

Learn the Whole Bible in 20 Hours

Lesson 1

In the Beginning

Creation through the Patriarchs · Genesis and Job

ACTS 5:42 — CEASE NOT

66 books · 40 men · 1,500 years
One Story

Genesis starts it in *a garden*.
Revelation finishes it in *a city*.

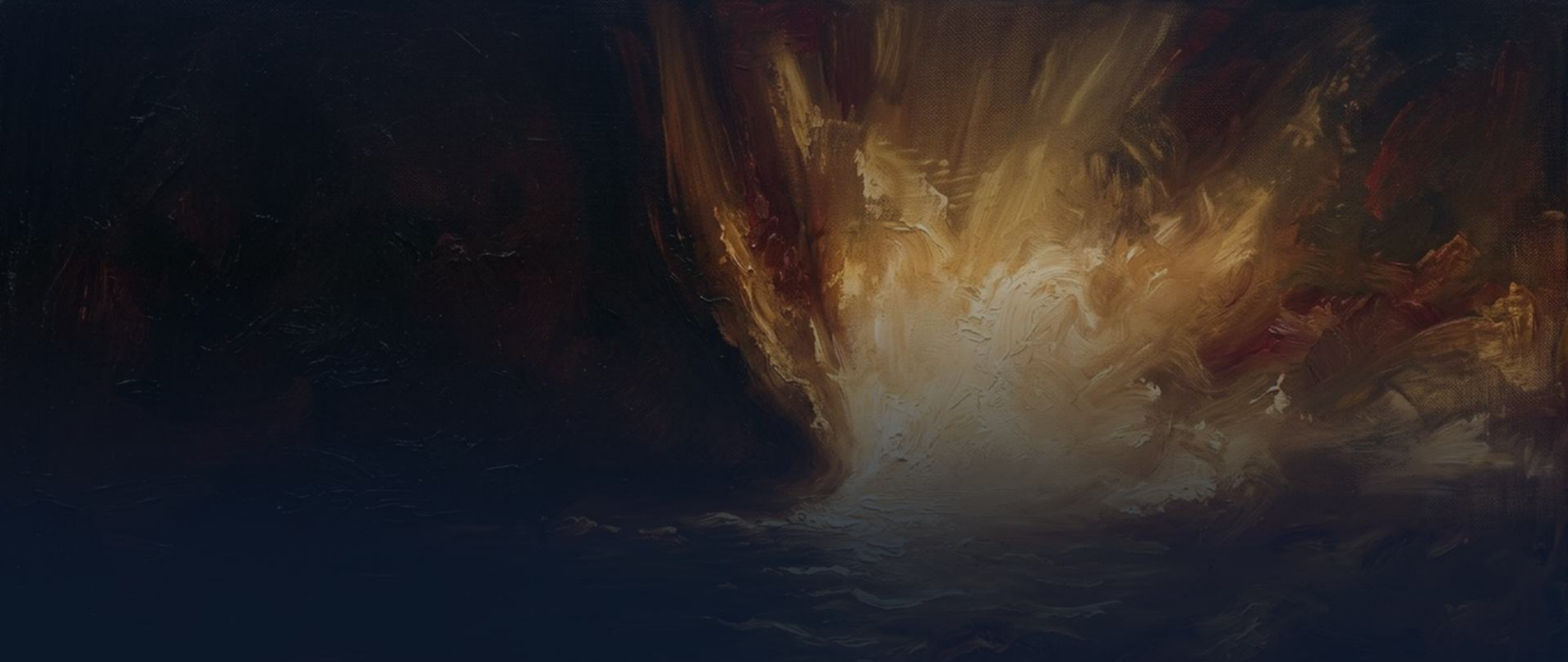
What Is a Dispensation?

- God deals with man differently at different times
- Not different ways of *salvation* — always by faith
- Different house rules · Same Father · Different tests

GOD'S TIMELINE — SEVEN DISPENSATIONS

1 Innocence	2 Conscience	3 Human Gov't	4 Promise	5 Law	6 Grace	7 Kingdom
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Today we cross the first **four** — no other class covers this much ground.



