

# COVENANTS

## OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

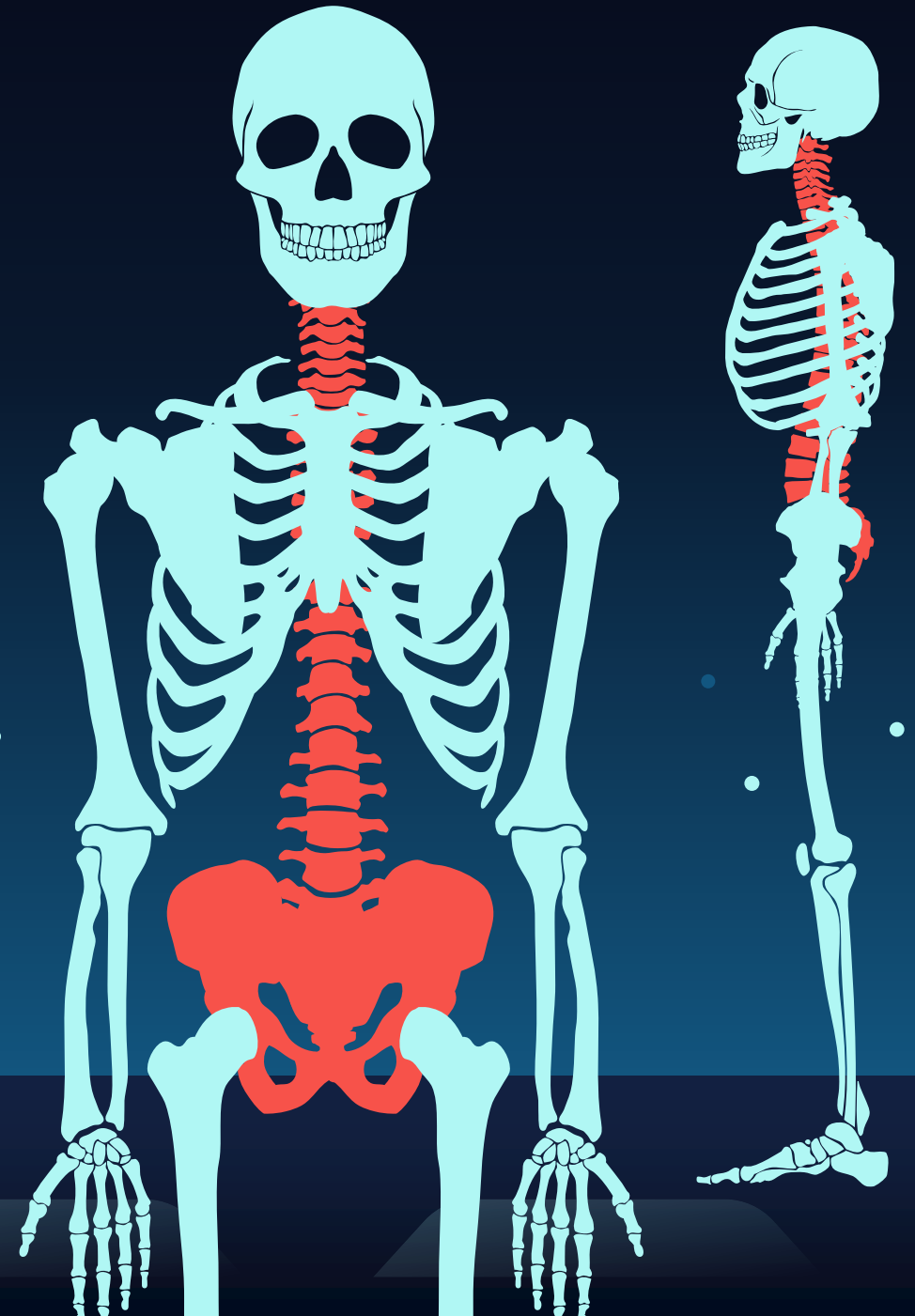
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# COVENANTS

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BACKBONE OF THE  
OLD TESTAMENT



# A COVENANT

## Between equals:

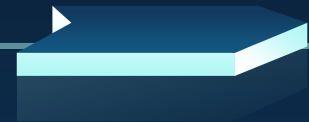
- An agreement
- The conditions are negotiable

## Between a superior and an inferior:

- Conditions determined by the superior
- Without conditions, it is a promise

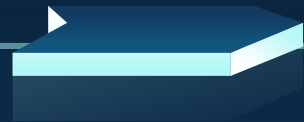


# OLD TESTAMENT COVENANTS



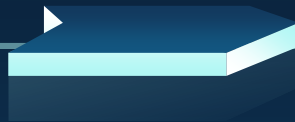
**NOAH**

Genesis 9:8–17



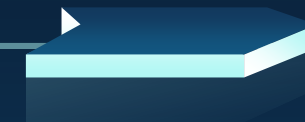
• **ABRAHAM**

Genesis 12:1–7  
Genesis 15:18–21



**MOSES**

Exodus 20:1–17  
Deuteronomy 5:32–33



**DAVID**

2 Samuel 7:8–16



**NEW**

Jeremiah 31:31–34  
Ezekiel 36:24–28

# CONDITIONAL?

Does this covenant have conditions?

# WITH WHOM?

With whom has God made this covenant?



# PROMISES

What has God promised to do?

