

Seeing the Whole Story of Scripture

NATIONS

MESSIAH

NATIONS + JEWS

KINGDOM

**JEWS +
SURVIVING NATIONS**

Seeing the Whole Story of Scripture

- Most biblical errors occur when “we freeze the story at one point” in God's redemptive plan and make that point the destination.
- God's story repeatedly follows a pattern:
- **One → Many → One → Many → One → Many → One**
- **Could we mistaken, a chapter, a theme, a topic, a Jewish custom, the Law or a Convent for the whole story?**

Picture this.

- Imagine reading a novel and becoming so attached to one chapter that you begin acting as though the entire book exists for that chapter.
- You would miss the purpose of the chapter.
- The chapter only makes sense in light of the whole story.

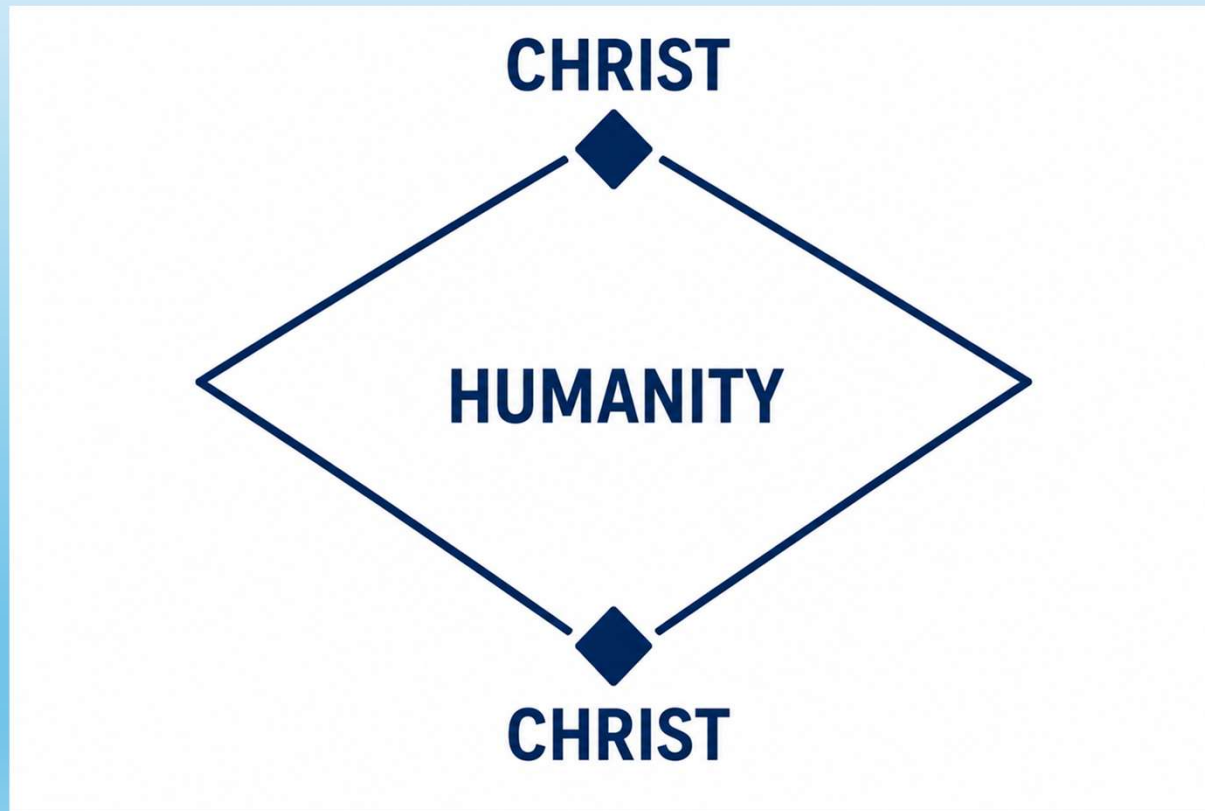
Many believers do this with:

- Israel
- The Church
- Torah
- The Bride
- Prophecy
- The Kingdom
- All are important.
- None are the whole story.

