

The Epic Bible Story: Salvation in Jesus Christ





The Chiastic Structure of Salvation History in the Bible

- Creation (Genesis 1+2)
 - Cosmic Rebellion (Genesis 3-11)
 - Abraham' Seed: Israel (Genesis 12- Malachi)
 - Jesus Christ: Messiah, Son of God
 - Abraham's Seed: The Church (Acts 1- Revelation 6)
 - Cosmic Rebellion 2 (Revelation 6-20)
- Re- Creation (Revelation 21-22)

Creation

- Man has communion with God
- Man lives in a paradise
- Man has access to the tree of life



Creation

Psalms 89: 5-16

- 6- No one in the skies or any of the heavenly beings compares to the Lord
- 7- YHWH is feared in the council of the holy ones and awesome above all
- 8- YHWH is almighty
- 11-12- the YHWH created everything
- 14- Justice and righteousness are established by YHWH.



Creation

Genesis 1-2: Stars

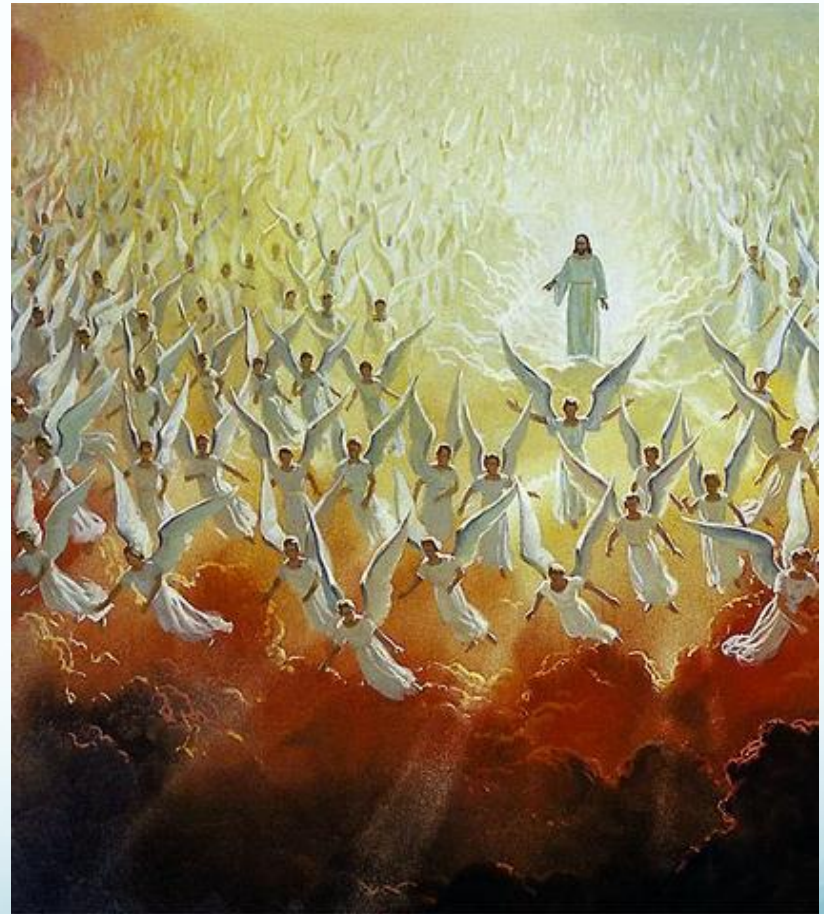
- In the OT, the terms ‘stars’ and ‘hosts (or armies) of heaven’ were virtually interchangeable.
- Ps 147:4, YHWH “counts the number of the stars He gives to all of them their names.”
- Isaiah 40:26, the term ‘hosts’ is used interchangeably for the stars.



Creation:

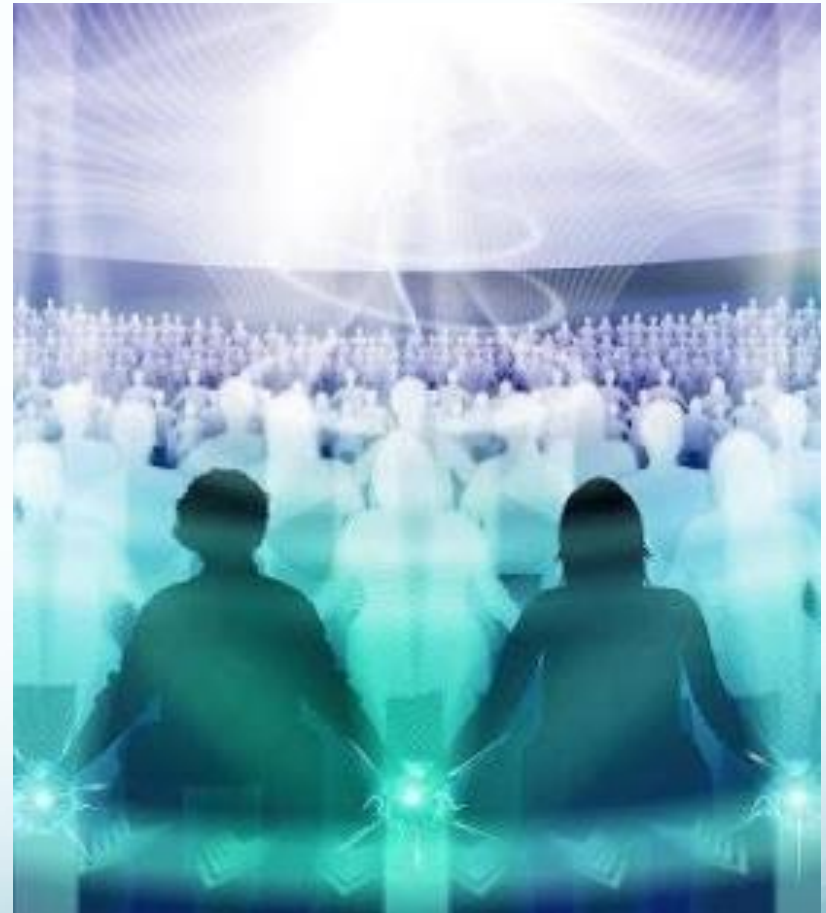
Genesis 1-2: Angels

- YHWH is sometimes presented as a divine warrior, who arrays the ranks of the heavenly armies (or hosts) before him.
- Judges 5: 20 shows that the stars can be seen as YHWH's army in the Song of Deborah.



