

**THE
TRUE STORY
OF THE
OLD
TESTAMENT**

Responding to God's Revelation and Redemption

Opening

“Many Christians never understand their Bible as a whole. Having been brought up under conditions where they were exposed to various doctrinal teachings supported by Scriptural passages chosen from a wide area of Bible Books, little time was given to a look as the overall picture. Attention was focused on individual Book studies, sermons, and Sunday School lessons.

While this approach is important and has a place in Bible study, it leaves the student with the problem of trying to fit the pieces together to form a clear picture.”

“Scanning the Plan: Old Testament Volume I”, Kenneth F. McKinley, 1965, p. introduction



Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)



Outline

- I. Major Themes of the Old Testament
- II. Bird's Eye-View of the Old Testament
- III. Dispensational View of the Bible

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

I. Major Themes of the Old Testament

“The history of God’s Old Testament people is significant, for in many ways the history of Israel is the record of God’s revelation of Himself to humanity.”

In God’s promises to Abraham we meet a God Who chooses to commit Himself unconditionally to bless human beings, and Who will accept our faith in place of a righteousness we do not have.

(See Genesis 12:1-3; 17:4-8)



*Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”,
by Wycliffe Russia*

“Bible Reader’s Companion”, Lawrence O. Richards, 2004, p.18)

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

I. Major Themes of the Old Testament

In Exodus miracles we see a God Who not only can but also will act in history, to break the bonds that hold man captive.

(See Deuteronomy 6:20-23)

"Bible Reader's Companion", Lawrence O. Richards, 2004, p.18)



*Illustrations from "Free Bible Images",
by Jan Van't Hoff*

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

I. Major Themes of the Old Testament (continued)

“Yet even in the most corrupt of times God refreshes with reminders of His firm intention to do man good. The prophets who warned of imminent judgment still concluded with bright visions of the future.

Jeremiah encourages a people about to be led into Captivity with the message that God has not deserted them, even though they have abandoned God.

The day is coming, Jeremiah proclaims, when God will make a New Covenant with the people of Israel (Jer. 31-32).



(See Jeremiah 31:10, 31)

“Bible Reader’s Companion”, Lawrence O. Richards, 2004, p.18)

Illustrations from www.answersingenesis.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

I. Major Themes of the Old Testament (continued)

Under the gracious provisions of that New Covenant God's people will no longer stray, for God will give each of His own a new heart; a heart that responds joyfully to Him."



"Bible Reader's Companion", Lawrence O. Richards, 2004, p.18)

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

I. Major Themes of the Old Testament (continued)

“In the Law given Moses we see God’s moral character, and hear His call to us to live holy and righteous lives.

In the sacrificial system that Moses initiated we sense the terrible fact that sinners deserve death – and discover with relief that God in grace will accept a substitute.

In the history of Israel we see underlined again and again the truth that obedience leads to divine blessing, while disobedience brings judgement and misery.”