Colossians 1:16–18

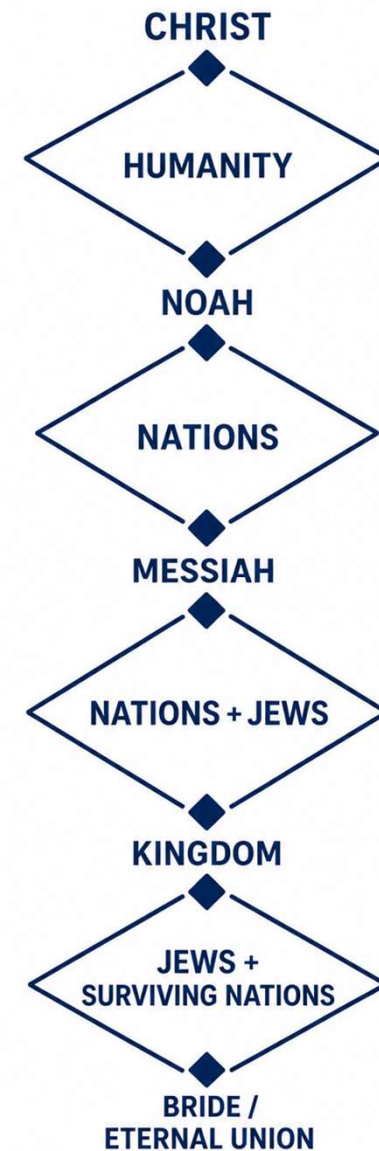
- "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth... All things were created through Him and for Him... that in all things He may have the preeminence."
- Everything begins in Christ.
- Everything moves through Christ.
- Everything ends in Christ.

I see this pattern as a shape.



Now this is the END

- But what about the middle, the meat of the Bible.
- Well for that I changed it into a four diamonds stacked.
- See the pattern?
 - Everything Begins with Christ
 - Moves through Christ
 - Ends in Christ.



DIAMOND #1 — CREATION TO NOAH

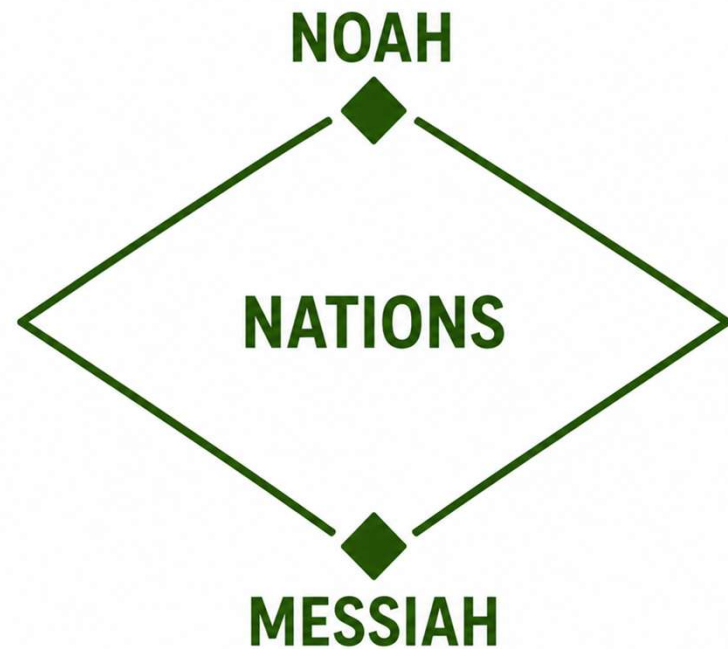
- **One**
- God creates Adam.
- Humanity begins with one man.
- **Many**
- Humanity multiplies across the earth.
- **One**
- The Flood narrows humanity back to Noah.

Observation

- Many people see judgment.
- But the deeper pattern is preservation.
- God narrows in order to save.
- Noah is not the destination.
- Noah is the bridge.

