

# God's Plan To Restore Mankind

Lesson 5

# How It All Began

- God created the world we live in before He created us ...
  - God wanted man to help Him care for the beautiful world that He had created as the place for these special people to live. "And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over [watch over, or care for] the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" ([Genesis 1:28](#)) "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" ([Genesis 2:15](#) NIV).
- God created man for His glory and purpose.
  - God enjoyed creating a race of beings who are enough like Him that we have the capacities to give Him the pleasure of our company while we enjoy the pleasure of His company.
  - He gave us the capacity to love Him and to worship Him.
  - Jesus encouraged His disciples with this same truth when He said, "No longer do I call you servants ... but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" ([John 15:15](#))
- The conflict between Satan and God precedes the creation of man as evident by Satan's temptation of Eve.

# Original Sin

- God created paradise to commune with mankind.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, all of their off-springs inherited the capacity to sin. This is called Original Sin. The punishment for sin is eternal death, eternal separation from God.
- Original sin refers to the biblical fact that every person born of human parents inherits a sin nature which is essentially a built-in law of failures that makes it impossible for a person to please or serve God.
- Sometimes original sin is referred to as "total depravity," which does not mean that a person is as bad as he can be, but rather a person is as bad *off* as he can be. In other words, a person's inherited sin nature separates him from God and results in his being under God's judgment, rather than in good standing with God.
- Man cannot save himself by works, actions, sheer will, following false gods or denial of the existence of God or Jesus Christ.
- God has elected to personally save mankind and restore mankind to Himself by offering His Own Son to pay mankind's penalty which is death and eternal separation from God.
- God has promised to restore mankind to paradise.

# The Promise

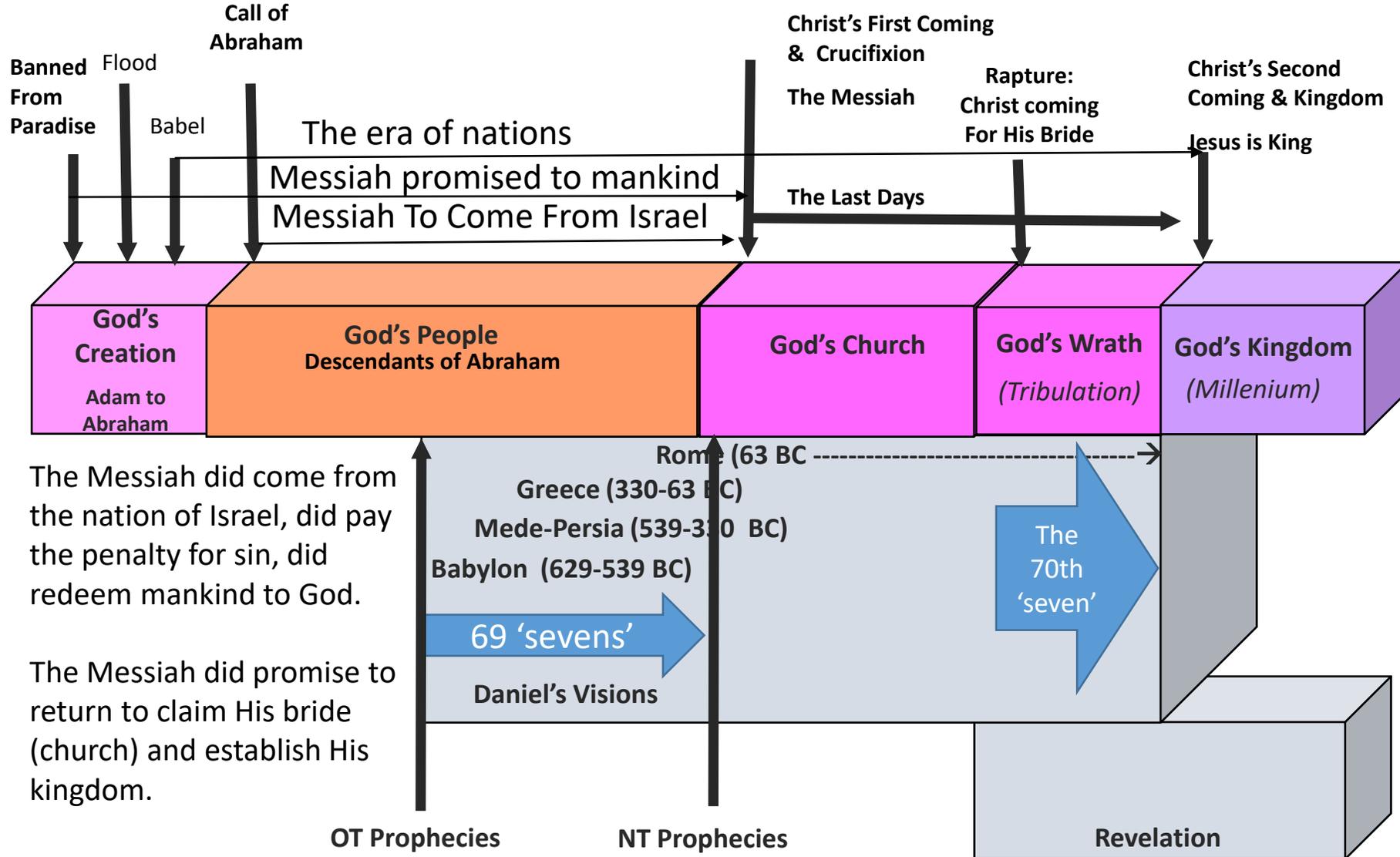
- When Adam & Eve sinned, All of mankind was promised a triumphant savior that will restore all things. [Genesis 3:15](#). Thus God's plan to restore mankind was launched.
  - A study of the end times is a study of when paradise is restored by the triumphant savior.
- God made an agreement with Abraham. In this agreement, God makes the following promises:
  - To make a great nation from Abraham's descendants ([Genesis 12:1-3](#))
  - To give to Abraham's descendants all the land of Canaan ([Genesis 15:18-21](#))
  - To make Abraham a father of many nations ([Genesis 17:2-9](#))
  - There are three primary perspectives when it comes to how God fulfills His covenant:
    - Dispensationalism: Two purposes, two people
      - Children of Abraham through physical descent
      - Children of Abraham through spiritual adoption ([Galatians 3:7-9](#))
    - Conventionalism: One plan, one people
      - OT saints saved by looking expectantly for the Messiah (Jesus) who was yet to come ([Hebrews 11:13, 39-40](#))
      - The purpose of Israel was to prepare the way for the Messiah's coming and to provide a people through whom God could display his glory.
      - Paul refers to Christians as "the Israel of God," and James uses "the twelve tribes" as a description for Christians suggesting that the church fulfills God's plan for Israel. ([Galatians 6:16, James 1:1, Matthew 21:43](#))
    - New Covenant Theology: One plan, more than one covenant
      - God's work with Abraham & Israel was preparatory pointing people toward the new covenant that God made through Jesus. ([Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:7-13](#))
      - God's plan was to redeem sinners for his glory through Jesus Christ and to provide those people with a place of contentment and peace.
      - God's promise to Abraham find their fulfillment in Christ ([Galatians 3:16, Genesis 12:7](#))