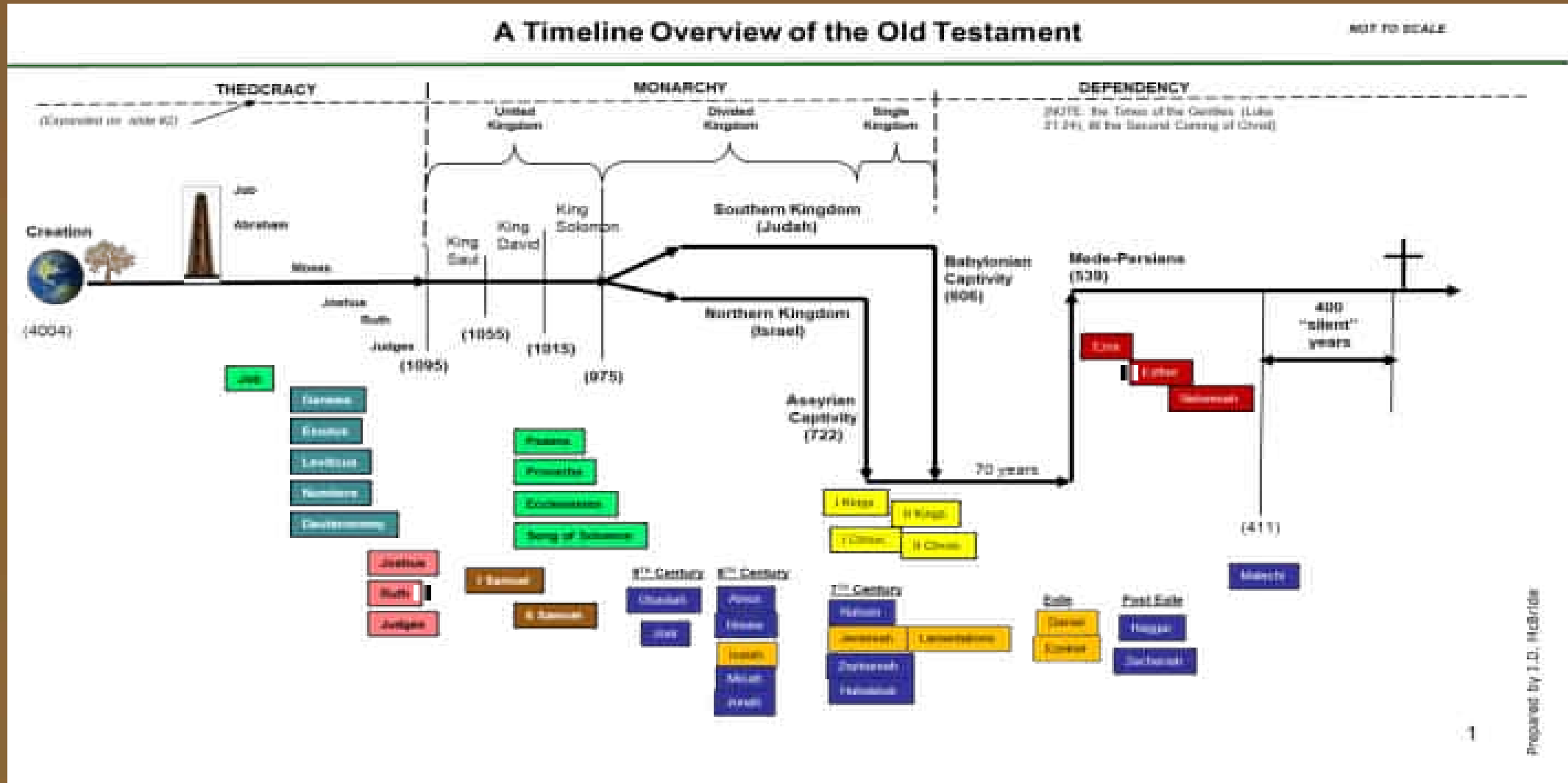
(See Galatians 3:4)

“Bible Reader’s Companion”, Lawrence O. Richards, 2004, p.18)

