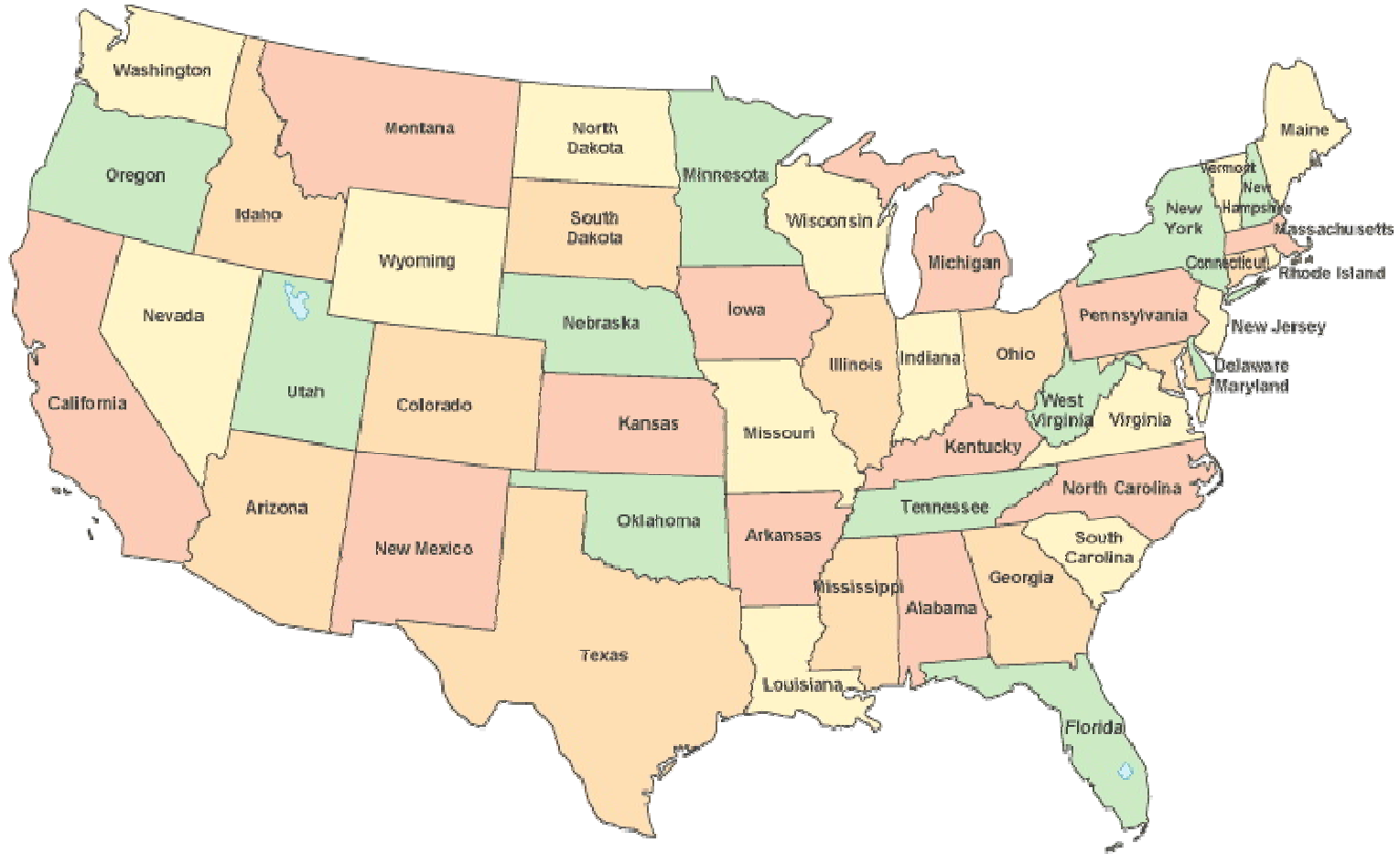


The Promised Land of Lot:

Deep Structure in the Old Covenant
Creation

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Covenant Map



Covenant Map



The Structure of Creation

- *Bara* – used only of God; usually translated as “create” in English.
- *Asah* – forming like a craftsman makes things; usually translated as “made” in English.