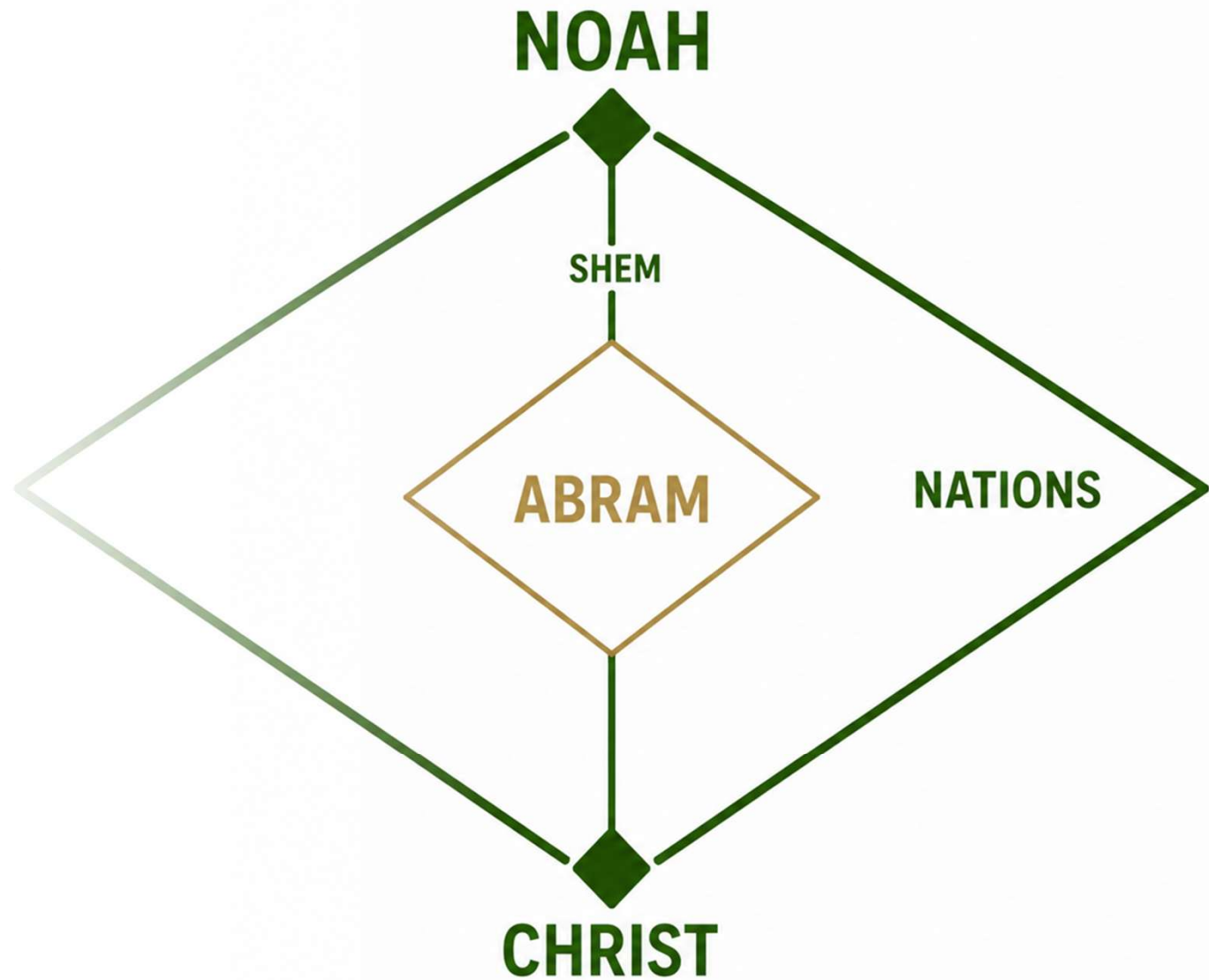
DIAMOND #2 — NATIONS TO MESSIAH

- **One**
- Noah emerges from the Ark.
- Humanity begins again.
- **Many**
- The nations spread across the earth.
- Babel multiplies languages.
- Civilizations emerge.



Within the second Diamond.

- We start to see another pattern.
- **One**
- God narrows again.
- Not to destroy.
- To redeem.
- He calls Abraham.



This second Diamond is wide!

- Many people freeze here.
- Some freeze at Abraham.
- Some freeze at Israel.
- Some freeze at Torah.
- Some freeze at the Land.
- But Abraham was never the destination.
- Israel was never the destination.
- The Law was never the destination.
- They all point forward to Christ.

Galatians Connection

- Galatians 3:16
- Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.
- Basically it says this, the promises ultimately pointed to one Seed.
- Not seeds.
- One Seed.
- Christ.

Lets take a look at some freeze points.

- **Israel Only**

- Many forms of Hebrew Roots, Two-House, Ephraimite, and Torah-centric systems.
- They often recognize something important—that God chose Israel—but then freeze the story there.

