

RATIO CHRISTI

Welcome to Ratio Christi

at Texas A&M



Welcome!

Ratio Christi, meaning “reason for Christ” in Latin, serves to defend the Christian faith in honest dialogue with both our skeptical & believing friends.

Weekly Meetings: Thursday @ 7:30pm

RC-TAMU.org



THINK THEISM

APOLOGETICS & THEOLOGY AT TEXAS A&M



Podcast

We have a podcast!
Search: **“Think Theism”** in
your podcast provider or go
to **ThinkTheism.org** to
connect via RSS





What do we do with the Old Testament?

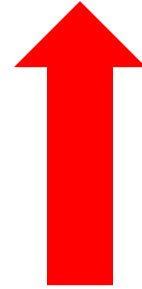
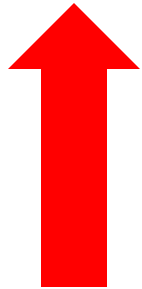
Prof. Micah Green, Ratio Christi, Texas A&M University, Aug 27 2020

“What is Christianity all about?”

- Jesus
- Salvation
- Sin
- Cross
- Redemption
- Church
- Heaven
- Hell
- Israel
- Torah
- Exile
- Temple
- Priesthood
- Kingdom

“What is Christianity all about?”

- 1 Cor 15³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,



What's in the Old Testament?

OLD TESTAMENT



CREATION

PATRIARCH

EXODUS

CONQUEST

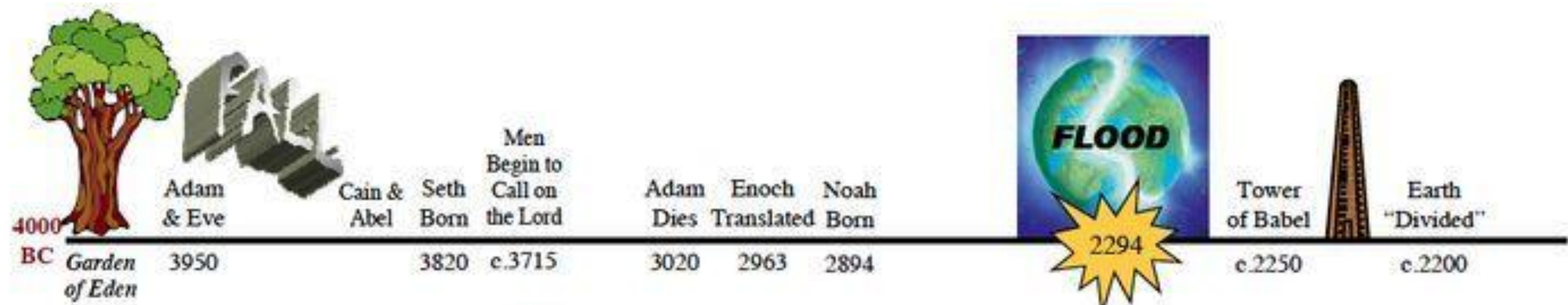
JUDGES

KINGDOM

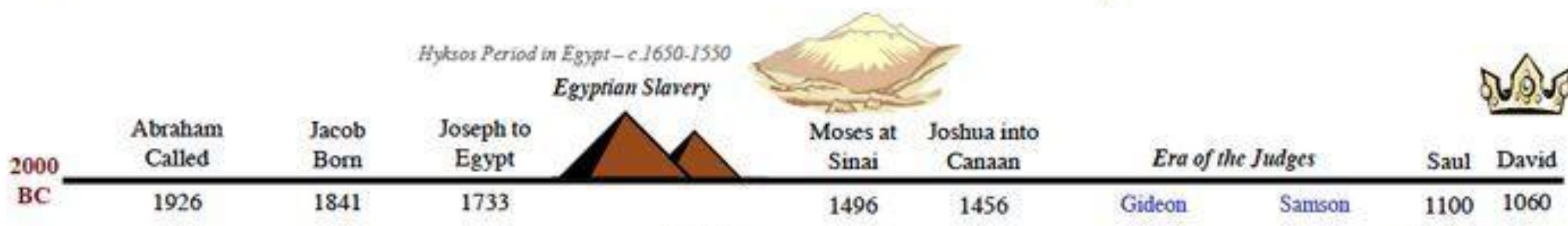
EXILE

RETURN

SILENCE



CREATION



PATRIARCH EXODUS CONQUEST JUDGES KINGDOM



1000 BC

Solomon
1020-980

Jeroboam I

Israel

Ahab 925

Elijah & Elisha

Jehu 885

Jonah & Obadiah

Jeroboam II 824

Amos & Hosea

Assyrian Destruction
(Shalmaneser V)