Creation: The Divine Council

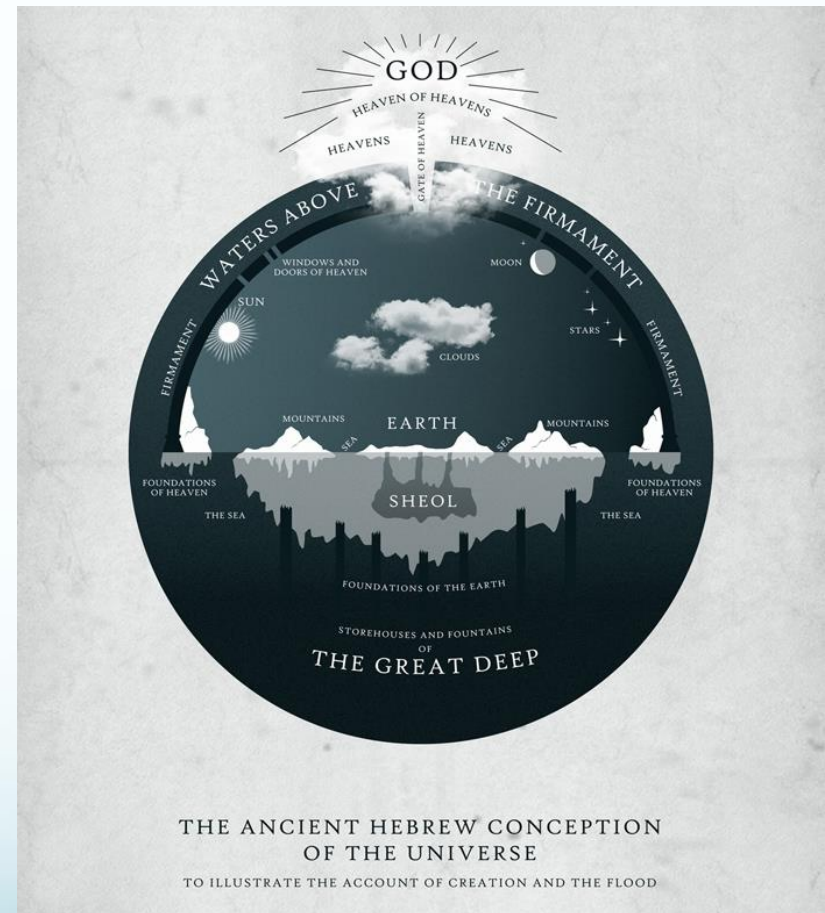
- Genesis 1:14-19 YHWH and His council prescribe the dominion of the heavens to the sun, moon and the stars. In Gen 1:26, YHWH and His angelic council prescribe the dominion of man as “the whole earth.”
- Job 38:7 explains that the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy at the creation of the world.
- YHWH calls together His angelic court in Job 1-2 and also in 1 Kings 22 and reveals His control over rulers and history



Creation:

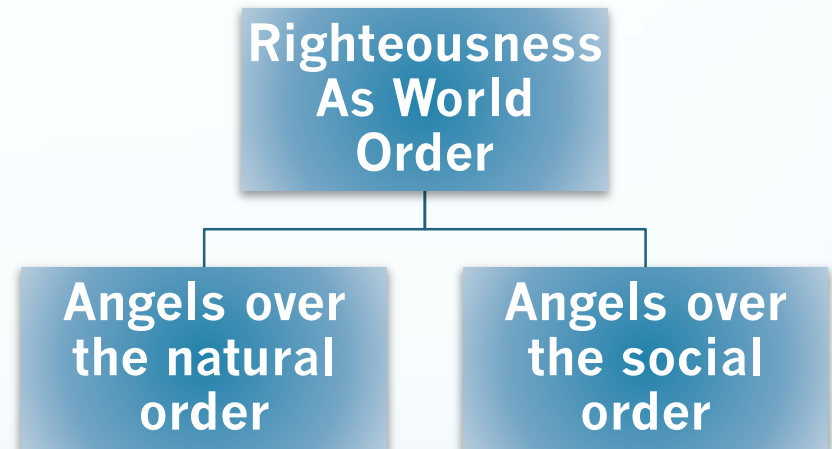
Genesis 1-2: YHWH's Temple

- The cosmic temple has three domains, each with their corresponding hosts.
- 1. The heavens above are inhabited the sun, moon, and stars.
- 2. The seas below (also a part of “the heavens,” i.e. waters above, waters below) inhabited by the sea monsters.
- 3. The greatest of these is the earth, which is the center. This is the domain of man, the “image of God.”



Creation: The Created Order

- YHWH created everything to reflect His justice and righteousness.
- YHWH gave dominion to the angels to govern different aspects of the created order to the angels. They were supposed to govern with justice and righteousness.
- YHWH made man a little lower than the angels (Psalms 8:4-8).
- YHWH made the earth for the man, because man was made after the image of YHWH.



The Transition from Creation to Rebellion

Creation (Genesis 1-2)

- A. Creation Order**
 - Man (Adam)
 - Woman (named by Adam)
 - Animals (named by Adam)
- B. Man has communion with God**
- C. Man lives in a paradise**
- D. Man has access to the tree of life**

The Fall of Creation (Genesis 3)

- A. The Fall is a reversal of the creation order**
 - Animal (the serpent)
 - Woman (Renamed Eve)
 - Man (Adam)
- B. Man is separated from God**
- C. Man is removed from paradise**
- D. Death enters the world**

God's Righteousness is Achieved by

Acts of Salvation

- YHWH sacrifices for them
- YHWH clothes them
- There is a prophecy about Christ to destroy the serpent (Genesis 3:15, the **protoevangelium**).
- YHWH removes them from the garden so that they will not eat of the tree of life in their sinful state

Acts of Wrath

- The serpent is now more cursed than any animal and loses his legs. It must now crawl on his belly.
- The woman gives child birth in great pain and her marriage relationship is difficult struggle of leadership.
- The man must now toil and sweat to produce food by tilling the soil.