- May look like this,

- Abraham
 - "The goal is to become Abraham."
- Circumcision
 - Error: "The covenant sign is the goal."
- Sinai/Torah
 - Error: "The Law is the destination."

- Ethnic Israel
 - Error: "God's ultimate purpose is only Israel itself."
- The Land
 - Error: "The land promise is the final fulfillment."
- The Temple
 - Error: "The temple is the goal."
- Jewish Culture
 - Error: "The closer I become culturally Jewish, the closer I am to God."
- The Feasts
 - Error: "Observing the feast is the destination."

Covenant freeze point

- **Error:** "The covenant itself is the destination"
 - **The Abrahamic Covenant**
 - The promise was never merely about Abraham having descendants.
 - **The Mosaic Covenant**
 - The covenant established Israel as a nation and revealed God's holiness.
 - But it was never presented as the final answer.
 - The sacrifices had to continue.
 - The priests had to continue.
 - The cleansing had to continue.

- **The Davidic Covenant**

- The covenant was not ultimately about David.
- It was about the Son of David.
- The throne points forward.
- The kingdom points forward.
- The King points forward.

- **Even the New Covenant**

- *This one surprises people.*
- The New Covenant is not the final destination either.
- The New Covenant is the means by which God restores people to Himself and prepares them for the Kingdom and ultimately the New Creation.

- One of the dangers in biblical study is becoming so fascinated with a covenant that we stop following the story.
- Covenants are essential because they reveal God's promises and purposes, but every covenant moves the narrative forward.
- The Abrahamic Covenant points to the Seed.
- The Mosaic Covenant points to redemption.
- The Davidic Covenant points to the King.
- The New Covenant points to restoration.
- The covenant is not the destination; it is the pathway God uses to bring us to the ultimate destination—Christ and the fulfillment of all things in Him. (Ephesians 1:10)

Dispensations

- **Error:** "The dispensation is the destination."
 - A dispensation is simply a stage in God's unfolding administration of His purposes.
 - The danger comes when we become so focused on a particular dispensation that we stop following the larger story.
 - The dispensation becomes the focus rather than what God is accomplishing through it.

We have...

- **Innocence**

- The Garden is not the destination.
- Adam points forward.
- Creation points forward.
- Even Eden points forward to something greater.
- The Bible does not end in Genesis 2.
- It ends with a greater reality than Eden.

- **Human Government**

- Noah is not the destination.
- Government is not the destination.
- The post-flood world points forward.

- **Promise**

- Abraham is not the destination.
- The promises point forward.
- The Seed is where the story is headed.

- **Law**

- This is probably the most common dispensational freeze point.
- Some become so fascinated with the dispensation of Law that everything becomes Torah.
- But the Law was never designed to be the final stop.
- The Law was preparing the way.

- **Grace / Church Age**

- Ironically, dispensationalists can fall into their own freeze point here.
- The Church Age is not the destination.
- The Church is not the destination.
- The age of grace is not the destination.
- The Church Age points forward.
- This is one reason you've repeatedly emphasized that the Church is a current role, not an eternal identity.

Finally,

- **Kingdom**
 - Even the Millennial Kingdom is not the final destination.
 - This is where many prophecy teachers unknowingly freeze the story.
 - Everything becomes the Millennium.
 - Yet Revelation itself keeps moving.
- "One of the easiest ways to miss God's story is to fall in love with one of God's stages.
- Whether it's Israel, Torah, the covenants, the Church, or even a dispensation, every stage has value—but none of them are the destination.
- God continually moves His story forward. The question is never 'What stage am I standing in?'
- The question is 'Where is God taking the story next?'"

Some say we are Dispensationalist.