GENESIS 1:1, 3

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

DISPENSATION 1 OF 7

Innocence

A Perfect World With One Rule

GENESIS 1:26–27

²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Man is not an upgraded animal. He is the image-bearer of God.

GENESIS 2:16–17

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

One rule. If man could ever pass a test, it was this one.

GENESIS 3:1, 4-7

¹Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ⁴And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. ⁶And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. ⁷And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

The Serpent's Method

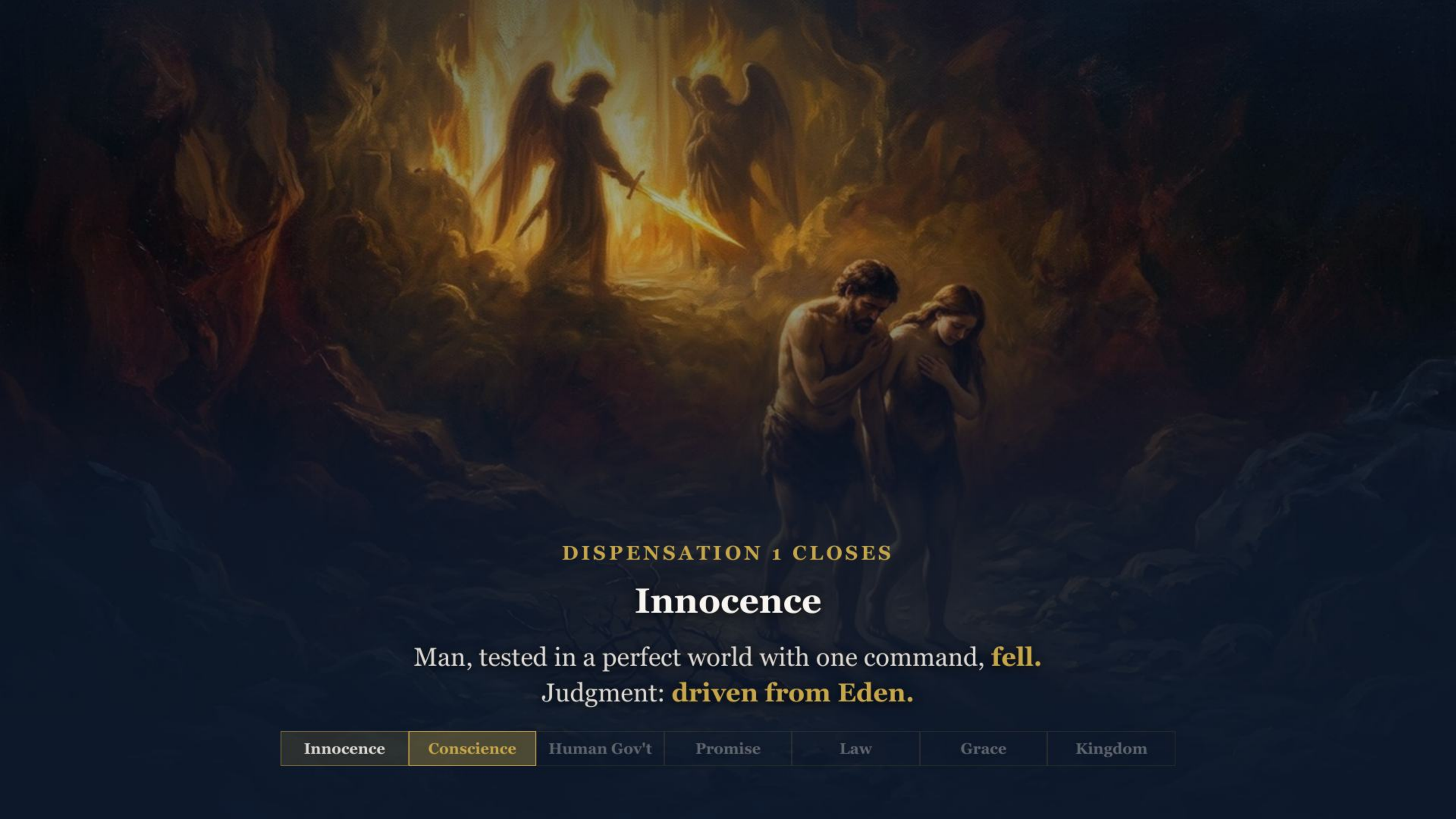
- Questions God's Word — *“Yea, hath God said?”*
- Denies God's Word — *“Ye shall not surely die”*
- Slanders God's motives — and man fell
- Fig leaves — man's first religion, by his own works



