



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
GRAND THEMES 4 -
COVENANT III

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The rest of the frame is implied by the corners.

WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”









Each week we will trace a major theme through the
whole Bible.



COVENANT



Theme gallery

					
<p>TEMPLE</p>	<p>COVENANT</p>  	<p>COVENANT</p> 	<p>COVENANT</p> 		

4 Key Hebrew Bible Covenants



Noah – the whole world. Rainbow



Abraham – all nations blessed. Circumcision.



Moses – Israel.



David – Kingdom.



Covenant with Noah (Noahic)

- **Gen 9:9-17** Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now **establish my covenant** with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my **covenant** with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be flood to destroy the earth. ”



Covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic)

- (Gen. 12:1-3) The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household ***to the land*** I will show you. “I ***will make you into a great nation***, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; ***and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.***



Covenant with Israel (Mosaic)

- God wants to form a **covenant partnership** with the people of Israel in a unique way. They are to be a distinct people to represent God to the world.
- God is inviting them to be “**a kingdom of priests and a holy nation**”.
- This is a real **test** for the people – will they pass it?
- Ten Commandments and other laws for the people of Israel to operate as a nation.
- Exodus and Deuteronomy



The Story unfolds...

- **Exodus-Deuteronomy** : Sinai : Moses
- **Joshua** : Canaan – the promised land : Joshua
- **Judges** : Canaan/Israel – cycles of disobedience/crying out/judge-leader/disobedience
- **1 Samuel** – people want a king : Saul : 40 years.
- **2 Samuel** – David

David – the king-priest

- David - Full of trust in Israel's God.
- With God's help, he defeats Israel's most powerful enemy. No weapons, no army.
- David goes up into the high hills at the center of Israel's tribes, and he establishes Jerusalem as the capital city.
- Jerusalem like a new Eden.
- Same hilltop where Abraham met Melchizedek, and where God provided a substitute sacrifice for Abraham's failures.
- David brings the tabernacle up into the city, so he can make it the place of God's royal presence.
- During the inauguration, David danced with excitement and deliberately dresses like Israel's high priest.
- When the tabernacle arrives, he offers a sacrifice and makes this huge feast for the people, and he blesses them.
- King David is acting like a new kind of priest. And God approves.



Credit: **The Bible Project**
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/david-priestly-king/>

David as priest

Credit: **The Bible Project**

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- (2 Sam 6) So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he **sacrificed** a bull and a fattened calf. Wearing a **linen ephod**, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.
- They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David **sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings** before the LORD. After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he **blessed the people** in the name of the LORD Almighty. Then he gave a **loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women**. And all the people went to their homes.



The next chapter...

- After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him.... (2 Sam 7:1)
- David wants to build a temple for God.
- God responds through Nathan the prophet
- “I don’t want no temple, never asked for one!”
- But now....

The Story unfolds...

- Now, I will make your name **great**... (2 Sam 7:9)
- I will provide a **place** for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a place of their own and no longer be disturbed **Rest** from all your enemies (2 Sam 7:10)
- I will establish a **house** for you (2 Sam 7:11)
- Your own flesh and blood will build a house for me (Solomon)... and I will establish the **throne** of his kingdom **forever**. (2 Sam 7:12-13)





Questions

- Let's pause and reconnect...
- **Q:** What is God's overall project?
- **A:** To dwell forever in a perfect creation with his image-bearers who have chosen to love and obey him.
- Where do we see that in the Bible?
- Genesis 1-2 –Eden.
- Revelation 21-22.



God's Covenant Promise

- I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.** (2 Sam 7:14-16)



David's response

- 2 Sam 7:18-29, 1 Chron 17:16-27
- Very humble response... “Who am I Lord?...”
- Praise for God.
- You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, LORD, have become their God. (2 Sam 7:24)
- Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your **covenant** is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may **continue forever** in your sight; ...