***Bara* used only 5 times in Genesis 1!**

- 1:1 – “In the beginning God *created* the heavens and the earth...”
- 1:21 – “So God *created* [bara] great **sea creatures**... with which the waters abounded...”
 - “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the waters... (1:22)
- 1:27 (3 times) – So God *created* [bara] **man** in his own image; in the image of God He *created* him; male and female He *created* them...”
 - “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth... (1:28)

Temple Structure: Heaven, Earth, & Sea

“Thus from the start the author betrays his interest in the covenant by concentrating on the land in the account of creation.”

John H. Sailhamer, *The Pentateuch as Narrative*, p. 82.

Focus of creation is Israel.

What about the “sea”? The sea creatures (and birds) receive God’s blessing, too!

Theological Zionism

- Zionism: Covenant history ***exclusively*** about Israel
 - “Church Age” and conversion of gentiles “new concept” in NT
 - Israel unconditionally blessed and gentiles unconditionally cursed
 - Summary: Israel = believers and gentiles = unbelievers
 - King Nebuchadnezzar “evil” for invading Judah
 - “Poor little Israel”
 - Presents God as a racist

Zionism: False whether applied to contemporary or ancient history

Covenant Creation: Sea and Land

- The “sea” is part of God’s covenant creation ***from the very beginning***

‘Are not you Israelites the same to me as Cushites?’ declares the LORD. ‘Did I not bring Israel up from Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?’ (Amos 9:7; c.f., Deut. 2)

God ordained the exodus of gentile nations, too!

Gentile Believers in the OT

- Pharaoh learned of God through Joseph (Gen. 41:38)
 - Jacob blessed Pharaoh
 - Judgment on Egypt result of disobedience: “Let my people go...”
 - Destruction of Egypt is pattern referenced in NT (Rev. 11:8)
- Moses married Zipporah, daughter of a Midianite priest of God (Ex. 2)
- Israelite men could marry gentiles after ceremonial conversion (Deut. 21:10ff)
- Balaam was a prophet of God to a Moabite king (Num. 22-24)
- The widow at Zarapheth was a God-fearing gentile
."Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth." (1 Kings 17:24)
 - Mentioned by Jesus in Luke 4:25-26, violating the sensibilities of the Jews
- Namaan from Aram believed in the God of Israel
"Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel..." (2 Kings 5)
 - Mentioned by Jesus in Luke 4:27, violating the sensibilities of the Jews
- Gentiles served King David as his “Mighty Men” (1 Chron. 11)
 - Zelek the Ammonite
 - Urriah the Hittite
 - Ithmah the Moabite, etc.

Gentile Believers in the OT (cont.)

- Hiram, King of Tyre, provided material and skill to help build God's Temple in Jerusalem (1 Chron 14; 2 Chron. 2.)

“Because the LORD loves his people, he has made you their king.” And Hiram added, “Praise be to the LORD who made heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, endowed him with intelligence and discernment, who will build a temple for the LORD and a palace for himself...”(2 Chron. 2:11-12)

– Hiram's knowledge of God sets context for prophecy against Tyre in Ezekiel 28

- Ruth was a Moabitess who converted to worship Jehovah

“Your people will be my people, and your God my God.” (Ruth 1)

- Nebuchadnezzar believed in the one true God

“To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly! It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation” (Dan. 4)

– That knowledge of God sets the context for the covenant judgment on Babylon when Belshazzar forsook the faith of his “father” (c.f., Isaiah 13 and Dan. 5)

Gentile Believers in the OT (cont.)

- Darius believed in the one true God

“May you prosper greatly! I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever... (Dan. 6)

– God later judged Persia using Greece (Dan. 10:20)

- Nineveh, both people and king, believed God and repented

“Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence...” (Jon. 3:8)

– God later judged Nineveh for their apostasy (Nahum)

Jonah represents God’s attitude toward gentiles in the Old Covenant Creation in the final statement:

“Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people... Should I not be concerned about that great city?” (Jon. 4:11)

Jesus, Gentiles, and the Judgment

Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented a long time ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be **more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment** than for you... (Luke 10:13-14)

The **Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation** and condemn it... (Matt. 12:43)

... the **sea** gave up the dead that were in it... (Rev. 20:13)

- Judgment of heaven, earth, and sea: same structure as Genesis 1
- Parable of **land harvest** (wheat and tares) with parable of **sea harvest** (net) in the same context (Matt. 13)
- Land and Sea judgment pattern in Isaiah 26-27

Covenant Creation opens a neglected dimension of covenant history!

