

Kingdom Element	Kingdom of Man	Kingdom of God
Foundation	continuity of being; g/e mix	creation, fall
Goal	autonomous destiny by/for man	destiny in God's presence
Inauguration	enslavement to a new Babylon	liberty in God's kingdom
Ethics	man-derived ethics for life in a good/evil mix	God-given ethics for life in a to-be-redeemed world
Expansion	Increasing crusade of "redemption"	Progressive elimination of evil
Leadership	Pride and power	Humility and trusting obedience

Logical
Sequence



politics

ethics

epistemology

metaphysics

Pressure of Life



Yahweh or an idol?

Biblical View of Cultural Dynamics

- 1. Culture grows out of the dominion mandate of Genesis 1:26-28**
- 2. God “initializes” the naming in Gen. 1:5,8,10 and then hands off to Adam in 2:19 (cf. Prov 25:2).**
- 3. Means of cultural generation is “wisdom” (Proverbs)**
- 4. Cultural dynamics continue after the fall (Gen. 4:21-22 cf 2:12)**
- 5. Biblical culture enables deeper and broader praise of God as Creator (cf. Rev 4)**

“As a younger Christian, I never thought it right to use the word create for an artist’s work. I reserved it for God’s initial work alone. But I have come to realize that this was a mistake because, while there is indeed a difference, there is also a very important parallel. The artist conceives in his thought-world and then he brings forth into the external world. This is true of an artist painting a canvas, a musician composing a piece of music, an engineer designing a bridge, or a flower arranger making a flower arrangement. First there is the conception in the thought world and then a bringing forth into the external world.” Francis Schaeffer

“The workers would come, dig ditches for bridges for a month and then get so bored that they would leave. There was a tremendous turnover. So my [engineer] friend thought that as a Christian he ought to do something about it. . . .He traveled across Europe and photographed Roman bridges that had been built 2000 years ago and that still stand. He took the pictures back to the ditch diggers and said, ‘Look, here’s what you’re building, a bridge. And how long it will stand depends upon the way you dig the ditch. Your craftsmanship is involved. . . .As a result of these pictures, the ditchdiggers began to say to themselves, ‘We’re building bridges. And if we build them well, they’ll stand for 2,000 years. And they began to work better, and after a couple of months some of them moved up to the next higher level. . . .and the turnover was much, much less.’”—Udo Middlemann

1. Israel's cultural fruit: "writings"

2. The root of the fruit: wisdom

- **gave unity to all the details of life**
- **applied to all men—Israelite and pagan alike**
- **when followed gave providential blessing and when rejected providential gave cursing**
- **gave a framework for creativity**
- **spread throughout the world**

3. The rot in the fruit

“When the full scope of Hebrew Wisdom is taken into account, it becomes clear that the third section of the Bible, the Kethubim [“writings”] is not a miscellaneous collection, but, on the contrary, possesses an underlying unity, being the repository of Wisdom. . . .Both the composition and the rendition of the Psalms required a high degree of that technical skill which is Hokmah. . . .Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes, obviously belong in a Wisdom collection. . . .Lamentations is a product of Hokmah in its technical sense. . . .The book of Daniel, the wise interpreter of dreams, obviously is in place among the Wisdom books. . . .” – Robert Gordis

“The interest of the men who surrounded David and Solomon were not confined to politics. These men constituted the cultural elite of the nation, and the educational system by which they had been trained prepared its pupils not merely for a professional career but for the enjoyment of life in all its aspects, making no distinction between the ethical, social, political, and cultural, but regarding them all as comprised within the single notion of the ‘good’”-
-Whybray

- 1. Biblical wisdom gave unity to all the details of life**
- 2. Biblical wisdom applied to all men—Israelite and pagan alike**
- 3. Biblical wisdom when followed gave blessing and when rejected gave cursing**
- 4. Biblical wisdom gave a framework for creativity**
- 5. Biblical wisdom spread throughout the world**

“In a forthcoming book. . .I shall deal with the origins of the new ways of thinking which seem suddenly to appear among the Greeks in the early sixth century, B.C. I trace them back to a general intellectual movement which probably first appeared in Phoenicia, from which it spread more or less contemporaneously to Israel on the one hand and to the Aegean shores on the other, . . .The roots of this movement can be traced in the earlier literature of Israel. . . .We have in Qeheleth [Ecclesiastes] some of the raw material on which the earliest Greek philosophers built their metaphysical structures. . . .”