# FULFILLED?

# NOAH

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God with Noah and every living creature



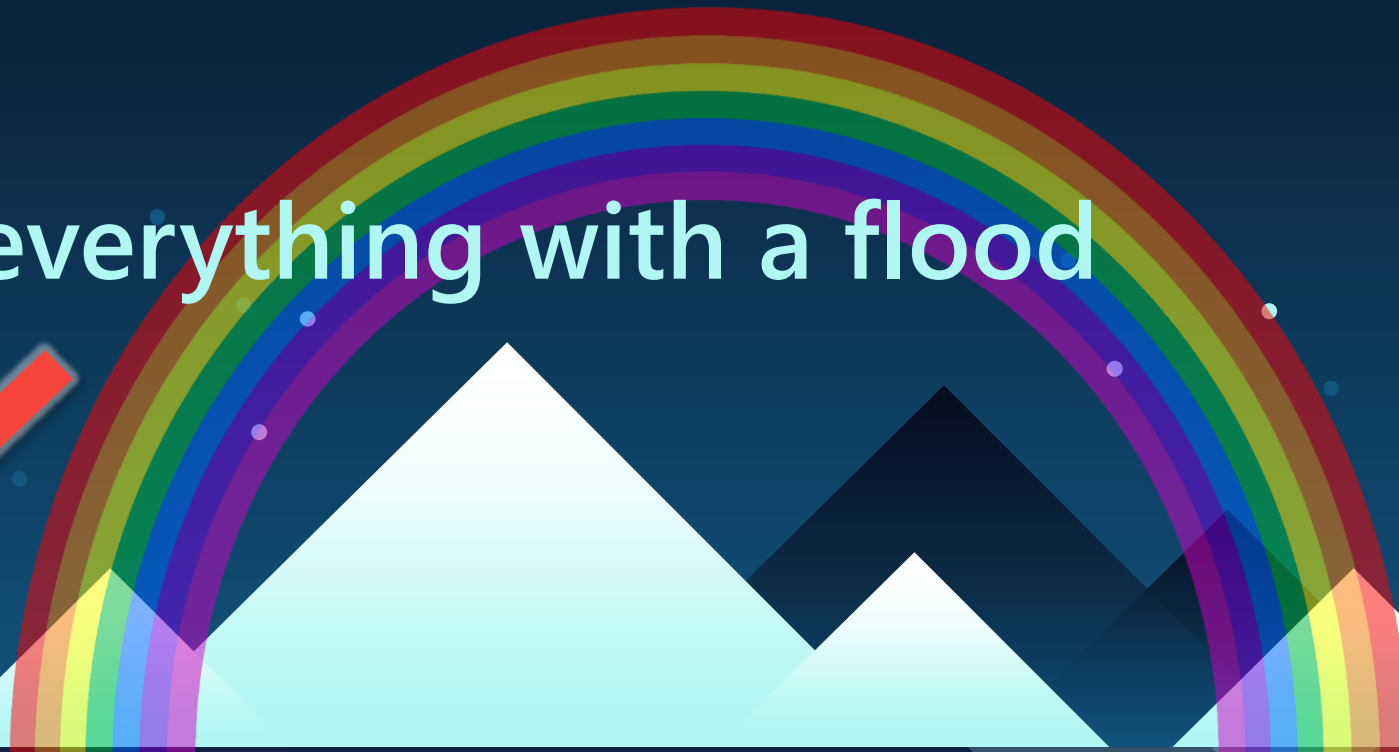
Unconditional



Not to destroy everything with a flood



Fulfilled

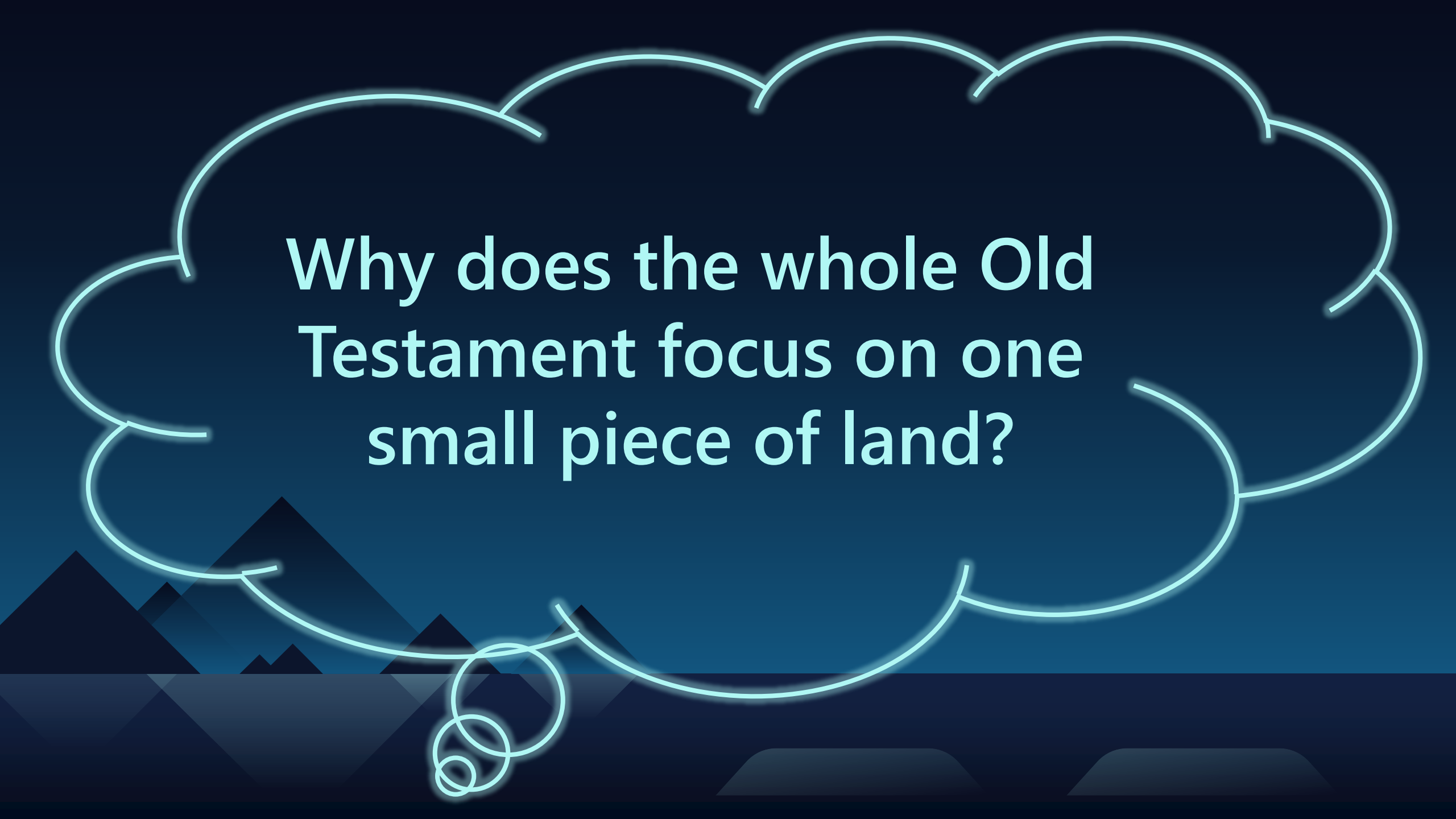


# NOAH

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- ▶ The OT is the story of God's faithfulness to his promises