The Cosmic Rebellion

Genesis 3-11



**The Serpent
And the Fall
of Creation**

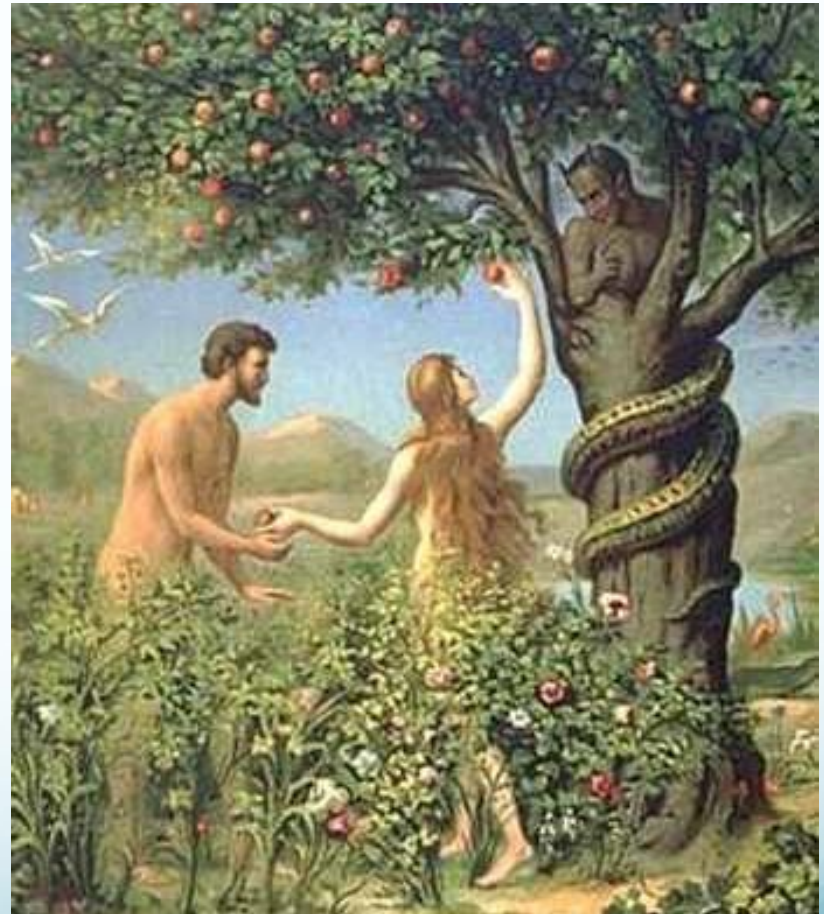
**The Angels
And the
Flood**

**Nimrod and
the Tower of
Babel**

Cosmic Rebellion: Part I

The Serpent

- Genesis 3:1-14, this is an attack on the image of God from below. The serpent is a sea creature that left his proper domain, the sea. The serpent enters the domain of man, where the image of God dwells. The serpent begins his attack through the woman. The serpent's action results in man's expulsion from the garden.



Cosmic Rebellion: Part II

The Angels

- Genesis 6:1-4, this is an attack on the image of God from above. The angels left their proper domain, the heavens.
- They entered the domain of man. The angels attacked through marrying women. Their offspring were giants (the men of renown or of name) Their actions result in the flood.
- These angels are bound in everlasting chains of darkness (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6-7).



Cosmic Rebellion: Part III

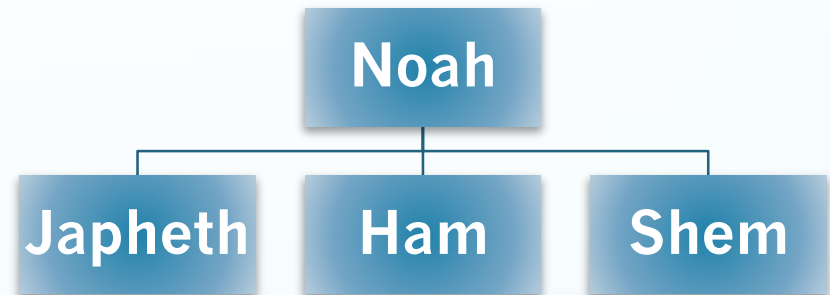
Nimrod the Hunter

- The account of the tower of Babel in Gen 11:1-9 marks the last of three great cosmic rebellions of Genesis 1-11.
- This cosmic rebellion is the gravest of them all, because it corresponds to the greatest domain at the center of God's cosmic order.
- This domain is the earth and it's host: man, the image of God (Gen 1:26).



Cosmic Rebellion: Genesis 10 (The Nations)

- In Genesis 10 there is a genealogy of Noah and his sons. Each son's descendants become nations.
- Japheth, Ham and Shem's descendants have their own clans, languages, lands and nations.
- Paul explains that YHWH did this so that men might seek Him (Acts 17: 25-27).



Cosmic Rebellion

Deuteronomy 32: 8-9: Cosmo- Political Order

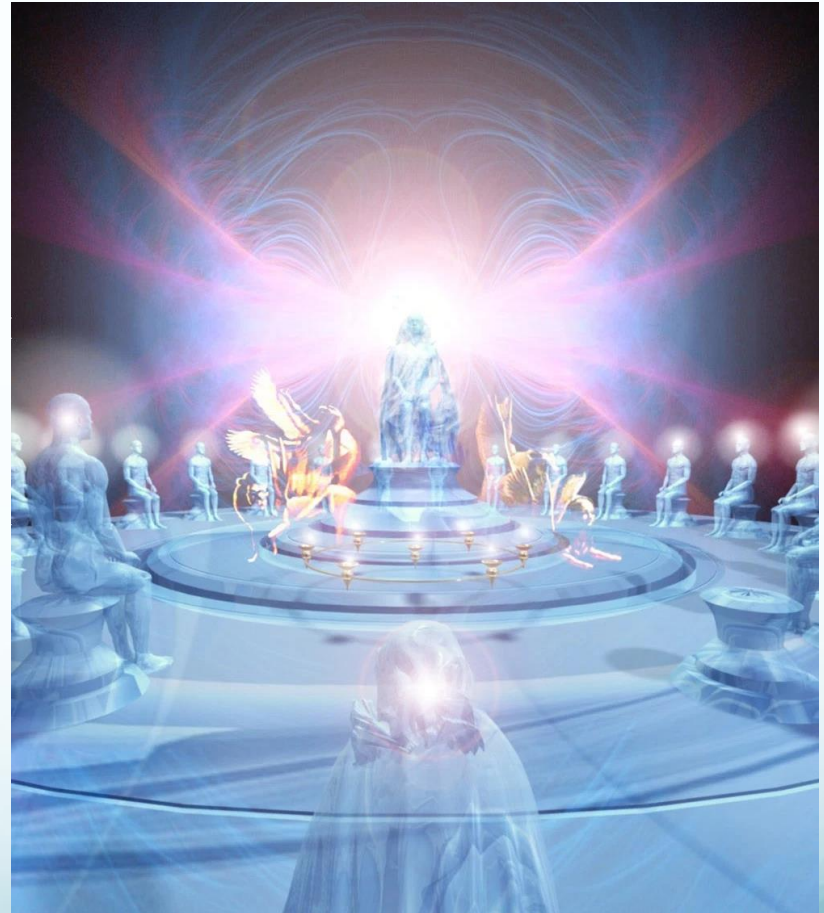
- Deuteronomy 32: 8, YHWH “separates” the “sons of Adam” according to the number of the sons of God
- Gen 10: 32 explains that after the tower of Babel came the list of the seventy nations.
- These nations separated on the earth after YHWH confused their language.