Albright

***“Man knows not what the morrow is like.
God is always in his success,
Whereas man is in his failure;
One thing are the words which men say,
Another is that which the god does.” -- Egyptian poet***

***“What is good for oneself, may be offensive to one’s
god,
What in one’s own heart seems despicable may be
proper to one’s god.
Who can know the will of the gods in heaven?
Who can understand the plans of the underworld gods?
Where have human beings learned the way of a god?” –
Mesopotamian poet***

Culture is the Outward manifestation of the Dominion Mandate exercised under the Lordship of the Creator-Savior-Judge (wisdom) or under demonical inspiration (foolishness).

- ***Strong Sanctification Produces Biblical Culture.***
- ***Biblical Culture Has A Unified View of Life.***
- ***Biblical Culture Points to Future Victory.***
- ***Biblical Culture Expresses Mature Adoration of God.***
- ***The Present Limits of Biblical Culture.***
- ***Biblical Culture Expresses Mature Adoration of God.***

King Example	Religious Root
Solomon	Prophetic Yahwehism (at the start of his reign)
Jeroboam I	Public mixture of Yahwehism & paganism
Ahab	Paganism

Element	Judah	Israel
Average reign	17.7	11.7
Dynasties	1	9
Transition	None except Josiah threat	Murder & Assassination common

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“The meaning of ‘Ethbaal’ [her father’s name] is apparently ‘with him Baal’. The idea the name intended to convey was that the person enjoyed the favor and protection of Baal. According to Josephus, Ethbaal was King of the Tyrians and Sidonians. . . .Menander, the Ephesian, stated that Ethbaal was a priest of Astarte, who came to the throne by murder of the usurper Phelles. The zealotry of Jezebel is perhaps understandable, if we remember that she was educated in the home of a priest of Baal. Her fanaticism can be attributed to her early environment and training.” – Leah Bronner

“In the first year everything stored in the houses was eaten up. In the second, the people supported themselves with what they could scrape together in the fields. The flesh of the clean animals sufficed for the third year; in the fourth the sufferers resorted to the unclean animals; in the fifth, to the reptiles and insects; and in the sixth the monstrous thing happened that women, crazed by hunger, consumed their own children as food. . . .In the seventh year, men sought to gnaw the flesh from their own bones.” Rabbinic tradition about famine of Elisha

“The Canaanites believed that Baal was the storm and fertility god, who bestowed upon man and land the blessings of fecundity. He sent forth lightning, fire, and rain. He gave corn, oil, and wine. He could revive the dead, heal the sick, and bestow the blessing of progeny. [Kings shows] through concrete examples and incidents that all the powers ascribed by Ugaritic mythology to Baal, are really attributes only of the God, the Lord of Israel.” – Leah

Bronner

Mt. Carmel geography



“Eminent domain is the claim to sovereignty by the state over all property within the state, and it is the assertion of the right to appropriate all or any part thereof to any public or state use deemed necessary by the state. . . . The eminent domain of the state was not recognized in Israel, as the incident of Naboth’s vineyard makes clear (I Kings 21), although it is prophesied as one of the consequences of apostasy from God the King (I Sam. 8:14). It is specifically forbidden in Ezekiel 46:18.” -- Rushdoony

“Not to let the impious alone for long, but to punish them immediately, is a sign of great kindness. For in the case of the other nations the Lord waits patiently to punish them until that have reached the full measure of their sins; but he does not deal in this way with us, in order that he might not take vengeance on us afterward when our sins have reached their height. Therefore, he never withdraws his mercy from us. Though he disciplines us with calamities, he does not forsake his own people” (II Macc. 6:13-16)

**“By falsities and lyes the greatest part
Of mankind they [fallen angels] corrupted to
forsake
God their Creator, and th’ invisible
Glory of him, that made them, to transform
Oft to the Image of a Brute, adorn’d
With gay Religions full of Pomp and Gold,
And Devils to adore for Deities:
Then were they known to men by various Names
And various Idols through the Heathen World.”**

Paradise Lost, John Milton, I, 367-375.