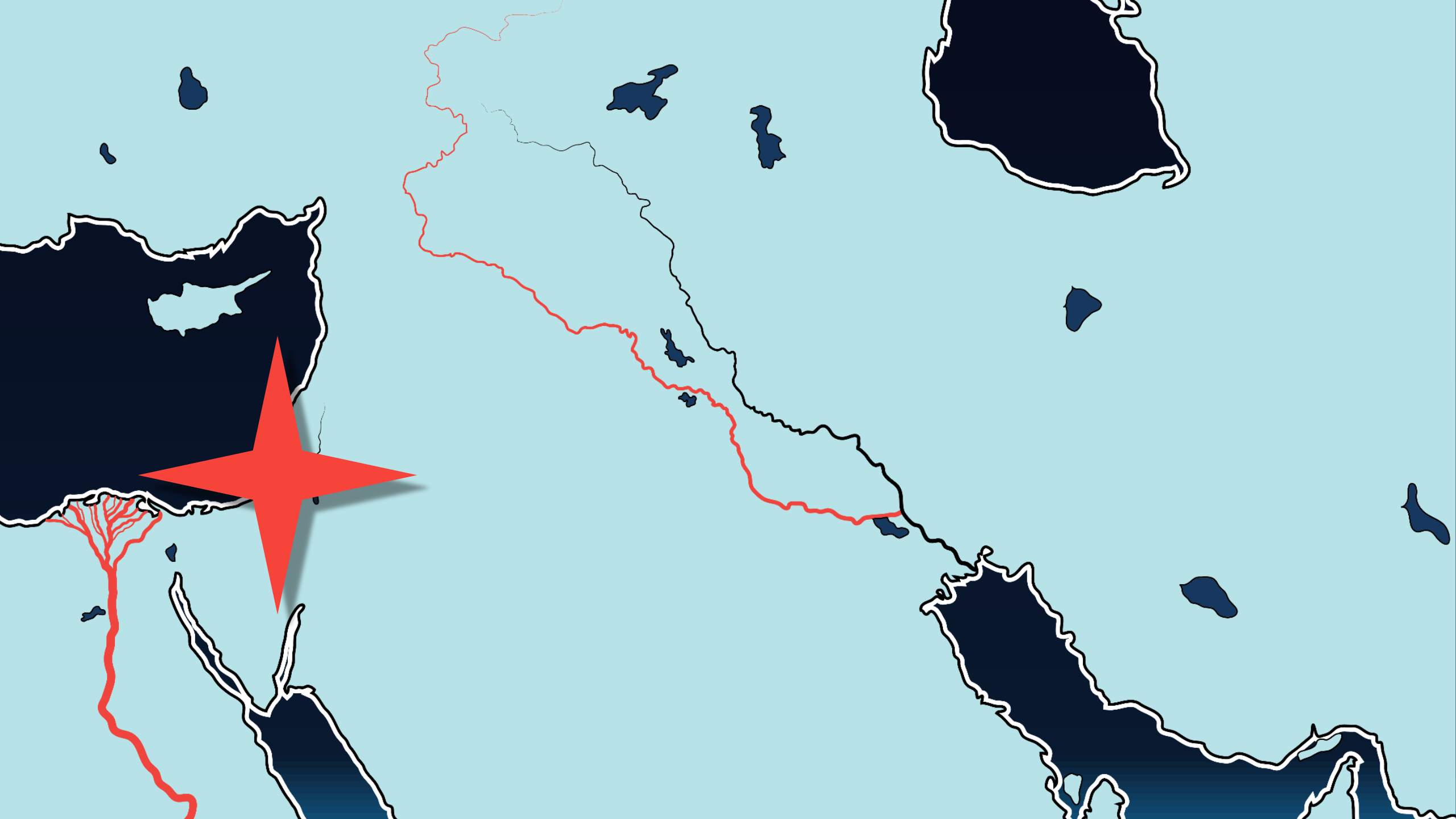




**Why does the whole Old Testament focus on one small piece of land?**

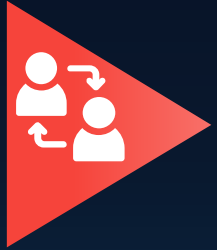






# ABRAHAM

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With whom?

The LORD with Abraham (12:1)

With Abraham's descendants (12:7)

