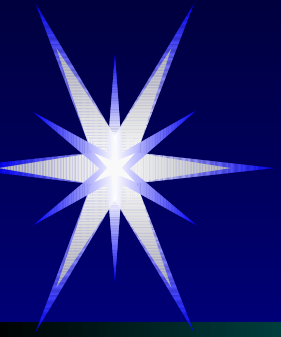


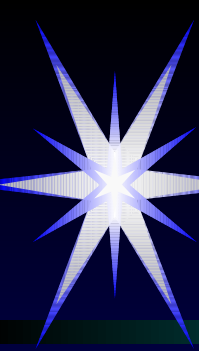


Christ in Context: Redemptive-Historical Interpretation

Vern S. Poythress
For ST 223 Doctrine of Christ



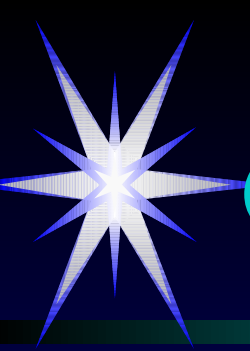
A. What is Redemptive-Historical Interpretation?



General Definition

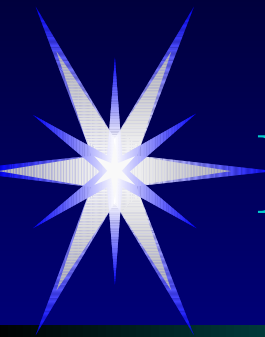
Redemptive-historical interpretation is

interpretation of the Bible that pays attention to and takes seriously the historical unfolding of God's plan for redemption and his progressive revelation through distinct periods of history.



Christ in Redemptive History

The Bible unfolds the meaning of the person and the work of Christ in the context of its exposition of the unfolding of redemption in history.



B. Earlier History



Focus on History

- Adam: Gen. 3:15
- Moses: Deut. 1:8, 19; Deut. 29-30
- David: 2 Sam. 7:19
- Isaiah: Isa. 52:7-10
- Jesus: Luke 24:26
- Paul: 1 Cor. 15:22, 45-49



Focus on History (2)

- Irenaeus (c. 130-c. 202): Adam and Christ
- Augustine (354-430): *The City of God*, spiritual war
- Johannes Oecolampadius (1482-1531): patterns leading to fulfillment in Christ
- Heinrich Bullinger (1504-1575): covenants
- Johannes Cocceius (1603-1669): covenant theology
- Westminster Confession of Faith (1646): covenant of works and covenant of grace, in two administrations (OT and NT)



Focus on History (3)

Westminster Theological Seminary

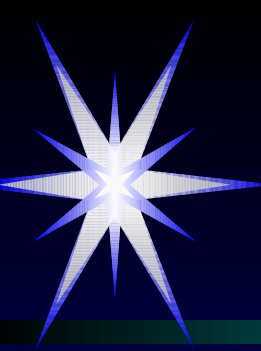
Geerhardus Vos



Definition of "biblical theology" in relation to the history of redemption:

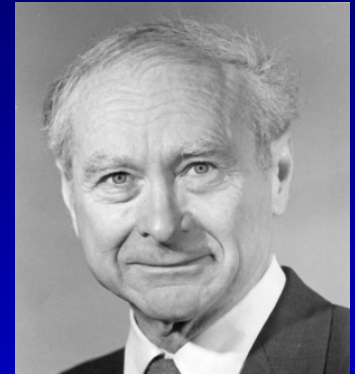
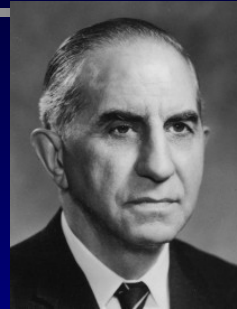
"The History of Special Revelation"¹

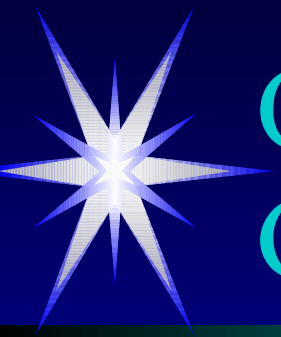
Vos, *Biblical Theology*, p. 23,
under "The Nature and Method of
Biblical Theology"



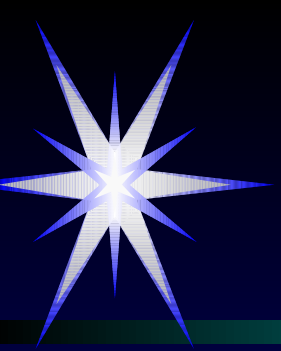
Early Generations at WTS

- John Murray
- Ned B. Stonehouse
- Edmund P. Clowney
- Meredith G. Kline
- Richard B. Gaffin, Jr.