Cosmic Rebellion

Psalm 82: Cosmo- Political Order

- Here is a heavenly trial scene where YHWH takes His place in the midst of the divine council.
- These angels hold dominion over nations/peoples and have ruled unjustly, neglecting their people, and as a result YHWH's intended order is in disarray.
- YHWH then passes judgment over the celestial council. YHWH will evict them from their positions at a time of His choosing.



Transition from Rebellion to Abraham and His Seed

Nimrod The Hunter (Genesis 11:1-9)

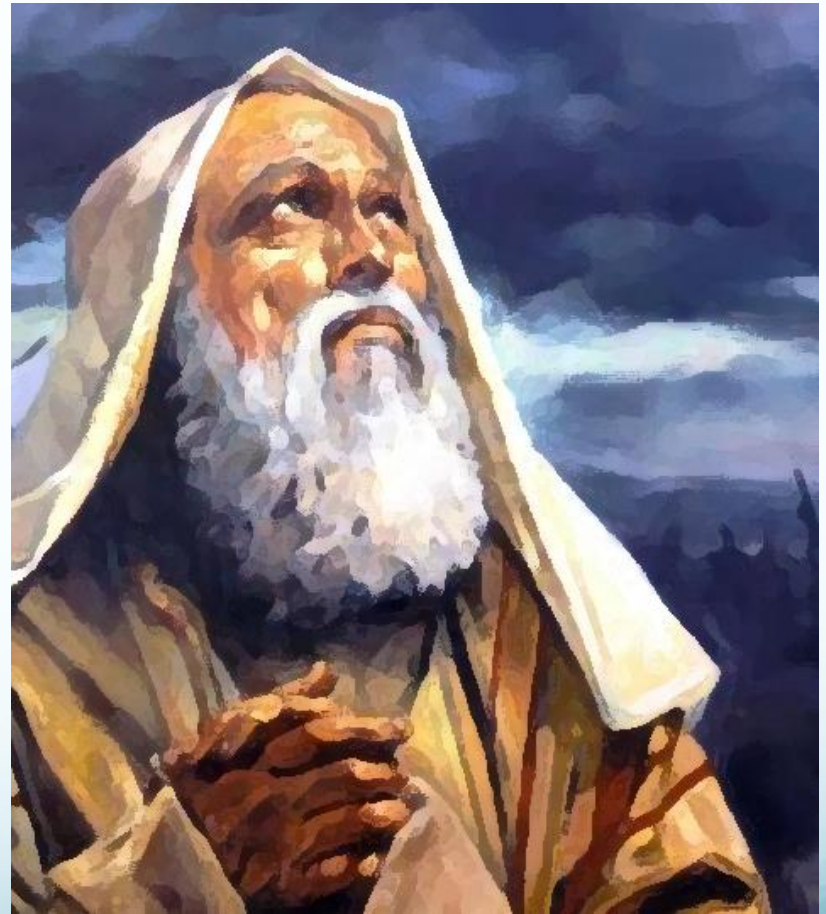
- A.** Nimrod said to men, “Let us make a name for ourselves” (11: 4).
- B.** Nimrod defied YHWH’s command to “go and fill the whole earth.” Instead he commanded everyone to stay together
- C.** The people are scattered and allotted to the angels

Abraham (Genesis 12-)

- A.** YHWH said to Abraham, “I will make you a great name.”
- B.** Abraham obeyed YHWH’s call leave everything and to go to a place that “I will cause you to see.”
- C.** Abraham and his seed are allotted to YHWH as his inheritance.

Abraham's Seed: Israel

- YHWH intends to restore the cosmic order through the seed of Abram. His descendants are no longer under the dominion of the “sons of God.”
- Genesis 12: 1-7, YHWH tells Abram to leave everything and go to a promised land. He will become the father of many nations.
- This is to fulfill his prophecy about Christ in Genesis 3: 15. This is an **Act of Salvation.**



Abraham's Seed: Israel

- Genesis 15:5 promises that Abraham's seed will be like the stars. This includes both quantity and quality.
- Genesis 22:16-18 the promise continues through Isaac.
- Jacob has 12 sons representing the 12 quadrants of the heavens.
- Genesis 37:5-11, Joseph's dream about his celestial family relates to the promise in Genesis 15:5.



Abraham's Seed: Israel

Divine Council Meetings

The Cosmic Mountain

- Psalms 82 mirrors ideas found in the ancient near east. They believed that the divine council met on a cosmic mountain.
- YHWH meets with angelic powers over the 70 nations.
- Genesis 10:19 is a table of 70 nations. The angels are allotted to each of these nations.

Mount Sinai

- Exodus 24: 1-11 occurs after the defeat of Egypt. It is the middle of the Pentateuch.
- YHWH meets with Moses Aaron, Nadab and Abihu with the 70 elders of Israel.
- The 70 elders function like the stars of the angelic council.

Creation

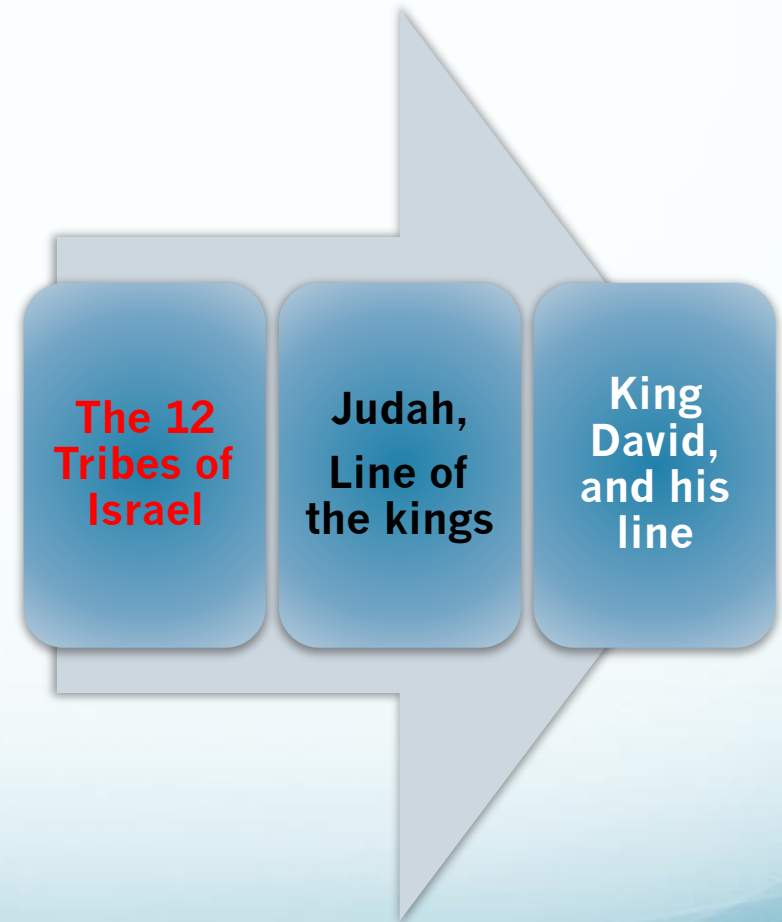
Deuteronomy 4:19-20, The Angelic Court

- The “hosts of heaven” have been “allotted” or “assigned to” all the nations under heaven. This “allotment” expresses the celestial bodies’ dominion over their respective nations.
- Israel was “allotted” to YHWH as his inheritance when He took them out of Egypt.



