



THE EPIC OF EDEN VIDEO STUDY

# Session 1—The Great Cultural Barrier

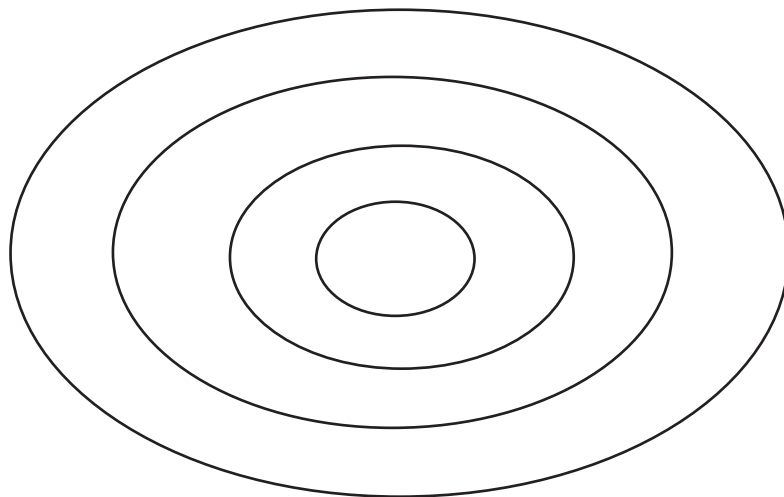
Why do Christians struggle with the study of the Old Testament?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnocentric: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was the creature at the center of the table in the picture from Lima, Peru? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bureaucratic Culture	Tribal Culture
Run by?	Run by?



Israelite Society



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# Session 2—Redemption

What is the first problem that we run into when we begin our study?

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How does Dr. Richter define the word “Biblish”?

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Where did the church get the word “redemption”?

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Where did the New Testament writers get the word?


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Where did the Old Testament writers get the word?

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 = ga'al = to redeem

What do we learn about redemption from each of these stories?

Naomi, Ruth & Boaz	Abraham & Lot	Hosea & Gomer



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# Session 3—Real Time and Space

## 1) Geography

What is “the little green slug” called?

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This area is called that because it is \_\_\_\_\_ and it is shaped like a \_\_\_\_\_.

Name the four rivers that make the land fertile.

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Name the three areas of the Fertile Crescent.

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## 2) Real Time

List the five names (in order) that help us to organize real time.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

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# Session 4—Covenant

בְּרִית = *berît* = covenant

“A ‘covenant’ is an \_\_\_\_\_ enacted between two parties in which one or both make \_\_\_\_\_ under \_\_\_\_\_ to perform or refrain from certain actions \_\_\_\_\_ in advance.” (*ABD* 1:1178)

How does someone in a tribal society establish a contract or an agreement with someone who is not part of the tribe?

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“In tribal societies there were \_\_\_\_\_ or devices—we might even say \_\_\_\_\_—by which outsiders, non-kin, might be incorporated into the \_\_\_\_\_.” (Cross, *From Epic to Canon*, 7)

Features of a *berît*

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_

What are the **two types of international treaties** found in the ancient Near East?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_

A treaty made between \_\_\_\_\_.

Refer to each other as \_\_\_\_\_.





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# Session 5—Treaty

What are the **two types of international treaties** found in the ancient Near East?

1) \_\_\_\_\_ (made between a \_\_\_\_\_ and an \_\_\_\_\_).

2) \_\_\_\_\_ (made between \_\_\_\_\_).

The Gibeonites are looking for what kind of treaty from Joshua? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Hittite suzerain/vassal treaty format of the late second millenium BC and the <i>berît</i> at Mt. Sinai</b>		
	<b>Treaty Format</b>	<b><i>berît</i> at Mt. Sinai</b>
I.	Preamble/Title Gives title of superior party. Exodus 20: ____; Deut. 5:6a	<i>Who does Yahweh say that he is?</i>
II.	Historical Prologue Furnishes the basis of obligation and the motive for accepting the covenant's stipulations as binding. Exodus 20: ____; Deut. 5:6b [cf. Deut. 1-3]	<i>What has Yahweh done? What is the basis of obligation and motive for accepting the covenant's stipulations as binding?</i>
III.	Stipulations/Obligations Imposed Exodus 20:3-17; Deut. 5:7-21 [cf. Deut. 12-26]	<i>What is the first commandment?</i>
IV.	Deposition and Provision for Periodic Reading of the Treaty Before the People Treaty text archived in the temple of the vassal's chief deity (i.e., the witness to his oath). Exodus 32:15; Exodus 25:21; cf. Exodus 40:20; Deut. 10:5] Deut. 31:10-12; cf. Exodus 24:7; Josh. 8:30-35	<i>Where were they deposited? When were they read?</i>
V.	List of Witnesses The deities of both parties are summoned to act as witnesses to the oaths taken. Deut. 4:26; 30:19-20; 31:28.	<i>Who served as witness to the covenant?</i>
VI.	Curses and Blessings Deut. 27:11-28:68	<i>"And all these _____ will come upon you and overtake you if you _____ the Lord your God . . . But if you do not _____ the Lord your God. All these _____ will come upon you and overtake you."</i>

