

## Introduction

- ➔ "For God so loved the world..." (Jn. 3:16)—may be one of the most famous statements known to man.
- ➔ **THE GENERATION OF MAN** (GEN. 1,2; cf. JN. 1:1-14; PHP. 2:5-8)
  - JOHN 1:1—"In the beginning was...**God**."
  - GEN. 1:1—"In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth**."
  - GEN. 1:26—"And **God** said, '**Let us make man in our image**... And let them have dominion over...all..."
  - GEN. 1:31—"And God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was **very good**."
- ➔ **THE DEGENERATION OF MAN** (GEN. 3; cf. ROM. 5:12-14)
  - GEN. 2:7-9—"And Jehovah God planted a garden..., and there He put the man whom He had formed... The **tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**."
  - GEN. 3:6—"...the woman...**took of the fruit...and ate**, and she...gave some to her husband..., and **he ate**."
  - GEN. 3:14-24—"...therefore Jehovah God sent [them] out from the garden of Eden... **He drove out the man**, and... placed the cherubim and a flaming sword...**to guard the way to the tree of life**" (23,24).
- ➔ **THE REGENERATION OF MAN** (GEN. 4 – REV. 22; cf. ROM. 5:6-11)
  - JOHN 3:16—"For God so loved the world... that **whoever believes on Him should not perish but have eternal life**."
  - ROM. 5:6-10—"...while we were enemies **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**..." (10).

## Phase 1: **Convict & Cleanse**

### Genesis 4-11

- I. GEN. 6:7—"I will **destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth**..., for I am sorry that I have made them."
- II. GEN. 7:23—"...**Only Noah and those who were with him** in the ark remained."
- III. GEN. 9:1—"So God blessed Noah... and said...: '**Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth**.'"

## Phase 2: **Convene**

### Genesis 12-15

- I. GEN. 12:1-3—"...I will **make of you a great nation**... And **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed**."
- II. GEN. 12:5—"Then Abram...departed [and] came to...**Canaan**... Then the Lord...said, '**To your seed I will give this land**.'"
- III. GEN. 15:5—"Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able...: **So shall your descendants be**."

## Phase 3: **Construct & Convey**

### Genesis 15 – Exodus 11

- I. GEN. 15:13,14—"Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they afflict them for **four hundred years**. And...**afterward they shall come out with great possessions**."
- II. EXOD. 1:6,7—"And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. **But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly**, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them."

## Phase 4: **Constrain, Condemn, Conserve**

### Exodus 12 – Malachi 4

- I. DEUT. 4:2—"You shall...**keep the commandments of Jehovah your God that I command you**."
- II. DEUT. 4:40—"Therefore **you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today**, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days..."
- III. DEUT. 18:18—"I will raise up...a Prophet...**from among their brethren, ...He shall speak to them all that I command Him**."

- IV. ISA. 37:31—“And **the surviving remnant**...shall again *take root downward* and *bear fruit upward*...”
- V. JER. 31:31—“Behold, the days are coming,’ declares Jehovah, ‘when **I will make a NEW covenant**...”
- VI. ISA. 2:2—“Now...*in the latter days*... **Jehovah’s house shall be established**..., and **all nations shall flow to it**.”
- VII. DAN. 2:44—“And *in the days of those kings* **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom** which shall never be destroyed...”

## Phase 5: **Condescend**

Matthew 1 – Acts 1

### I. THE WHOLE PICTURE IN A NUTSHELL:

- A. “<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was *the Word*, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. <sup>2</sup>[But] *God so loved the world*, that, <sup>3</sup>*when the fullness of the time came*, <sup>4</sup>the Word <sup>5</sup>**emptied Himself** [and] <sup>4</sup>**became flesh**—<sup>3</sup>**born of a woman**—<sup>4</sup>**and dwelt among us**, <sup>5</sup>**taking the form of a servant**. <sup>6</sup>He committed no sin, <sup>7</sup>becoming obedient unto death, <sup>8</sup>to give His life a ransom for many. <sup>9</sup>He Himself bore our sins *in His own body* on the tree, <sup>10</sup>[but] God raised Him up <sup>11</sup>and seated Him at His right hand <sup>12</sup>as Prince and Savior. <sup>13</sup>Therefore He is the Mediator of a new covenant, <sup>14</sup>the Founder and Perfecter of our faith—<sup>2</sup>[and] whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have *eternal life*.”
- B. It is elsewhere stated that Jesus’s condescension resulted in His being “**not ashamed to call [us] brethren**” (Heb. 2:11)!

## Phase 6: **Consummate**

Acts 2 – Revelation 22

- I. Jesus had promised that **He would build His church**, even despite being killed and spending 3 days in Hades (Matt. 16:18).
  - A. He had given a timeframe for when this would happen—i.e., **in the lifetime of those to whom He spoke** (Mk. 9:1a).
- II. He had informed that this kingdom would come “**with POWER**” (Mk. 9:1b).
- III. Moments before ascension, He told apostles they would receive *power* “**when the Holy Spirit comes upon you**” (Acts 1:8).
- IV. Ten days later, “when the day of Pentecost arrived,” the apostles were “**filled with the Holy Spirit**” (Acts 2:1-4).
  - A. If the kingdom was to come “*with power*” (Mk. 9:1b);
  - B. And the “*power*” was to come *when the Holy Spirit was “poured out”* (Acts 1:8; cp. 2:16; cf. Joel 2:28-32);
  - C. And the Holy Spirit was “poured out” on *Pentecost, A.D. 30* (Acts 2:1-4);
  - D. Then the kingdom came—i.e., **the eternal plan of God was consummated—on Pentecost, A.D. 30!**

## Phase 7: **Continue**

A.D. 100 – A.D. 2017+

- I. The *office* of “Apostle” never passed to a single human being—i.e., besides the Twelve + Paul, there was never a single additional apostle of Jesus Christ, and there never will be (cf. Acts 1:21,22).
  - A. However, the **mission** of the apostles passed and passes on to **every single Christian!**
    - 1. MARK 16:15—“**Go ye** therefore, and **preach the gospel to the whole creation**...”
    - 2. MATT. 28:18-20—“Go...*disciple all the nations*...**teaching them to observe all the things I commanded you**...”

## Conclusion

- ➔ REV. 22:14—“Blessed are they that *wash their robes*, that they may have a right to come to **THE TREE OF LIFE**...”
  - After God had barred the way, we come *full circle*, where He has *reopened*—or *totally remade*—*the Way*: all for YOU!
    - ▶ 1 COR. 15:57—“But **thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**”

<sup>1</sup> Jn. 1:1; <sup>2</sup> Jn. 3:16; <sup>3</sup> Gal. 4:4; <sup>4</sup> Jn. 1:14; <sup>5</sup> Php. 2:7; <sup>6</sup> 1 Pet. 2:22; <sup>7</sup> Php. 2:8; <sup>8</sup> Mk. 10:45; <sup>9</sup> 1 Pet. 2:24; <sup>10</sup> Acts 2:24; <sup>11</sup> Eph. 1:20; <sup>12</sup> Acts 5:31; <sup>13</sup> Heb. 9:15; <sup>14</sup> Heb. 12:2