Sennacherib's Campaign - 712 BC

Rehoboam

Judah

Jehoshaphat

919

Uzziah

810

Joel Isaiah Micah

Ahaz

742

Hezekiah

726

Manasseh

697

Josiah

640

Nahum, Zephaniah

1st Deportation

605

Habakkuk, Jeremiah
Ezekiel & Daniel



Assyria falls to Babylon - 612 BC

Babylonian Destruction
(Nebuchadnezzar)

Babylon falls to Medo-Persia - 539 BC

EXILE

Edict of Cyrus
538

70 years

Temple Rebuilt

520-16

Haggai & Zechariah

Samuel



KINGDOM

EXILE

500
BC

Esther
Made
Queen Jerusalem
Decree

482
Ezra & Nehemiah

Malachi



Alexander
the Great

336-323

Seleucid &
Ptolemaic
Dynasties

321/305



Septuagint

c.250

Antiochus
IV Epiphanes

175-163



Maccabean
Revolt

164

Rome
Conquers
Judea

64

Herod's
Temple

19



EXILE



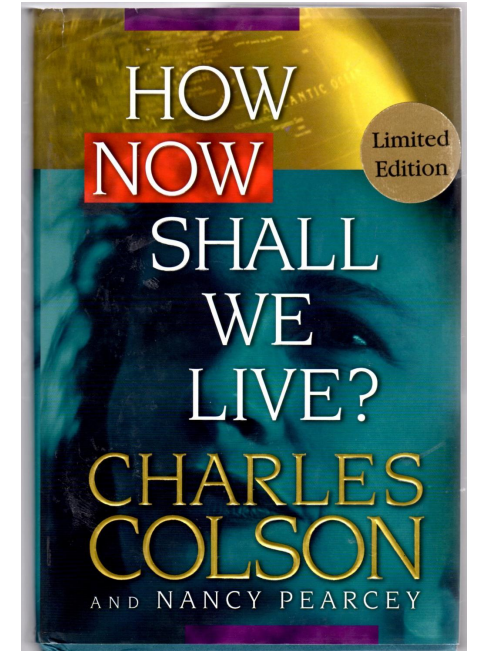
RETURN



SILENCE

So...what do we do with the Old Testament?

- Most Christians emphasize the “Creation” and “Fall” aspects of Genesis...and that’s it.
 - “Creation – Fall – Redemption” as the components of a Worldview
- Why does the Bible so much about Israel’s history?
- Why not just have Jesus arrive *de novo* and do what he needs to do? Why all the kings and prophets and drama?



'Christians Need to Unhitch the Old Testament from Their Faith': Andy Stanley's Sermon Draws Backlash

05-11-2018 - [Steve Warren](#)



CB

Sta

CB

Maps for Old Testament / New Testament Relationship

“Replacement Theology”

For many centuries, Christians claimed that Israel was the people of God in the Old Testament and the Church replaces Israel as the people of God.

Israel

Church

Any discomfort with this idea?