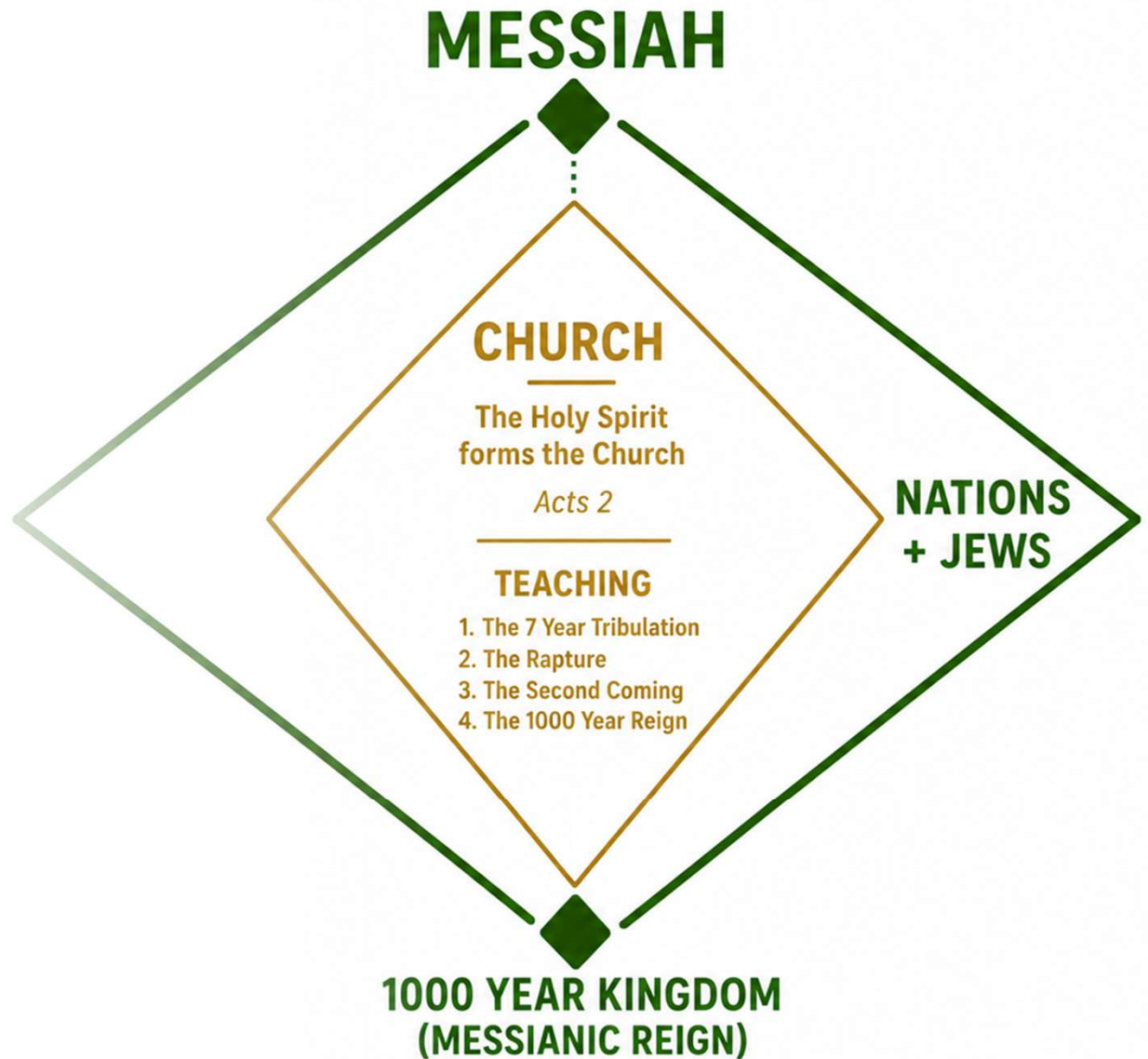
- We are BUT not CLASSIC Dispensationalist.
 - Associated with:
 - John Nelson Darby
 - C. I. Scofield
 - Lewis Sperry Chafer
- Key emphasis:
 - **Israel and the Church are distinct programs.**
- Classic:
 - Israel → pause → Church → Israel resumes
- The Progressive side:
 - Israel → Messiah → Church → Kingdom → New Creation

What We Believe.

- We fall in the middle of these two.
 - Why because even these have their freeze points!
- We don't tend to LABEL ourselves either one.
- WE "Follow the story until it reaches Christ, then continue following it until God is all in all."

DIAMOND #3 — CHRIST TO THE Millennial Kingdom

- **One**
 - Christ arrives.
 - The fulfillment of the narrowing.
 - The Seed.
 - The Son.
 - The Messiah.
- **Many**
 - The Gospel explodes outward.
 - The blessing promised to Abraham reaches the nations.
 - The Church expands throughout the world.



- **Error— Church Only**

- The story does not stop at Pentecost.
- The Church serves a purpose.

