirmation of the covenant.]

Exo 24:4 Then Moses carefully wrote down all the LORD's instructions. Early the next morning Moses got up and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He also set up twelve pillars, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Exo 24:5 Then he sent some of the young Israelite men to present burnt offerings and to sacrifice bulls as peace offerings to the LORD.

Exo 24:6 Moses drained half the blood from these animals into basins. The other half he splattered against the altar.

Exo 24:7 Then he took the **Book of the Covenant** and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded. We will obey."

Exo 24:8 Then Moses took the blood from the basins and splattered it over the people, declaring, "Look, **this blood confirms the covenant the LORD has made with you** in giving you these instructions."

Following are some New Testament references to Moses and his connection to the new everlasting covenant that was accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ:

Mat 5:17 "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the **law of Moses or the writings of the prophets**. No, I came to **accomplish their purpose**.

Mat 5:18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear **until its purpose is achieved**. [Jesus' words]

Joh 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!

Joh 5:46 If you really believed Moses, you would believe Me, because he wrote about Me.

Joh 5:47 But since you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

Rev 15:3 And they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations.

GOD'S FIFTH COVENANT WHICH WAS MADE WITH KING DAVID: [Approximately 980 BC]

In 2 Samuel chapter 7, the Lord made the following covenant with King David. This covenant is about the lineage of Christ, that it will flow through King David:

2Sa 7:8 "Now go and say to My servant David, 'This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of My people Israel.

2Sa 7:9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth!

2Sa 7:10 And I will provide a homeland for My people Israel, planting them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won't oppress them as they've done in the past,

2Sa 7:11 starting from the time I appointed judges to rule My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. "Furthermore, the LORD declares that He will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings!

2Sa 7:12 For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up **one** of your descendants, your own offspring, and **I will make his kingdom strong**.

2Sa 7:13 He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for My name. And I will secure his royal throne forever.

2Sa 7:16 Your house and your kingdom will continue before Me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever."

2Sa 7:25 "And now, O LORD God, I am Your servant; do as You have promised concerning me and my family. Confirm it as a promise that will last forever.

Psa 89:3 The LORD said, "I have made a covenant with David, My chosen servant. I have sworn this oath to him:

Psa 89:4 'I will establish your descendants as kings forever; they will sit on your throne from now until eternity.'

Psa 89:35 I have sworn an oath to David, and in My holiness I cannot lie:

Psa 89:36 His dynasty will go on forever; his kingdom will endure as the sun.

Psa 89:37 It will be as eternal as the moon, My faithful witness in the sky!"

Some New Testament references to this covenant:

Mat 22:41 Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question: Mat 22:42 "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is He?" They replied, "He is the son of David."

Act 13:23 "And it is one of King David's descendants, Jesus, who is God's promised Savior of Israel!

Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to His throne. I am the bright morning star."

GODS SIXTH COVENANT WHICH HE MADE VIA THE ATONING WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED AS HIS REDEMPTIVE GOAL BEFORE HE CREATED THE WORLD : [Ephesians 1: 1-4]

Old Testament references to the New Covenant in Christ's blood:

Jer 31:31 "**The day is coming,**" says the LORD, "**when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.**

Jer 31:32 This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the LORD.

Jer 31:33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day," says the LORD. "I will put My instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.

Jer 31:34 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know Me already," says the LORD. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

Eze 36:22 "Therefore, give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign LORD: I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect My holy name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations.

Eze 36:23 I will show how holy My great name is—the name on which you brought shame among the nations. And when I reveal My holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign LORD, then the nations will know that I am the LORD.

Eze 36:24 For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land.

Eze 36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols.

Eze 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

Eze 36:27 And I will put My Spirit in you so that you will follow My decrees and be careful to obey My regulations.

Eze 36:28 "And you will live in Israel, the land I gave your ancestors long ago. You will be My people, and I will be your God.

Eze 36:29 I will cleanse you of your filthy behavior. I will give you good crops of grain, and I will send no more famines on the land.

Eze 36:30 I will give you great harvests from your fruit trees and fields, and never again will the surrounding nations be able to scoff at your land for its famines.

Eze 36:31 Then you will remember your past sins and despise yourselves for all the detestable things you did.

Eze 36:32 But remember, says the Sovereign LORD, I am not doing this because you deserve it. O My people of Israel, you should be utterly ashamed of all you have done!

Eze 36:33 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I cleanse you from your sins, I will repopulate your cities, and the ruins will be rebuilt. [The new heart is a reference to being born again as is discussed in John 3, it is a new covenant blessing.]

Dan 7:13 As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into His presence.

Dan 7:14 He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey Him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed. [Jesus often called himself the Son of Man]

Isa 9:6 For a Child is born to us, a Son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of His ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon Me, for the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

Isa 61:2 He has sent Me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies. [Jesus read these words from a scroll handed to Him in Luke 4: 18-21, saying also to his audience, today these words have been fulfilled in your hearing; these words were fulfilled in the diverse miracles Jesus wrought.]

