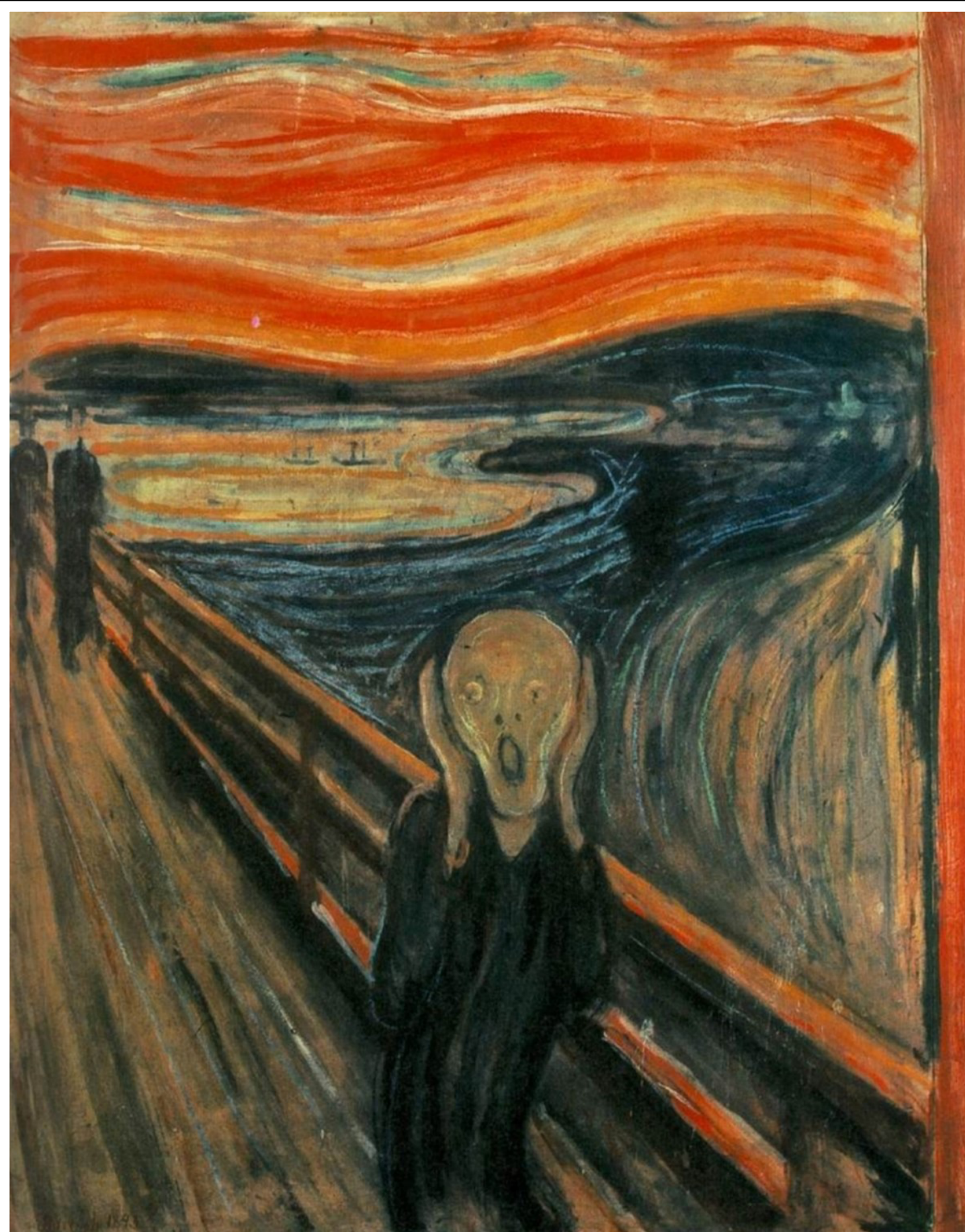


GOD'S STORY

Discovering YOUR Part in God's SUPERNATURAL PLAN



Introduction



The Scream
by Edvard Munch

GOD'S STORY

Discovering YOUR Part in God's SUPERNATURAL PLAN

- 1. Before Creation**
- 2. After Creation**
- 3. The Flood**
- 4. The Tower of Babel**
- 5. The Kingdom of Israel**
- 6. The Cloud Rider**
- 7. The Kingdom of God**

GOD'S STORY

Discovering YOUR Part in God's SUPERNATURAL PLAN

Biblical Thoughtful

Culturally Relevant

Spiritually Powerful

GOD'S STORY

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BEFORE CREATION

Unless otherwise noted, artwork is from Charles Holms and Julius Bewer. *The Bible and Its Story*, Volumes 1-8.
New York, NY: Francis R. Niglutsch, 1908.

Before Creation Existed My King

But God has been my king from long ago,
working salvation in the midst of the earth.

Psalms 74:12*

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture references are from W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible*, Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012.

Before Creation Existed Leviathan

You split open the sea by your strength;
You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.

You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you gave him as food to the desert dwelling creatures.

You split open spring and wadi.

You dried up ever-flowing rivers.

Yours is the day, yours is the night also.

You established light and the sun.

You defined all the boundaries of the earth;

Summer and winter—you formed them.



The Promise

On that day, Yahweh will punish
with his cruel, great and strong
sword Leviathan, the fleeing
serpent, and Leviathan, the
twisting serpent, and **he will kill
the sea monster that is in the sea.**

Isaiah 27:1

Before Creation Existed the Sons of God

Where were you at my laying the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you possess understanding.

Who determined its measurement? Yes, you do know.

Or who stretched the measuring line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

when the morning stars were singing together

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:4–7

“The Heavenly Host”



The sentence is by the decree of the **watchers**,
and the decision by the command of the **holy ones**.
Daniel 4:17

‘I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise up my throne above the **stars of God**;
and I will sit on the mountain of assembly...
Isaiah 14:13

God stands in the **divine assembly**;
he administers judgment in the midst of **the gods**.
Ps 82:1

And it happened one day that the **sons of God**
came to present themselves before Yahweh,
Job 1:6

Before Creation Existed the The Word



After these things the **word of Yahweh** came to Abram **in a vision**,
Genesis 15:1

The Word



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

John 1:1

And the Word became flesh and took up residence among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the one and only from the Father

John 1:14



BEFORE CREATION



Leviathan - Sons of God - The Word

GOD'S STORY

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AFTER CREATION
Stolen Identity

BEFORE CREATION



The Promise

On that day, Yahweh will punish with his cruel, great and strong sword Leviathan, the fleeing serpent, and Leviathan, the twisting serpent, and **he will kill the sea monster that is in the sea.** Isaiah 27:1



AFTER CREATION

And God said, “Let us make humankind in **our image** and according to **our likeness** and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of heaven, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every moving thing that moves upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image, in the likeness of God he created him, male and female he created them.

And God blessed them, and God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of heaven, and over every animal that moves upon the earth**

Genesis 1:26-28

IDENTITY

And God said, “Let us make humankind in our image and according to our likeness...”

So God created humankind in his image, in the likeness of God he created him, male and female he created them.

Righteousness - Made the Right Way.

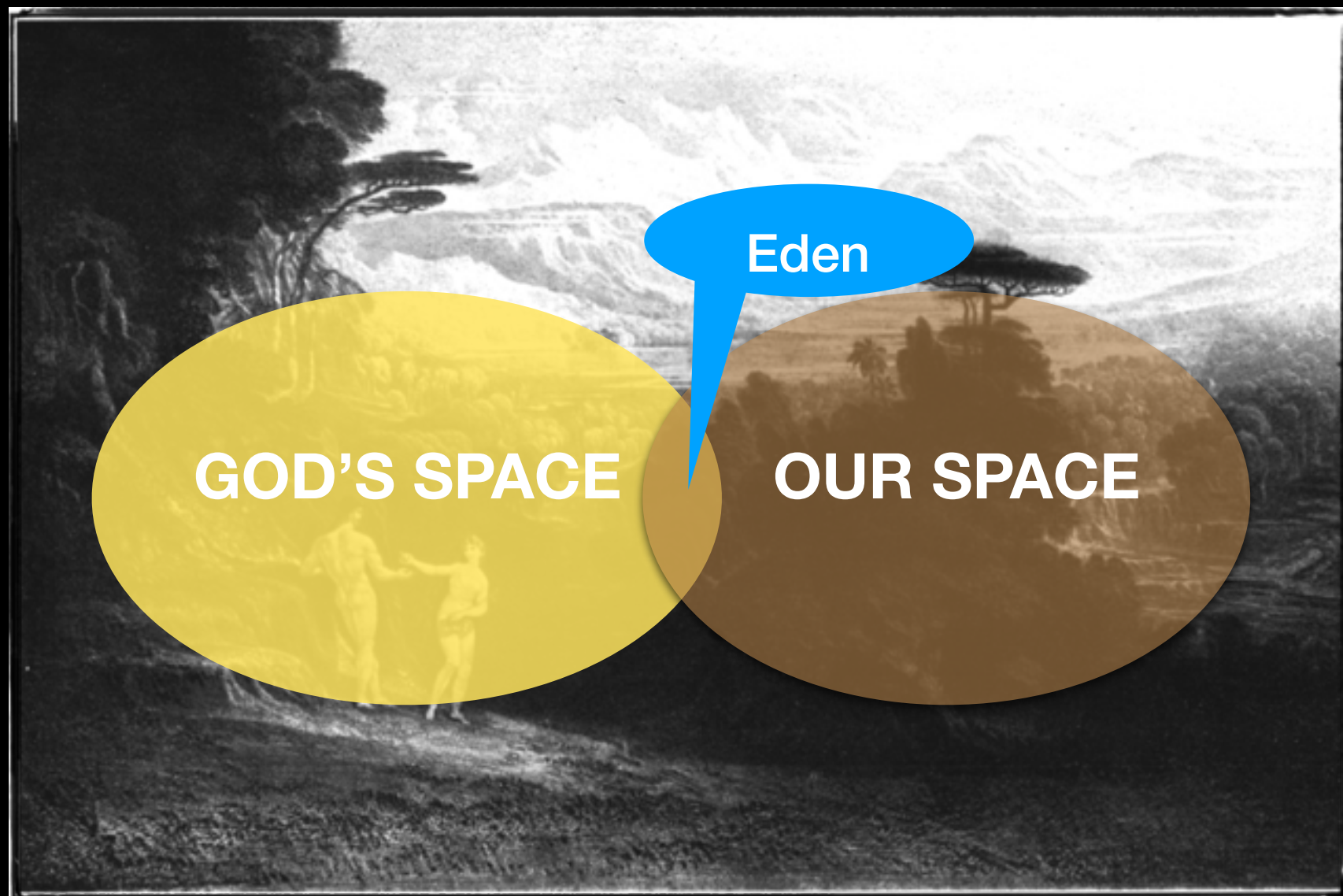
DESTINY

...let them rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of heaven, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every moving thing that moves upon the earth...

...Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule...

Kingdom - Actively rule as God's representatives

The Garden of Eden Heaven on Earth



The *Nachash*

And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, “Son of man, raise a lament over the king of Tyre, and you must say to him, ‘thus says the Lord Yahweh:

“You were a perfect model of an example,
full of wisdom and perfect of beauty.
You were in Eden, the garden of God, ...

You were an anointed guardian cherub,
and I placed you on God’s holy mountain;
you walked in the midst of stones of fire.

You were blameless in your ways
from the day when you were created,
until wickedness was found in you...
and I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God,
and I expelled you, the guardian cherub,
from the midst of the stones of fire.

All who know you among the peoples
are appalled over you;
you have become as horrors,
and you shall cease to exist forever.”

Stolen Identity

Now the serpent (*nachash*) was more crafty than any other wild animal which Yahweh God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God indeed say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat, but from the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, God said, ‘You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die’.”

But the serpent said to the woman, “You shall not surely die. For God knows that on the day you both eat from it, then your eyes will be opened and **you both shall be like gods**, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:1–5

*[So God created humankind **in his image**, in the **likeness of God** he created him, male and female he created them.]*

Follow God or some other spirit?