# ABRAHAM

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## God's promises

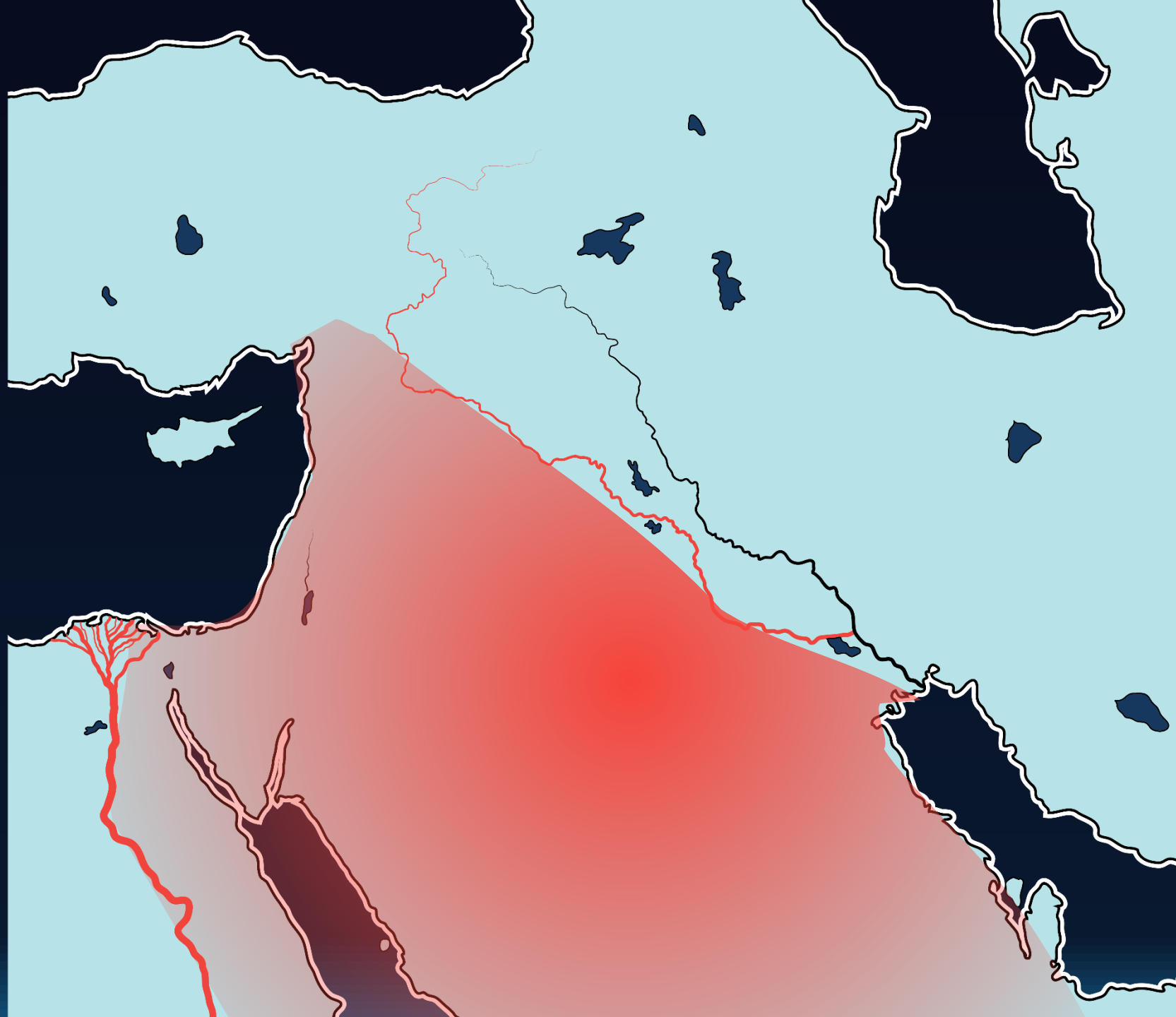
A son: "I will make of you a great nation" (12:2)

A blessing: for Abraham and for all the families of the earth (12:2–3)

A land: for his descendants forever (12:7)

## GENESIS 15:18

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."



# ABRAHAM

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Is the covenant fulfilled?

A son: Isaac was born

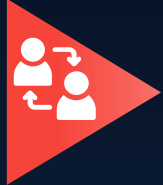
A blessing: the Messiah, Jesus Christ

A land for his descendants from the Nile River to the Euphrates



# ABRAHAM

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With Abraham and his descendants