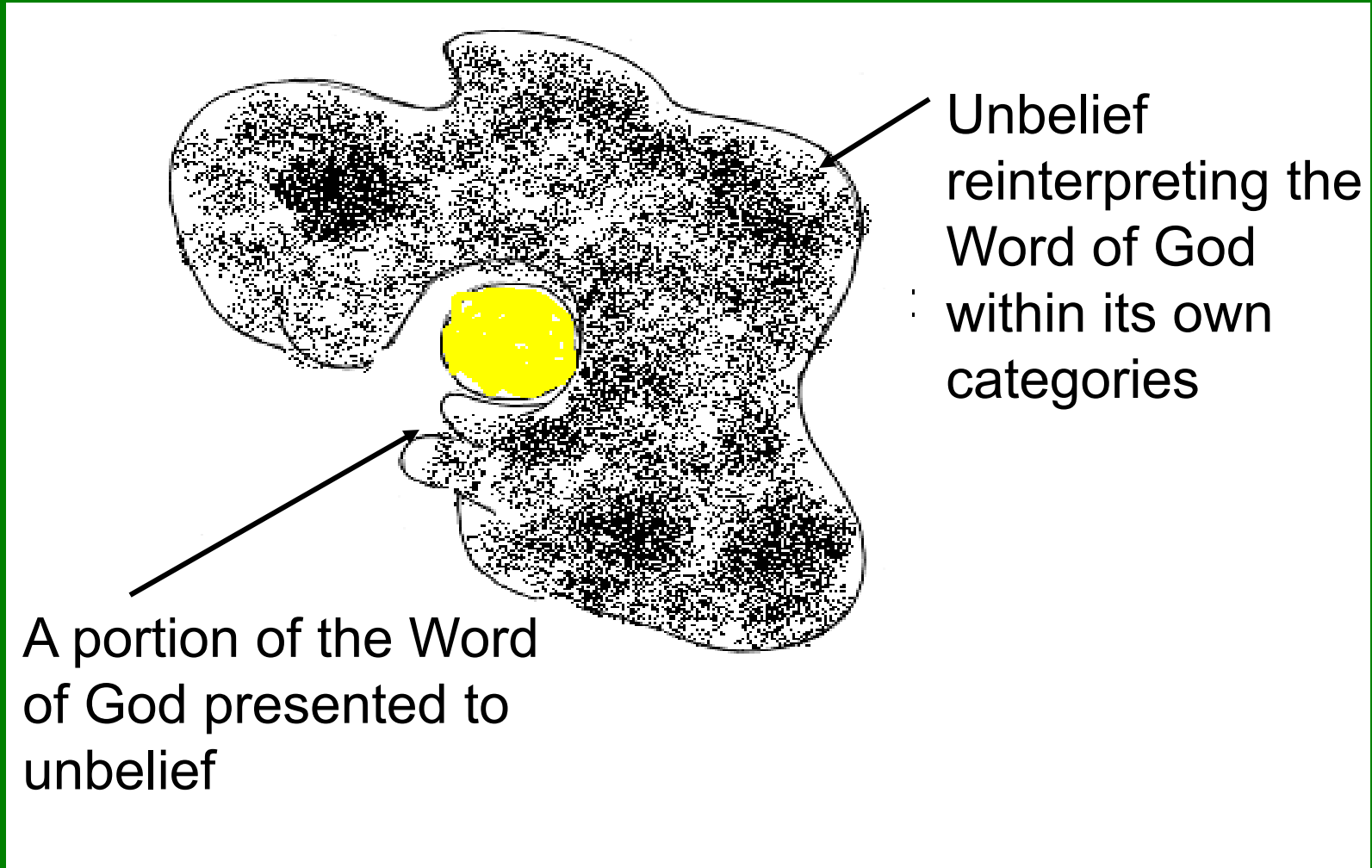
Abrahamic Covenant:
God's elective plan for
Israel—land, seed, wwb