Dispensational Theology



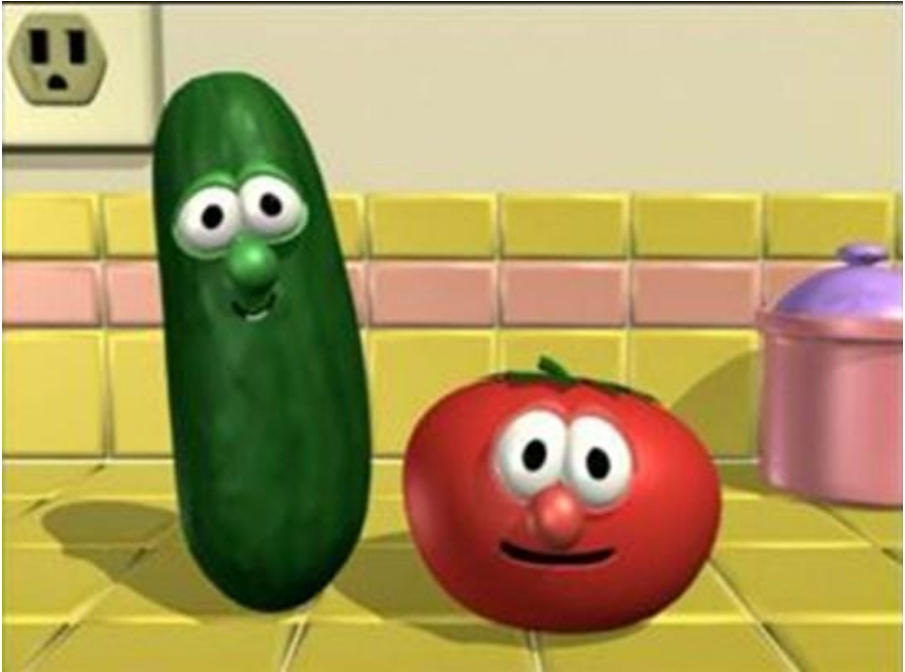
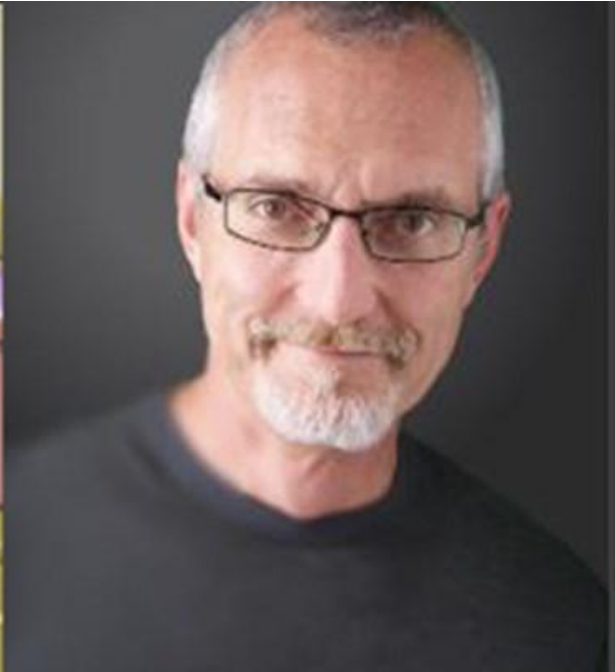
OT as Moral Lessons



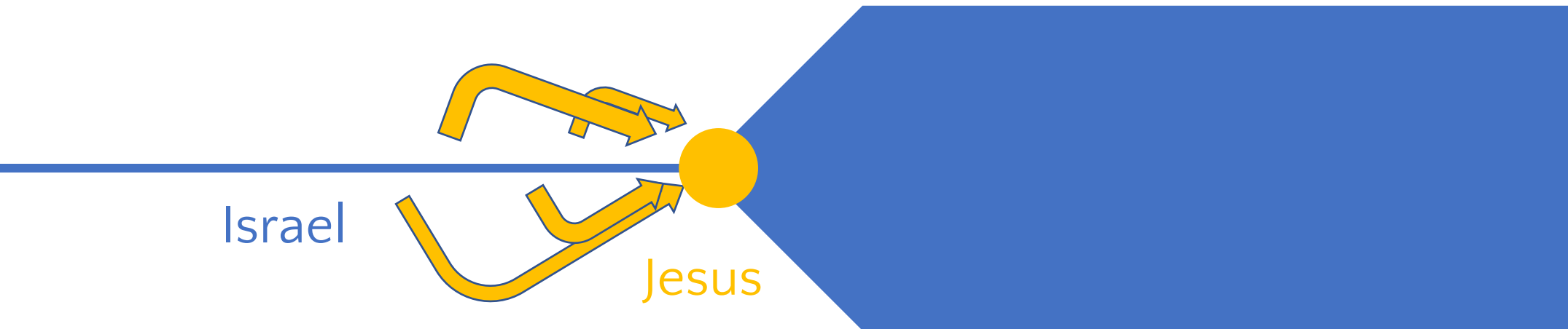
Old Testament Stories

Church





But what did 1st Century Church believe?