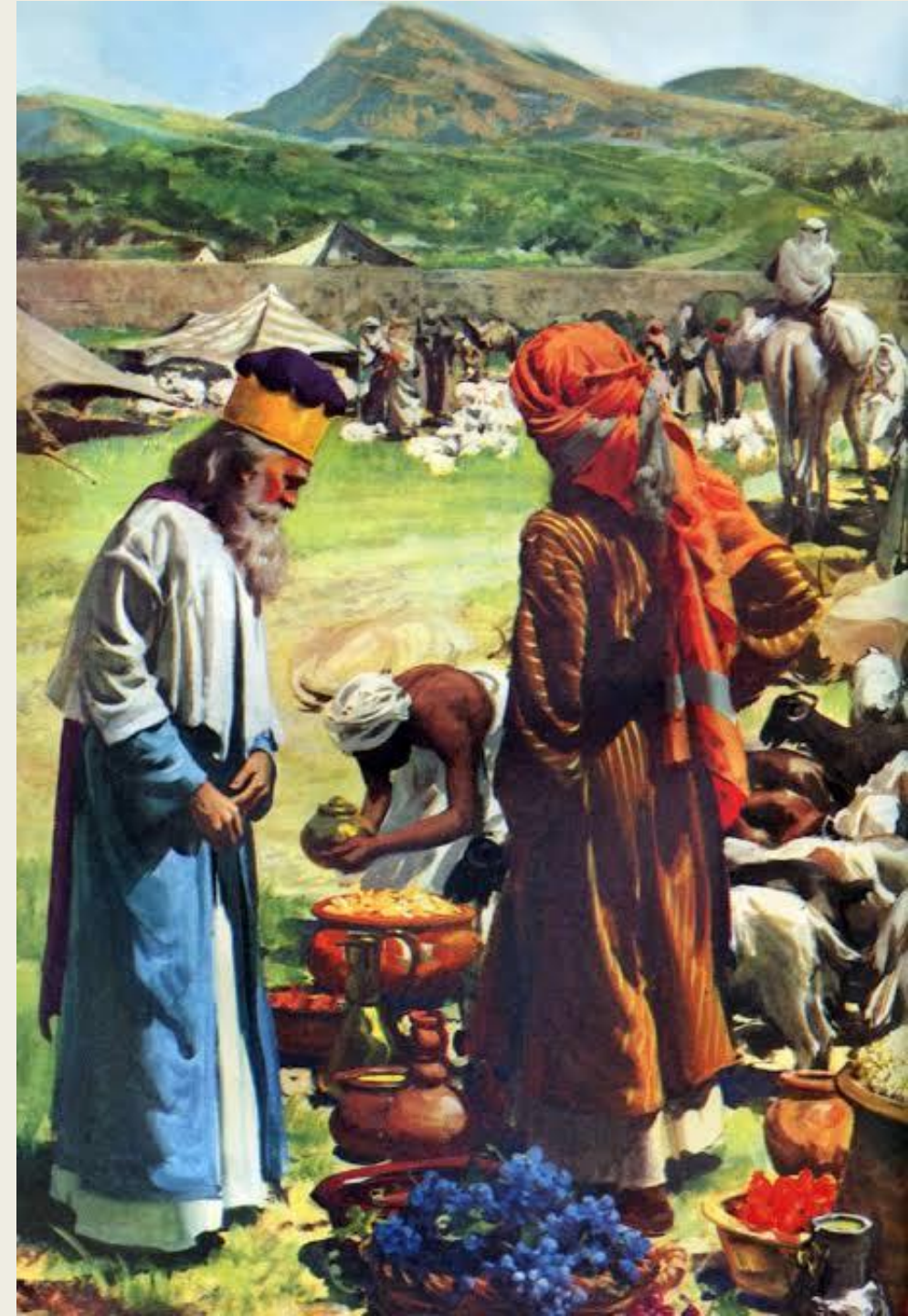
So David...

- Was a **king** – anointed by Samuel. Ruled in Jerusalem for 40 years.
- Was a **prophet** – (**Acts 2:29-30**) Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch **David** died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But **he was a prophet** and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.
- Was a **priest** – sacrifices, ephod.
- But definitely not perfect...
- The kings that came after David in general were far from perfect, leading to **division** of the Kingdom into two (Israel/Judah), frequent **idolatry**, **defeat** from enemies, **dispersement** and **exile** from the land.

Introducing Melchizedek...