Unconditional



A son, a blessing, and a land



Still unfulfilled



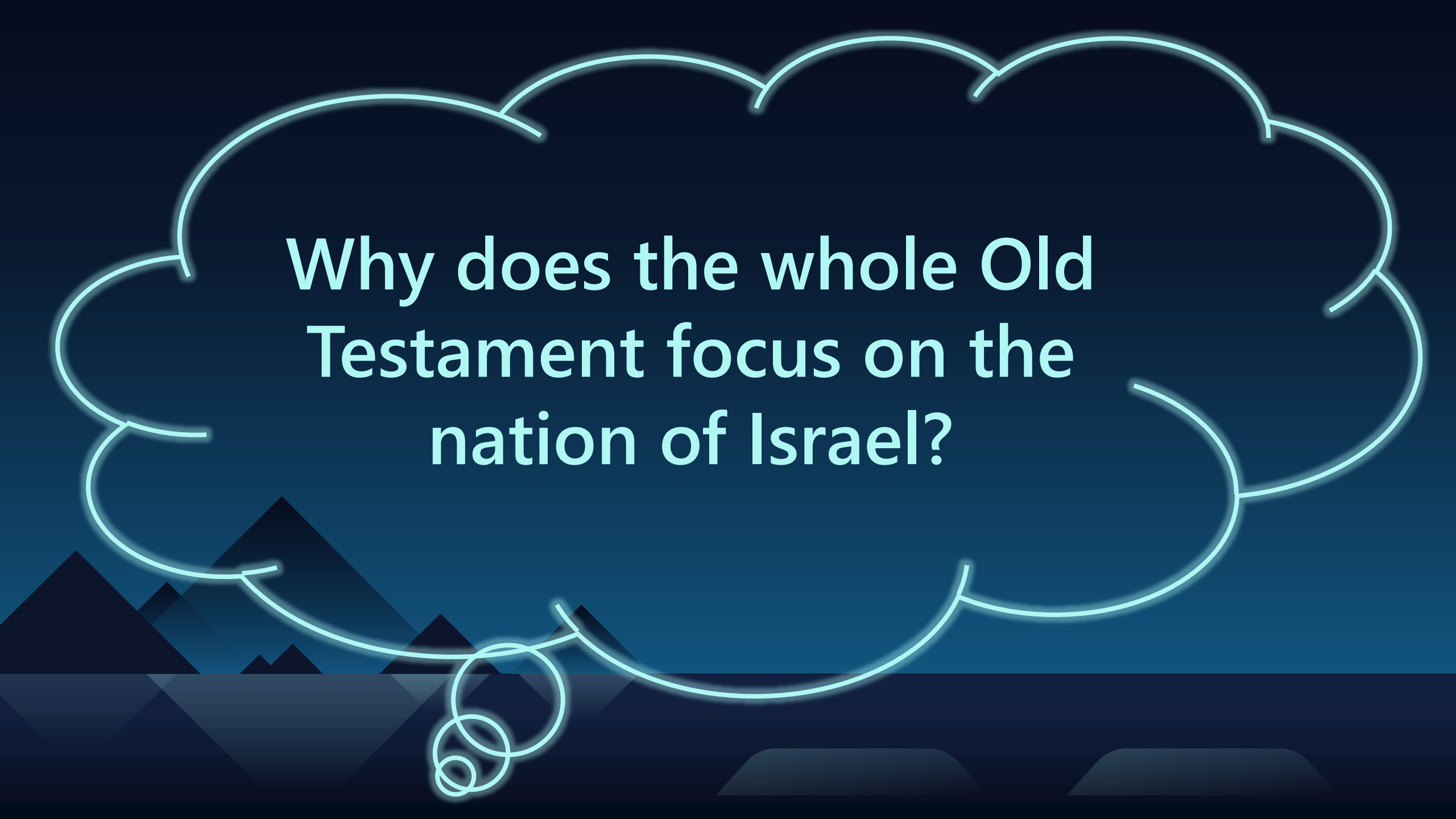
# ABRAHAM

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- ▶ The OT is the story of the *land promised* by God to the descendants of Abraham

*I will give this land to your descendants forever.*

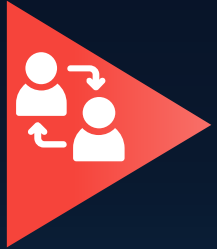




**Why does the whole Old  
Testament focus on the  
nation of Israel?**

# MOSES

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With whom?

Who is "you"?

The LORD with the people he brought out of Egypt (Exodus 20:2)

With the nation of Israel (Deuteronomy 5:2)

Mediated through Moses

# MOSES



## Conditional?

I brought you up out of Egypt. Now I am your God and you are my people. If you obey me, I will bless you. If you rebel against me, I will punish you.



# MOSES

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Conditional or unconditional?

This covenant is very similar to treaties between nations of that time, called suzerain-vassal treaties.

**CONDITIONAL**

# MOSES

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## God's promises

Jehovah was their God, and Israel was his people.

• If Israel obeyed God's law, he would bless them.

• If Israel disobeyed God's law, he would curse them.

# MOSES

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Is the covenant fulfilled?

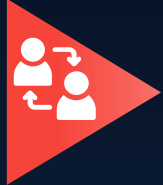
The OT is the record of God's faithfulness to his covenant with Israel.

When Israel obeyed, they received blessing from God. When they rebelled against him, he punished them.



# MOSES

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Jehovah with the nation of Israel



Conditional



Blessings for obedience to the law



Fulfilled



# MOSES

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- ▶ God was establishing a kingdom in the land promised to Abraham with his people Israel.
- ▶ The Mosaic Law was God's right because he rescued Israel from Egypt.
- ▶ Israel's spiritual status can be measured by the blessing of God in the promised land.