GENESIS 3:15 — THE FIRST GOSPEL

“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

The *Seed of the woman* — Jesus Christ, promised in the third chapter of the Bible.



DISPENSATION 1 CLOSES

Innocence

Man, tested in a perfect world with one command, **fell**.

Judgment: **driven from Eden**.

Innocence

Conscience

Human Gov't

Promise

Law

Grace

Kingdom

DISPENSATION 2 OF 7

Conscience

Man's Heart on Its Own

GENESIS 6:5, 8

⁵ And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

The first time grace appears in your Bible — right at the edge of judgment.



DISPENSATION 2 CLOSES

Conscience

Man, tested by his own conscience, **filled the earth with violence.**
Judgment: **the flood.**

Innocence	Conscience	Human Gov't	Promise	Law	Grace	Kingdom
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DISPENSATION 3 OF 7

Human Government

The Sword and the Tower

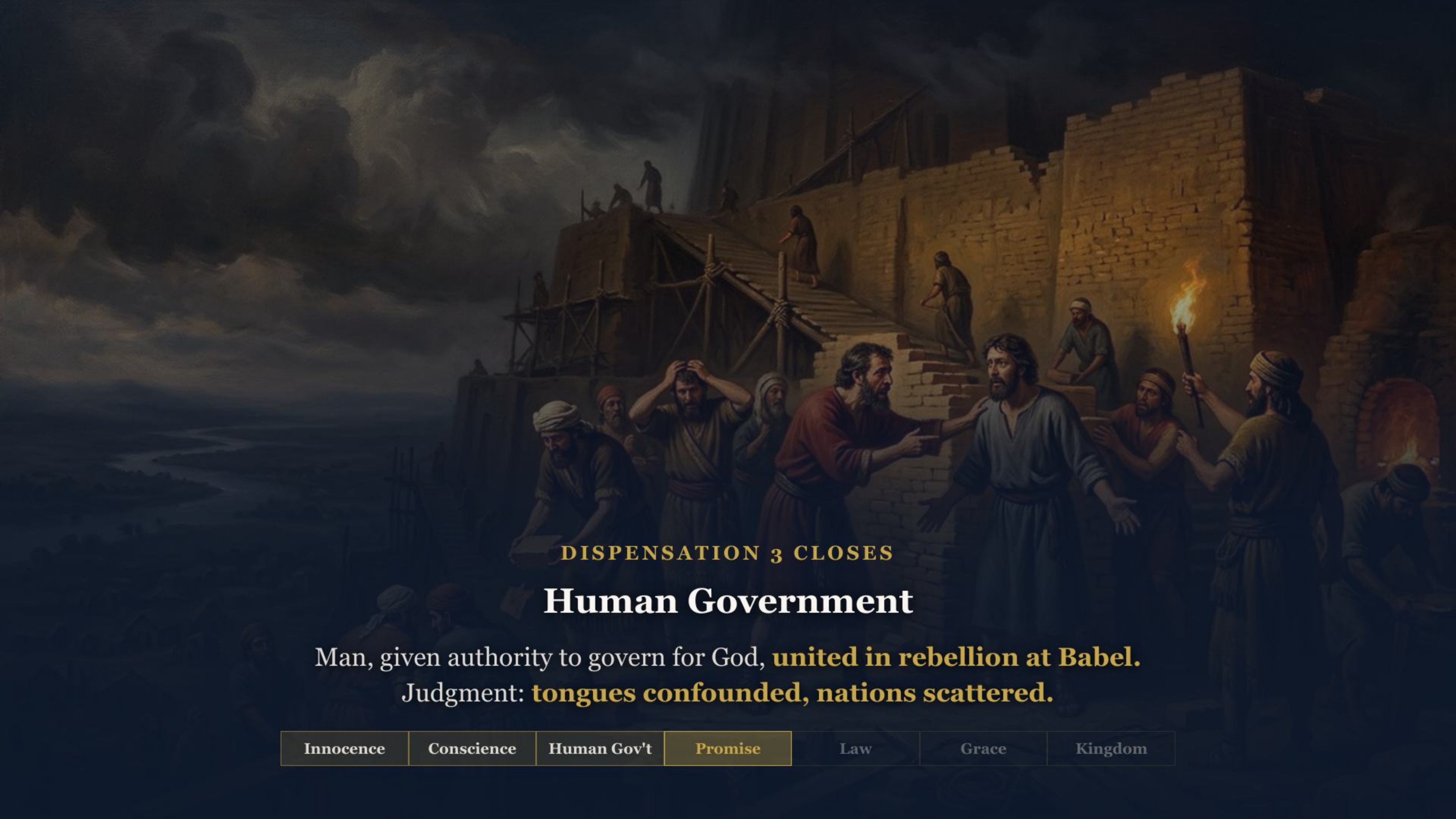
GENESIS 9:6

Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

The charter of human government — God's ordinance, not man's invention.

GENESIS 11:4, 7, 9

⁴And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. ⁷Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. ⁹Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.



DISPENSATION 3 CLOSES

Human Government

Man, given authority to govern for God, **united in rebellion at Babel.**

Judgment: **tongues confounded, nations scattered.**

Innocence

Conscience

Human Gov't

Promise

Law

Grace

Kingdom

THREE TESTS · THREE FAILURES · SO GOD DOES SOMETHING NEW

Promise

Dispensation 4 of 7 — God Calls One Man

GENESIS 12:1–3

¹Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

The promised Seed now has an address.