Error— Bride Only

- **The New Testament Emphasis**

- When the New Testament speaks about the Church's current function, the dominant picture is not Bride.
- The dominant picture is:
 - Body
 - Temple
 - Priesthood
 - Family
 - Ambassadors
 - Servants
 - Soldiers
 - Witnesses

The Freeze Point

- The error happens when believers begin living as though:
- "Being the Bride is the whole point."
- What often follows?
 - Excessive inward focus.
 - Excessive emotionalism.
 - Constant preparation language.
 - Little emphasis on mission.
 - Little emphasis on ruling and reigning.
 - Little emphasis on discipleship.
 - Little emphasis on stewardship.

- The Church is primarily called the Body during its earthly mission.
- The Bride imagery points forward to a future consummation, but many believers live as though the wedding is the goal rather than the beginning of what follows.
- The Body has work to do.
- The Bride has a wedding ahead.
- When we replace our present calling as the Body with an exclusive focus on being the Bride, we risk becoming spectators waiting for rescue instead of participants carrying out the mission of Christ.
- The wedding is glorious, but it is not the end of the story. The wedding serves the purpose of eternal union, and that union serves God's larger purpose of dwelling with His people forever.

Plus it freezes into....

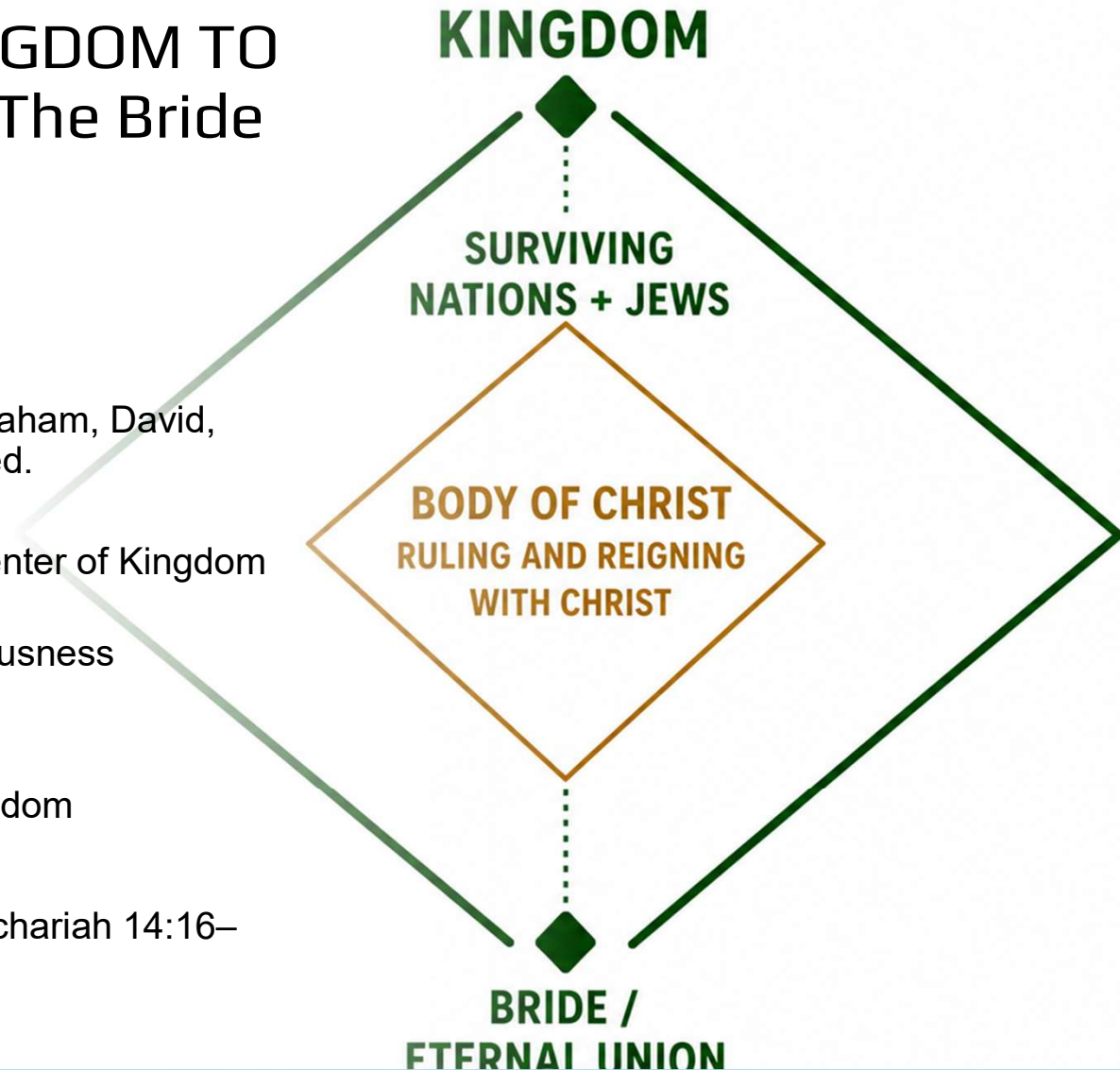
- **The Bride Discussion Almost Immediately Becomes:**
 - Is the Bride Israel?
 - Is the Bride the Church?
 - Is the Bride both?
 - Is the Bride New Jerusalem?
 - Is the Bride covenantally understood?
 - Is the Bride dispensationally understood?
- Once "Bride" becomes the dominant identity, people often find themselves asking:
 - "Who exactly is the Bride?"
 - And "What is a bride to be doing?"