## **EXODUS 20:12**

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

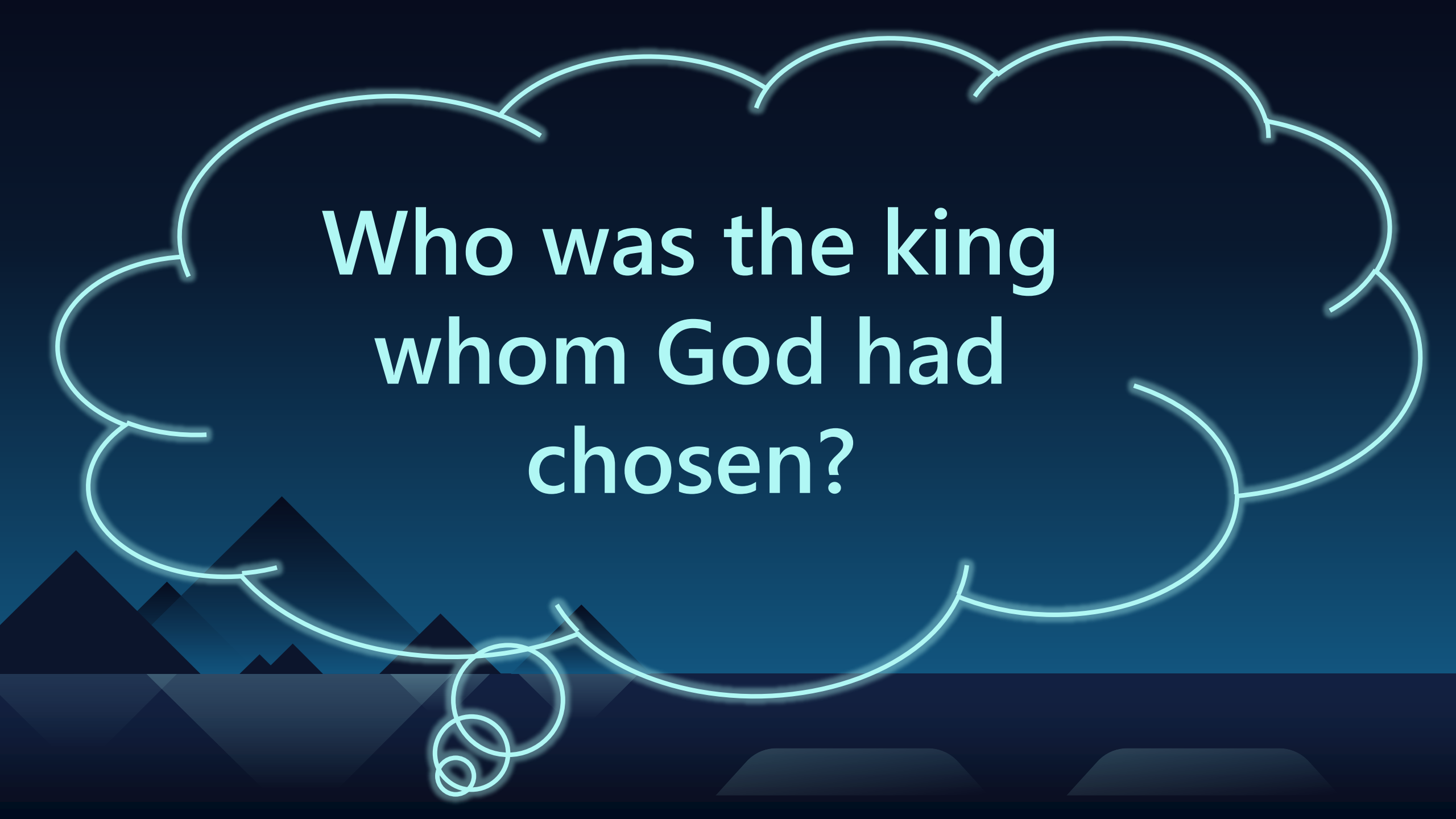


# MOSES

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- ▶ The OT is the story of the nation of Israel, *the people of God.*

*I am the LORD your God.  
You are my people.*



**Who was the king  
whom God had  
chosen?**

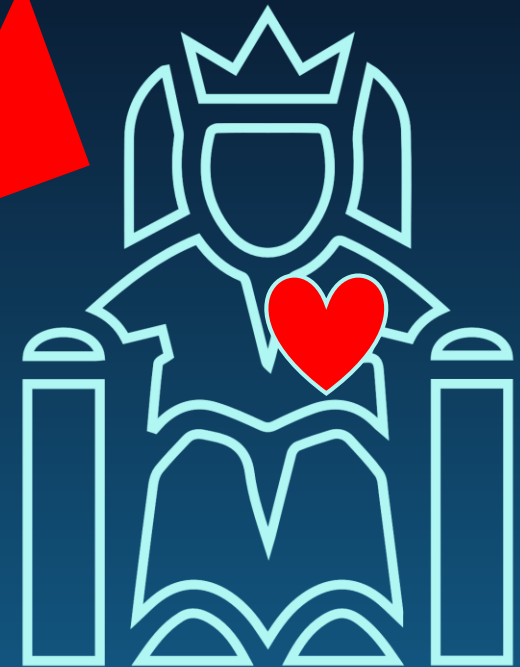
# A KING FOR ISRAEL

Looked good



SAUL

Chosen by God



DAVID



temple

I will build  
You a  
house



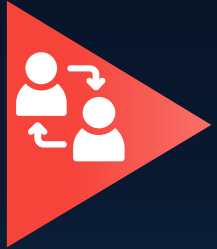
dynasty

I will build  
**YOU** a  
house



# DAVID

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**With whom?**

The LORD with king David

With the son of David—Solomon (v. 12)

• With David's dynasty forever (v. 16)

# DAVID

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## God's promises

A dynasty of kings from David's sons (v. 12)

The *steadfast love* of the LORD (vv. 14–15)

A kingdom and a throne forever (v. 16)

# DAVID

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Is the covenant fulfilled?

David's son, Solomon, reigned after David's death

The kings of Judah were David's sons

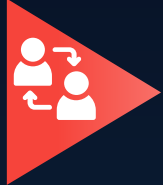
There is currently no king on David's throne





# DAVID

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The LORD with king David and his sons



Unconditional



A kingdom and a throne forever



Still unfulfilled.



# THE KINGDOM OF GOD



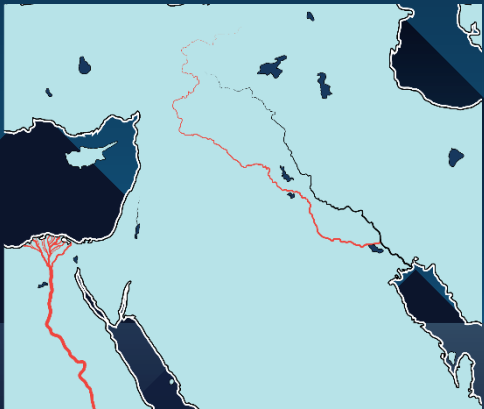
Where?

With whom?

Ruled by whom?

LAND

promised to Abraham



PEOPLE

rescued from Egypt



KING

Son of David



# DAVID

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- ▶ God was establishing a kingdom in the land promised to Abraham with his people Israel ruled by a Davidic king.
- ▶ The *LORD's steadfast love* toward the sons of David is a key concept of the Old Testament.

## PSALM 23:6

Surely goodness and *mercy* shall follow me  
all the days of my life...

# DAVID

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- ▶ The OT is the story of *the LORD's steadfast love* toward the Davidic kings

## PSALM 18:50

*Great salvation he brings to his king,  
and shows steadfast love to his anointed,  
to David and his offspring forever.*

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

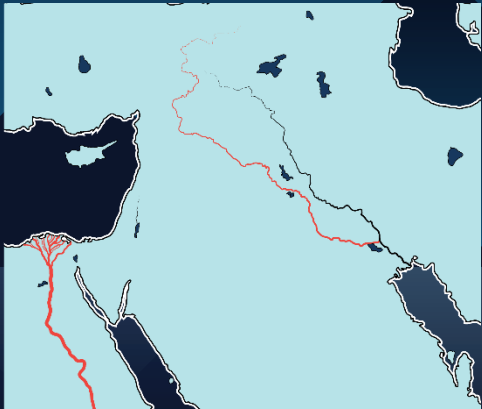
Where?

With whom?

Ruled by whom?