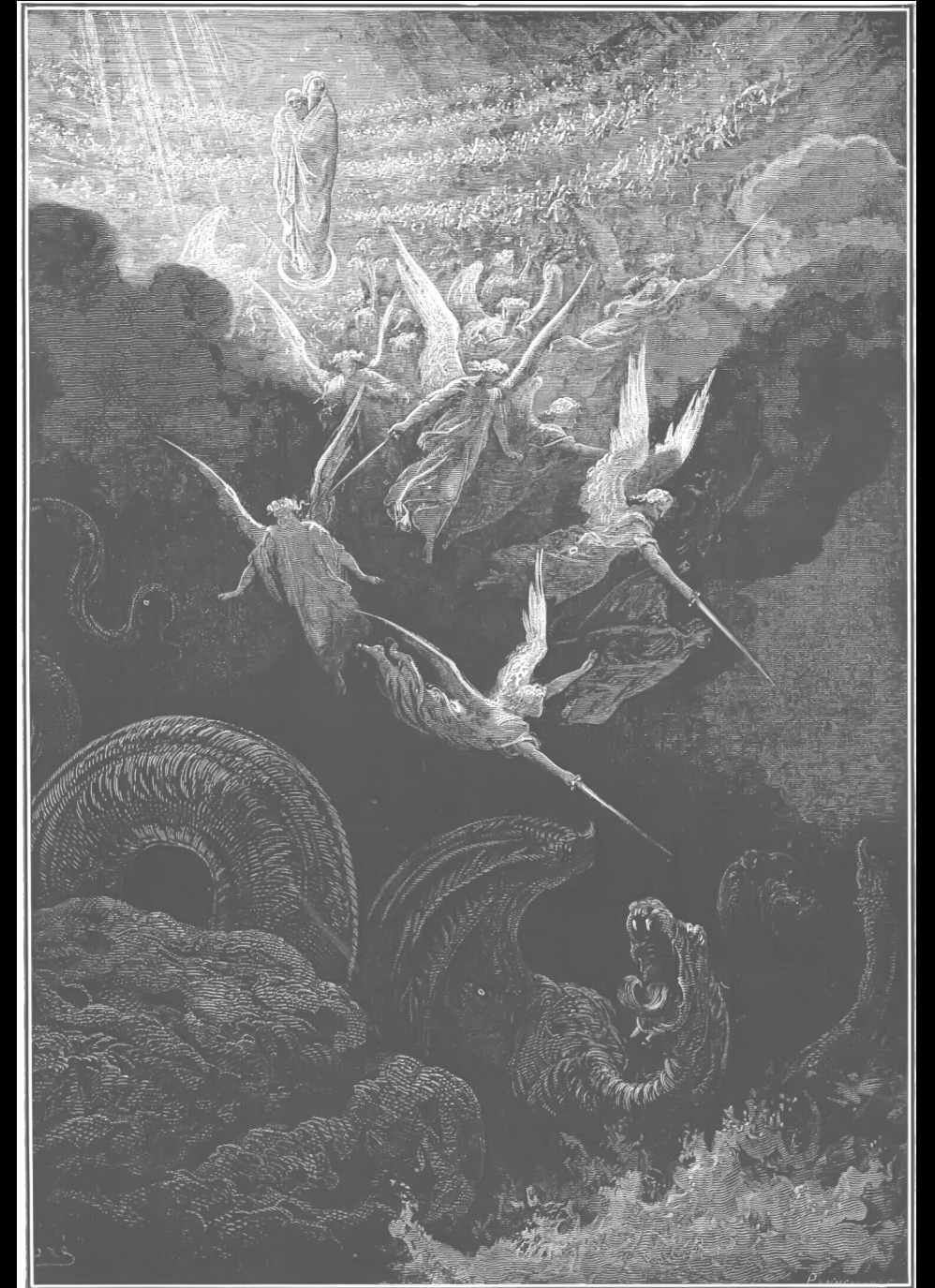
And Yahweh God said, “Look—the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil. What if he stretches out his hand and takes also from the tree of life and eats, and lives forever?”

And Yahweh God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.

Ge 3:22-23

Why do bad things happen?

1. Putting our desires first.
2. Wicked spirits rebelling
3. When we believe and act on lies about our identity and destiny
4. When we turn to other spirits instead of God for knowledge
5. Natural chaotic forces (Leviathan)



Who will fix this?

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THE FLOOD

Divine Intervention, Bad and Good



The Promise

On that day, Yahweh will punish with his cruel,
great and strong sword Leviathan, the fleeing
serpent, and Leviathan, the twisting serpent, and
he will kill the sea monster that is in the sea.

Isaiah 27:1

Cosmic War



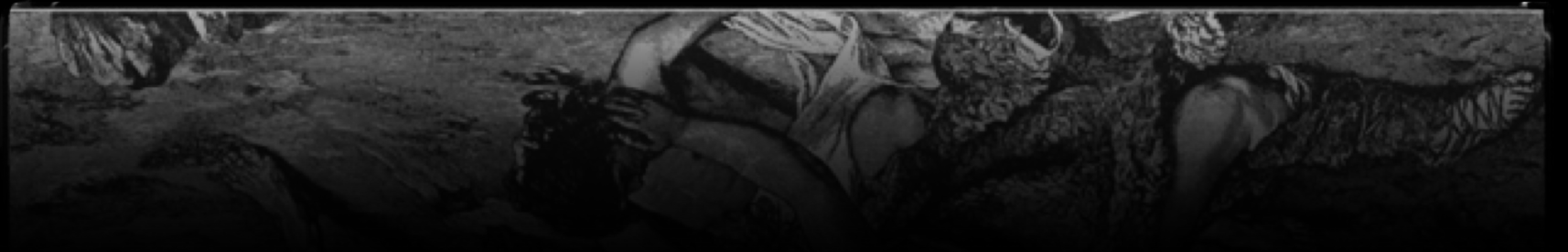
And I will put hostility
between you and between the
woman,
and **between your offspring** and
between her offspring;
he will strike you on the head,
and you will strike him on the heel.”

Genesis 3:15

Spiritual War

Cain
(serpent's
offspring)

Abel
(her offspring)



The Sons of God and their Human Wives And the Giants



And it happened that, when humankind began to multiply on the face of the ground, daughters were born to them. **Then the sons of God saw the daughters of humankind, that they were beautiful.** And they took for themselves wives from all that they chose...

The **Nephilim (giants)** were upon the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God went into the daughters of humankind, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty warriors that were from ancient times, men of renown. Genesis 6:1–4

Bad Divine Intervention

And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto them beautiful and comely daughters. And the angels, the children of the heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and beget us children.'

And they were in all two hundred; who descended in the days of Jared on the summit of Mount Hermon and they called it Mount Hermon, because they had sworn and bound themselves by mutual imprecations upon it...

And all the others together with them took unto themselves wives, and each chose for himself one, and they began to go in unto them and to defile themselves with them, and they taught them charms and enchantments, and the cutting of roots, and made them acquainted with plants.

And they became pregnant, and they bare great giants... Who consumed all the acquisitions of men. And when men could no longer sustain them, ...The giants turned against them and devoured mankind. And they began to sin against birds, and beasts, and reptiles, and fish, and to devour one another's flesh, and drink the blood...

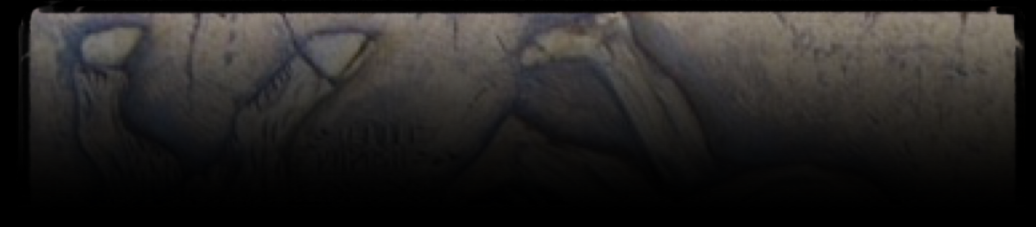
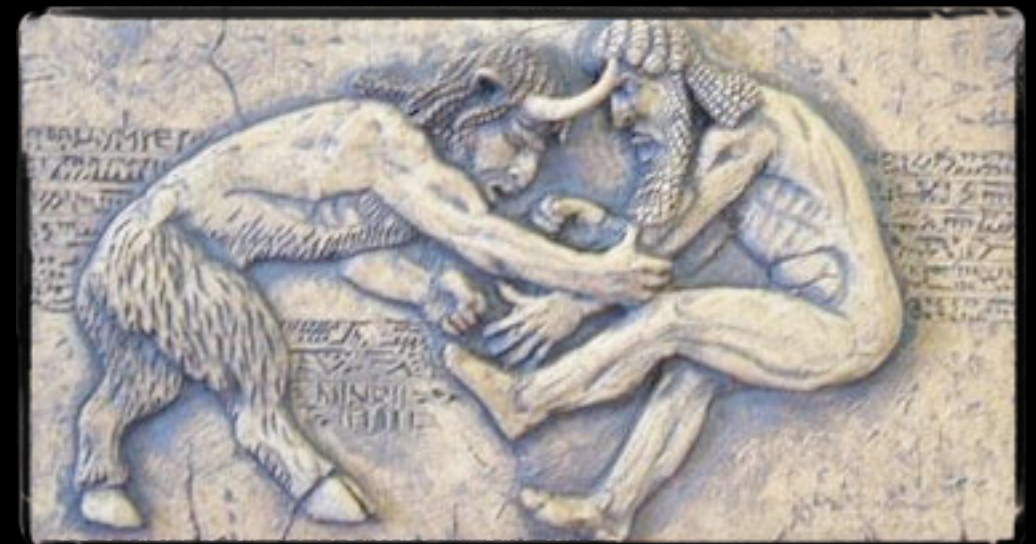
And Azâzêl taught men to make swords, and knives, and shields, and breastplates, and made known to them the metals of the earth and the art of working them, and bracelets, and ornaments, and the use of antimony, and the beautifying of the eyelids, and all kinds of costly stones, and all colouring tinctures. And there arose much godlessness, and they committed fornication,

The Sin of the Watchers

- Swore an oath to violate God's order.
- They descended from heaven to earth on Mt. Hermon.
- Sexually defiled women, producing giants.
- Taught occult knowledge, weapon making, and how to make women sexually seductive.

Results in

- Occult magic, witchcraft, sorcery
- War
- Turning women into sex objects
- Corrupting humans and animals
- Giants consumed natural resources, drank human blood, and ate human flesh.



God's Divine Intervention

And Yahweh said, "My Spirit shall not abide with humankind forever in that he is also flesh. And his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." ...

And Yahweh saw that the evil of humankind was great upon the earth, and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was always only evil.



And Yahweh regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was grieved in his heart.

And Yahweh said, "I will destroy humankind whom I created from upon the face of the earth, from humankind, to animals, to creeping things, and to the birds of heaven, for I regret that I have made them."

But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh.

Genesis 6:3-8

New Testament Perspectives on the Sin of the Watchers

And many will follow their licentious ways,
because of whom the way of truth will be
reviled....

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned,
but held them captive in Tartarus with chains of
darkness and handed them over to be kept for
judgment, and did not spare the ancient world,
but preserved Noah, a proclaimer of
righteousness, and seven others when he
brought a flood on the world of the ungodly,...

especially those who go after the flesh in
defiling lust and who despise authority.

2 Peter 2:2–10



BAPTISM

Celebrating Jesus' Victory over the Watchers



For Christ also suffered once for sins,
the just for the unjust,
in order that he could bring you to God,
being put to death in the flesh,
but made alive in the spirit,
in which also **he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, who were formerly disobedient, when the patience of God waited in the days of Noah, while an ark was being constructed,** in which a few—that is, eight souls—were rescued through water.