Now the discussion shifts into:

- Dispensational systems
- Covenant systems
- Israel versus Church
- Ecclesiology debates
- Eschatological categories
- The focus moves from function to classification.

DIAMOND 4 – KINGDOM TO ETERNAL UNION (The Bride and Groom)

- **One**
 - **The Messianic Kingdom**
 - Christ reigns on earth.
 - The promises made to Abraham, David, and Israel are visibly fulfilled.
 - The King is present.
 - Jerusalem becomes the center of Kingdom government.
 - Peace, justice, and righteousness characterize the earth.
 - **Many**
 - Israel at the Center of Kingdom Administration
 - Other nations
- (Isaiah 2:2–4, Isaiah 11:1–10, Zechariah 14:16–21)



The Body of Christ Ruling and Reigning With Christ

- The Body is no longer primarily evangelizing.
- The Body is no longer primarily suffering.
- The Body is no longer primarily waiting.
- The Body now reigns with its Head.
- The Church fulfills its Kingdom function.
- The saints administer with Christ.

Even the Kingdom is not the destination.

- Many systems stop here.
- But the story keeps moving.
- The Kingdom itself serves a purpose.
- Just as:
- Noah served a purpose.
- Abraham served a purpose.
- Israel served a purpose.
- The Church served a purpose.
- The Kingdom serves a purpose.
- The Kingdom prepares creation for its final state.

The Final Testing

- At the end of the thousand years:
- Satan is released.
- A final rebellion occurs.
- God demonstrates once and for all that man's problem has never been environment.
- It has always been the heart.
- Even under the perfect rule of Christ, those who reject Him still rebel when given the opportunity.

Ending at the ONE (**Eternal Union**)

- The old creation passes away.
- The New Jerusalem descends.
- The Bride is revealed.
 - Biblical Marriage the 2 shall become 1!
- God dwells with His people.
- History reaches its final destination.
- The story ends where it began:
- God with man.
- But now redeemed forever.

A **hologram** is distributed storage:

- Break it into pieces, and each piece can still reconstruct the whole image, but with less clarity and fewer viewing angles.
- So the Bible works the same way:
- A single passage does not contain every detail equally, but it often contains the whole biblical pattern in miniature.

ORDINARY 2D PHOTO – SPATIAL STORAGE

Information is stored in specific areas.



Original Photo



Cut into pieces



A single piece shows only that part.

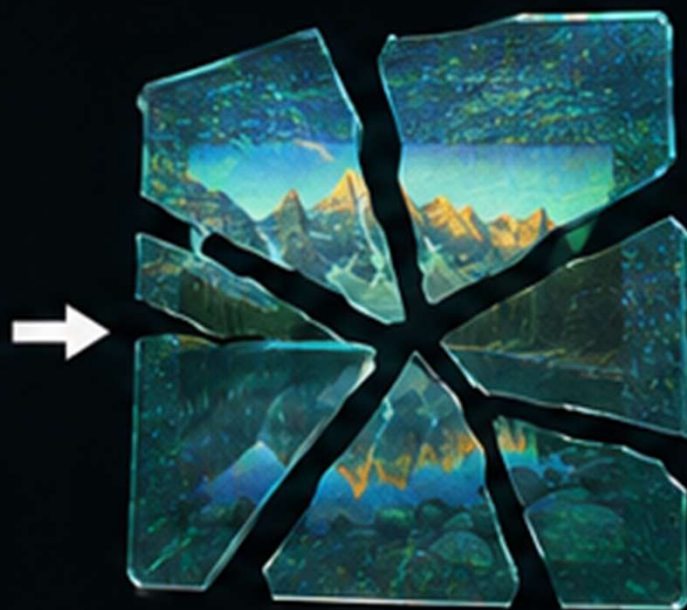
If you cut off a part, you only have that part.