C. Foundations: The Bible Shows God's Work in History



God in His Unchangeability (Psalm 102:23-27)

He has broken my strength in midcourse;
he has shortened my days.

"O my God," I say, "take me not away
in the midst of my days--
you whose years endure
throughout all generations!"

Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

They will perish, but you will remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

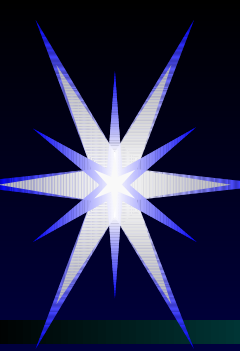
You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,
but you are the same, and your years have no end.



God's Plan for History: Isa. 46:9-10

...

remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

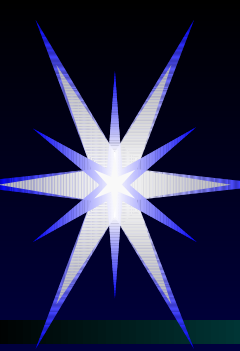


God's Work in History: Eph. 1:11

In him we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined according to the
purpose of him who works all things
according to the counsel of his will,



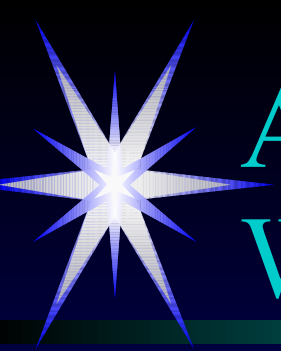
D. Periods of History



Creation and Consummation

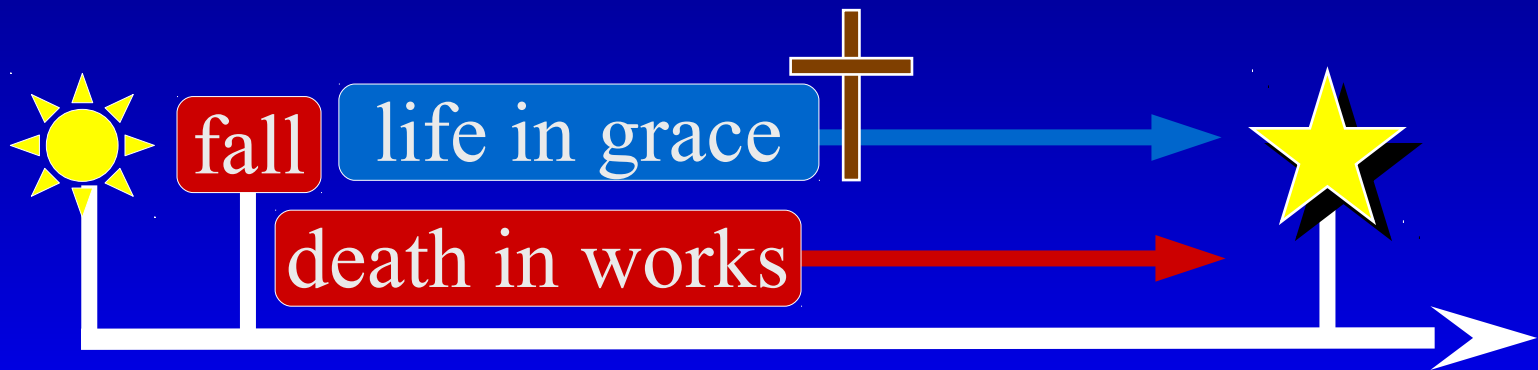
"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." – Rev. 22:13