## LAND

Promised to Abraham



## PEOPLE

Rescued from Egypt



*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

MATTHEW 4:17

## KING

Son of David



# OLD TESTAMENT COVENANTS



**FAITHFUL**  
Noah



**LAND**  
Abraham



**PEOPLE**  
Israel by Moses



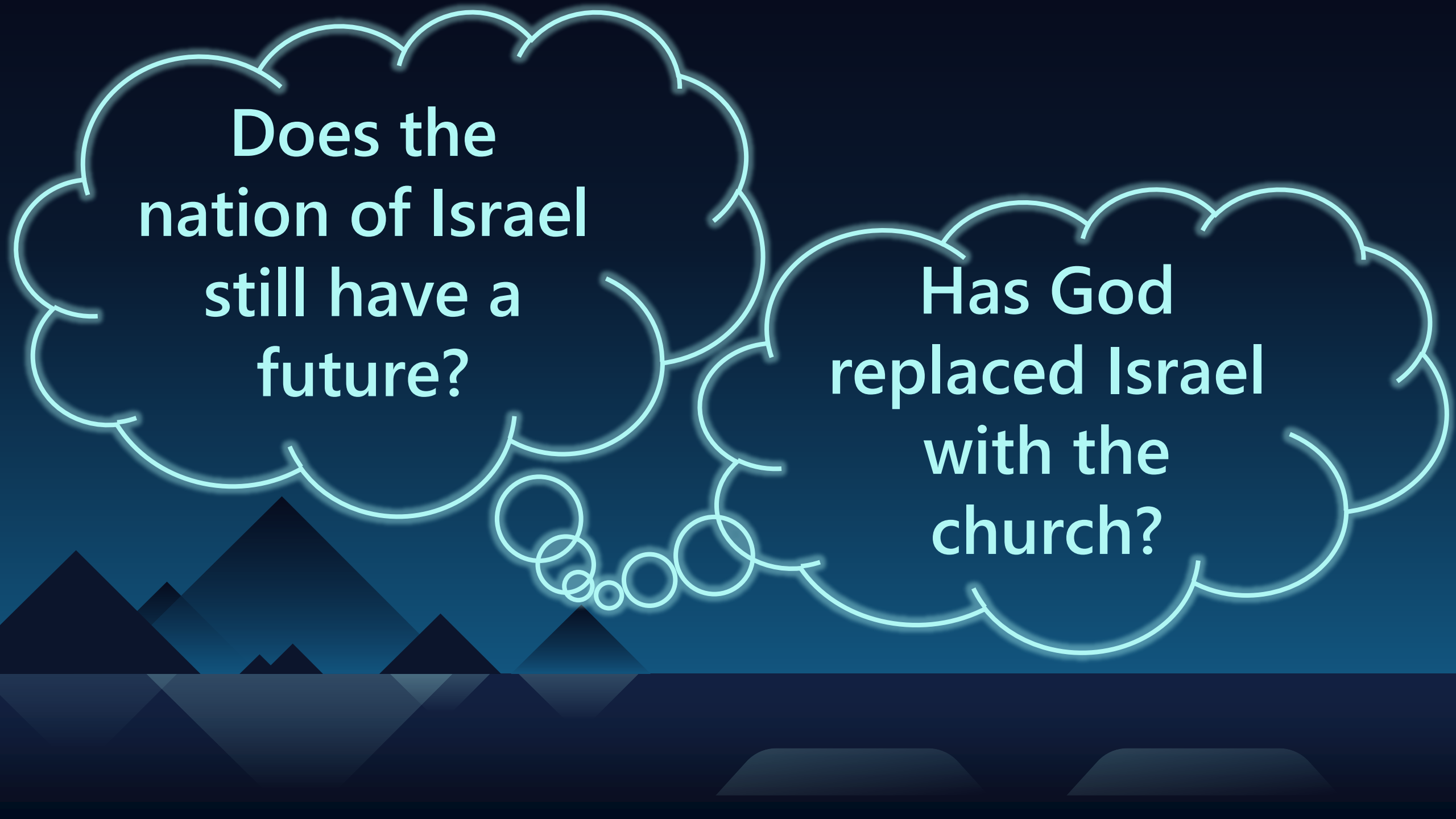
**KING**  
David



**NEW**  
Israel restored

God was establishing a kingdom in the land promised to Abraham with his people Israel ruled by a Davidic king.





**Does the  
nation of Israel  
still have a  
future?**

**Has God  
replaced Israel  
with the  
church?**

# NEW COVENANT

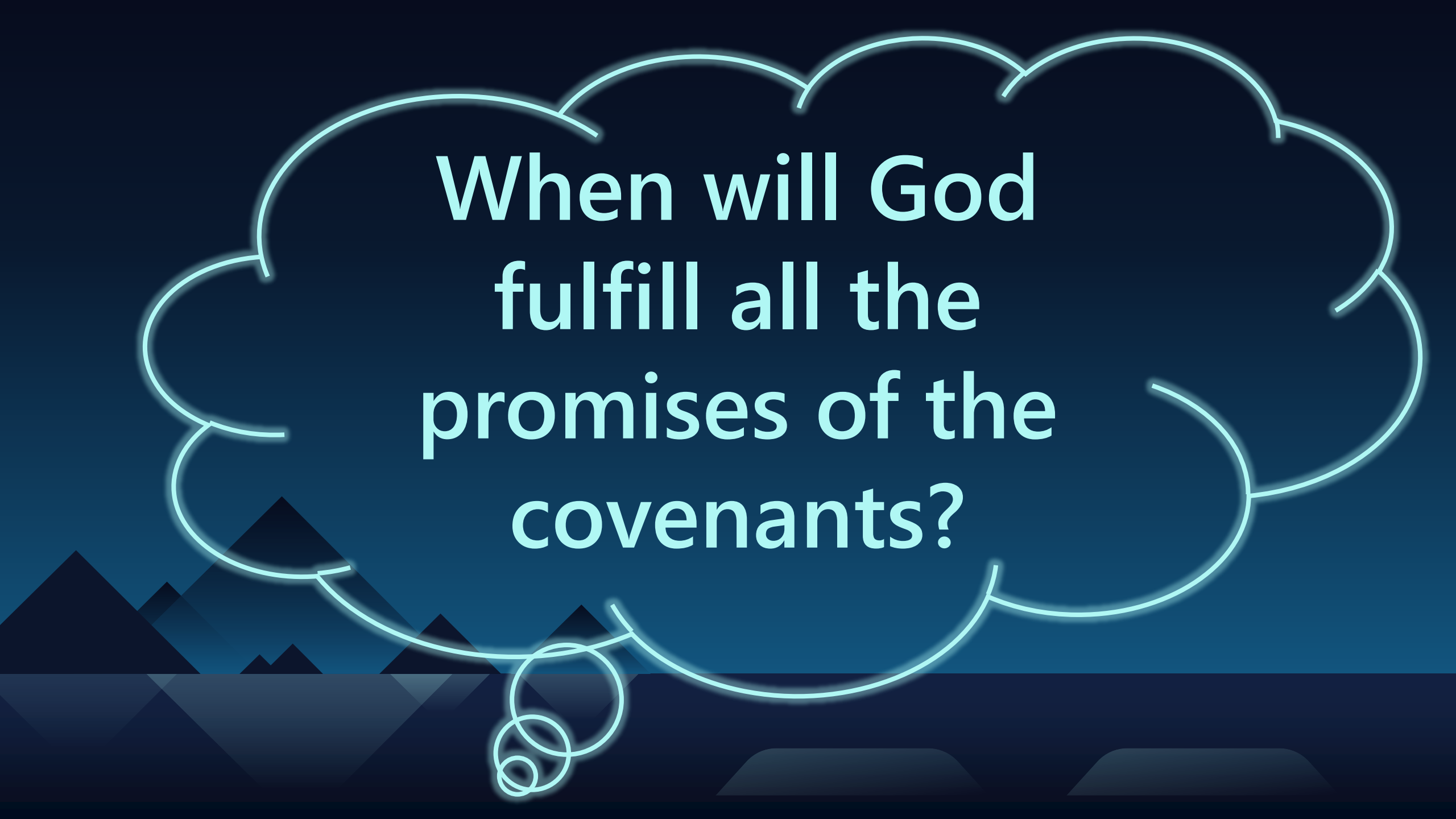
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ROMANS 11:1, 11