GENESIS 15:6

**And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it
to him for righteousness.**

*No ceremony. No law. No works. **The way home never changes.***

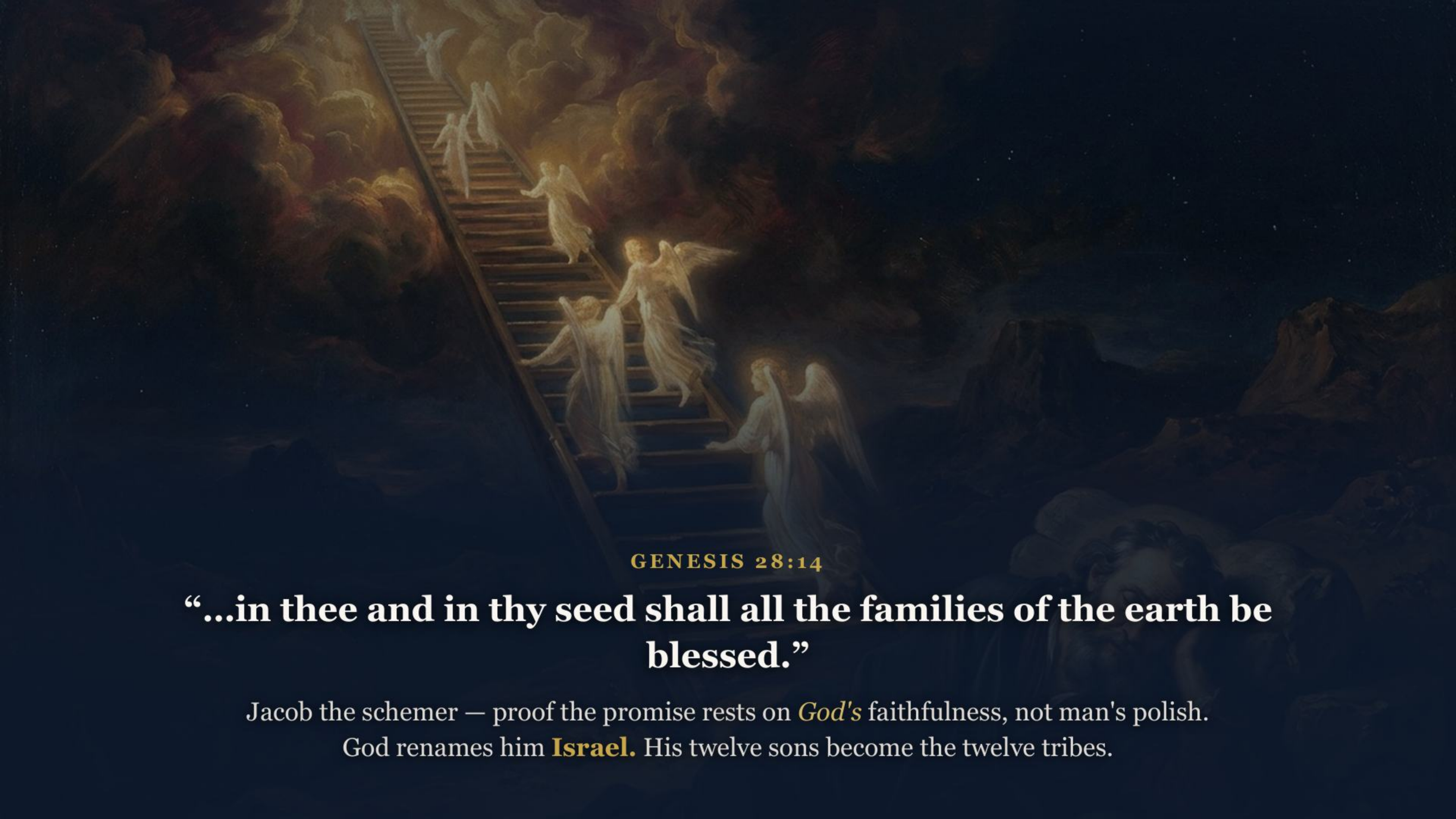


GENESIS 22:8, 13

“My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering...”

“...and offered him up for a burnt offering **in the stead of his son.**”