Abraham's Seed: Israel

- Numbers 24:17 is a prophecy of Balaam that a star will come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.
- Judah is the tribe of the kings. David is YHWH's choice for king. He rules Israel from Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah 33:19-22 repeats the promise in Gen 15:5. This time it refers to David's seed.



Transition from Abraham's Seed to Jesus Christ

I-II Chronicles

Last book in Hebrew Bible

- A.** Begins with a genealogy
- B.** Tells the stories of the kings of Israel
- C.** Ends with a commission for the Hebrews to return to Jerusalem
- D.** The commission was given by King Cyrus of Persia, who was prophesied (Isaiah 45)

Matthew

First book in the NT

- A.** Begins with a genealogy
- B.** Tells the story of the King of Israel
- C.** Ends with a Great Commission to reach the whole world
- D.** The Great Commission was given by King Jesus who was prophesied about throughout the OT.

Jesus Christ: Matthew

The Order of Melchizedek

Son of David (King)

- Genealogy from Abraham to Joseph (Matthew 1:1-17)
- From the tribe of Judah
- Of the line of King David
- Came preaching the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 4:23 -25)
- Called “King of the Jews” at the crucifixion (Matthew 27: 37)

Second Moses (Priest)

- Called out of Egypt (Matthew 2: 13-15)
- There are five great discourses (as in the five books of the Pentateuch)
- In the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7) Jesus goes up the mountain. He gives sermon with 10 commandments. He then comes down the mountain (Chapter 8:1).
- Fulfills Deuteronomy 18:15.

Jesus Christ In the Gospels

Mark

- Mark was the writer for Peter. He was not an eye-witness of Jesus, nor a disciple.
- Mark presents and defends Jesus' universal call to discipleship.
- Mark tells of Jesus' coming to bring salvation, as well as triumphing over sin and Satan.

John

- Jesus is the promised Messiah (Greek- Christ) and Son of God.
- By believing in Jesus, people can have eternal life (John 20: 30-31).
- Jesus is the new temple and center of worship for God's people.

Jesus Christ:

The Birth of Jesus

- Numbers 24:17 is a prophecy of Balaam about a star coming out of Jacob and a scepter out of Israel.
- Matthew 2:2 wise men from the east saw the star and came to worship the king.
- Matthew 2:9 the star rested over where the child was.
- Luke 2:9 an angel of the Lord appears.
- Luke 2:13 a multitude of the heavenly host praises God.



Transition from Jesus Christ to the Church

Luke

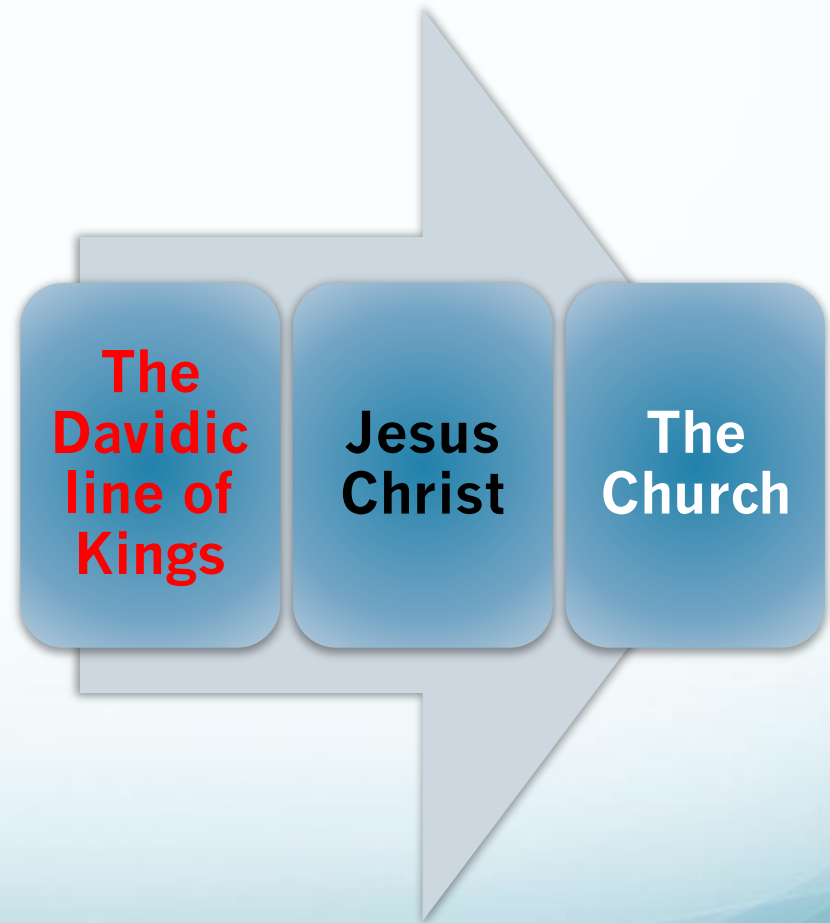
- Written by Luke to Theophilus
- Luke tells the story of Jesus Christ from his birth to the resurrection
- Luke explains how Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles entrance into the kingdom of God are in accord with the divine plan,
- He also explains what Jesus taught about the end times

Acts

- Written by Luke to Theophilus.
- Acts is written as a selective history of the early church following the resurrection of Christ.
- Acts tells how Jesus Christ leaves in a cloud.
- Acts introduces the Apostle Paul.