And also, corresponding to this, baptism now saves you, not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, **with angels and authorities and powers having been subjected to him.**

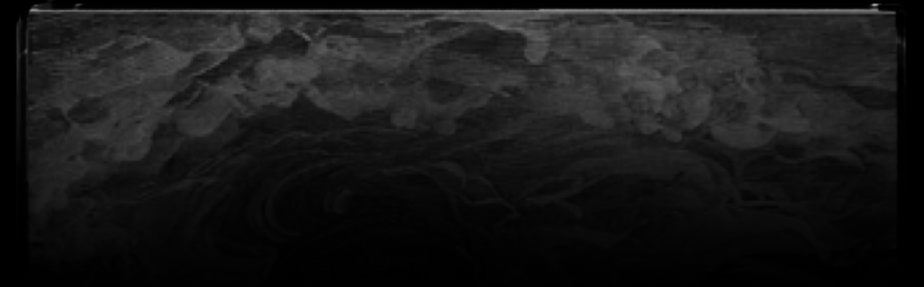
1 Peter 3:18–22

Why do bad things happen?

1. Wicked spirits rebelling against God
2. When we put our desires first
3. When we believe and act on lies about our identity and destiny
4. When we turn to other spirits instead of God for knowledge
5. Natural chaotic forces (Leviathan)

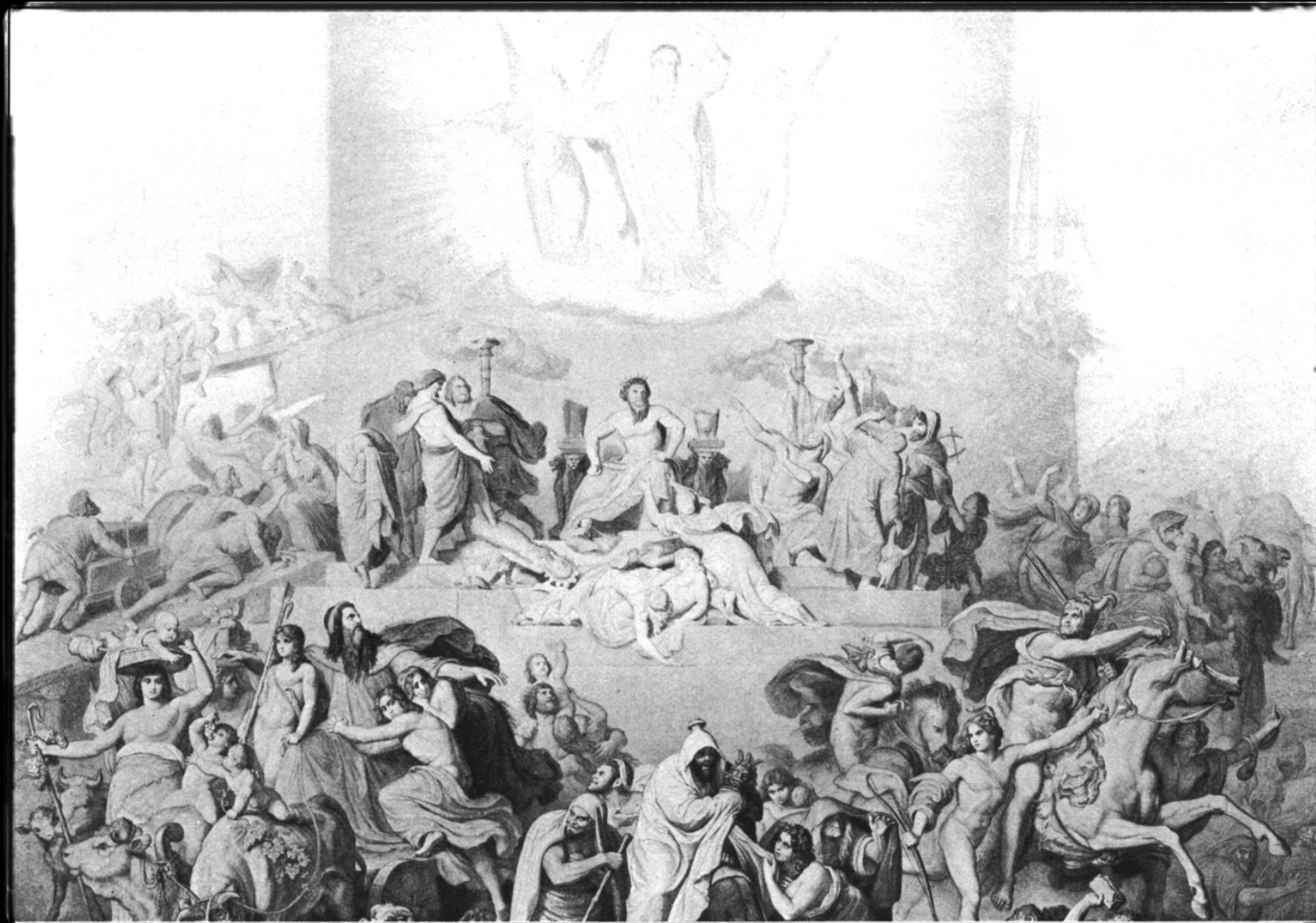


Who can fix this?

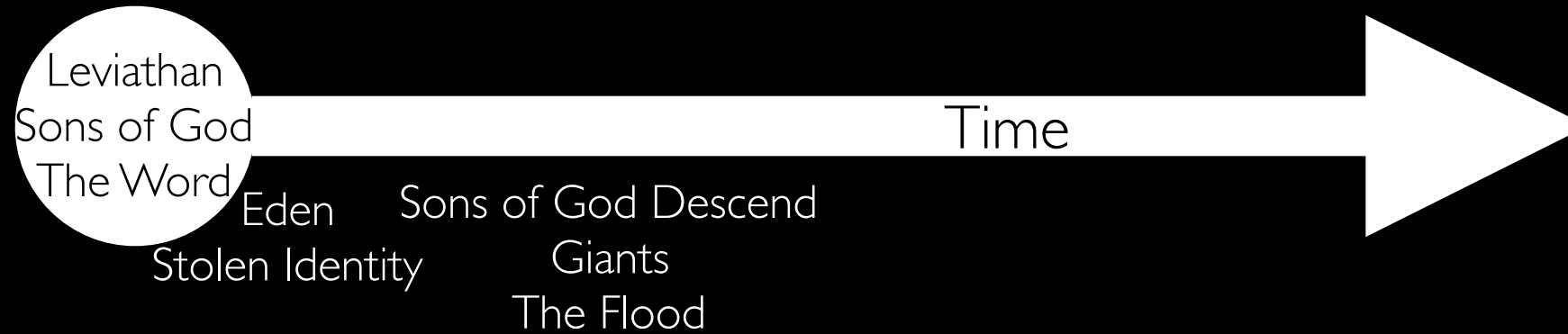


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TOWER OF BABEL
Earth Invading Heaven



The Promise

On that day, Yahweh will punish with his cruel,
great and strong sword Leviathan, the fleeing
serpent, and Leviathan, the twisting serpent, and
he will kill the sea monster that is in the sea.

Isaiah 27:1

Nimrod: The First Emperor



And Cush fathered Nimrod. He was the first on earth **to be a mighty warrior (giant?)**. He was a mighty hunter before Yahweh....

Now, the beginning of his kingdom was **Babel**,... in the **land of Shinar**. From that land he went out to **Assyria**

Genesis 10:8–11



Babel means “Gate to God.”
Shinar (Babylon) and Assyria become
the great enemies of Israel and God

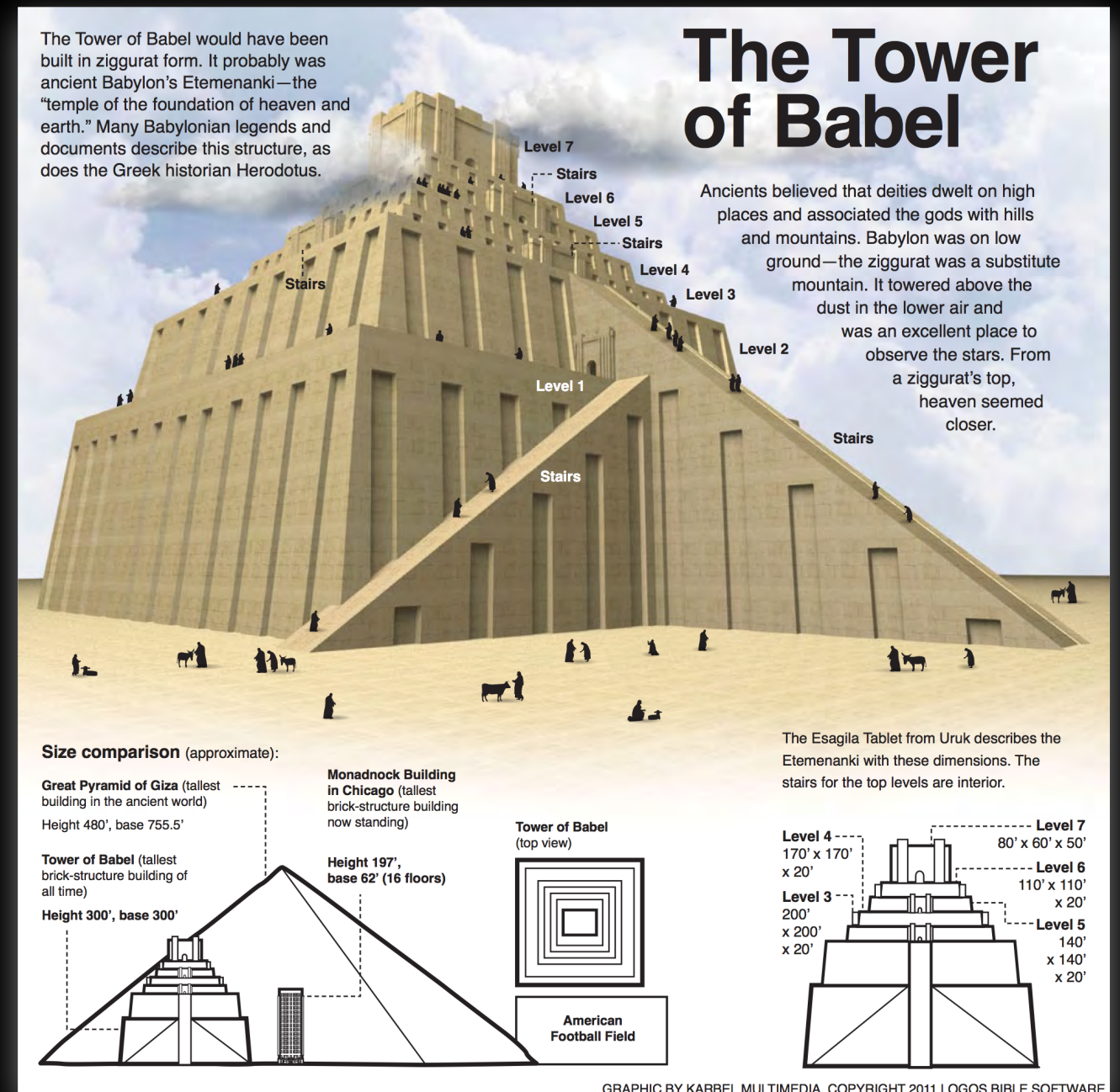
Tower of Babel

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ...