These acts of treaty-making were sealed off by means of ratification ceremony involving oath and sacrifice (Exod. 24:3-8; cf. Gen. 15:17-21; Jer. 34:17-20; Matt. 27:22-25).

# The Theology of the Historical Prologue

God \_\_\_\_\_ before he requires \_\_\_\_\_.

The rules are designed to \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship not to \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship.

How does it teach Israel?

Idea of a \_\_\_\_\_.

Idea of \_\_\_\_\_.

Idea of \_\_\_\_\_.

Old Covenant at Mt. Sinai	New Covenant at the Last Supper
Exodus 24:3-8	Matthew 26:27-28
<p>Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."            And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, "See <i>the blood of the covenant</i> that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."</p>	<p>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for <i>this is my blood of the covenant</i>, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."</p>

Questions, comments, aha moments . . .

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# Session 6—God’s Original Intent

### Two descriptions of the creation event found in Genesis

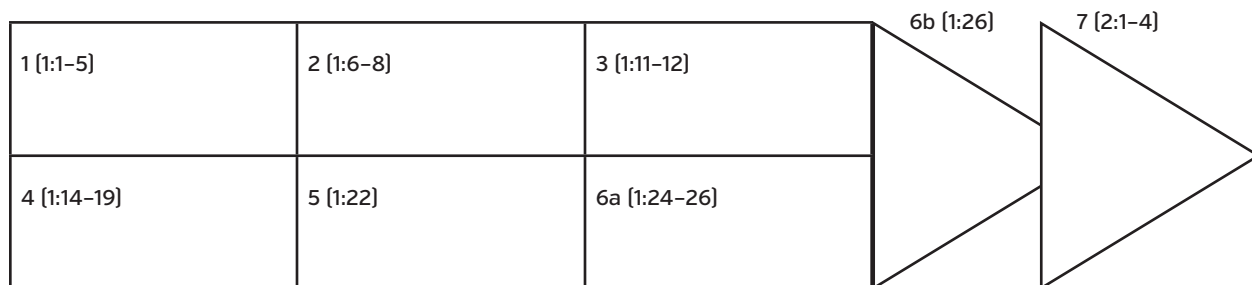
Genesis chapters \_\_\_\_\_ belong to Israel’s \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, possibly \_\_\_\_\_ account of this event. Genesis chapter \_\_\_\_\_ written specifically as an \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_ as a whole.

What is the question we have to ask if we care about biblical authority? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is on Moses’ mind as he writes? Explaining who \_\_\_\_\_ is and who \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ (Framework) Theory

### The Seven Days of Creation



### The Covenant in Eden

The Players? (1:26-31)

- Suzerain \_\_\_\_\_
- Vassal \_\_\_\_\_

The Setting? (2:8-15) \_\_\_\_\_

The Agreement? (2:15-17) \_\_\_\_\_



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# Session 7—God’s Final Intent

Redemptive History begins with the question:

What did the \_\_\_\_\_ lose?

And ends with the question:

What did the \_\_\_\_\_ buy back?

The iconography of Eden:

1) *Cherubim* (Exodus 25–26, 36)

“Let them build a sanctuary for me so that I might dwell among them” (Exod. 25:8).

Who could enter the outer court of the tabernacle? \_\_\_\_\_

Who could enter the Holy Place? \_\_\_\_\_

Who could enter the Holy of Holies? \_\_\_\_\_

In the Holy of Holies, God sits enthroned above what? \_\_\_\_\_

What do the *cherubim* look like?

The \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the function of the *cherubim*?

To \_\_\_\_\_ away anyone who would dare

to enter \_\_\_\_\_ in an  
\_\_\_\_\_ fashion.