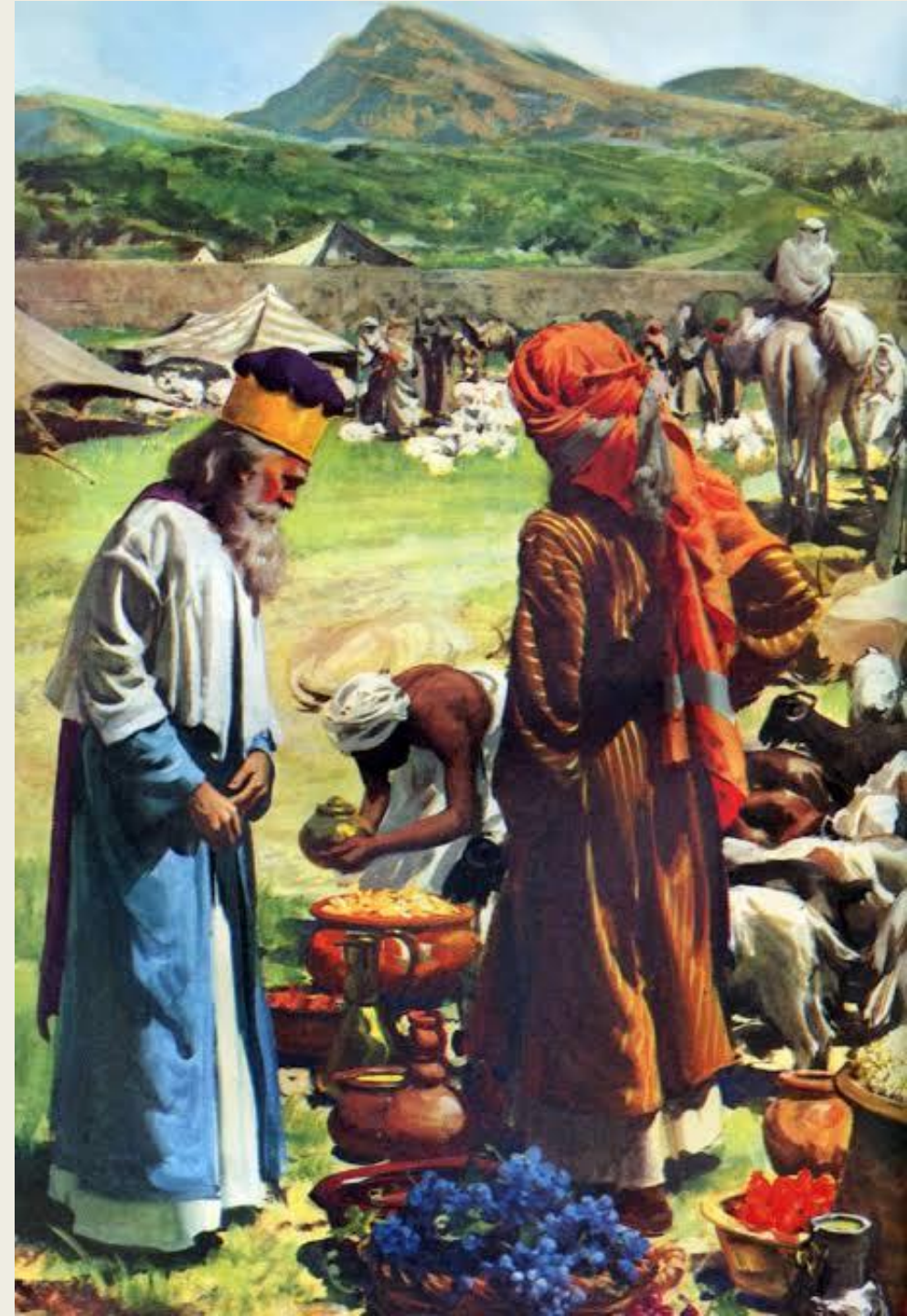
- *(Gen. 14:17-20) After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).*
- *Then Melchizedek **king of Salem** brought out bread and wine. He was **priest** of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.*
- *And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

- What have we **got**?
- A priest-king. From Salem, out of nowhere.
- Blesses Abraham. Just before the covenant.