Illustrations from “Free Bible Images”, by Jan Van’t Hoff

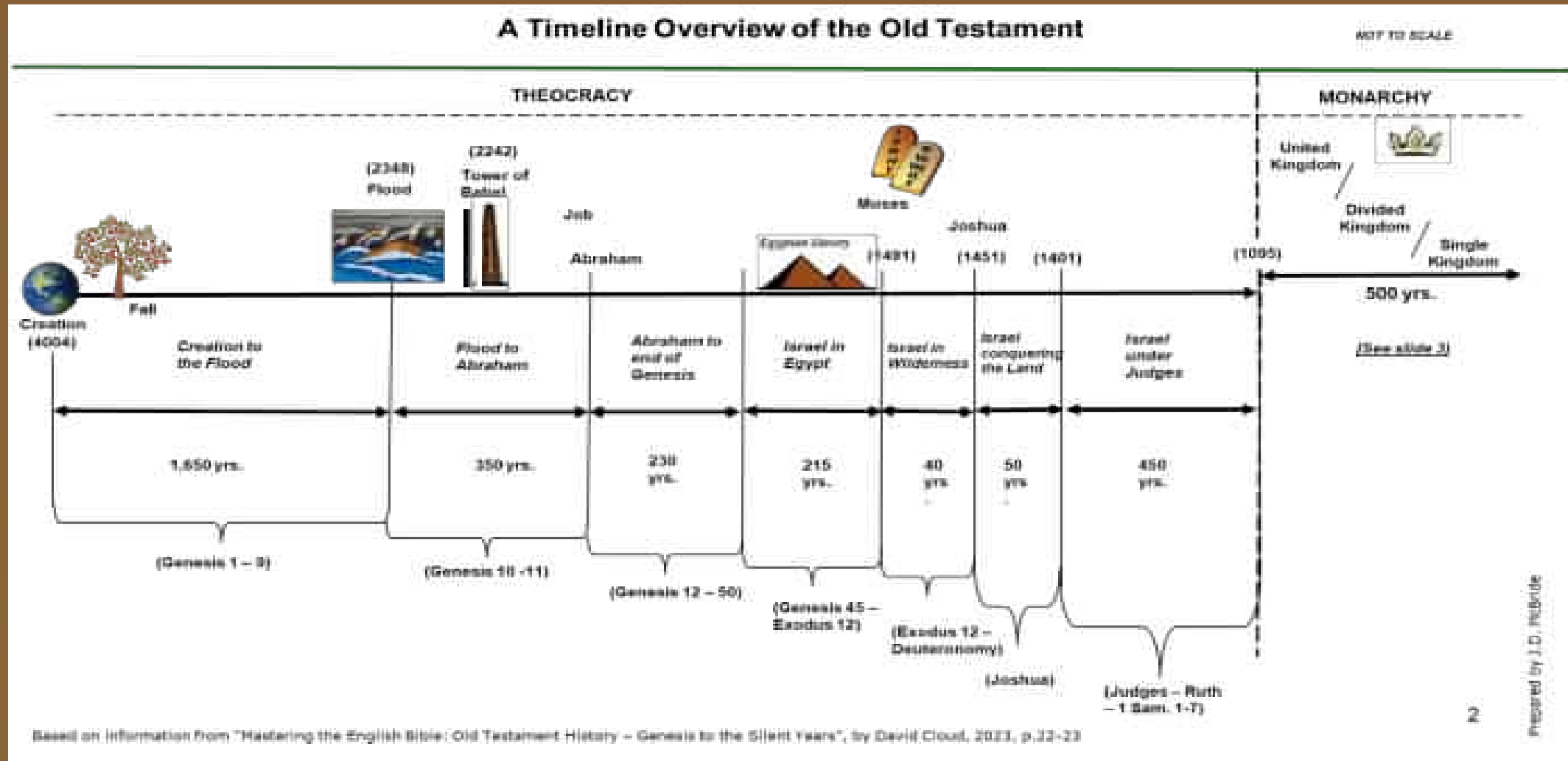
Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