Emphasis on:

1. Continuity
2. Expansion
3. Narrative

Multiethnic
Church



“We believe the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus”

1. Continuity

- The Scriptures speak of Jesus
 - John 5: ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **it is they that bear witness about me,** ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.
 - Luke 24: ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**
 - Matt 1 ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
- Connection to faith of OT Saints:
 - John 8: “Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”
 - Acts 7: Stephen’s speech: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon

1. Continuity

- You need the Old Testament story to understand Jesus' mission
- What were 1st century Jews looking for?
 - Is the exile over or not? What about these Romans?
 - What is Israel's mission?
- Jesus' mission and Israel's mission: Inaugurating **God's Kingdom** as a **Blessing to the Nations**
 - Gen 12: ¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

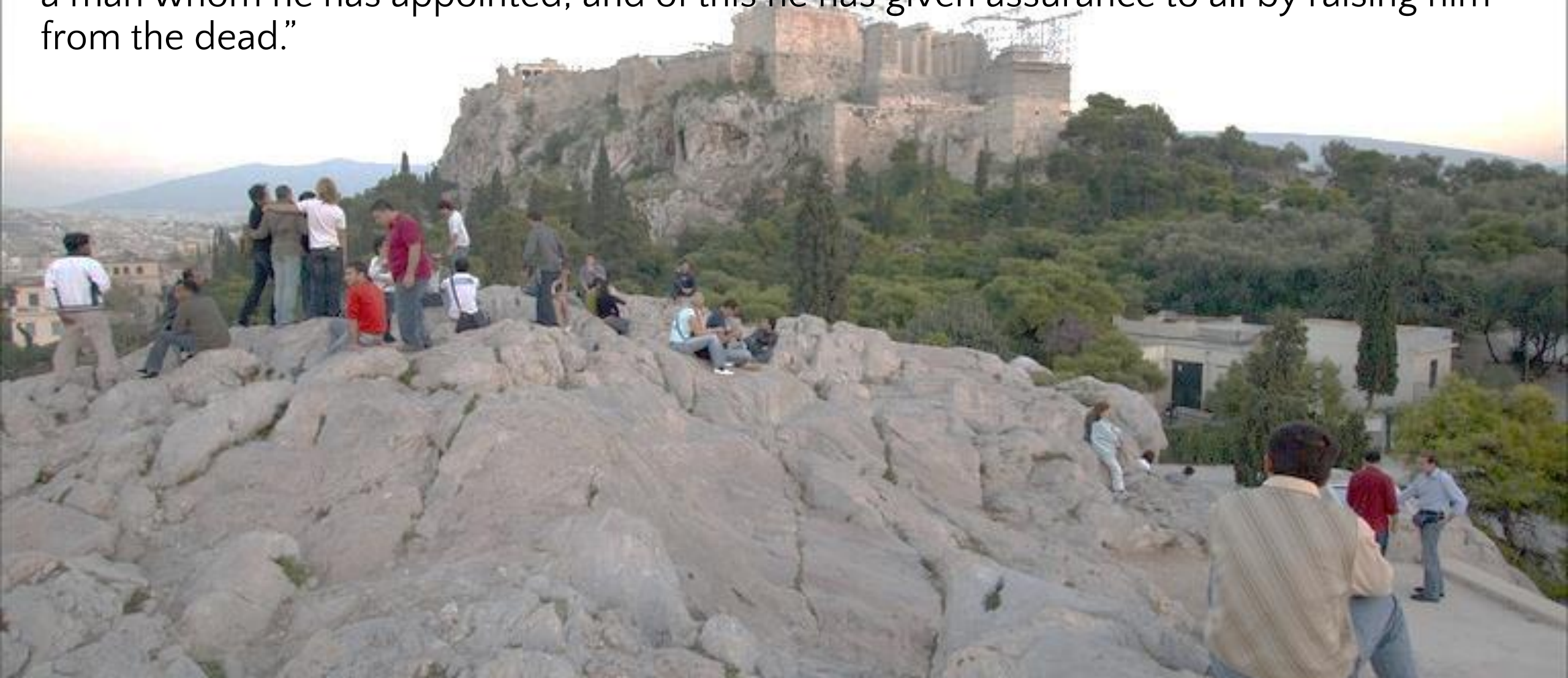
2. Expansion

- Eph 3 ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ **This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.**
- **What marks out followers of Christ? Not Torah.**

2. Expansion

- Rom 16 ²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but **has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations**, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith

- Acts 17 ²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but **now he commands all people everywhere to repent**, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”



3. Narrative

- “Literary” vs. “historical”
- Core of a good narrative:
 - Building up expectations and/or tension, then resolving them in a beautifully unexpected way.

3. Narrative

- God as the source of victory
 - Gideon's army (Judges 7)
 - 1 Samuel 17:47 "...that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."
- God loves to upend human expectations
 - I will build a nation from...this old childless couple?
 - The king from...Bethlehem?
 - 1 Samuel 16:7 "ein Mensch sieht, was vor Augen ist; der Herr aber sieht das Herz an"
 - Jesus as the "double revolutionary"
 - Revolution: Caesar is not Lord
 - ...but not a military revolution!