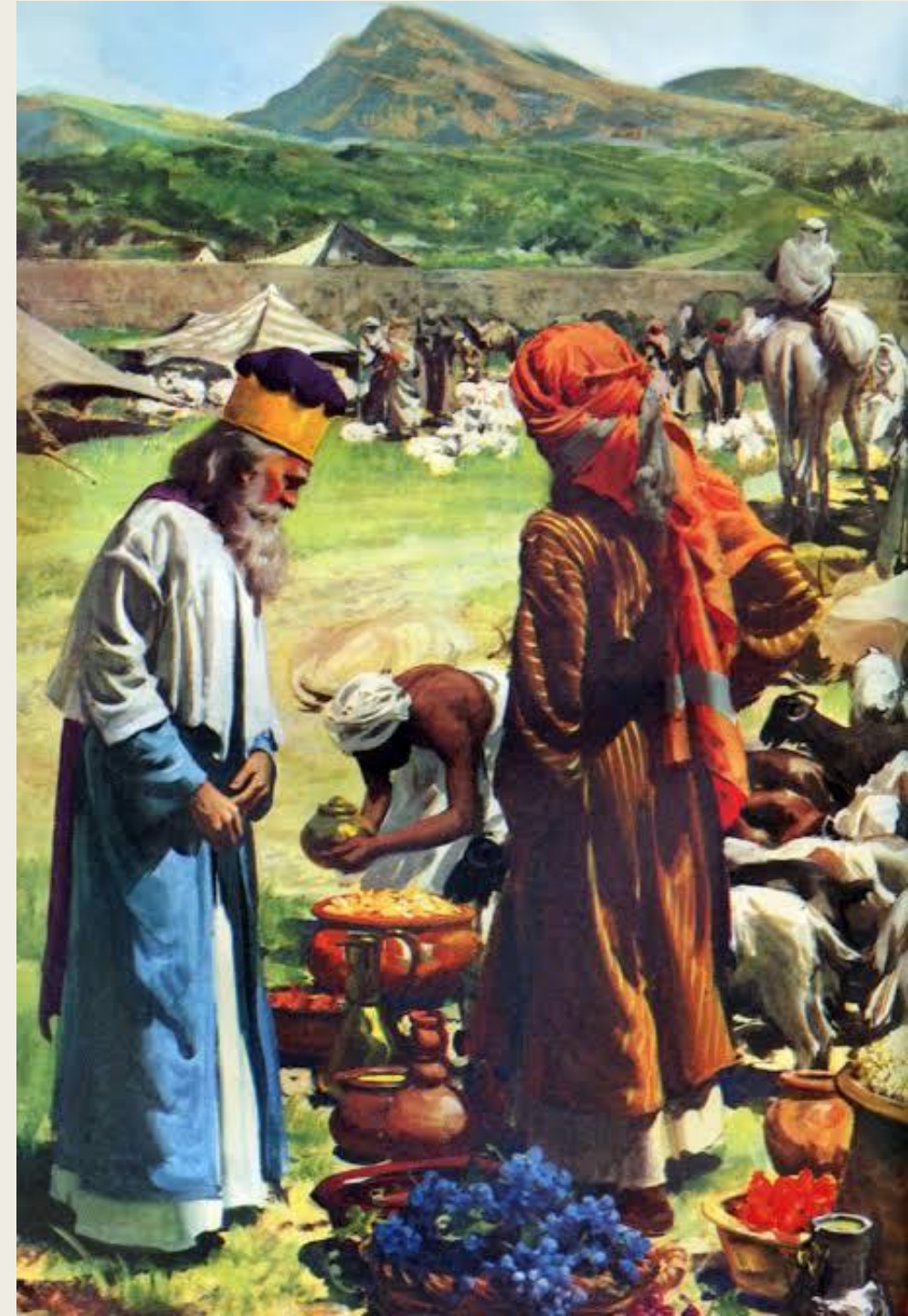
Introducing Melchizedek...

- (Ps 110 – Psalm of David)
- The LORD says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” The LORD will extend your mighty **scepter** from Zion, saying, “**Rule** in the midst of your enemies!” Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendour, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning’s womb.



Introducing Melchizedek...

- The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a **priest** forever in the order of **Melchizedek**. ”The Lord is at your right hand; he will **crush** kings on the day of his wrath. He will **judge** the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. He will **drink from a brook** along the way, and so he will lift his head high.
- What do you notice in the language?
- Priest-king
- Crushing (Gen. 3:15) – *he will crush your head...*



Where is Salem?