The Promised Land of Lot

Then the LORD said to me, “Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle. I will not give you any of their land as a **possession**, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a **possession**... And when you come near to the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a **possession**, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a **possession**” Deut. 2:9, 19)

They [Zamzummites] were a people strong and numerous, and as tall as the Anakites. ***The LORD destroyed them from before the Ammonites***, who drove them out and settled in their place. ***The LORD had done the same for the descendants of Esau***, who lived in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites from before them... And as for the Avvites who lived in villages as far as Gaza, the Caphtorites coming out from Caphtor destroyed them and settled in their place. (Deut. 2:21-23; c.f., Amos 9:7)

“What a strange insight does this parenthesis of four verses give into the early history of Palestine!” (JFB Commentary, Vol. 1 p. 626)

What is the background to this?

The Story of Lot

- Abram and Lot both left Haran by faith (Gen. 12)
 - Lot is called a “righteous man” (2 Peter 2:7-8)
 - Lot’s faith is *credited to him as righteousness* (Just like Abraham: no *merit*-based righteousness in the OT)
- Abram offers Lot his choice of the land (Gen. 13)

Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left. (Gen. 13:9)
- Lot rescued by Abram (Gen. 14)
- God’s covenant with Abram (Gen. 15-17)
 - Sin of the Amorites “not yet complete” 15:17
 - Hagar and Ishmael
 - Institution of Circumcision
- Abraham offers intercessory (priestly) prayer for Sodom (Gen. 18)
- Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19)

Lot is an uncircumcised gentile living in the Land!

The Passover of Lot

But he [Lot] insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked *unleavened bread*, and they ate (Gen. 19:3)

- Angels of the Lord come down into the wicked city where the righteous were tormented (Gen. 19:1; 2 Pet. 2:8)
- The events transpire at night (Gen. 19:2)
- The meal includes unleavened bread as a main course (Gen. 19:3)
- The wicked are struck with blindness as Egypt was struck with plagues (Gen. 19:11)
- Lot is told to gather his family and leave “in haste” (19:12-14)
- God later destroyed some whom he saved, Lot’s wife, because of faithless disobedience (Gen. 19:26)
- Parallel between Egypt and Sodom highlighted in Rev. 11:8
- (Righteous) Lot is the father of 2 nations; a double-inheritance in the land

The Land is a living representation of Creation!

The Story of Balaam and Balak

Then the children of Israel moved, and camped on the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho.... And Balak the son of Zippor was **king of the Moabites** at that time. Then he sent messengers to Balaam... “Please come at once, curse this people [Israel] for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and **drive them out of the land...**” (Num. 22:1, 4-6)

Then Balak’s anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together... (Num. 24:10)

I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel... (Num. 24:17)

[Star prophecy given to the descendants of Lot]

Moab and Ammon resisted Israel’s entrance into the Land!

An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord forever, because they did not **meet you with bread and water** on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they **hired against you** **Balaam** the son of Beor... (Deut. 23:3-4)

The Failure of Lot's Descendants

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Son of man, set your face against the Ammonites... Because you said ‘Aha!’ against My sanctuary when it was profaned, and against the land of Israel when it was desolate, and against the house of Judah when they went into captivity, indeed, therefore, I will deliver you as a possession to the men of the **East**... Because **you clapped your hands**, stamped your feet, and rejoiced in heart with all your disdain for the land of Israel, indeed, therefore, I will stretch out My hand against you, and give you as **plunder** to the nations. (Ez. 25:1-3, 6-7)

Ammonites given to Babylon.

This is what the Lord said to me: “Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck. Then send word to the kings of **Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon...**’ say, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says, ‘Tell this to your masters: With my great power and outstretched arm I **made the earth and its people and animals** that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. Now I will hand all your countries over to my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the **wild animals** subject to him...” (Jer. 27:2-6; c.f., Jer. 4:32).

God's creation references gentile nations!