# Fulfillment of Abraham Covenant

Perspective on Fulfillment	Precise Form of Fulfillment
<b>Dispensationalism</b>	
Fulfillment in the future through the nation of Israel	At some point in the future, physical descendants of the ancient Israelite people will possess the land promised to Abraham ( <a href="#">Gen 15:18</a> , <a href="#">17:8</a> )
<b>Coventalism</b>	
Fulfillment during Solomon's reign	When Solomon ruled the region from the Euphrates River to Egypt, God fulfilled his promise to Abraham ( <a href="#">1 Kings 4:21</a> )
Conditional Promise	When the Israelites turned to other gods, they forfeited the land that God had promised to Abraham ( <a href="#">Joshua 23:15-16</a> )FF
Fulfillment through the church	Because Israel rejected the Messiah, the church has superseded Israel in God's plan ( <a href="#">Matt 21:43</a> )
<b>New Coventalism</b>	
Old covenant as temporary picture of new covenant	As a temporary picture, the covenant with Abraham and Israel was intended to be fulfilled in Jesus and then to pass away. ( <a href="#">Heb 3:5</a> , <a href="#">8:5-13</a> , <a href="#">9:8-10</a> )
Fulfillment in Jesus Christ	God's promise was made primarily to one offspring of Abraham, Jesus the Messiah ( <a href="#">Gen 12:7</a> , <a href="#">Gal 3:16</a> ) Through the present and future reign of Jesus over all the earth, including the promised land, God fulfills his promise to Abraham.