- That the name Salem refers to Jerusalem is evidenced by Psalm 76:2 which uses "Salem" as a parallel for "Zion", the citadel of Jerusalem. The same identification is made by Josephus and the Aramaic translations of the Bible.
- (Ps 76:1-2) God is renowned in Judah; in Israel his name is great. His tent is in **Salem**, his dwelling place in **Zion**.
- In the time of David, Jerusalem was called **Jebus**. The **Jebusites** lived there.
- (2 Sam 5:6-7) The king and his men marched to **Jerusalem** to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The **Jebusites** said to David, "You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off." They thought, "David cannot get in here." Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of **Zion**—which is the **City of David**.

Fulfilling the promises

- See the patterns....
- The promised perfect royal priest is not found in the Hebrew Bible. It points forward.
- The fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham and David remain.
- The promise of bringing the blessings of Eden, and restoring humans to their lost calling remains in the future.
- What's this all pointing to?

– JESUS –



PROPHET



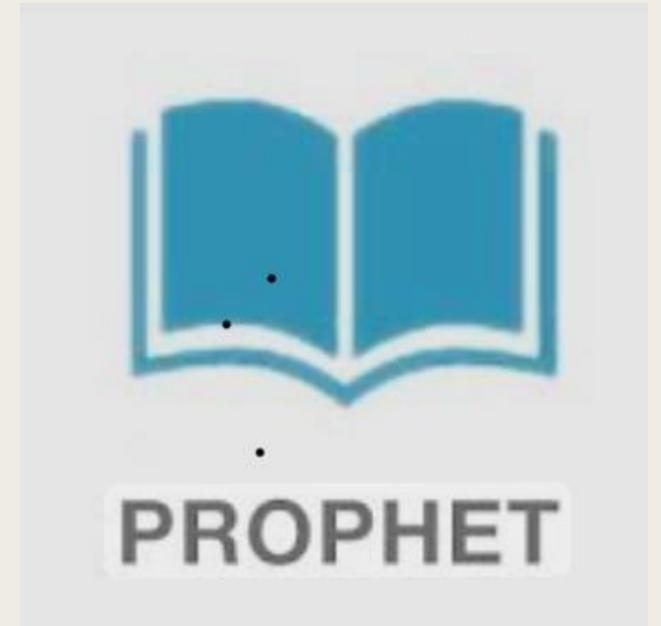
PRIEST



KING

Jesus – the promised Prophet

- **Prophet (like Moses)**
- **(Acts 3:22-26/Deut 18:15-18)** For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a **prophet** like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.’“Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days.
- And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring **all peoples on earth will be blessed.**’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to **bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.**



Jesus – the promised Priest

- Like Melchizedek (Heb 5)
- Priest – (Heb 5:1) Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to **represent the people in matters related to God**, to offer gifts and **sacrifices for sins**.
- Out of nowhere – different tribe (Judah, not Levi)
- The **perfect** high priest- not like Aaron (golden calf), Eli and sons etc.
- (Heb 7:24-25) but because Jesus lives **forever**, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to **save completely** those who come to God through him, because he **always lives to intercede for them**.



Jesus fulfils the promises

- **King (like David)**
- **(Mt 2:2)** Where is the one who has been born **king** of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.
- **(Mt 21:4-5)** This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, **your king** comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”
- **(Jn 1:49)** Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the **king** of Israel.”



Sacrifice and covenant

- **Abraham** – (Gen 22) The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and **have not withheld your son**, your only son,
- **Moses** – (Ex 32:31) So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, **then blot me out of the book** you have written.
- **David** – (2 Sam 24:17) When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, “I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? **Let your hand fall on me and my family.**
- **Jesus** – (Heb 9:28) - so Christ was **sacrificed** once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but **to bring salvation** to those who are waiting for him.



Covenant Questions

- What have you learned about **covenant** so far?
- Do you see the patterns repeating and weaving throughout the Bible?
- What does that do for your faith?



Reflection

The promise of bringing the blessings of Eden, and restoring humans to their lost calling remains in the future.

- What do you think about that?
- What would you say God has called humans to be?
- What does this mean in your life?

Next time...

The New Covenant