Abraham's Seed: The Church

- Romans 4:11-12 relates YHWH's promise to Abraham for all who have faith in Jesus Christ.
- Romans 11:11 explains that Gentiles are grafted into the tree of Abraham's seed.
- Ephesians 3:1-6 Gentiles are fellow heirs through Christ
- Galatians 3:6-9, 26-29 those who belong to Christ are descendants of Abraham.
- Galatians 4:28-31 says that like Isaac, we are Abraham's children of promise



Abraham's Seed: The Church

The Kingdom: Already

- The local church is an embassy of the kingdom of God to the community in which it is located
- Believers are ambassadors for Christ
- It is the job of every believer to share the good news of the kingdom with those who do not know Christ.

The Kingdom: Not Yet

- A worldwide kingdom
- The capital city is Jerusalem
- It will last 1000 years
- The nations will be at peace
- It will be ruled with perfect justice and righteousness

Transition from the Church to Cosmic Rebellion

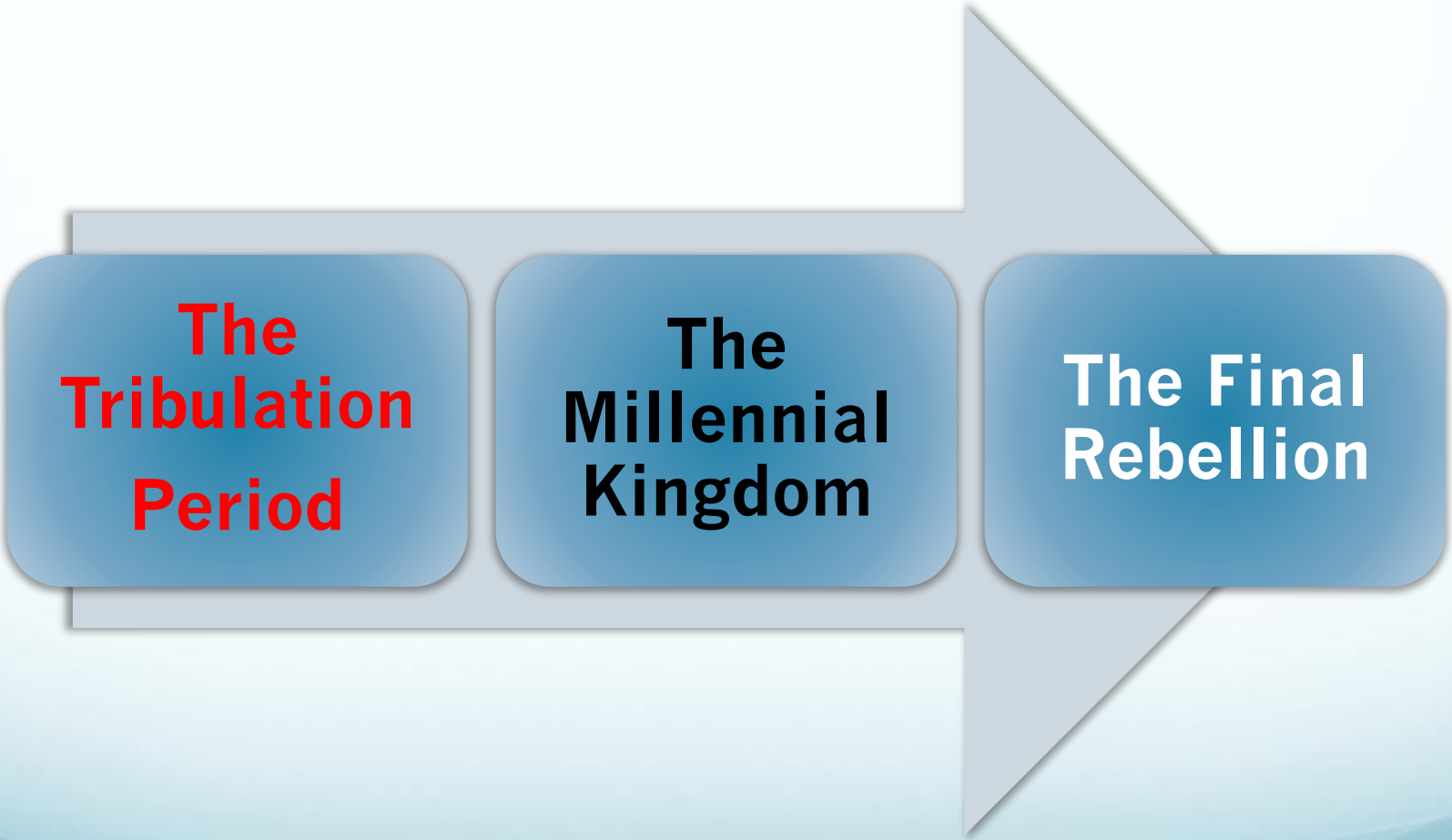
The Church

- Many believers are martyred by the Anti-Christ with the breaking of the fifth seal (Revelation 6: 9-11).
- The sixth seal is broken and the sign of the Son of Man is in the sky (Rev 6:12- 17).
- The Church is raptured out of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7: 9-17).

Israel

- The Anti Christ commits the Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 12:11) and attacks Israel.
- The sixth seal is broken and then the 144,000 are sealed with the mark of God (Revelation 7: 1- 8).
- The 144,000 meet with the Lamb on Mount Zion (Rev 14:1-5).
- Daniel 12: 2-3 shows that in a time of great tribulation, the faithful of Israel will be like the stars.

Cosmic Rebellion 2: Revelations 6-20



**The
Tribulation
Period**

**The
Millennial
Kingdom**

**The Final
Rebellion**

Cosmic Rebellion 2: The Gang of Three

The First Rebellion

- A. **The Serpent** (Genesis 3:1) deceives man through the woman. This results in the “Fall of creation.”
- B. **The Angels, or sons of God**, took the daughters of men as wives (Genesis 6: 2). This results in the flood.
- C. **Nimrod the Hunter** leads mankind into rebellion against YHWH, in the land of Shinar (Genesis 10: 9- 11; 11: 1-9). This results in confusion of language and the scattering of men into nations.

The Second Rebellion

- A. **The Dragon** (the serpent of old, Revelation 12: 9) fights with the archangel Michael and is thrown out of heaven to the earth. The Dragon then attacks the woman and her offspring.
- B. **The Angels** are thrown down to earth (Revelation 12: 4- 9).
- C. **The Anti- Christ** is, the “Man of Sin” (2 Thess. 3: 3-12), and the Beast (Revelation 2: 2; 13:1-10). He leads the nations to rebel against YHWH.