# God's Plan To Restore Mankind

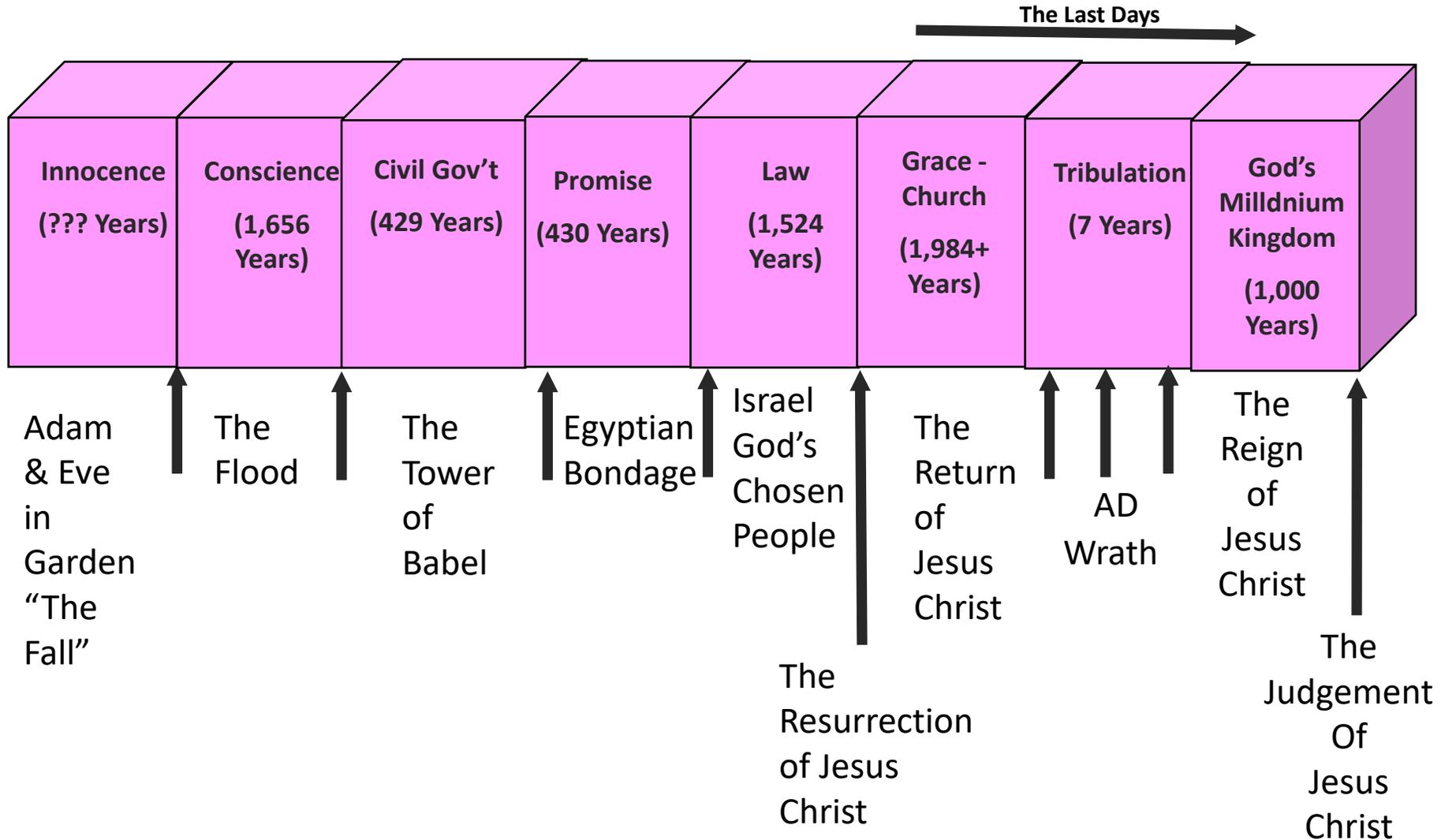
*God's plan was to redeem sinners for his glory through Jesus Christ and to provide those people with a restored place of contentment and peace.*