II. A Bird's Eye-View of the Old Testament



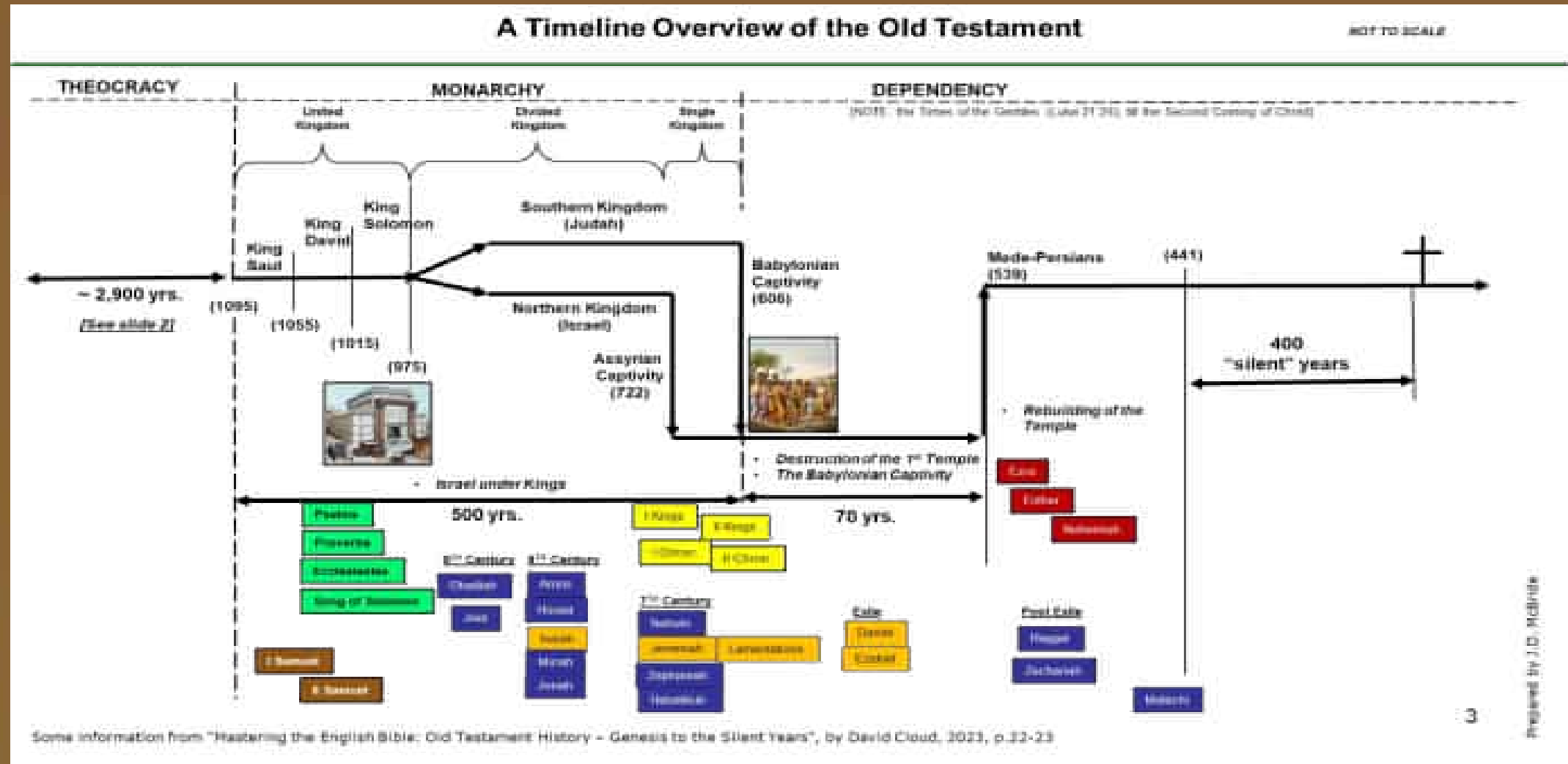
Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

II. A Bird's Eye-View of the Old Testament (continued)



Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

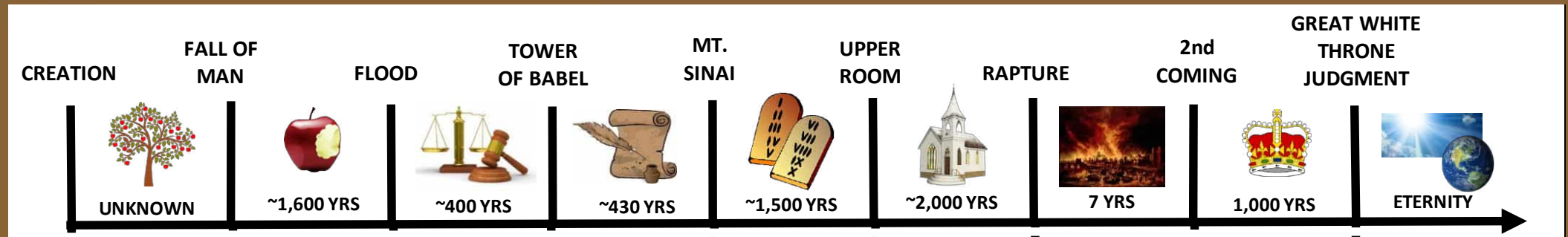
II. A Bird's Eye-View of the Old Testament (continued)



Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible

“Dispensationalism refers to the facts that Bible history can be divided into distinct periods of time during which God works out His purposes.



Dispensationalism is based on a literal interpretation of the Bible and a clear distinction between Israel and the Church.””

“Study the Bible Dispensationally”, David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible

“DISPENSATION”

Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

“TIME”

Eph 1:10 ...fulness of times...