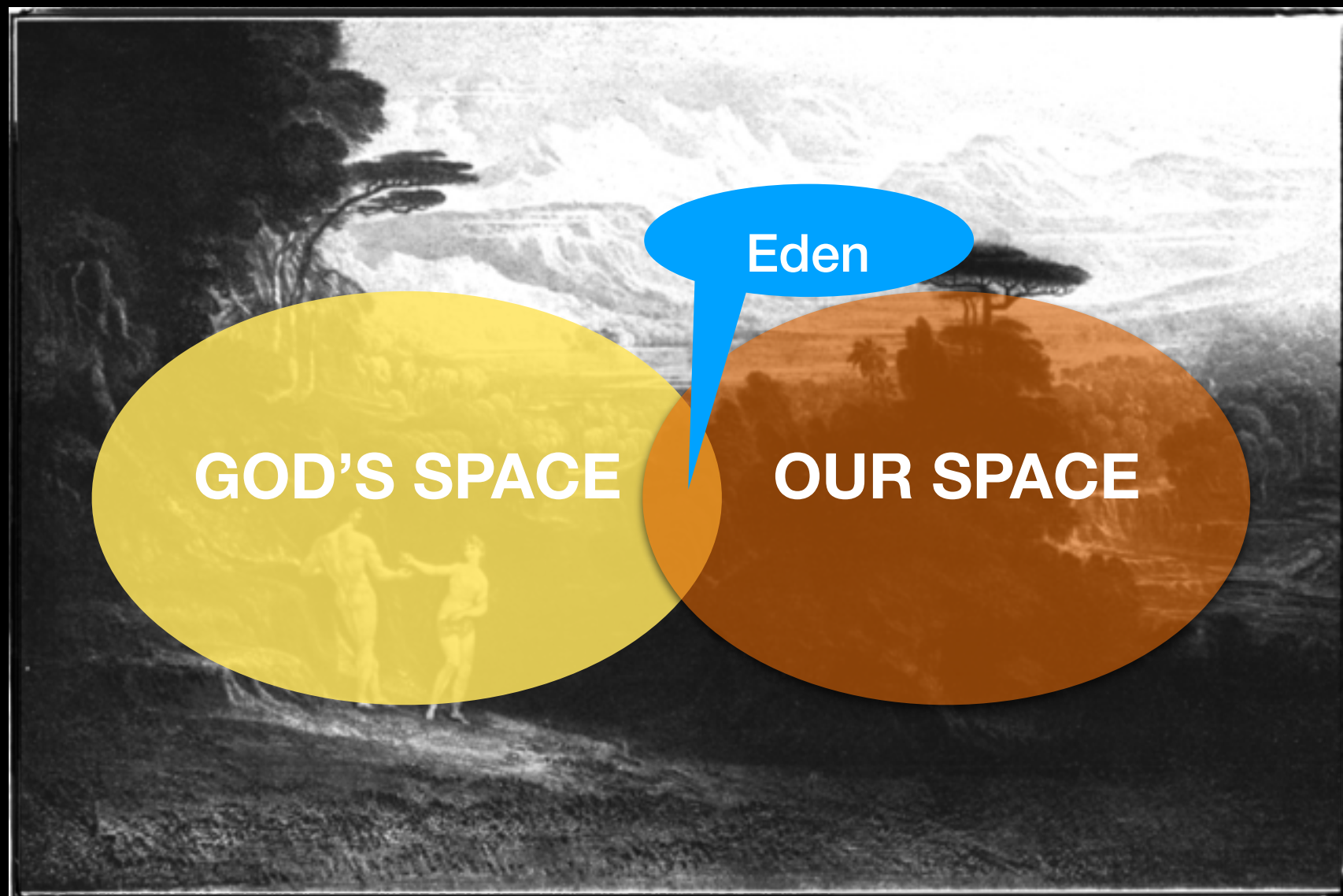
And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top reaches to the heavens. And let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

Then Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower that humankind was building. And Yahweh said, “Behold, they are one people with one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. So now nothing that they intend to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand each other’s language.”

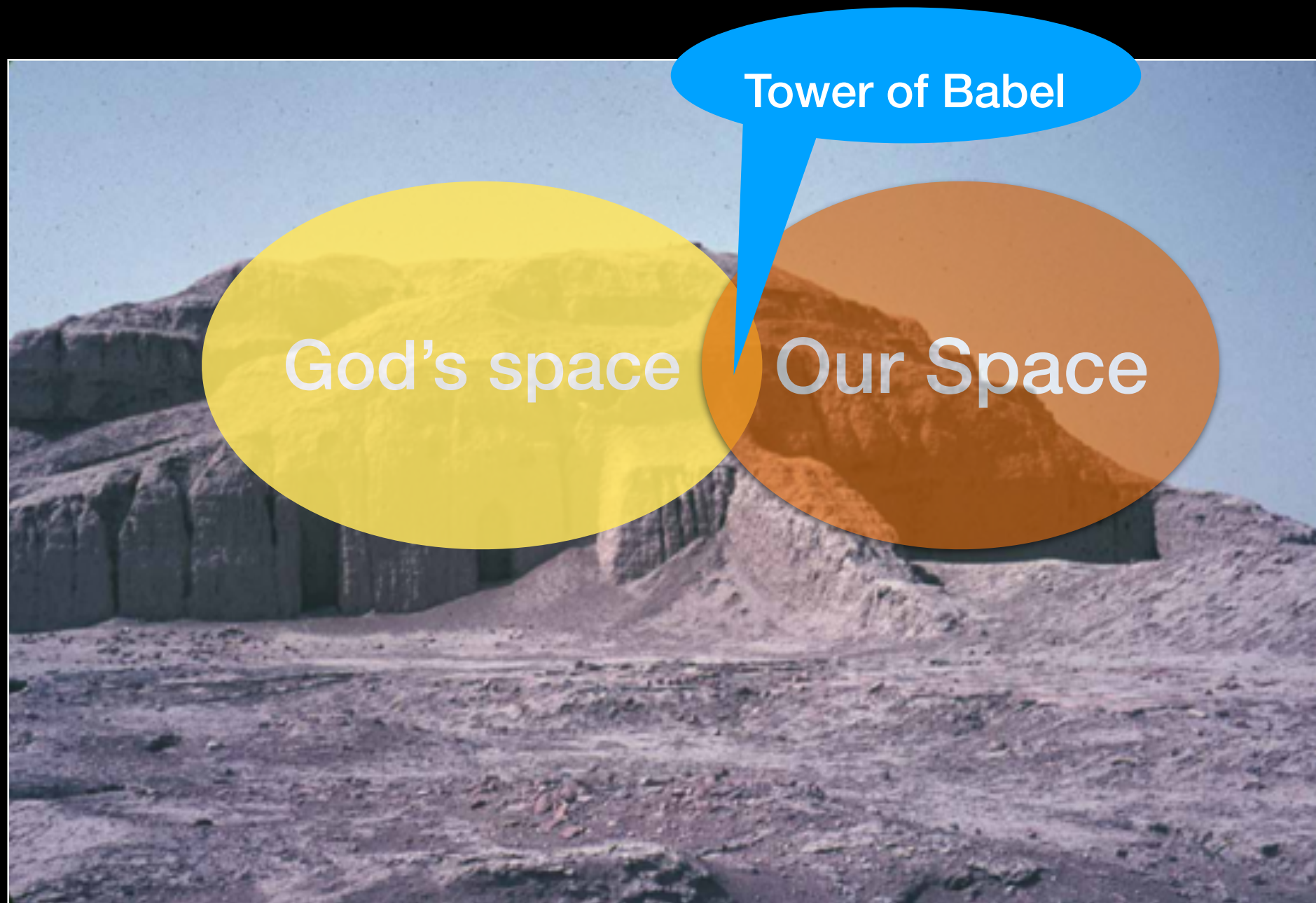
So Yahweh scattered them from there over the face of the whole earth, and they stopped building the city.... Genesis 11:1–9



The Garden of Eden Heaven on Earth



Their Goal: Bring Heaven to Earth



God's Response: Disinheritance

When the Most High gave
to the nations their
inheritance,
when he divided mankind,
he fixed the borders of the
peoples
according to the number of
the sons of God.

Deuteronomy 32:8 ESV



The Domain of Darkness



...who has rescued us from the **domain of darkness** and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have the redemption, the forgiveness of sins,
Colossians 1:13

The Problem of Evil

God stands in the divine assembly;
he administers judgment in the **midst of the gods**.
“How long will you judge unjustly
and show favoritism to the wicked? Selah
Judge on behalf of the helpless and the orphan;
provide justice to the afflicted and the poor.
Rescue the helpless and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
They do not know or consider.
They go about in the darkness,
so that all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
I have said, “**You are gods,**
and sons of the Most High, all of you.
However, you will die like men,
and you will fall like one of the princes.”
Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
because you shall inherit all the nations.

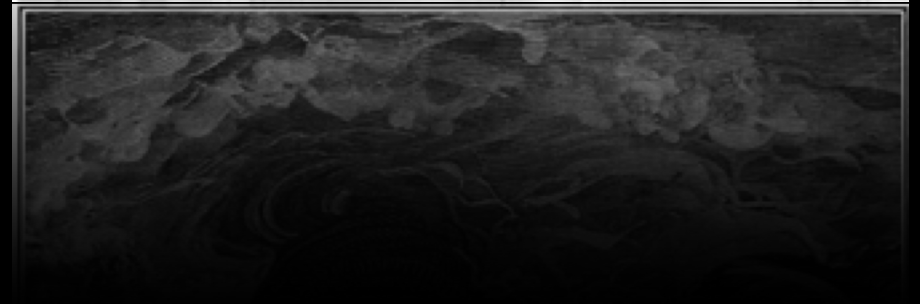
- Wicked spirits favor injustice
- Oppress the helpless, needy, sick and poor
- Refuse to save the suffering from the wicked

If God changes immortal beings into mortals as punishment, will God change mortal beings into immortals to replace them?

Why do bad things happen?

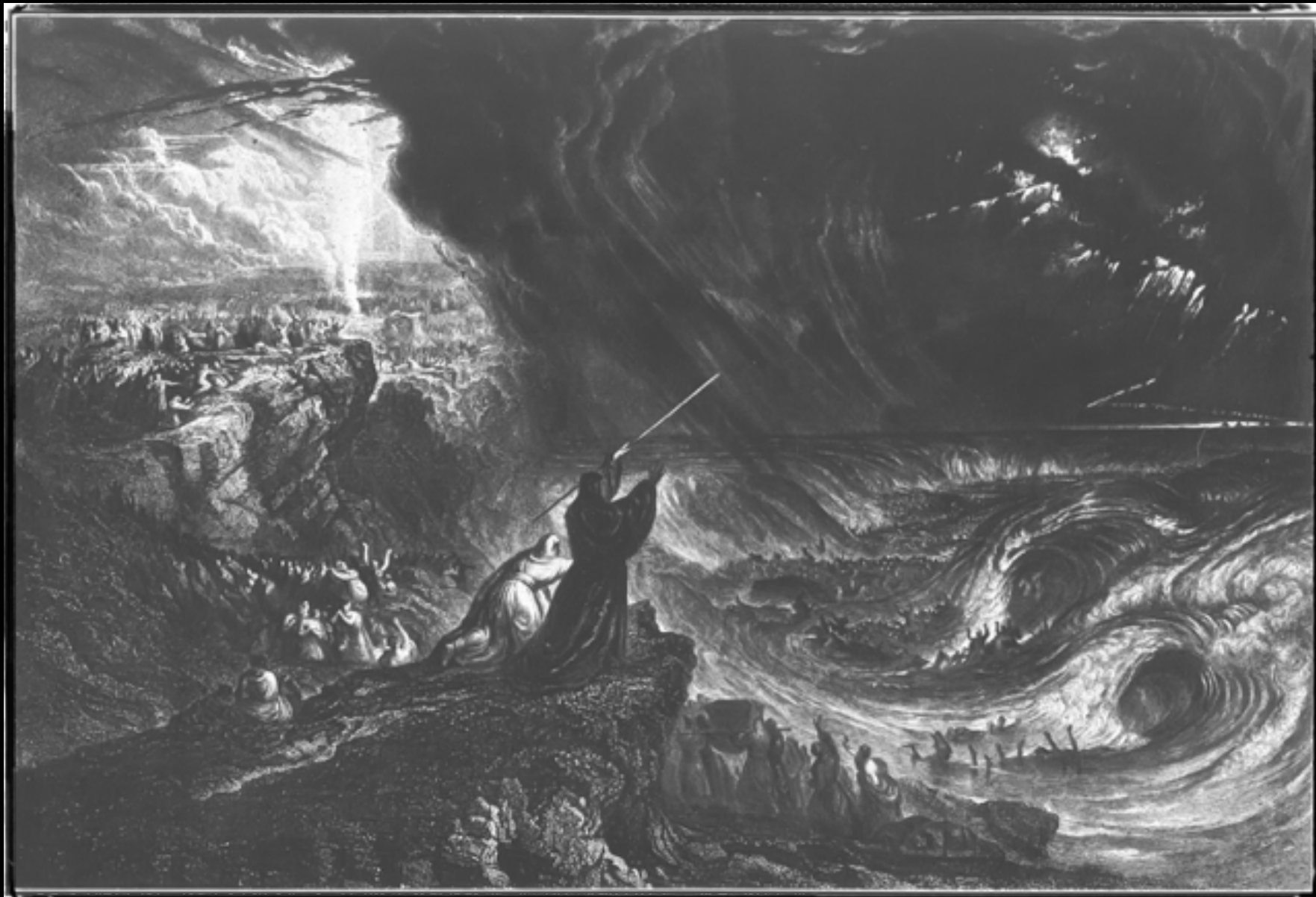
1. Wicked spirits ruling the nations
2. Putting our desires first
3. Believing lies about ourselves
4. Turning to other spirits instead of God for knowledge
5. Natural chaotic forces (Leviathan)

Who must fix this?