New Testament references of everlasting covenant through Jesus:

Heb 13:20 Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and **ratified an eternal covenant with His blood—**

Luk 22:20 After supper He took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and His people—an agreement confirmed with My blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

1Co 11:23 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord Himself. On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread

1Co 11:24 and gave thanks to God for it. Then He broke it in pieces and said, "This is My body, which is given for you. Do this to remember Me."

1Co 11:25 In the same way, He took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and His people—an agreement confirmed with My blood. Do this to remember Me as often as you drink it."

1Co 11:26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until He comes again.

Heb 9:13 Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity.

Heb 9:14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. **For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered Himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.**

Heb 9:15 That is why He is the One who mediates a **new covenant** between God and people, so that **all who are called** can receive the **eternal inheritance God has promised them.** For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

Heb 9:16 Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead.

Heb 9:17 The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect.

Heb 9:18 That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the **blood** of an animal.

Heb 9:19 For after Moses had read each of God's commandments to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, and sprinkled both the book of God's law and all the people, using hyssop branches and scarlet wool.

Heb 9:20 Then he said, "**This blood confirms** the covenant God has made with you."

Heb 9:21 And in the same way, he sprinkled blood on the Tabernacle and on everything used for worship.

Heb 9:22 In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. **For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.**

Heb 9:23 That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were **copies** of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the **real things in heaven** had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals.

Heb 9:24 For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, **which was only a copy of the true one in heaven.** He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf.

Heb 9:25 And He did not enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal.

Heb 9:26 If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, **once for all time, He has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by His own death as a sacrifice.**

Heb 9:27 And just as **each person** is destined to die once and after that comes judgment,

Heb 9:28 so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for Him.

Rev 1:4 This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the One who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before His throne;

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to Him who loves us and **has freed us from our sins by shedding His blood for us.**

Rev 14:4 They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb.

Rev 14:5 They have told no lies; they are without blame.

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel flying through the sky, carrying the **eternal Good News** to proclaim to the people who belong to this world—to every nation, tribe, language, and people.

TWO GENEALOGICAL ACCOUNTS OF CHRIST DATING BACK TO ABRAHAM AND TO ADAM: [some verses omitted for brevity]

Mat 1:1 **This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:**

Mat 1:2 **Abraham** was the father of **Isaac**. Isaac was the father of **Jacob**. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

Mat 1:6 Jesse was the father of **King David**. **David was the father of Solomon** (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

Mat 1:16 Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

Mat 1:17 All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

Mat 1:18 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mat 1:19 Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

Mat 1:20 As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Mat 1:21 And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Mat 1:22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet:

Mat 1:23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

Mat 1:24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Mat 1:25 But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named Him Jesus.

Luk 3:21 One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus Himself was baptized. As He was praying, the heavens opened,

Luk 3:22 and the **Holy Spirit**, in bodily form, descended on Him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "**You are My dearly loved Son, and You bring Me great joy.**" [the Jewish Talmud calls Mary, Jesus' mother, the daughter of Heli, therefore, the following is her family lineage]

Luk 3:23 Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His public ministry. Jesus was known as the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Heli.

Luk 3:31 Eliakim was the son of Melea. Melea was the son of Menna. Menna was the son of Mattatha. Mattatha was the son of Nathan. Nathan was the son of David.

Luk 3:32 David was the son of Jesse. Jesse was the son of Obed. Obed was the son of Boaz. Boaz was the son of Salmon. Salmon was the son of Nahshon.