“AGE”

Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

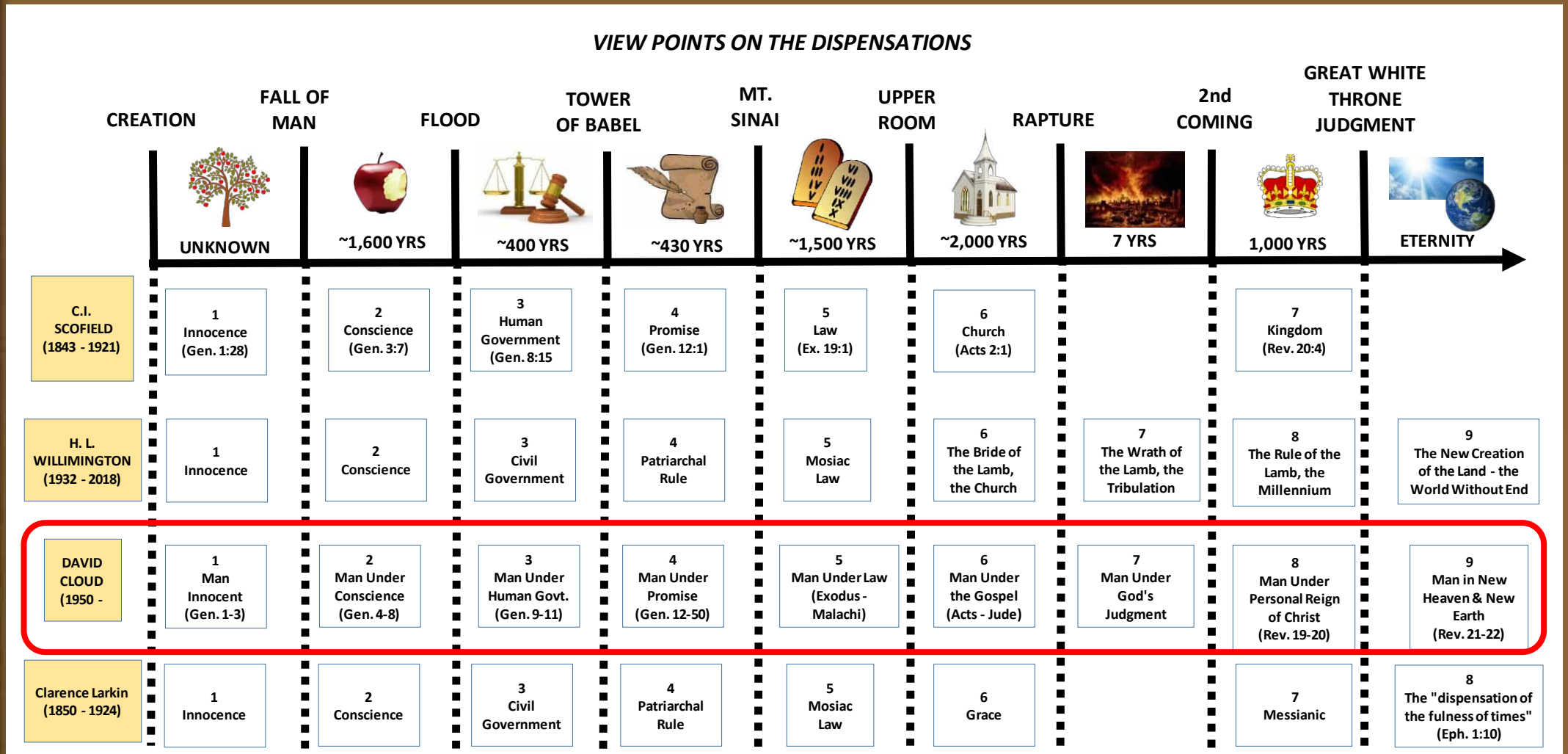
“DAY”

2Co 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

“Study the Bible Dispensationally”, David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

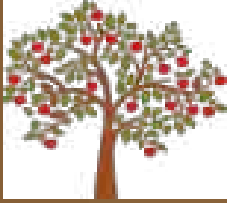
Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



1. Man Innocent:

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1-3).