Cosmic Rebellion 2:

The Beast the False Prophet and the Harlot

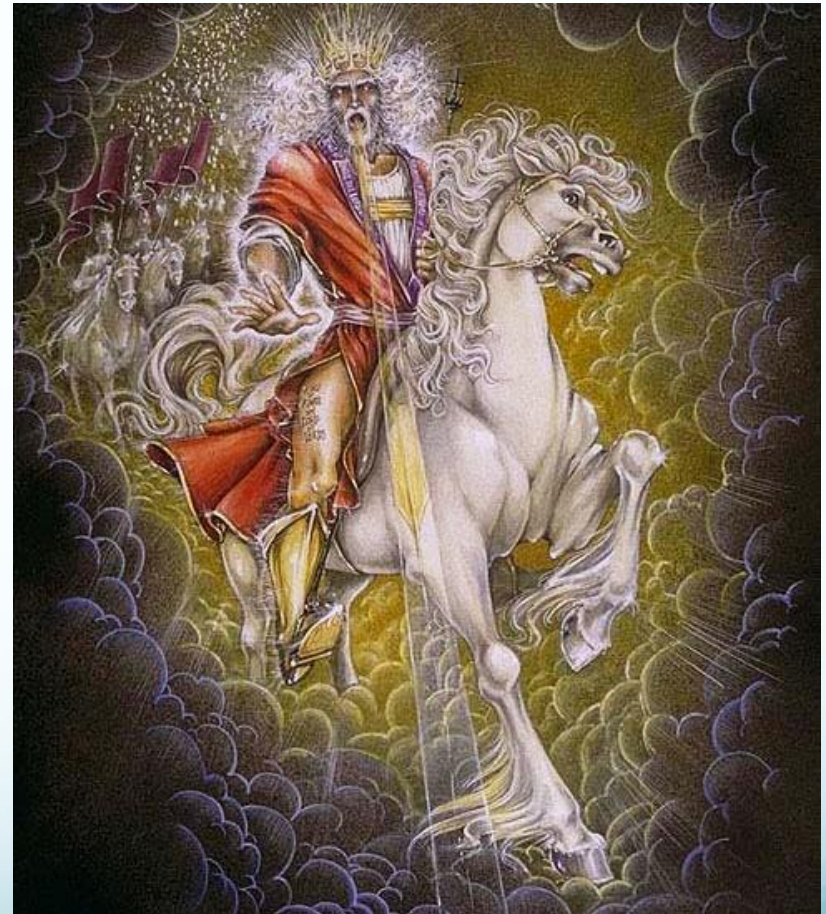
- Revelation 13: 1-10, the Beast receives his power from the Dragon. He blasphemes YHWH and rules on earth for 42 months.
- Revelation 13: 11-18, the False Prophet makes the inhabitants of the earth worship the Beast.
- Revelation 17: 1-18 , the Harlot is a false religious system that is destroyed by the Beast.
- Revelation 19: 20, the Beast and the False Prophet were cast alive into the lake of fire.



Cosmic Rebellion 2:

The Return of Christ

- Psalm 82:8 is a plea for the rule of YHWH, “Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!”
- Revelation 11:15, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”
- Revelation 19:11-21 The victorious return of Jesus Christ



Cosmic Rebellion 2: The Millennial Reign

- Revelation 20: 4-6
- Jesus Christ rules the whole world from Jerusalem.
- The nations are no longer deceived
- Christ rules 1000 years with perfect justice and righteousness
- Those who were martyred participate in the first resurrection



The Cosmic Rebellion 2:

The Final Rebellion

- Revelation 20: 1-3, the dragon is chained for 1000 years.
- Revelation 20: 7-10, the dragon is released.
- The dragon deceives the nations. They rebel against King Jesus. This shows that man is so sinful, that he will rebel no matter how perfect things are.
- The rebels surround Jerusalem and Jesus sends fire from heaven. The rebels are destroyed.
- Time comes to and end



Transition from the Cosmic Rebellion to the Re- Creation

Great White Throne of Judgment

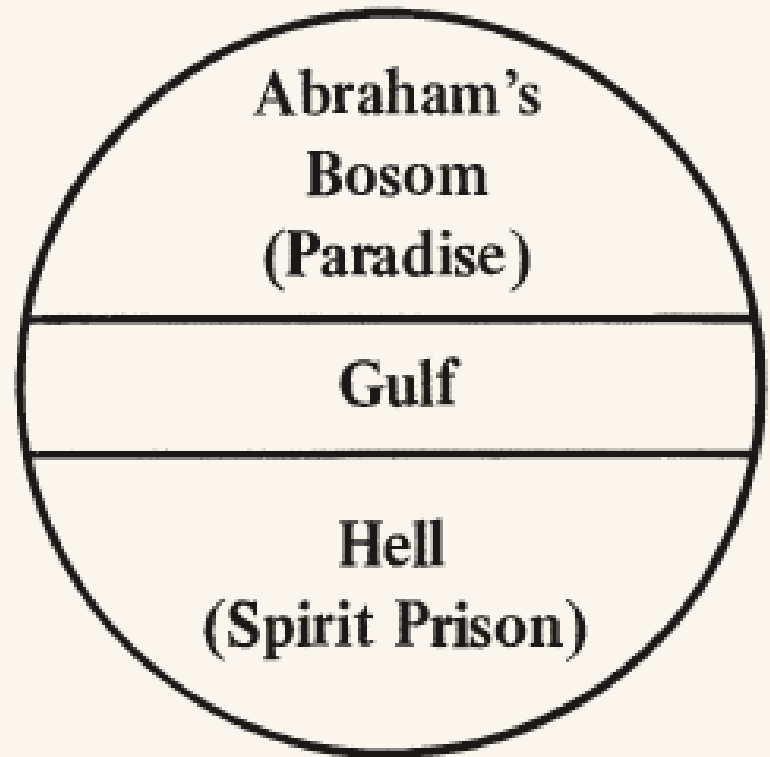
- Revelation 20: 11-15
- Romans 9: 21-22, unbelievers are resurrected as vessels of wrath for destruction
- Judgment for all unbelievers and all are found guilty and thrown into the lake of fire for eternity
- Death and Hell are also cast into the lake of fire.
- **This is God's righteousness achieved through His wrath**
- Time comes to an end and eternity begins

The Bema Seat of Judgment

- 2 Corinthians 5: 10, we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ
- Romans 9: 23, believers are resurrected as vessels of mercy.
- All are judged righteous because of the atoning work of Jesus Christ
- Believers go on to eternal life.
- **This is God's righteousness achieved through His salvation**
- Time comes to an end and eternity begins

Transition from the Cosmic Rebellion to the Re- Creation

- Jesus died and descended into Sheol to preach the Gospel to the captives in Paradise, as well as to the "spirits in prison/fallen angels (1 Peter 3:18-22).
- At His resurrection, Jesus led the faithful "held captive" by death/hades" out the Gates of Hell (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:8-10; Psalms 68:18)