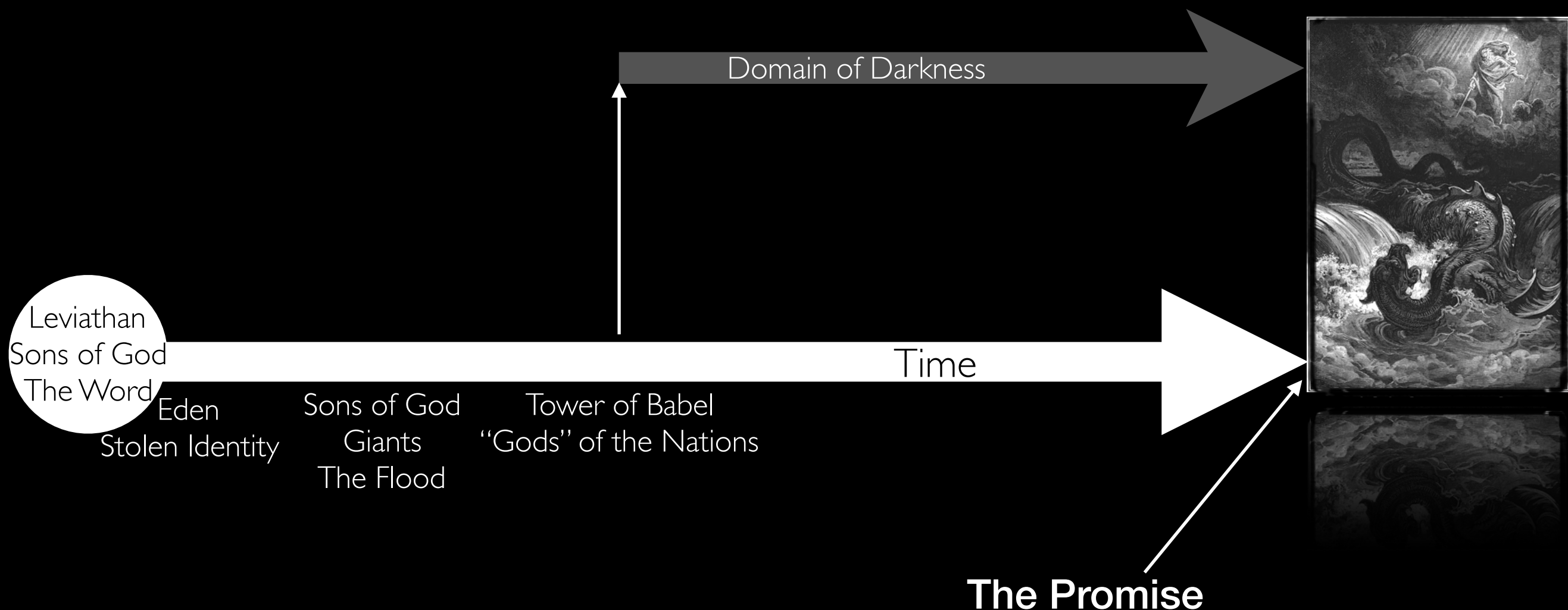
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The Kingdom of Israel

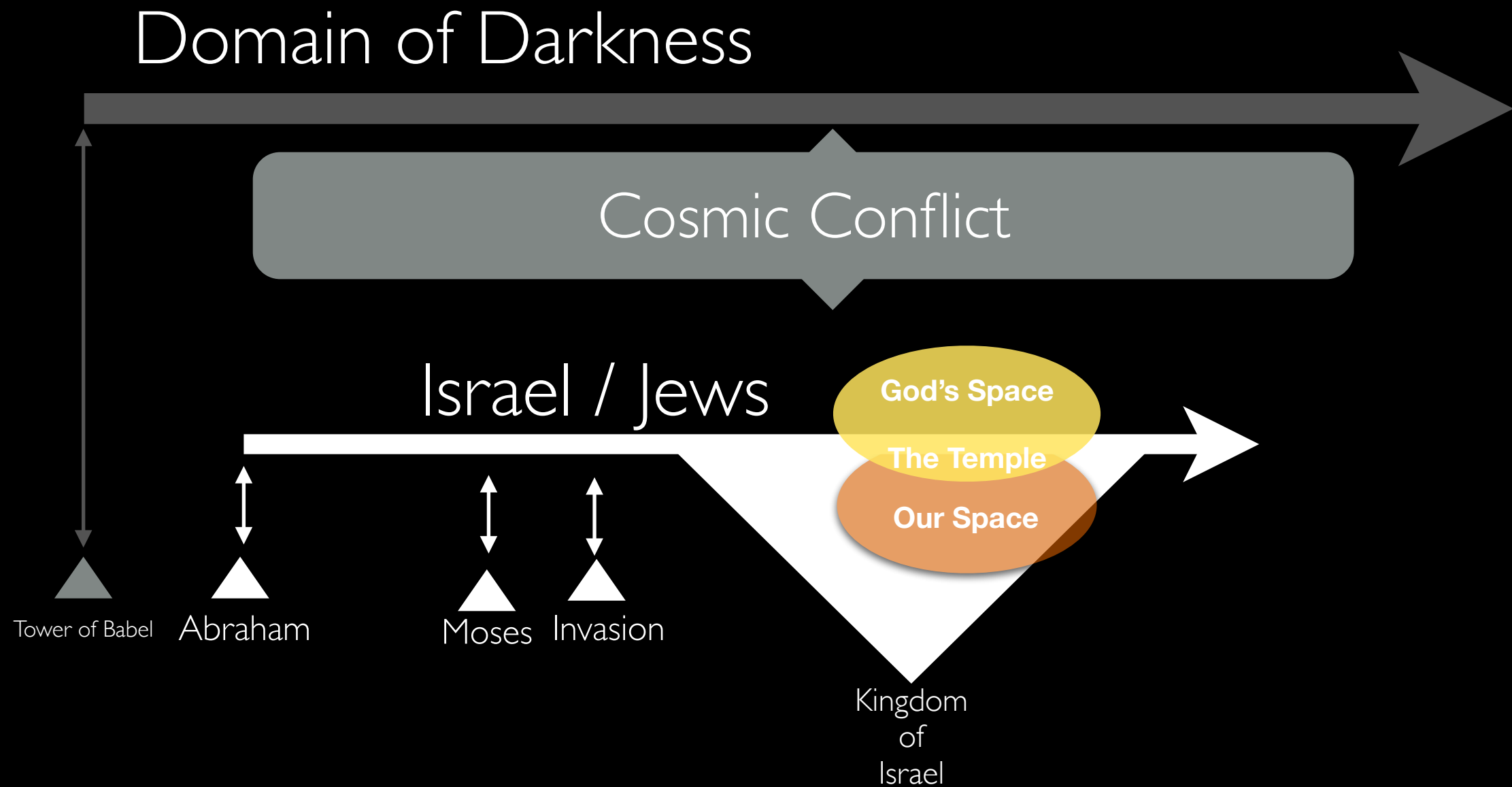
The Story So Far...



On that day, Yahweh will punish with his cruel,
great and strong sword Leviathan, the fleeing
serpent, and Leviathan, the twisting serpent, and
he will kill the sea monster that is in the sea.

Isaiah 27:1

War between God and the “gods”



The Nation of Israel against the Domain of Darkness

Creation of Israel

“...And all families of the earth will be blessed in you.” Ge 12:3
ca 2090 B.C.

ca 1447 B.C.

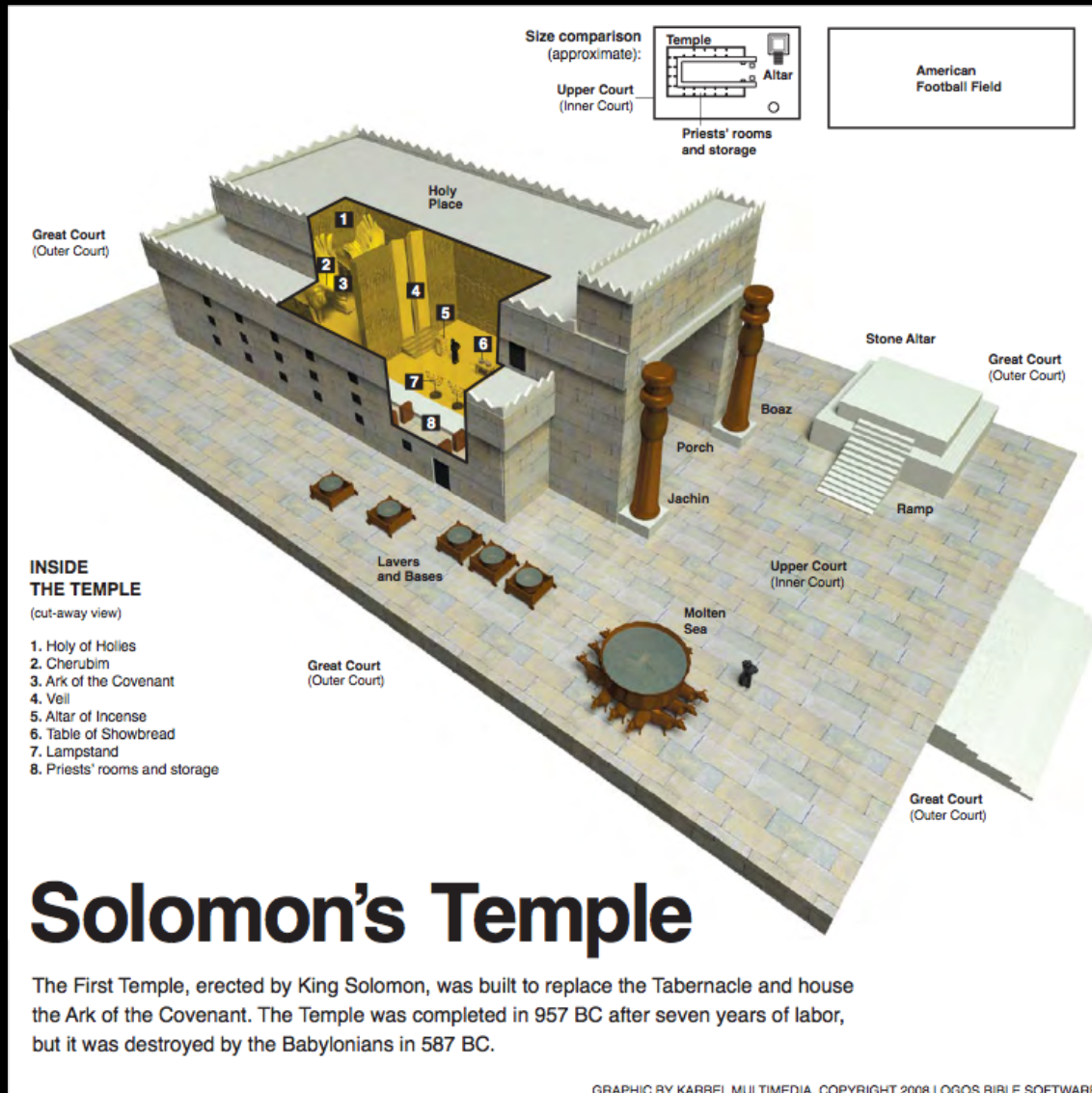
And now if you will carefully listen to my voice and keep my covenant, you will be a **treasured possession** for me out of all the peoples, for all the earth is mine, but you, you will belong to me as a **kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**

Exodus 19:5–6

ca 957 B.C.