Adam and Christ: Covenant of Works and Covenant of Grace

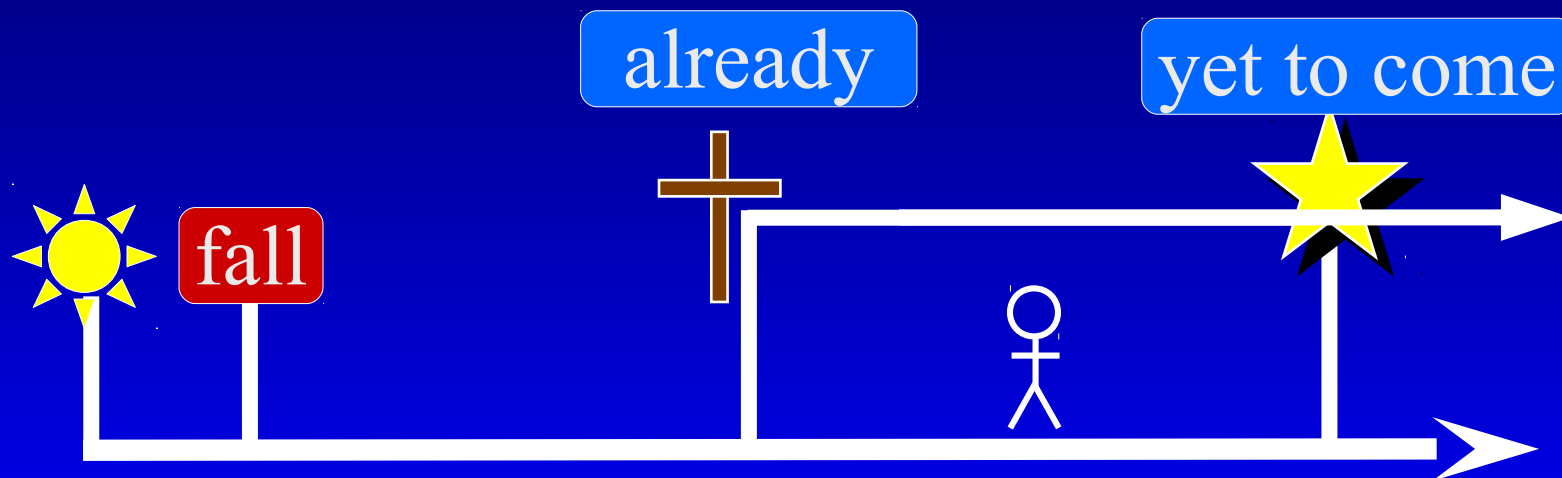
The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.
... Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. – 1 Cor. 15:47, 49