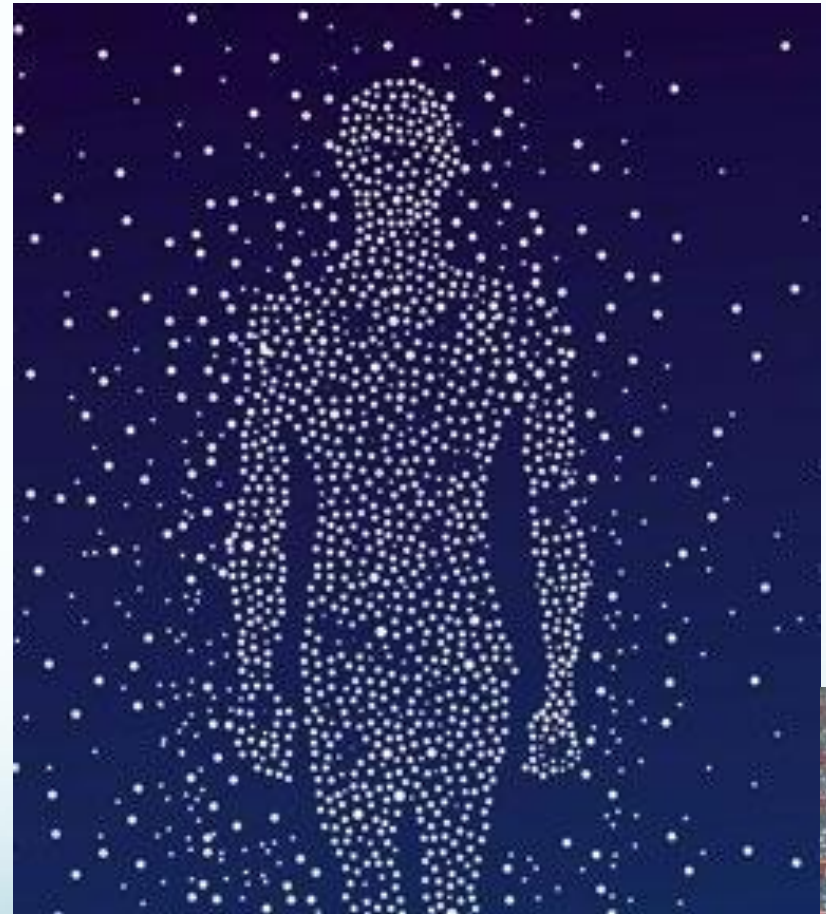
Re- Creation: The Condemned

- **Isaiah 66: 22-24.** The redeemed will be able to see the bodies of those who rebelled.
- **Believers Martyred during the Tribulation (Rev 6:9) will stand on the Sea of Glass.** They can do this because over these the "second death/lake of fire" has no power (Rev 20:4-6). This may be an image of victory. They will stand on the lake of fire above the all who are in torment below.
- **This is everlasting torment.** Mark 9 :43-48, Revelation 14:11; 20:14-15; 21:8.



Re- Creation: Resurrection Bodies

- God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 15: 5 is fulfilled.
- Psalms 8: 4-5 explains that man is a little lower than the angels.
- Daniel 12: 2-3, the wise will shine and be like the stars forever and ever.
- Matthew 22: 30 asserts that we will be like the angels
- The promise belongs to Christians as well as Jews (Romans 4:18-25)
- I Corinthians 15: 35-41 asserts that we will have celestial bodies.
- 1 John 3: 2 asserts that we will be like Christ.
- Romans 9: 23, YHWH does this to show the riches of His mercy.



Re- Creation:

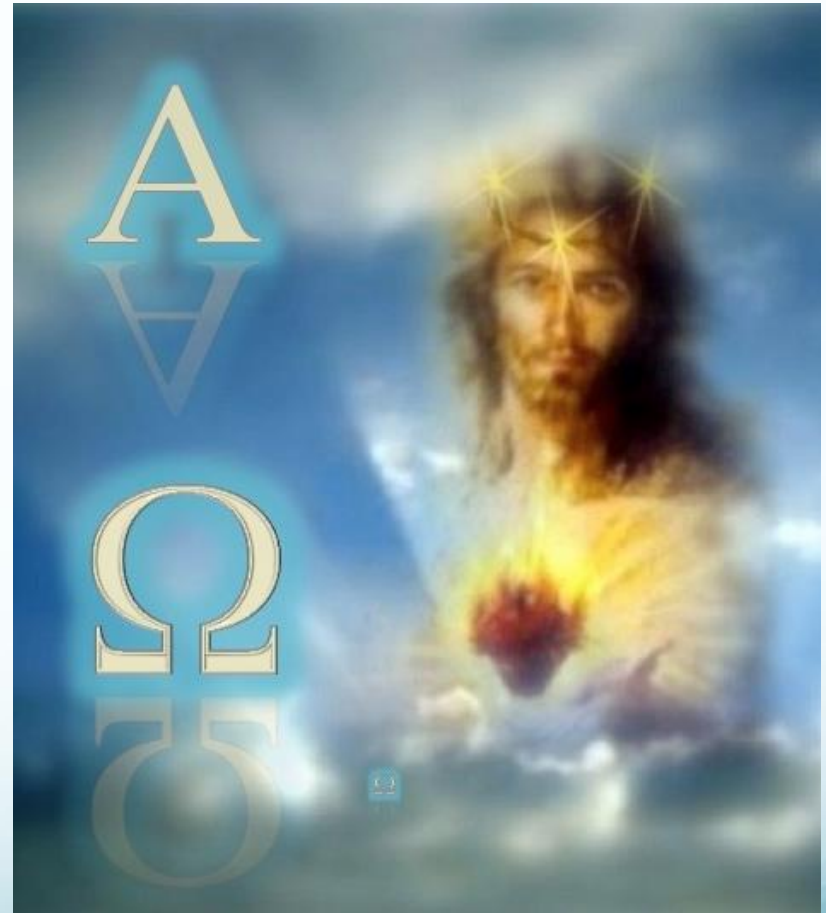
A New Heaven and Earth

- Revelation 21: There is a New Heaven and a New Earth. There is no sea (disorder).
- The New Jerusalem will be a cube that will come out of the heavens to the earth
- It will have streets of gold and twelve foundations, each made from a different gem stone
- It will have twelve gates that never close.



Re- Creation: A New Heaven and Earth

- Revelations 21- 22 mirrors Genesis 1-2.
 - Man is living in a paradise
 - Man has communion with God
 - Man has access to the tree of life
- Jesus, the Bright and Morning Star (Numbers 24: 17, Revelation 2:28) says “Come!”



The End