And Solomon held a feast at that time of seven days. And Solomon finished the house of Yahweh and the house of the king. 2 Ch 7:8,11

He had built it in seven years. **Solomon built his house over thirteen years**, and he finished all of his house. 1 Kings 6:38–7:1



The Kingdom of God on Earth?

Judah and Israel were as many as the sand which is on the seashore in abundance, eating and drinking and rejoicing!

Now Solomon was **ruling over all the kingdoms...** and **he had peace** from every side all around.

Judah and Israel **lived in security**, each man **under his vine and under his fig tree,..**

Now Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his **war chariots** and **twelve thousand horsemen...**

God gave wisdom to Solomon and very great discernment, as well as breadth of understanding...

The wisdom of Solomon was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the east and more than all the wisdom of Egypt...

He spoke **three thousand proverbs**, and his songs were **one thousand and five**. He spoke **concerning the trees**, from the cedar which is in Lebanon up to the hyssop which grows on the wall; he also **spoke concerning the animals, concerning the birds, concerning the creeping things, and concerning the fish.**

They came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon; from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.

1 Ki 4:19–5:1



The Kingdom Fails

Domain of Darkness

Assyria and Babylon

Cosmic Conflict

Tower of Babel

Jews into the nations

Temple destroyed

Israel / Jews

Abraham

Moses

Invasion

Kingdoms
of
Israel/Judah



Why do bad things happen?

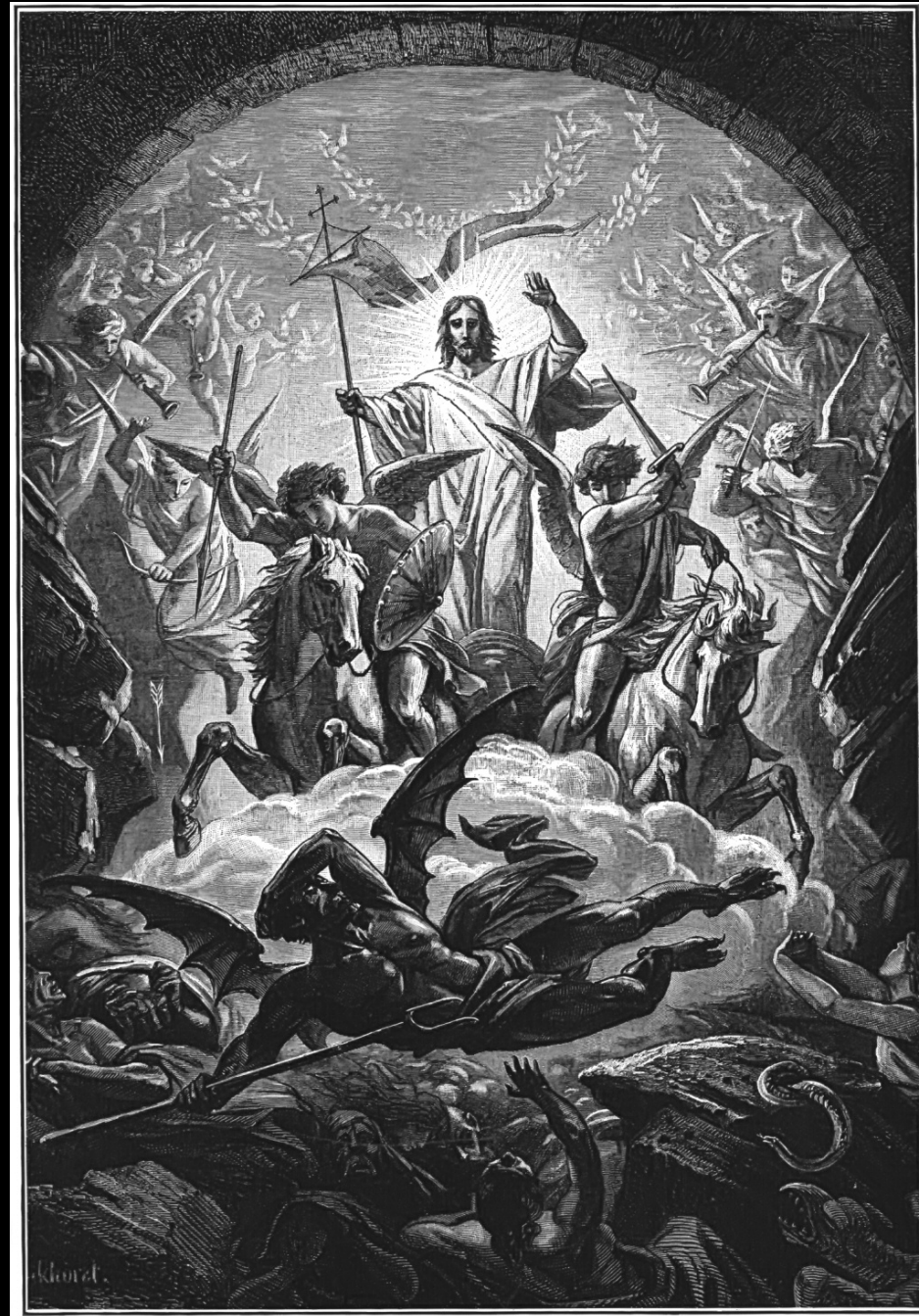


1. Wicked spirits ruling the nations
2. Putting our desires first
3. Believing lies about ourselves
4. Following other spirits instead of God
5. Natural chaotic forces

Who can fix this?

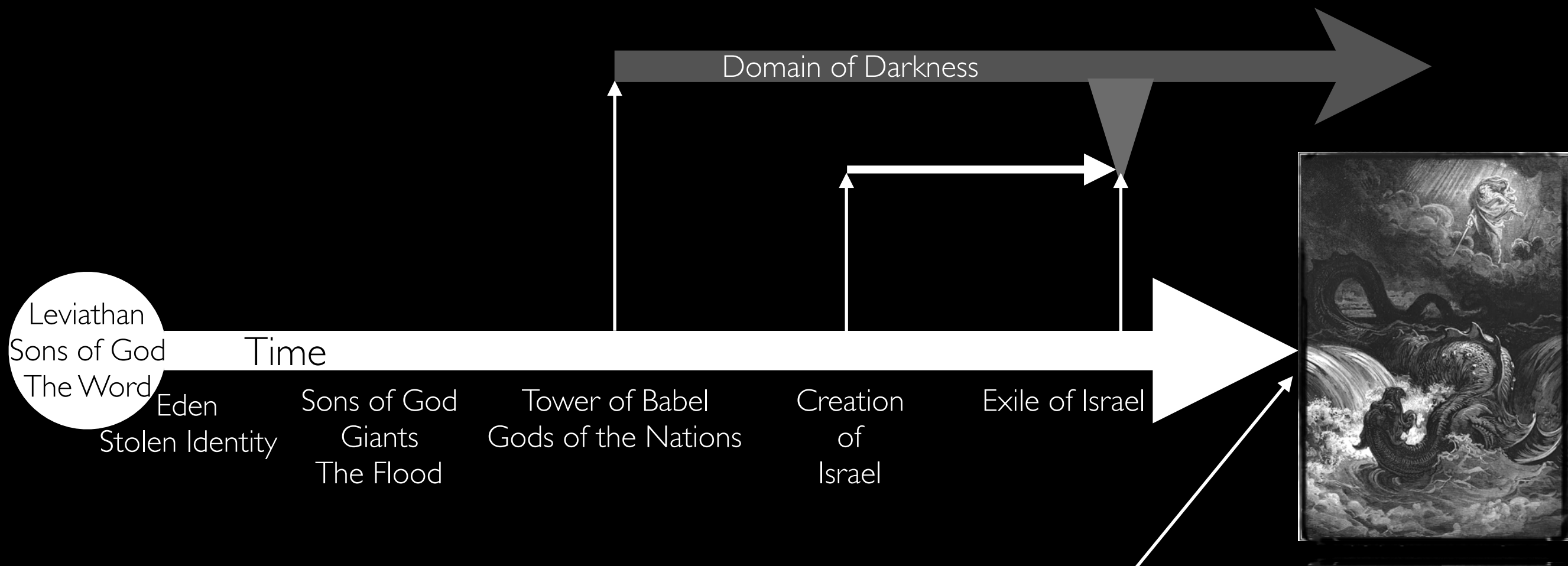
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The Cloud Rider

The Story So Far...



On that day, Yahweh will punish with his cruel, great and strong sword Leviathan, the fleeing serpent, and Leviathan, the twisting serpent, and he will kill the sea monster that is in the sea.

Isaiah 27:1

The Divine Council



The Council of God
Vision of St John the Evangelist
Unknown German Master

Unknown German Master
Vision of St John the Evangelist
The Council of God

...I saw Yahweh sitting on his throne with all the **hosts of heaven standing beside him from his right hand and from his left hand.**

And Yahweh said, 'Who will entice Ahab so that he will go up and fall at Ramoth-Gilead?'

Then this one was saying one thing and the other one was saying another.

Then a spirit came out and stood before Yahweh and said, 'I will entice him,' and Yahweh said to him, 'How?'

He said, 'I will go out and I will be a false spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.'

And he said, 'You shall entice and succeed, go out and do so.'...

1 Ki 22:19–23.

The Divine Council

God stands in the divine assembly;
he administers judgment in the **midst of
the gods...**

I have said, “**You are gods,
and sons of the Most High, all of you.**
However, you will die like men,
and you will fall like one of the princes.”

Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
because you shall inherit all the nations.
Psalm 82



Yahweh Rides the Clouds



There is no one like God, O, Jeshurun,
who **rides through the heavens** to your help,
and with his majesty **through the skies**.

Deut 33:26

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;...
to **the one who rides in the highest heavens**
of old.... His majesty is over Israel,
and **his strength is in the clouds**. Ps 68:32–34

Bless Yahweh, O my soul...
who **makes clouds his chariot**,
who rides on the **wings of the wind**,...
Ps 104:1–4

Look! **Yahweh is riding on a swift cloud**
and is coming to Egypt... Is 19:1

The Son of Man Rides the Clouds

I continued watching until thrones were placed and an Ancient of Days sat; his clothing was like white snow and the hair of his head was like pure wool and his throne was a flame of fire and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued forth and flowed from his presence; thousands upon thousands served him and ten thousand upon ten thousand stood before him. The judge sat, and the books were opened...