This age extended from the creation of Adam to the expulsion from Eden. Adam and Eve were created sinless and innocent and they were given only one commandment, not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When they sinned, that age of innocence ended. We do not know how long Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden before they sinned, but we do know that they had no children until after the Fall.

“Study the Bible Dispensationally”, David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



2. Man Under Conscience:

From Adam's Fall to the Flood (Genesis 4-8).

During this period, God left man to his own devices. There was no law, but there were prophets sent by God, such as Abel, Enoch, and Noah. The result was that man corrupted the earth and had to be destroyed in the flood, with only Noah and his family being saved to continue the human race. This period lasted roughly 1,600 years.

"Study the Bible Dispensationally", David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



3. Man Under Human Government:

From after the Flood to the Tower of Babel (Genesis 9-11).

After the flood, God gave Noah and his children new commandments. He told them to replenish the earth (Gen. 9:1). He gave them the flesh of animals for food (Gen. 9:3-4). He commanded them to put murderers to death (Gen. 9:5-6). He established his covenant that He would never again destroy the world with water (Gen. 9:8-17). Instead of going to the ends of the earth, though, and replenishing it, the grandsons of Noah united together and attempted to exalt themselves against God at the Tower of Babel. This period lasted roughly 400 years.

“Study the Bible Dispensationally”, David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



4. Man Under Promise:

From Abraham to the Giving of the Law (Genesis 12-50).

During this period, God was building the nation of Israel in preparation for the giving of the law. He raised up Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, then the 12 sons of Jacob, and he carried them down into Egypt. This period lasted roughly 430 years.

“Study the Bible Dispensationally”, David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



5. Man Under Law:

From Moses to the Coming of Christ (Exodus to the end of the Old Testament).

During this period, God put Israel under the Mosaic Law to prepare for the coming of Christ. The law does this in two ways: (1) It shows man his sinful condition and his need of salvation. (2) It foreshadows Christ by many types. It is important to understand that men were never saved by keeping the law. Salvation has always been by grace through faith in God's Word (Romans 4:1-8). The law was given to reveal sin not to save men from sin. This period lasted roughly 1,500 years.

"Study the Bible Dispensationally", David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



6. Man Under the Gospel:

From Christ to the end of the Church Age (Acts to Jude).

The church age actually began during the earthly ministry of Christ; at least the foundation was being laid during those years; but for the purposes of this study, we can simplify things and begin it with the book of Acts. During this period, God is calling out a special body of people from among all nations of the earth. So far this period has lasted almost 2,000 years.

“Study the Bible Dispensationally”, David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



7. Man Under God's Judgment:

The Great Tribulation (Revelation 3-18)

During this period, God will prepare Israel and the world for the return of Christ. (1) Through judgments upon sinful men. (2) Through judgments upon Israel which will cause her finally to awaken from her spiritual blindness and to turn to Christ. This period will last seven years.

"Study the Bible Dispensationally", David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



8. Man Under the Personal Reign of Christ:

The Millennium (Revelation 19-20)

The second coming and millennial reign of Christ (Rev. 19-20). During this period, God will establish a kingdom on earth and the nations will be ruled with a rod of iron. This period will last 1,000 years.

“Study the Bible Dispensationally”, David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

III. Dispensational Views of the Bible



9. Man in the New Heaven and New Earth (Rev. 21-22).

From this point on, God will continue to work out His plans from age to age throughout eternity, but the Bible does not reveal any further details.

The Greek phrase translated “forever and ever” is *eis tous aionas ton aionon*, which means “into the ages of the ages” (1 Pet. 4:11; Rev. 11:15; 20:10; 22:5).

“Study the Bible Dispensationally”, David Cloud, February 12, 2019, article on www.wayoflife.org

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)

CONCLUSION

“Redemption becomes the unifying theme of all the Scriptures. From beginning to end, the 66 Books have a scarlet cord of salvation running through them, tying them together.

As a unit and a whole, each of them reveal God’s purpose: to reconcile, through Christ, the fallen and rebellious human family. All the Bible’s details – history, literature, law, grace, prophecy – support this theme.”

“Scanning the Plan: Old Testament Volume I”, Kenneth F. McKinley, 1965, p.5

Introducing the Old Testament Story (continued)