“We help people experience ... by showcasing the **literary art of the Scriptures** and tracing the themes found in them from beginning to end”



THEME
God



THEME
Sabbath



THEME
Tree of Life



THEME
Water of Life



THEME
Holy Spirit



THEME
Temple



THEME
Generosity



THEME
The Messiah



THEME
Heaven & Earth



THEME
The Covenants



THEME
Image of God



THEME
Holiness



THEME
The Law



THEME
Sacrifice & Atonement



THEME
Justice



THEME
Day of the Lord



THEME



TOPIC



TOPIC



TOPIC



Old Testament Cleanliness Laws



Source:
Bible Project

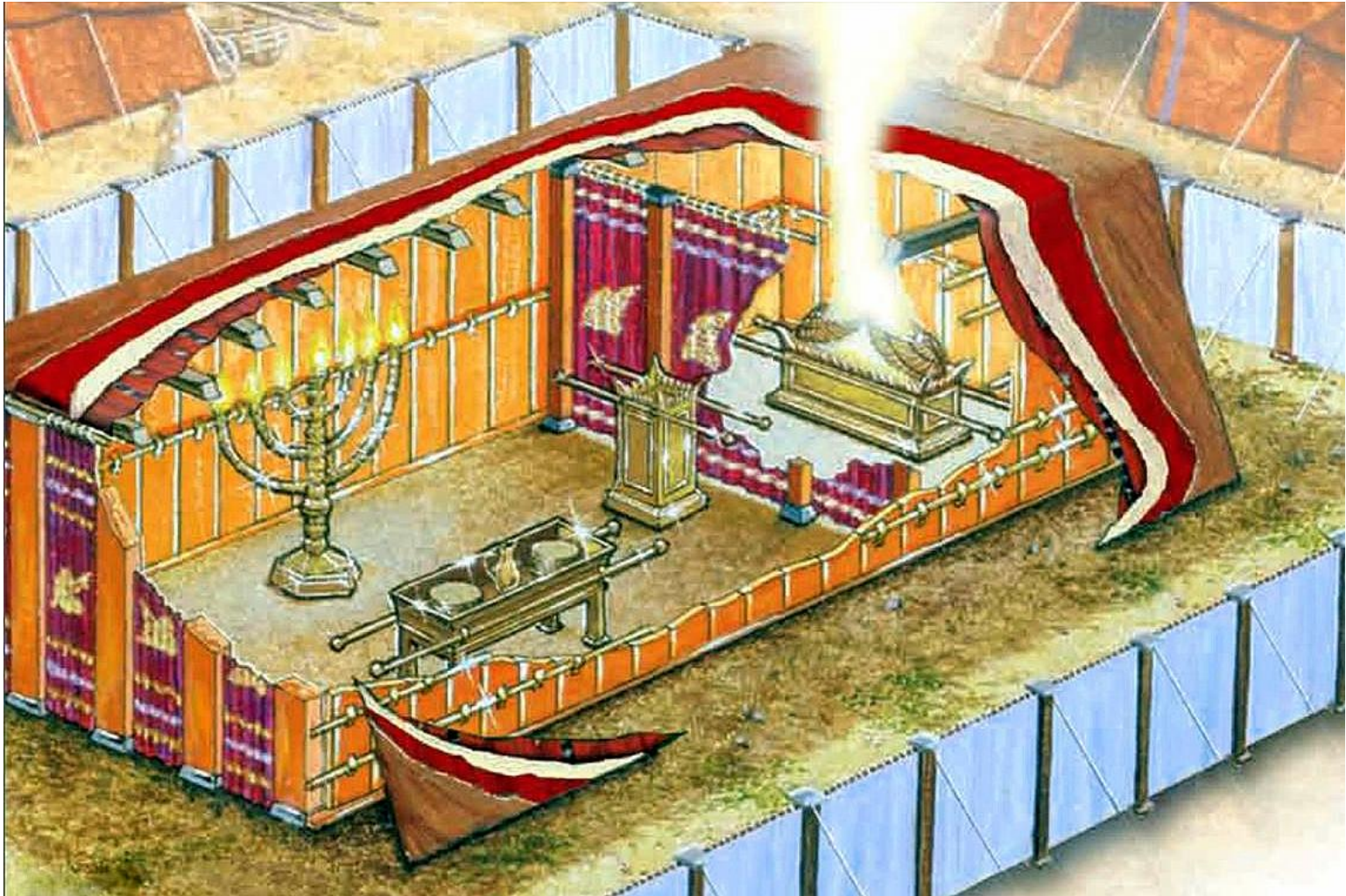
Old Testament Cleanliness Laws



Old Testament Cleanlines



The Tabernacle and the Temple



The Tabernacle and the Temple

- John 1 ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Tabernacle and the Temple