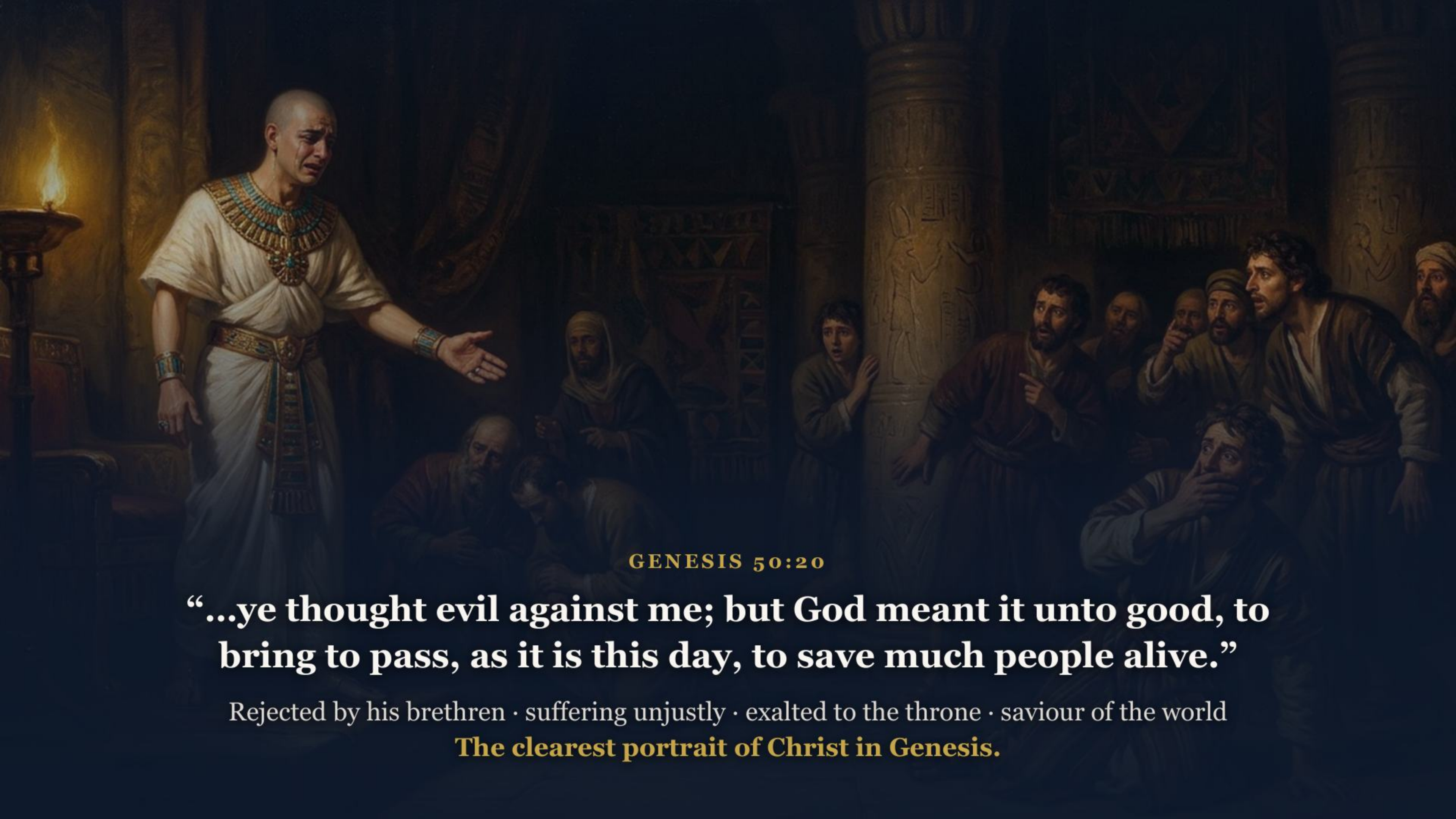
Substitution — the heartbeat of the gospel.



GENESIS 28:14

“...in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

Jacob the schemer — proof the promise rests on *God's* faithfulness, not man's polish.
God renames him **Israel**. His twelve sons become the twelve tribes.



GENESIS 50:20

“...ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”

Rejected by his brethren · suffering unjustly · exalted to the throne · saviour of the world

The clearest portrait of Christ in Genesis.

JOB 19:25–26

²⁵For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: ²⁶And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Resurrection — in the oldest book of the Bible.

WHERE WE STAND

1 Innocence	2 Conscience	3 Human Gov't	4 Promise	5 Law	6 Grace	7 Kingdom
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Three dispensations closed. **Promise** is still open.
Abraham's family — seventy souls — settled in Egypt.

Discussion

- “Yea, hath God said?” — where do you hear that today?
- God promised a Saviour *before* He judged — what does that tell you?
- Three tests, three failures — what is God proving about man?
- Genesis 15:6 — what did Abram do? What did God do?
- “God will provide himself a lamb” — how did God answer that?

Next Week

Read Creation through Joseph, plus two chapters of Job.

Don't skip Day 6.

That family of seventy will be a nation of millions — *in chains*.

The story is just getting started.

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