**Gentile Passover, Gentile Promised Land,
Gentile Disobedience, Gentile Captivity,
then...?**

The Gentile Promise of Restoration

“Woe to you, O Moab! The people of Chemosh are destroyed; your sons are taken *into exile* and your daughters into *captivity*. ‘Yet I will *restore the fortunes of Moab*, in the days to come,’ declares the LORD.” (Jer. 48:47)

Concerning the Ammonites: “... *O unfaithful daughter*, you trust in your riches and say, ‘Who will attack me?’ I will bring terror upon you... Yet afterward, I will *restore the fortunes of the Ammonites* declares the LORD.” (Jer. 49:4-6)

- Old Covenant lessons for the New Testament
 - Moab experienced an exile and captivity
 - Ammon was considered God’s “daughter” by the prophet Jeremiah
 - Though Israel had a special place and role, God judged both Israel and gentiles by the same standard!
 - No favoritism with God – ever (Rom. 2:11)

The Faith of Lot's Descendants

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi **from the east** came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his **star** in the east and have come to worship him.” (Matt. 2:1-2; c.f., Num. 24:17)

- Who are these people? How did they know to come worship the King of the Jews?
 - Children of Lot received the Star prophecy in Num. 24:17
 - Moab and Ammon descended into idolatry, forsaking the faith of their father, Lot
 - Children of Lot went into captivity to the East, in Babylon
 - Understood Nebuchadnezzar's proclamation about the one true God
 - Likely knew the timing of the 70 Weeks prophecy from Daniel
 - Worshipped the King of the Jews in whom they had their hope of restoration

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared **in the sight of all people**, a light for revelation to the **Gentiles** and for glory to your people Israel. (Luke 2:30-31)

The coming of Jesus Christ brings the faithful children of Lot together with the faithful children of Abraham.

This is a family reunion rooted in Genesis!

The Redemption of All Creation

Go into all the world and preach the good news to *all creation*. (Mark 16:15)

Therefore go and make disciples of *all nations*... (Matthew 28:19)

Great Commission parallel texts: all creation = all nations

This is the gospel that you heard and that *has been* proclaimed *to every creature* under heaven. (Col. 1:23)

For we know that the *whole creation* groans and labors with birth pangs *together* until now. (Rom. 8:22)

**The story in the New Testament completes the story of
Covenant Creation**

- Gospel preached to “all creation” – the Old Covenant Creation
- Gospel preached to “every creature under heaven”
- The “whole creation” is redeemed together (Jew and Gentile)

**Only Preterism can unlock the full meaning of Genesis!
Covenant Creation completes Covenant Eschatology**

The 2009 Covenant Creation Conference!

Recordings from the [2009 Covenant Creation Conference](#) available soon! [Click here](#) for details:

This set of MP3 audio recordings comes complete with the matching PowerPoint presentations for each session. Also included is a high-quality print of the new painting by James Robert Kessler titled “***Etz Chaim: The Divine Diary.***” This masterpiece was designed to present the covenant relationship between the biblical “beginning” and “end.” (see next slide)

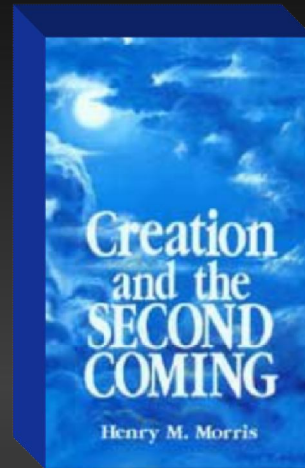
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Etz Chaim: The Divine Diary

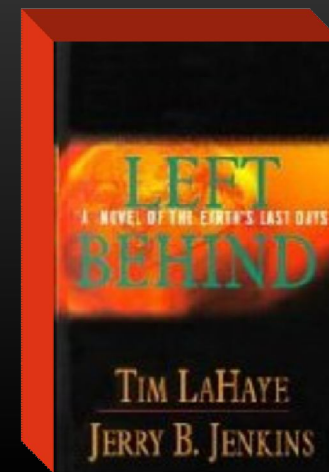
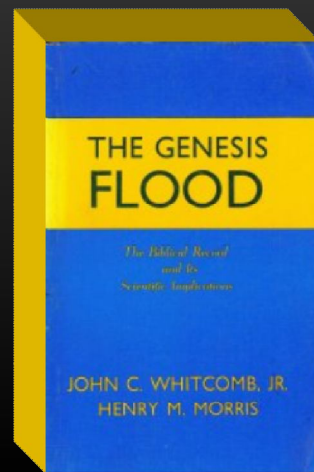


Is there a relationship between YEC and our view of the end times?

Have we been misled about Genesis?



Have we been misled about Revelation?



Is there a relationship between YEC and our view of the end times?

You may not agree with all of this book...



But it makes a lot of good points.