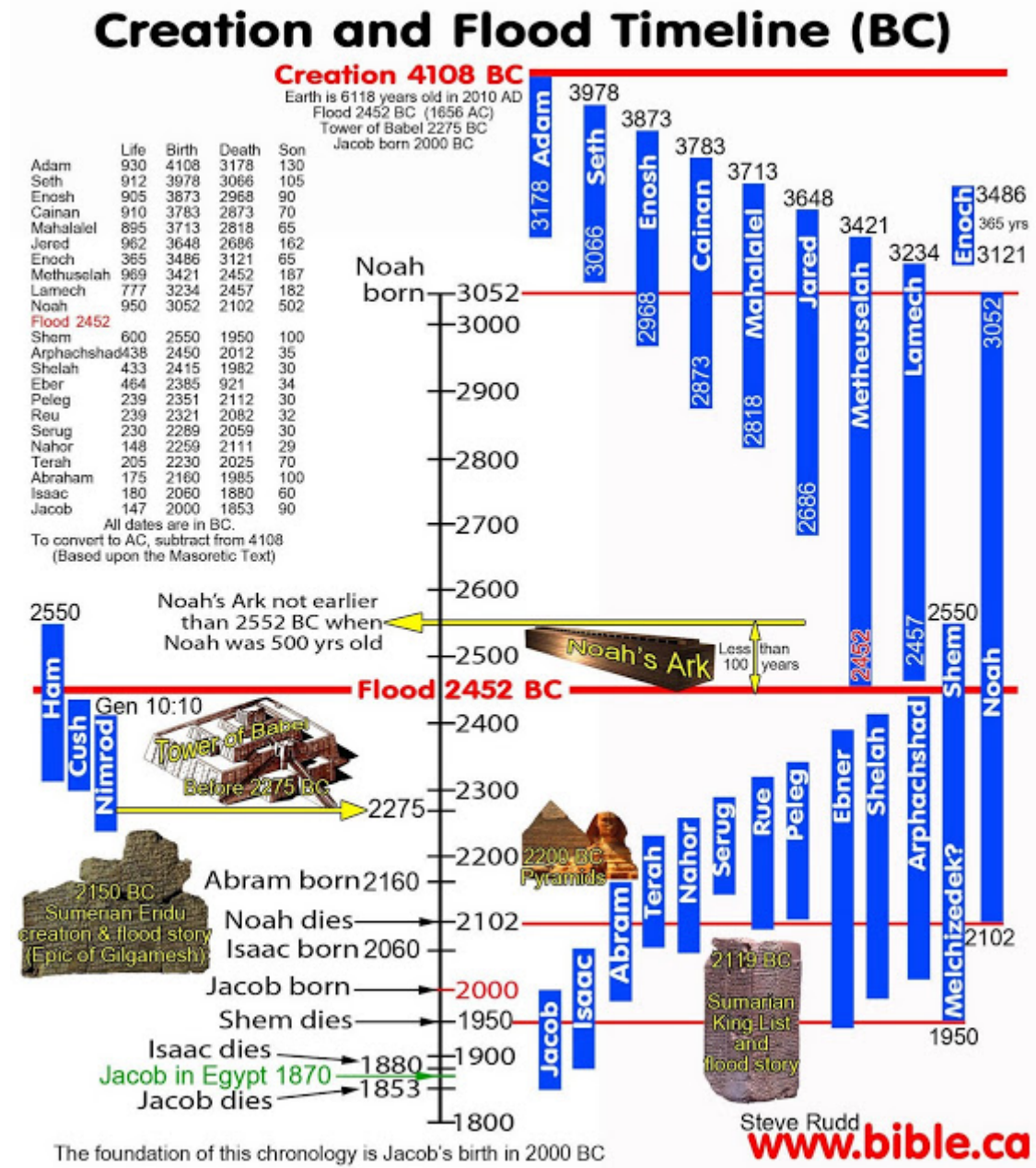
Luk 3:34 Judah was the son of Jacob. **Jacob** was the son of Isaac. **Isaac** was the son of **Abraham**. Abraham was the son of Terah. Terah was the son of Nahor.

Luk 3:36 Shelah was the son of Cainan. Cainan was the son of Arphaxad. Arphaxad was the son of Shem. Shem was the son of Noah. Noah was the son of Lamech.

Luk 3:37 Lamech was the son of Methuselah. Methuselah was the son of Enoch. Enoch was the son of Jared. Jared was the son of Mahalalel. Mahalalel was the son of Kenan.

Luk 3:38 Kenan was the son of Enosh. Enosh was the son of Seth. Seth was the son of Adam.
Adam was the son of God.

APPENDIX 1: Timeline downloaded from www.bible.ca, it is based on the birth date of the patriarch Jacob whose birth occurred in Gen. 25; also see genealogies in Gen. 5, 10 and 11. (I chose this chart from a webpage full of similar charts from various sources)



SUMMARY POINTS

- Abraham, Moses and Jesus are all part of God's plan for the church which He established before the foundation of the world, they are not prophets of three separate religions
- The New Covenant confirmed in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ was planned before the foundation of the world and very methodically and progressively unfolded via lesser covenants
- The genealogy of Christ noted in Matthew goes back to Abraham, 2160 BC
- The genealogy of Christ noted in Luke goes back to Adam and God, 4104 BC
- These genealogies and covenants show that the Old Testament and the New Testament are intimately related; the events that unfold across the pages of the entire Bible reveal the plan that God had before He created the world
- The New Testament, according to the epistle of Hebrews, is like a will showing the heritage of those who believe in Christ, who are simultaneously children of Abraham (the old will) because they have faith like his, believing in God's promises / words
- Fellowship God had with His creatures in Genesis 1 & 2 will be reestablished in Revelation 21 after sin has been put away by God's sacrifice for sin, Christ:

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Rev 21:3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them.

Rev 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone **forever.**"

Rev 21:5 And the One sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then He said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

Rev 21:6 And He also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life.

Rev 21:7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be My children.

- The events of Revelation 21 lie yet in the future