HOLOGRAM – DISTRIBUTED STORAGE

Information about the whole image is stored in every point.



Original Hologram



Cut into pieces

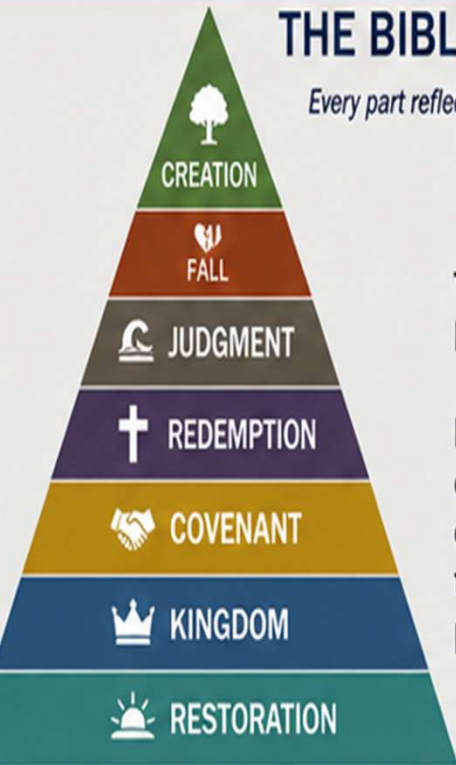


A single piece still shows the whole image (less clearly and from fewer angles).

Every piece can still reconstruct the whole image.

THE BIBLE IS LIKE A HOLOGRAM

Every part reflects the whole story, though not with equal detail.



This is the whole biblical pattern.

Every major story or book includes elements of this whole pattern.

NOAH



Judgment and covenant, pointing to redemption and restoration.

ABRAHAM



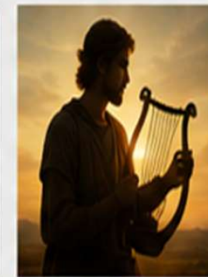
Covenant promise that points to the kingdom and restoration.

EXODUS



Redemption from judgment, leading to covenant and kingdom.

DAVID



Kingdom promised, foreshadowing the ultimate King and restoration.

THE CHURCH



The ongoing story of redemption, leading to final restoration.

HOLOGRAPHIC LAYER

- Every diamond tells the same story.
- Creation tells it.
- Noah tells it.
- Abraham tells it.
- Israel tells it.
- The Church tells it.
- The 1000-year rein tells it.
- Each part reflects the whole.

We will end on this!

- **Echad (One)**
- תנא
- Aleph – Strength, Leader
- Chet – Fence, Joining
- Dalet – Door
- Picture:
- **The Strong One bringing many into unity through a door.**

Where are you?

- Where have I frozen God's story?
 - At church?
 - At prophecy?
 - At tradition?
 - At a favorite doctrine?
- Am I seeing Christ as the center or merely my preferred chapter?
- Am I living for the temporary chapter or the eternal story?

TRANSFORMATION POINT

- When you understand the whole story:
- You stop worshiping the tools.
- You stop worshiping the chapter.
- You stop worshiping the system.
- You worship the Author.

Ephesians 1:10

- "...that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ..."
- Notice the destination.
- Not merely Israel.
- Not merely the Church.
- Not merely the Bride.
- **All things gathered together in Christ.**

FINAL TAKEAWAY

- The story of Scripture is not God continually shrinking His people.
- The story of Scripture is God narrowing His work through chosen vessels so His blessing can continually expand to more people until all things are united in Christ.
- **One became many.**
- **The many are being gathered into One.**
- **And that One is Jesus Christ.**

Seeing the Whole Story of Scripture

NATIONS

MESSIAH

NATIONS + JEWS

KINGDOM

**JEWS +
SURVIVING NATIONS**