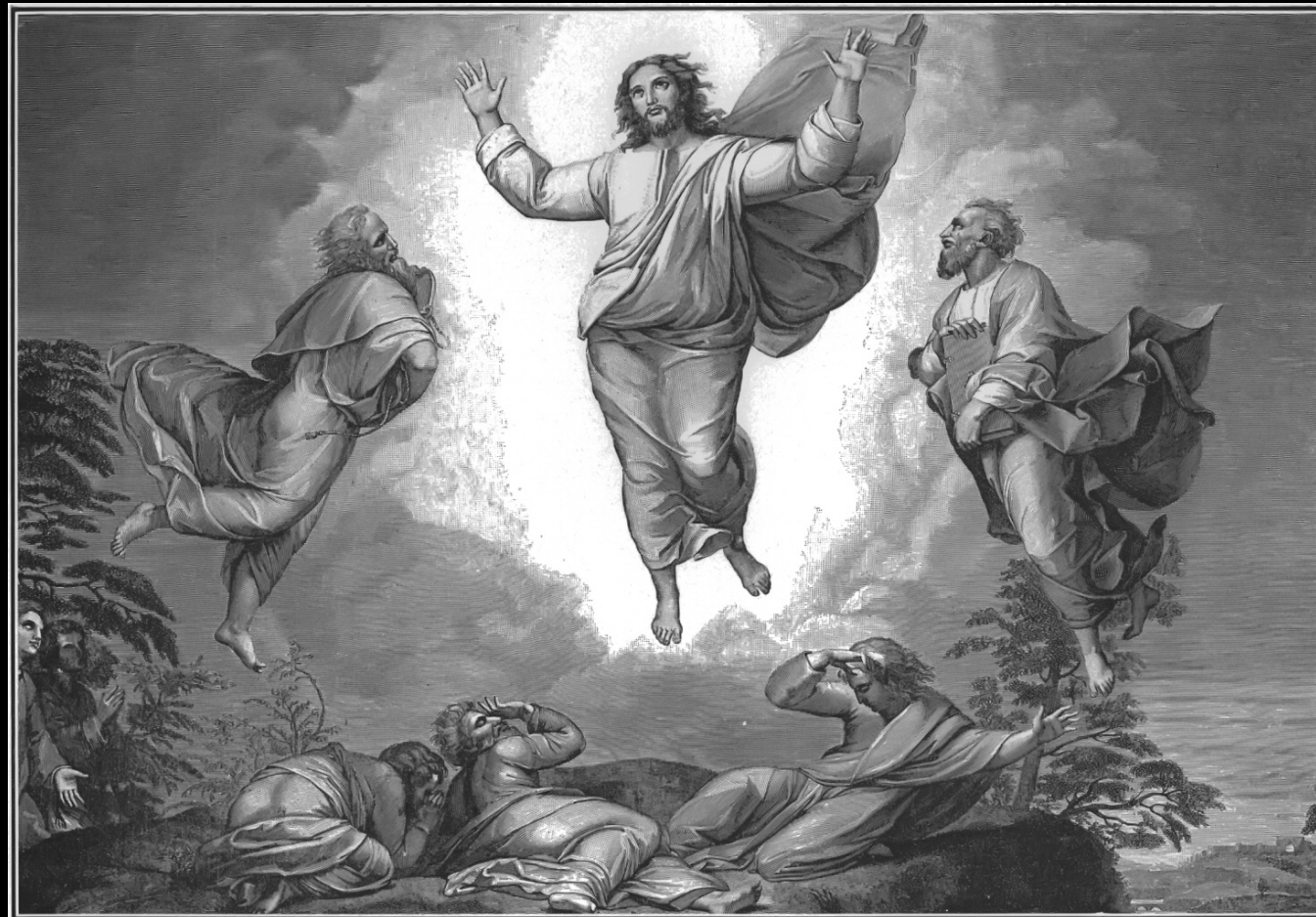
I continued watching in the visions of the night, and look, with the clouds of heaven one like a son of man was coming, and he came to the Ancient of Days, and was presented before him.

And to him was given dominion and glory and kingship that all the peoples, the nations, and languages would serve him; his dominion is a dominion without end that will not cease, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:9–14



Jesus: Yahweh in the Divine Council



“We are not going to stone you concerning a good deed, but concerning blasphemy, and because you, although you are a man, make yourself to be God!”

Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods”’? If he called them ‘gods’ to whom the word of God came—and the scripture cannot be broken—do you say about he whom the Father set apart and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I do not do the deeds of my Father, do not believe me. But if I am doing them, even if you do not believe me, believe the deeds, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” So they were seeking again to seize him, and he departed out of their hand.

John 10:33–39

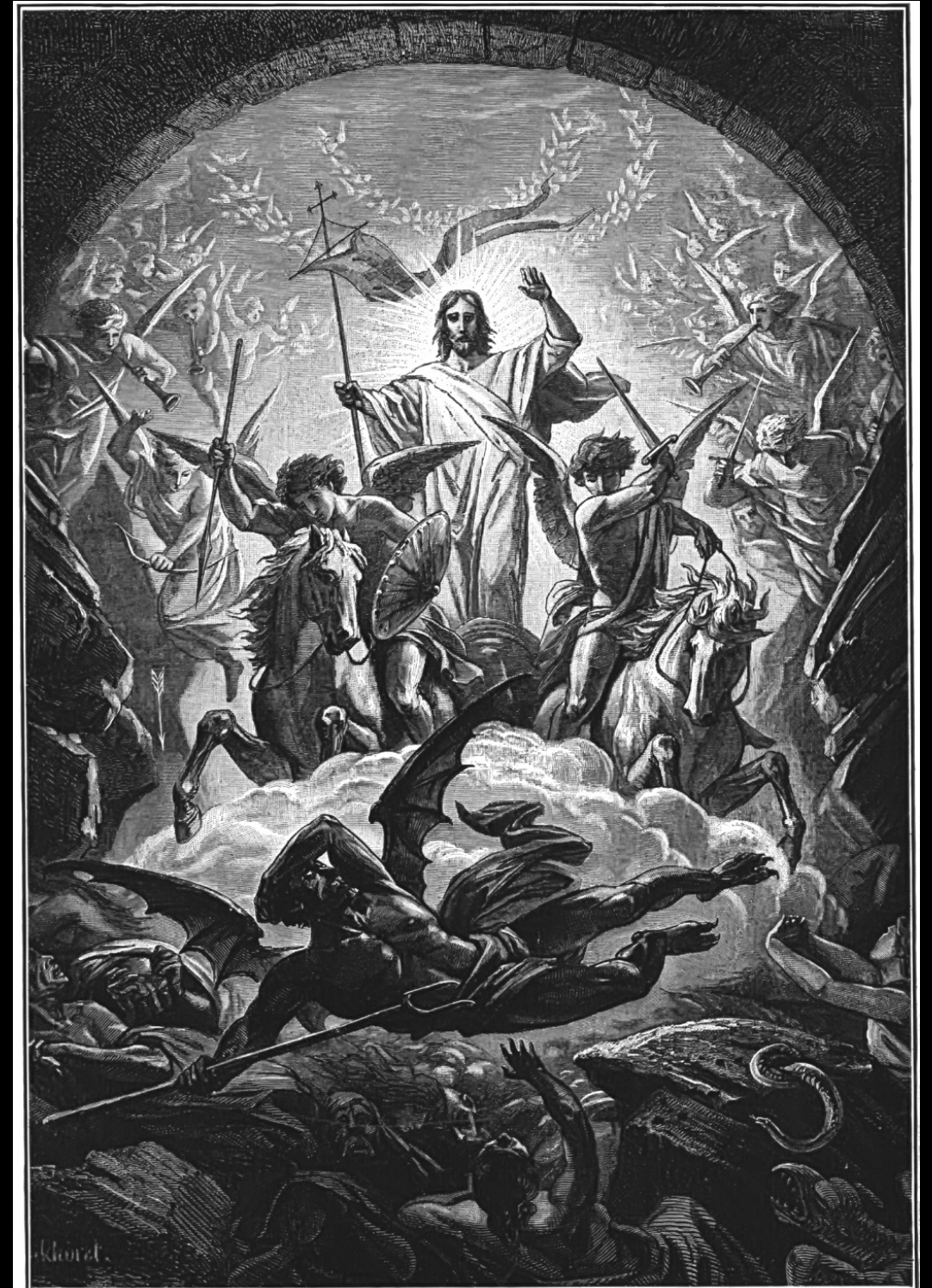
Jesus: Yahweh in the Clouds

But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath by the living God, that you tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!”

Jesus said to him, “You have said it. **But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.**”

Then the high priest tore his robes, saying, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have just now heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”