1) *Cherubim* (continued)

What is God communicating?

The Holy of Holies and the garden of Eden, both defended by cherubim, are the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

2) Rivers (Ezekiel 47)

What does Ezekiel see bursting forth under the throne of the Holy of Holies?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why does it come from the temple and why does it come from Eden?

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Trees (Revelation 21–22)

(Rev. 21)

What does John see? A new \_\_\_\_\_ and a new \_\_\_\_\_.

What does he not see there? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

(Rev. 22)

What does the angel show John? \_\_\_\_\_

What stands on the sides of the river? \_\_\_\_\_

*Heaven is where it has always been . . .*

The \_\_\_\_\_ where God is. The \_\_\_\_\_ where the \_\_\_\_\_ of God  
may dwell in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God with full access to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God!

God's rescue plan:

Noah \_\_\_\_\_

Abraham \_\_\_\_\_

Moses \_\_\_\_\_

David \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_



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# Session 8—Noah

### Matthew 24:37-39

Jesus is comparing the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

It divides \_\_\_\_\_ as it \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

as it \_\_\_\_\_.

### Parallels in Surrounding Literature

#### 1) The Sumerian Kings List

List of the kings of Sumer divided into two sections:

Kings \_\_\_\_\_ the flood. Lived outrageously long periods of time.

Kings \_\_\_\_\_ the flood. Ages and reigns dropped dramatically.

#### 2) The Gilgamesh Epic

#### 3) The Story of Atrahasis

What do these stories have in common with the biblical story of Noah and the flood?

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### Genesis 7:11-12 The De-Creation Event

Genesis 1

God creates the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ and the

Spirit hovers over the \_\_\_\_\_ (*tehom*).

Genesis 7

On a specific day, all the fountains of the \_\_\_\_\_

(*tehom*) are split open, the windows of \_\_\_\_\_ are opened and the

\_\_\_\_\_ is saturated with rain.





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# Session 9—Abraham

### Abraham in Real Space and Time

The story of Abraham begins in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.

Abraham leaves Ur, travels to \_\_\_\_\_, and then into \_\_\_\_\_.

The Middle Bronze Age: \_\_\_\_\_ BC to \_\_\_\_\_ BC.

### Abraham's Covenant

#### 1) Genesis 12

**Stipulations:** “Go forth from \_\_\_\_\_ and from \_\_\_\_\_ . . .”

#### Promises

1. I will make you a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. I will \_\_\_\_\_ you.

3. I will make \_\_\_\_\_.

4. I will \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_ you and I will \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_ you.

5. In you all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2) Genesis 15

**Stipulation:** To \_\_\_\_\_ God.

#### Promises

1. An \_\_\_\_\_ from “your own body.”

2. Descendants as \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The land of \_\_\_\_\_.



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# Session 10—Moses

### Moses in Real Time and Space

The exodus took place either in \_\_\_\_\_ BC or \_\_\_\_\_ BC.

Where did Joseph's family settle when they went down to Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_

### The Story of Exodus and the Covenant at Sinai

Exodus 1:8 "And a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph."

#### Yahweh

- Hears the \_\_\_\_\_ of his people.
- Remembers his \_\_\_\_\_ with Abraham.
- Proves himself the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Leads forth his people \_\_\_\_\_ and loaded with \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Israel

- Is \_\_\_\_\_ from a strong enemy.
- Is \_\_\_\_\_ from slavery and poverty.
- Is \_\_\_\_\_ a future and hope.
- Is \_\_\_\_\_ an inheritance.
- Has begun the journey to the \_\_\_\_\_.

The Abrahamic promises are \_\_\_\_\_ in the Mosaic covenant!

Theocracy = a nation \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

Human officers in a theocracy:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



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# Session 11—David

### David in Real Time and Space

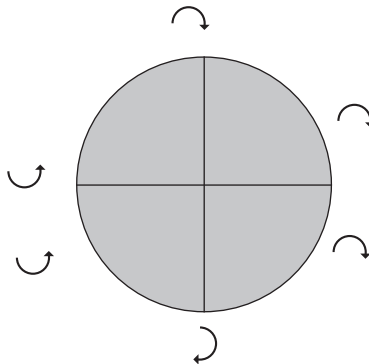
The Israelites settled in the promised land as a \_\_\_\_\_ league.