Abraham and Isaac



I'll tell you something; if I was told to sacrifice [my children] to prove my devotion to God...and admire the man who said, **“Yes, I'll gut my kid to show my love of God,”** I'd say,

“No. F--- you.”

-Christopher
Hitchens





Summary

- How to understand the Old Testament – New Testament connection?
 - Not merely discontinuity and moral examples
 - Continuity, Expansion, and Narrative that points to Jesus as the focus of the story
 - Eschatology? There's room for lots of competing views
 - Christianity-Judaism conversation:
 - Be gracious. "You're not writing on a blank page"

Preview of Ratio Christi Meetings this Fall

- Genesis 1-11 and Primeval History
- Exodus
- Joshua and the Conquest



CREATION



EXODUS CONQUEST

The emphasis is on open discussion of historicity, interpretation, and ethics.

Be thinking ahead about interpretation in the context when those books were written: **How would the original audience understand these writings?**

Questions?

micah.green@tamu.edu

[@MicahJGreen](#)

Quiz: Which of these people believe in inerrancy?

Person A:

The book of Jonah is intended to accurately record history, whale and all, and I believe it.



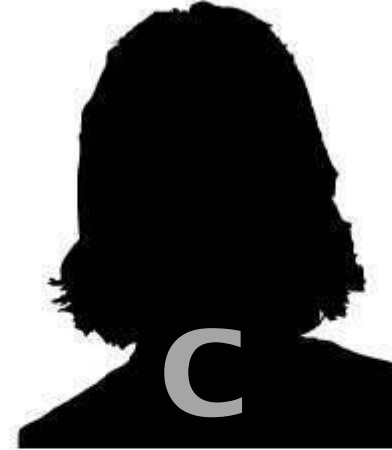
Person B:

The author of the book of Jonah did not intend it to be taken literally. It's a word picture of Israel's lack of mercy toward others even when God has shown them mercy.



Person C:

We now know that it's physically impossible to survive being ingested by a whale; ancient people didn't know that. Instead of insisting on this ancient story being literally true, let's look for its broader message and significance in our lives.



Quiz: Which of these people believe in inerrancy?

Person A:

The book of Jonah is intended to accurately record history, whale and all, and I believe it.



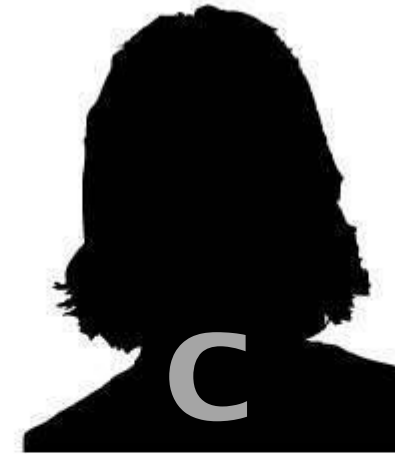
Person B:

The author of the book of Jonah did not intend it to be taken literally. It's a word picture of Israel's lack of mercy toward others even when God has shown them mercy.



Person C:

We now know that it's physically impossible to survive being ingested by a whale; ancient people didn't know that. Instead of insisting on this ancient story being literally true, let's look for its broader message and significance in our lives.





The key:

Do you really care what the text is saying?

Are you willing to believe it and submit to it?

“Inerrancy” shouldn’t imply a pre-defined particular interpretation.



The Bible Project Mission Statement

- From page one to the final word, we believe the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus. This diverse collection of ancient books overflows with wisdom for our modern world. As we let the biblical story speak for itself, we believe the message of Jesus will transform individuals and entire communities.
- Many people have misunderstood the Bible as a collection of inspirational quotes or a divine instruction manual dropped from heaven. Most of us gravitate toward sections we enjoy while avoiding parts that are confusing or even disturbing.
- Our Bible resources help people experience the Bible in a way that is approachable, engaging, and transformative. We do this by showcasing the literary art of the Scriptures and tracing the themes found in them from beginning to end

The Tabernacle and the Temple