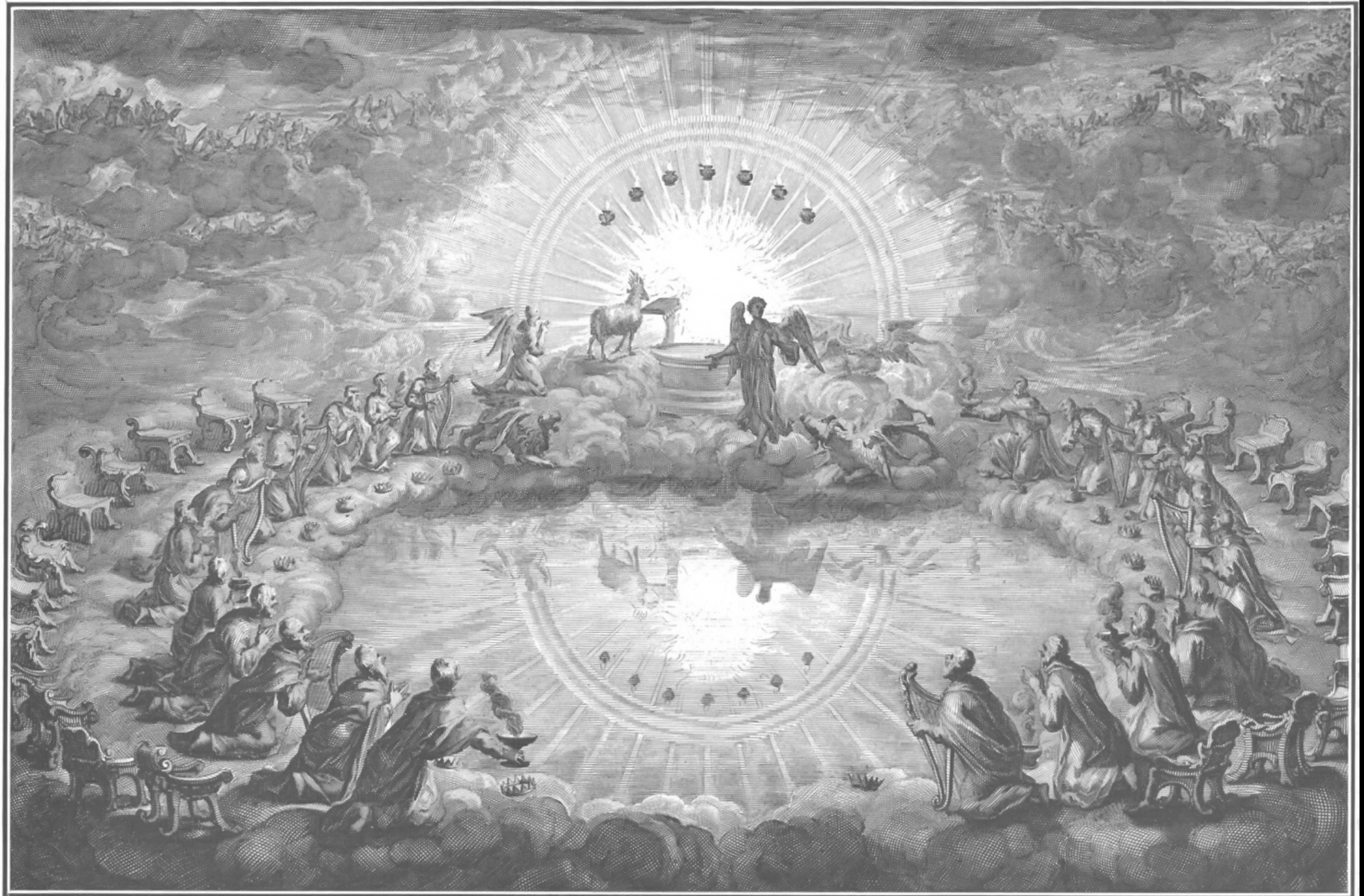
Matthew 26:62–66



Jesus: Yahweh on the Cross

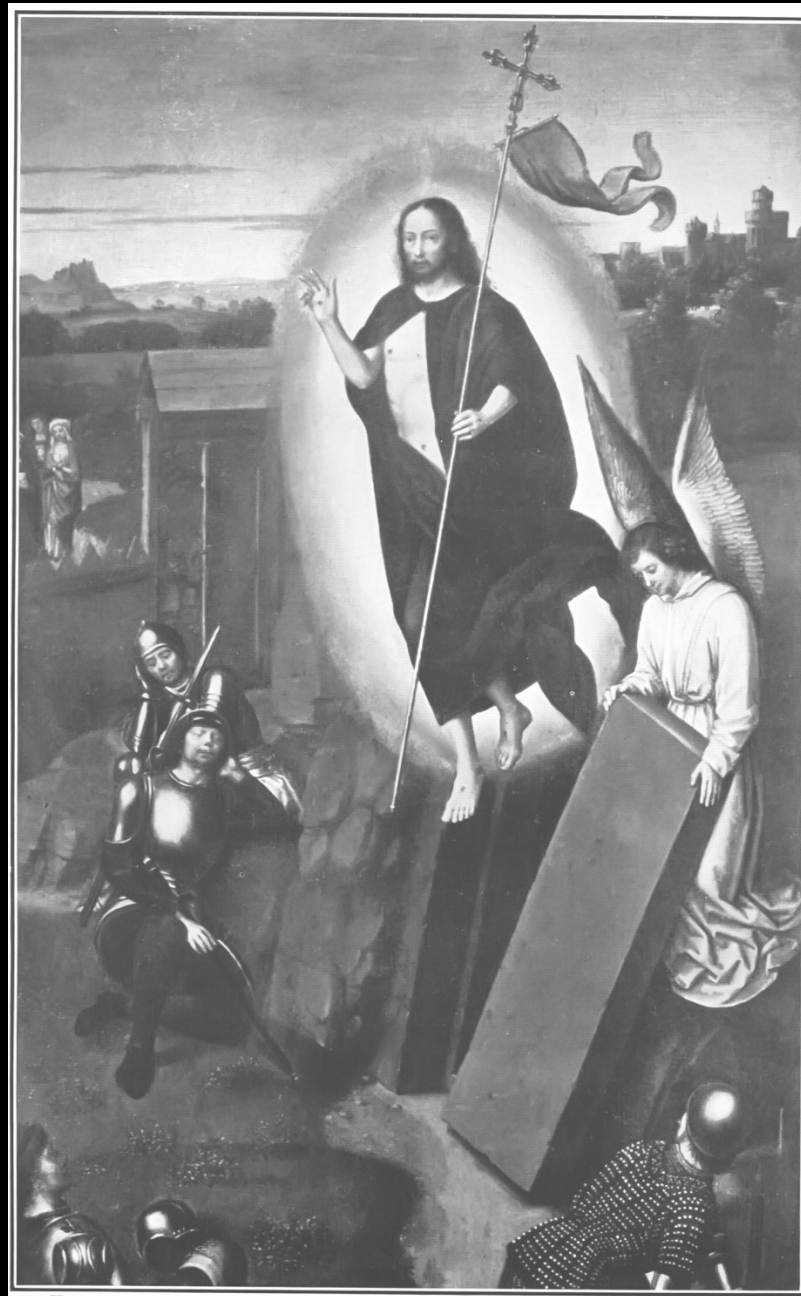


Jesus the Resurrected King



GOD'S STORY

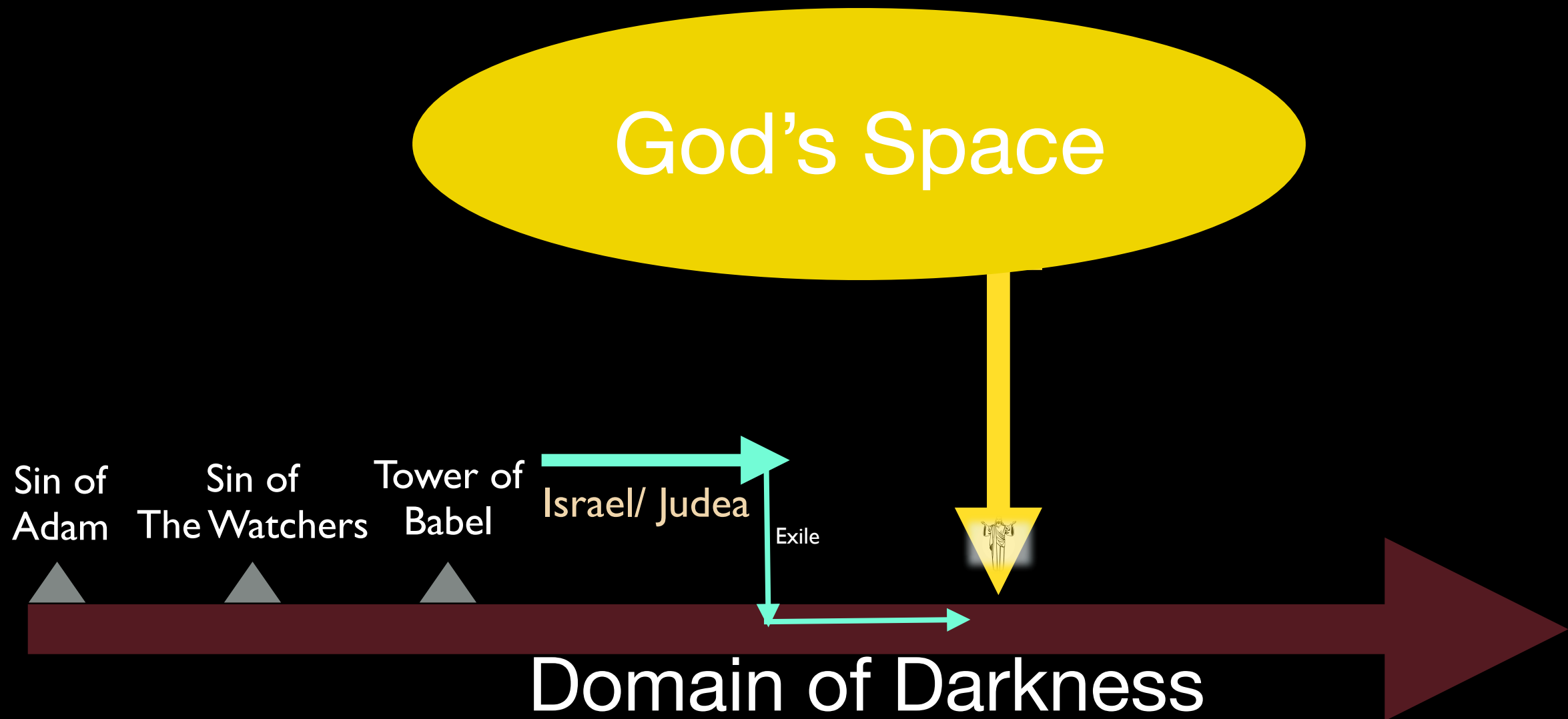
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The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God invades Earth

God Takes Back the Nations



Babel: Scattering the Nations

When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind,
he fixed the borders of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of God... Deut 32:8 ESV



The Kingdom of God is at Hand!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because of which he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send out in freedom those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

Luke 4:18–19

Domain of Darkness

- Wicked spirits favor injustice
- Oppress the helpless, needy, sick and poor
- Refuse to save the suffering from the wicked



Kingdom of God

- Holy Spirit brings justice
- Saves the helpless, needy, sick and poor
- Sets free those suffering from the wicked



Jesus Revealed

And after six days, Jesus took along Peter and James and John, and led them to a high mountain by themselves alone.

And he was transfigured before them, and his clothing became radiant—extremely white, like no cloth refiner on earth can make so white.

And Elijah appeared to them together with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

And Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! And let us make three shelters, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (For he did not know what he should answer, because they were terrified.)

And a cloud came, overshadowing them, and a voice came from the cloud, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!” And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus alone.

Mark 9:2–8

Reclaiming the Nations

And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in the same place. And suddenly a sound like a violent rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. And **divided tongues** like fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability to speak out.

Now there were Jews residing in Jerusalem, **devout men from every nation under heaven**. And when this sound occurred, the crowd gathered and was in confusion, because each one was hearing them **speaking in his own language**.

And they were astounded and astonished, saying, “Behold, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how do we hear, each one of us, in our own native language? **Parthians and Medes and Elamites and those residing in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya toward Cyrene, and the Romans who were in town, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs**—we hear them speaking in our own languages the great deeds of God!” And all were amazed and greatly perplexed, saying to one another, “What can this mean?”

Acts 2:1–12



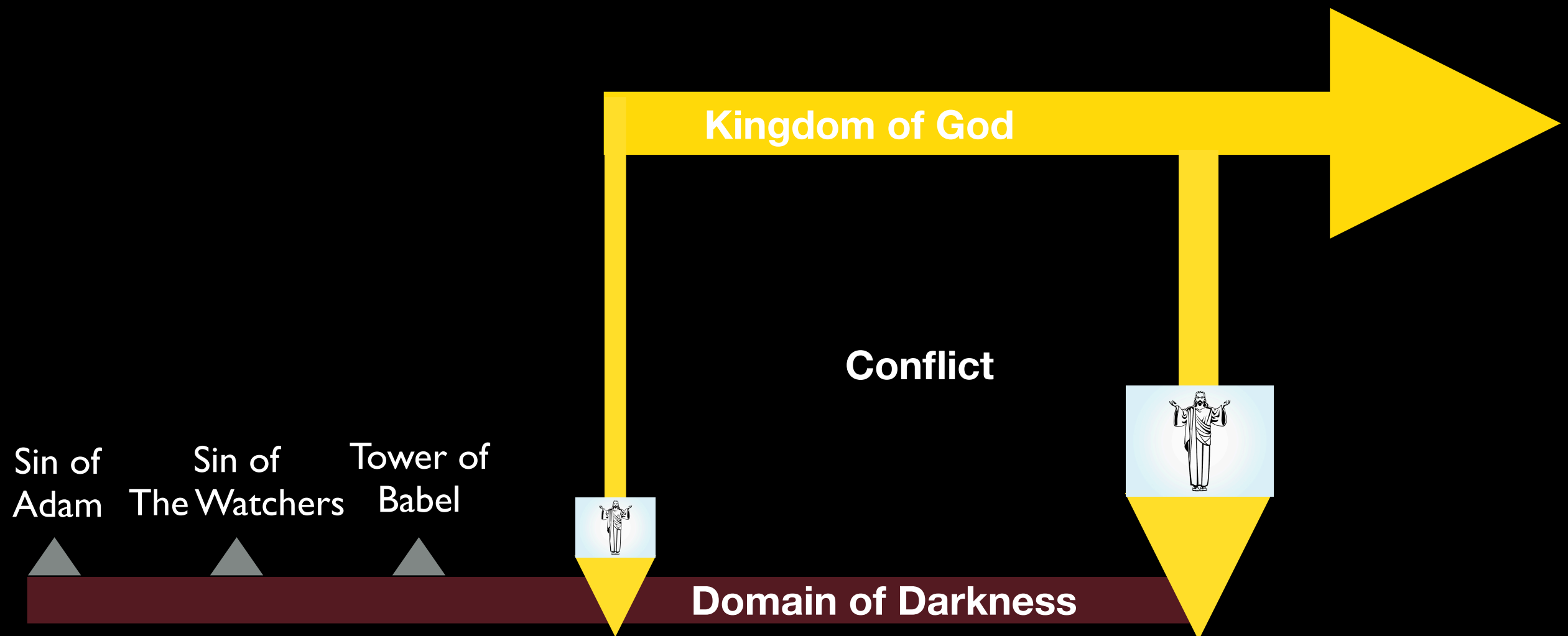
Reclaiming the Nations



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The Tension of the Kingdoms

God Takes Back the Nations



The Problem

1. Wicked spirits ruling the nations
2. Putting our desires first
3. Believing lies about ourselves
4. Trusting demonic spirits
5. Leviathan

The Solution

1. Jesus Christ taking back the nations
2. Making Jesus the Lord of our lives
3. Trusting what Jesus says about us
4. Trusting only the Holy Spirit
5. Jesus destroys Leviathan