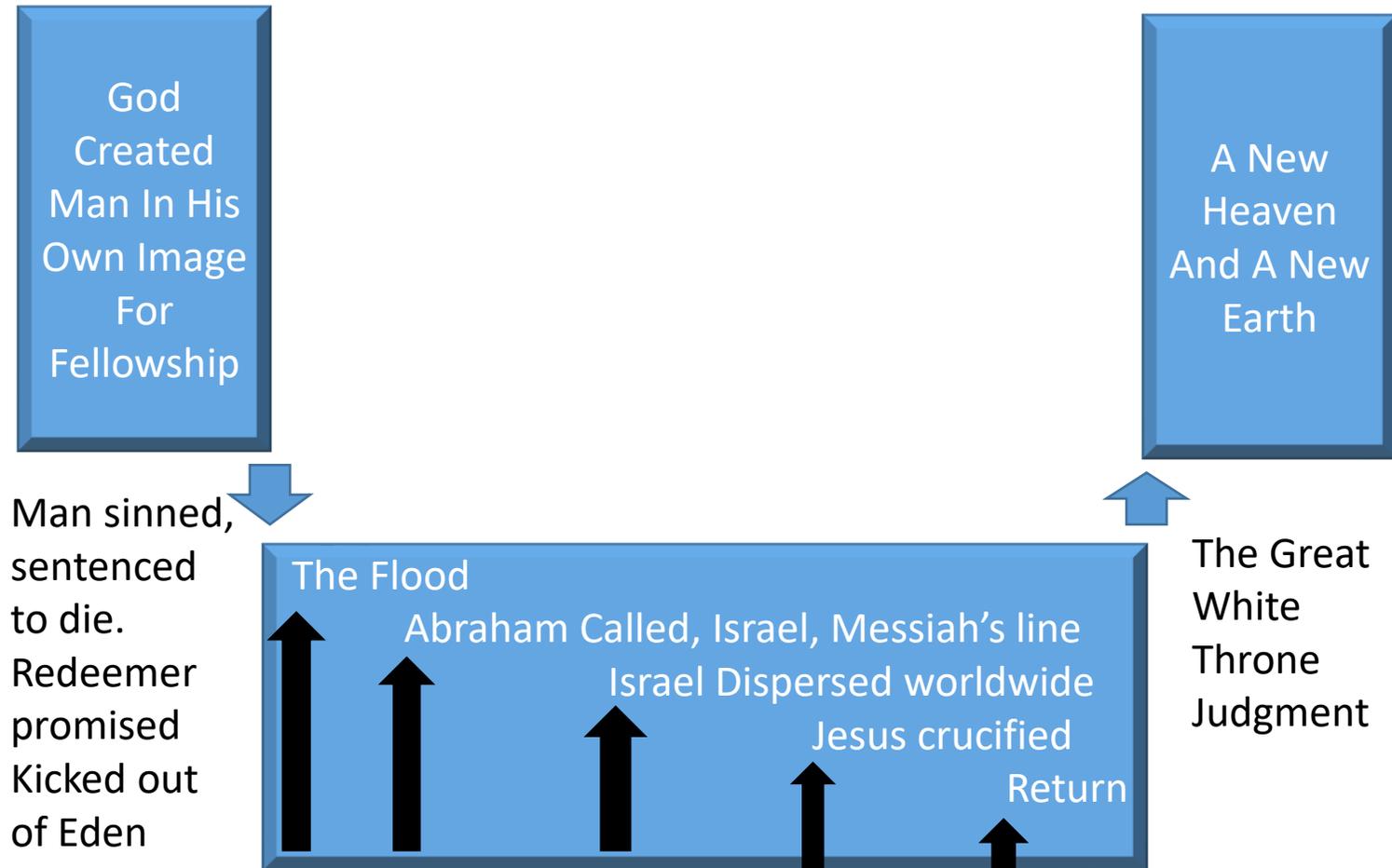
The Messiah did come from the nation of Israel, did pay the penalty for sin, did redeem mankind to God.

The Messiah did promise to return to claim His bride (church) and establish His kingdom.

# Understanding God's Plan For The Ages



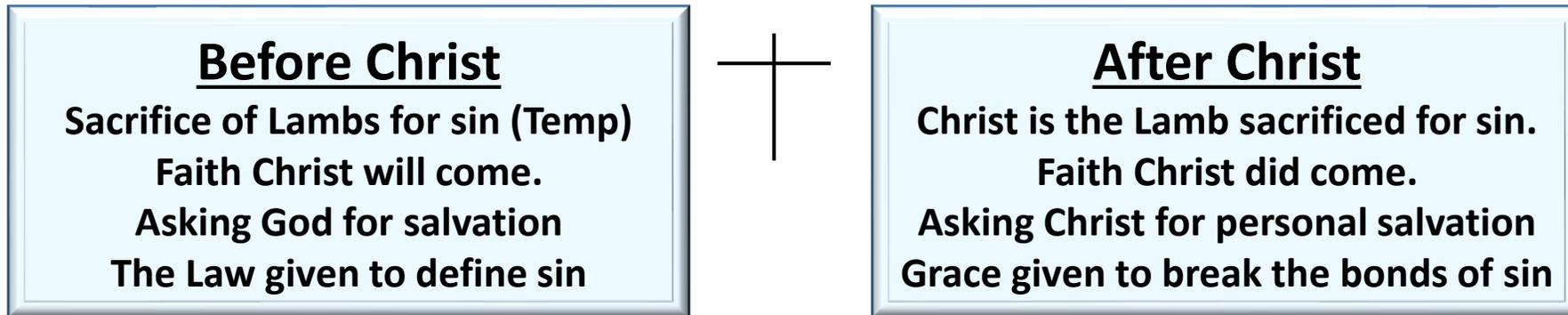
# God's Master Restoration Plan



# Jesus Must Return

- **God's entire restoration plan for mankind is through Jesus Christ who was born, crucified, buried, resurrected and now sits at the right hand of God the Father.**
- **John 14:1-3** Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
- **Luke 12:40** You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
- **Acts 1:11** Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

# The Plan Of Salvation



In all respect, there is only one way to salvation, and that is placing one's belief and commitment in the Messiah. That was true in the Old Testament era and today in the New Testament era.