During the time of Joshua, the Conquest, and the Era of the Judges, all of the Israelites settled according to their \_\_\_\_\_.

Who was the last judge of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_ (He was also a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.)

### The Cycle of the Judges

The cycle is repeated twelve times in the book of Judges.



The cry of the biblical author throughout the book of Judges: the reason for this problem is because, “There was no \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel and every man did what was \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.”

### The Difference between Saul and David

1 Samuel 8:22 (The Calling of Saul)

1 Samuel 16 (The Calling of David)

“Listen to their voice, and appoint \_\_\_\_\_ a king.” “For I have selected a king for \_\_\_\_\_ among his sons.”

Saul is the \_\_\_\_\_ choice.

David is \_\_\_\_\_ choice.

## David's Call Narratives

1) 1 Samuel 16:1–13: Samuel chooses the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesse's sons.

A man of \_\_\_\_\_ own choosing. David is chosen for his \_\_\_\_\_.

2) 1 Samuel 16:14–23: David is chosen to \_\_\_\_\_ to soothe Saul's troubled soul.

What is the other book in the Bible always associated with David? \_\_\_\_\_

3) 1 Samuel 17: David and Goliath

In David's mind it doesn't matter who the \_\_\_\_\_ is, it matters \_\_\_\_\_ is on \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:8-16) A House or a House?

David: I want to build Yahweh a \_\_\_\_\_.

Yahweh: When I want a \_\_\_\_\_ I'll ask for one. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ who the real \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel is.

## 2 Samuel 7:16

"Your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ shall endure before me  
: your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be established \_\_\_\_\_."

## People, Place, and Presence of the Davidic Covenant

The People = \_\_\_\_\_

The Place = \_\_\_\_\_

The Presence = \_\_\_\_\_

Questions, comments, aha moments . . .

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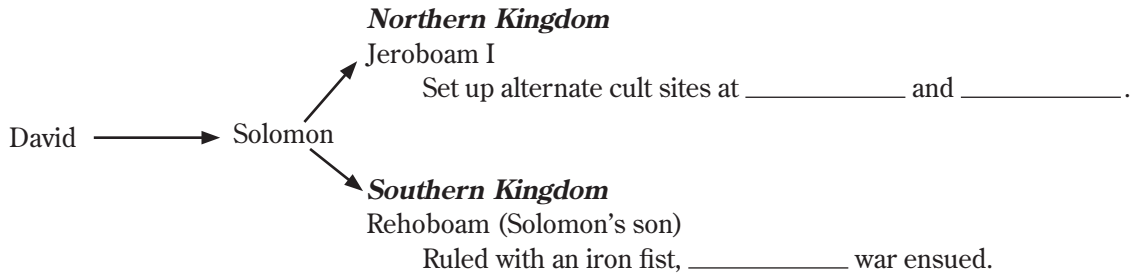
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# Session 12—The New Covenant

### Real Time and Space

The Divided Kingdom:



Northern Kingdom	Southern Kingdom
_____ BC the _____ wipe out the Northern Kingdom and the ten tribes of Israel disappear.	_____ BC the _____ drag Israel off to Babylonia; Southern Kingdom does _____ disappear.
Capital city = _____	Capital city = _____
Also known as: Israel, sometimes Ephraim	Also known as: Judah

### The Exile and the Return

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the great watershed of the Israelite faith.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the same story as the \_\_\_\_\_:

the \_\_\_\_\_ of God have been cast out of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and they  
lose access to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the \_\_\_\_\_ that I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans for \_\_\_\_\_  
and not for \_\_\_\_\_ to give you a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.’”



\_\_\_\_\_ BC Cyrus of Persia allows the exiles to return home.

Those who return are the ones who have kept the \_\_\_\_\_ alive.

(Isaiah 9:2–7; Isaiah 11:1–12; Ezekiel 37:21–28)

## The Promise: The Return of the King

How were all the legitimate kings of Israel identified?

1) By \_\_\_\_\_. Had to be a child of \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 1:1)

2) By the \_\_\_\_\_ of Yahweh's prophet. (Matthew 3:13–17)

Where is the kingdom?

Matthew 13: the kingdom of heaven is like . . .

A man who sowed \_\_\_\_\_ in his field

A \_\_\_\_\_ seed

A \_\_\_\_\_ in a lump of dough.

The “Already” and the “Not Yet”

The kingdom of God has \_\_\_\_\_ come.

The \_\_\_\_\_ awaits.