**Failure by people
& leaders**

**Mosaic Covenant: Israel's
response in everyday living**

“The moral problem posed by the failure of the Mosaic Covenant will under the New Covenant be met by God’s own sovereign grace and power. . . .By these means the benefits of the Mosaic Covenant will be attained, and at the same time its moral requirements will be secured; not as a legal condition of blessing but as its divinely caused result. . . .The New Covenant, therefore, is in the gracious spirit of the earlier Abrahamic Covenant, rather than in the legalistic spirit of the Mosaic Covenant which it supplants. It is true that under the latter there was promised divine forgiveness in the case of Israel’s failure. But here it is deeply significant that when the sin has been confessed. . . , it is not on the basis of any surviving rights in the broken Covenant of Sinai but simply because Jehovah remembers His earlier ‘covenant with Jacob, . . .with Issac, and. . .with Abraham’ (Lev. 26:42).” -- McClain

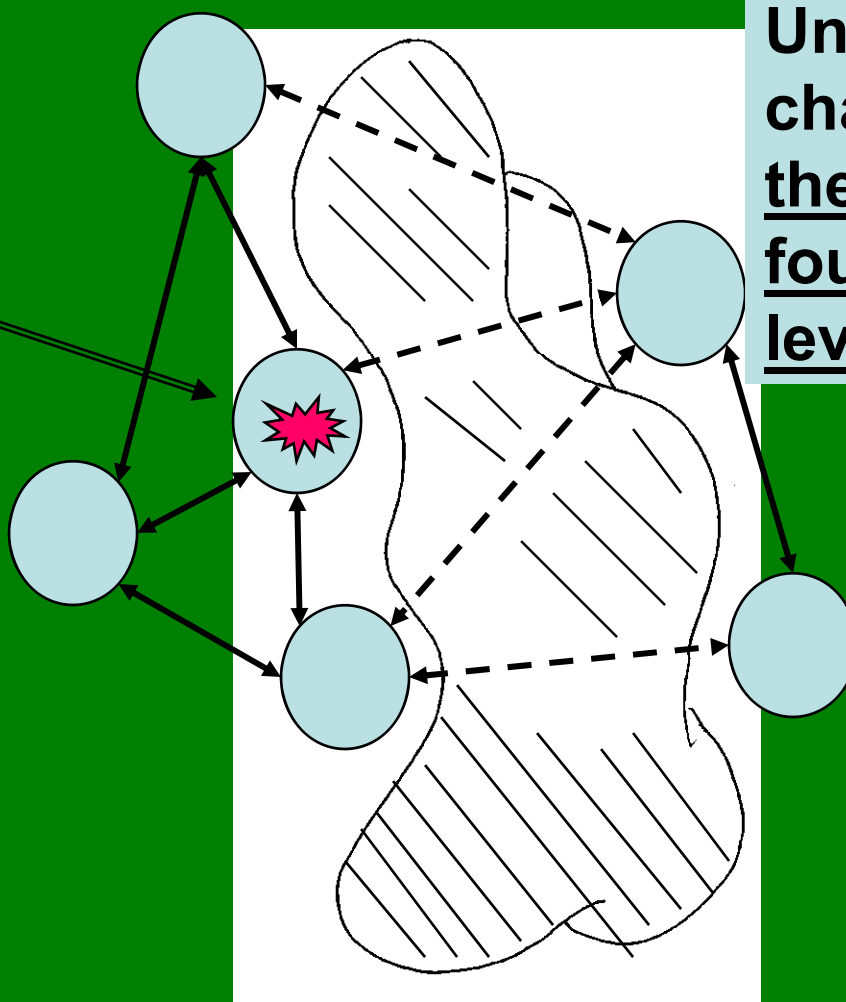
UNBELIEF SWALLOWING UP A BIT OF THE WORD OF GOD



“Unbelief controls my interpretation of the situation”

UNBELIEF FORCED INTO A CONTRAST IN MANY AREAS SIMULTANEOUSLY

A portion of the Word of God presented to unbelief as part of a network



Unbelief challenged at the foundational level

“The Word controls my interpretation of the situation”