<sup>1</sup> I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

<sup>11</sup> So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.





**When will God  
fulfill all the  
promises of the  
covenants?**

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Where?

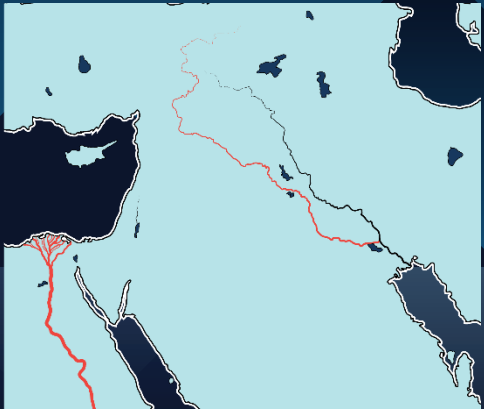
With whom?

Ruled by whom?

When?

LAND

Promised to Abraham



PEOPLE

Rescued from Egypt



KING

Son of David



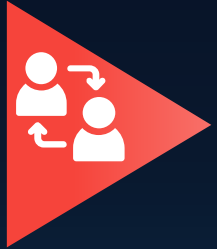
DAY OF THE LORD

"the days are coming, in that day"



# NEW COVENANT

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With whom?

The LORD with his people Israel

- Reunited (the houses of Israel and Judah)
- Regenerated (they will all know God)
- Restored (in the promised land)

# NEW COVENANT

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Conditional or unconditional?

Since the covenant has no conditions,  
it is a promise

# NEW COVENANT

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## God's promises

Resurrect Israel and reunite it with Judah

Restore His people Israel to the promised land

• Regenerate all Israel

# NEW COVENANT

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Is the covenant fulfilled?

The ten northern tribes—Israel—were annihilated by the Assyrians (722 B.C.)

Israel is not occupying the promised land

The nation of Israel are not all regenerate



# NEW COVENANT

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How can this covenant be fulfilled?

Jesus inaugurated this covenant with his death.

Now God is extending mercy to Gentiles, however, at the end of this age of grace, he will restore the nation of Israel.

**MATTHEW 26:27–28**

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

# NEW COVENANT

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## ROMANS 11:25–27

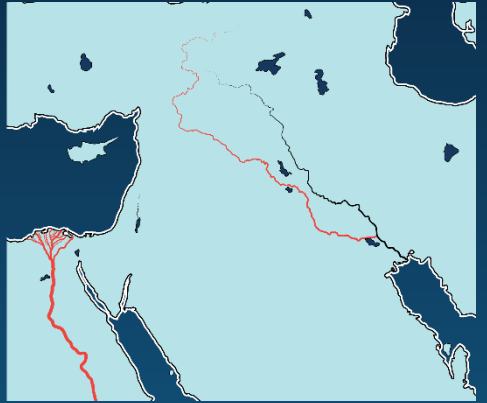
<sup>25</sup> Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

*“The Deliverer will come from Zion,  
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;* (cf. Isaiah 59:20)

<sup>27</sup> *“and this will be my covenant with them  
when I take away their sins”* (cf. Jeremiah 31:33–34).



NEW COVENANT



**"in Christ"**

# NEW COVENANT

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How do we participate in the New Covenant?

We are Gentiles, we are not part of the nation of Israel.

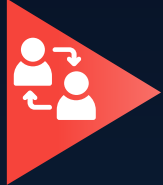
Our only source of blessing is found in Jesus Christ.

## EPHESIANS 1:3

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...*

# NEW COVENANT

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The LORD with a restored and reunited Israel



Unconditional



Restoration, forgiveness, regenerate hearts.



Still unfulfilled.



# NEW COVENANT

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- ▶ God will establish a kingdom in the land promised to Abraham with his people Israel restored and reunited under King Jesus the son of David.
- ▶ In this age, Gentiles are receiving God's mercy through faith in Jesus Christ.
- ▶ We are expecting Jesus' coming to the earth to establish his kingdom and fulfill God's promises.

## **MATTHEW 6:10**

Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

# NEW COVENANT

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- ▶ The New Covenant gives us the expectation of the fulfillment of all God's promises.

## JEREMIAH 23:5–6

*Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'*

# COVENANTS

## OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

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God will establish a kingdom  
in the land he promised to Abraham  
with his people Israel restored and reunited  
under King Jesus, the son of David.