Already and Yet-To-Come

But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. – 1 Cor. 15:23

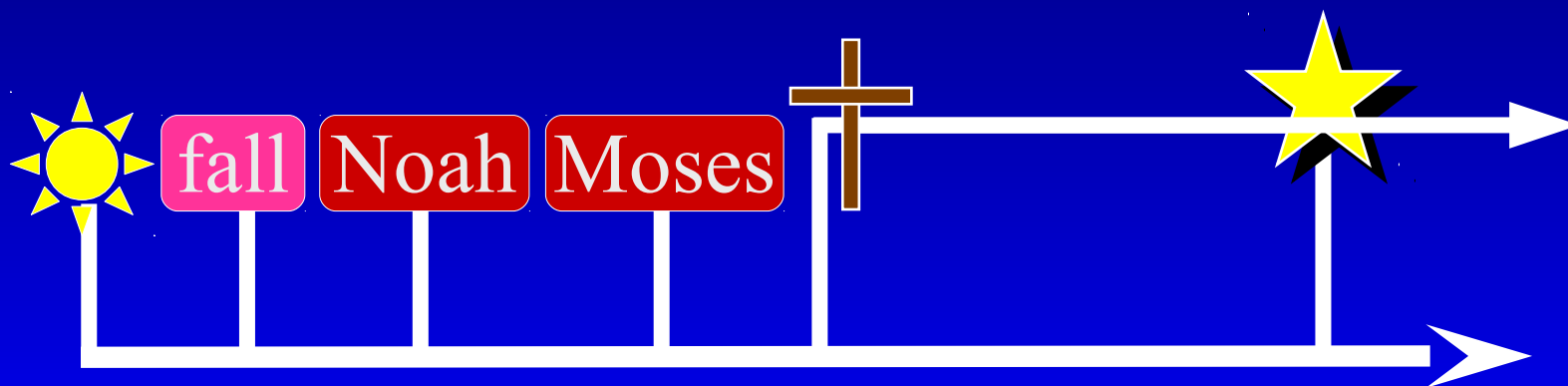


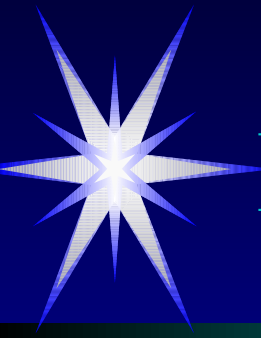


Periods in the Old Testament

... the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. – 2 Pet. 3:6

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. . – John 1:17



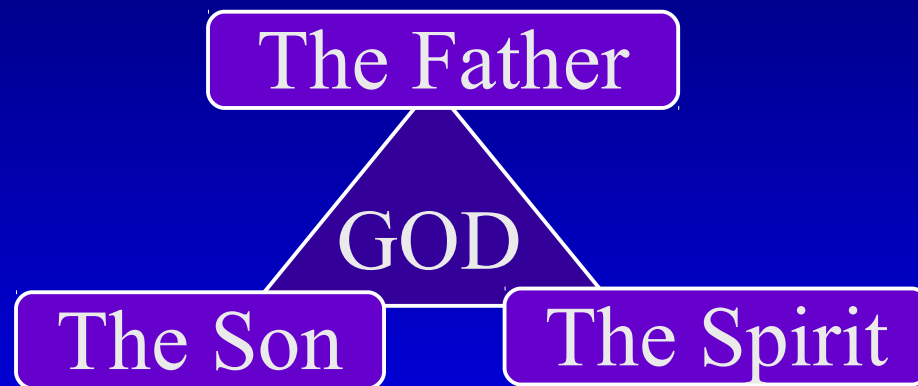


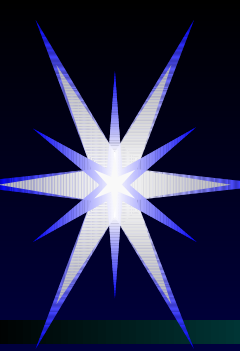
E. God Acting in Relations



Relations within God

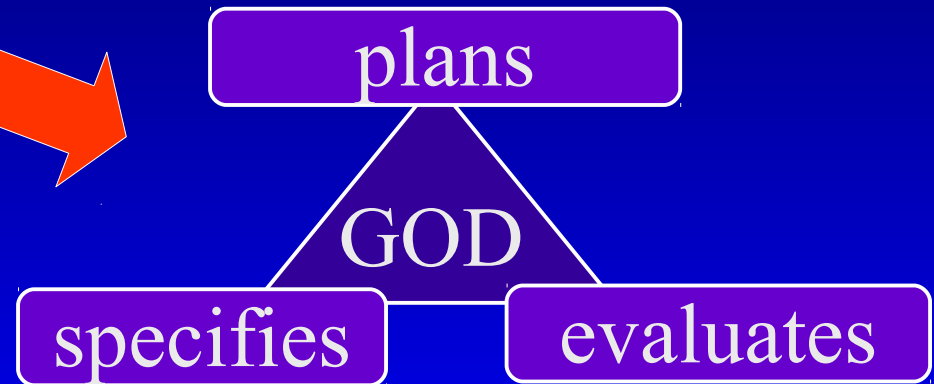
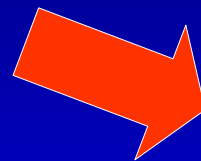
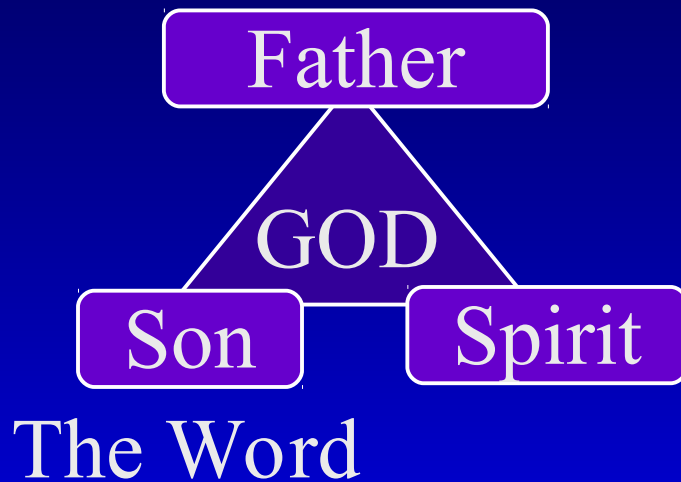
For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.
– John 3:34-35





Relations in God Speaking

And God saw that the light was good. –
Gen. 1:4





Relations in Creating

- And God saw that the light was good. – Gen. 1:4
- And God saw that it was good. – Gen. 1:10
- And God saw that it was good. – Gen. 1:12
- And God saw that it was good. – Gen. 1:18
- And God saw that it was good. – Gen. 1:21
- And God saw that it was good. – Gen. 1:25
- And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. – Gen. 1:31

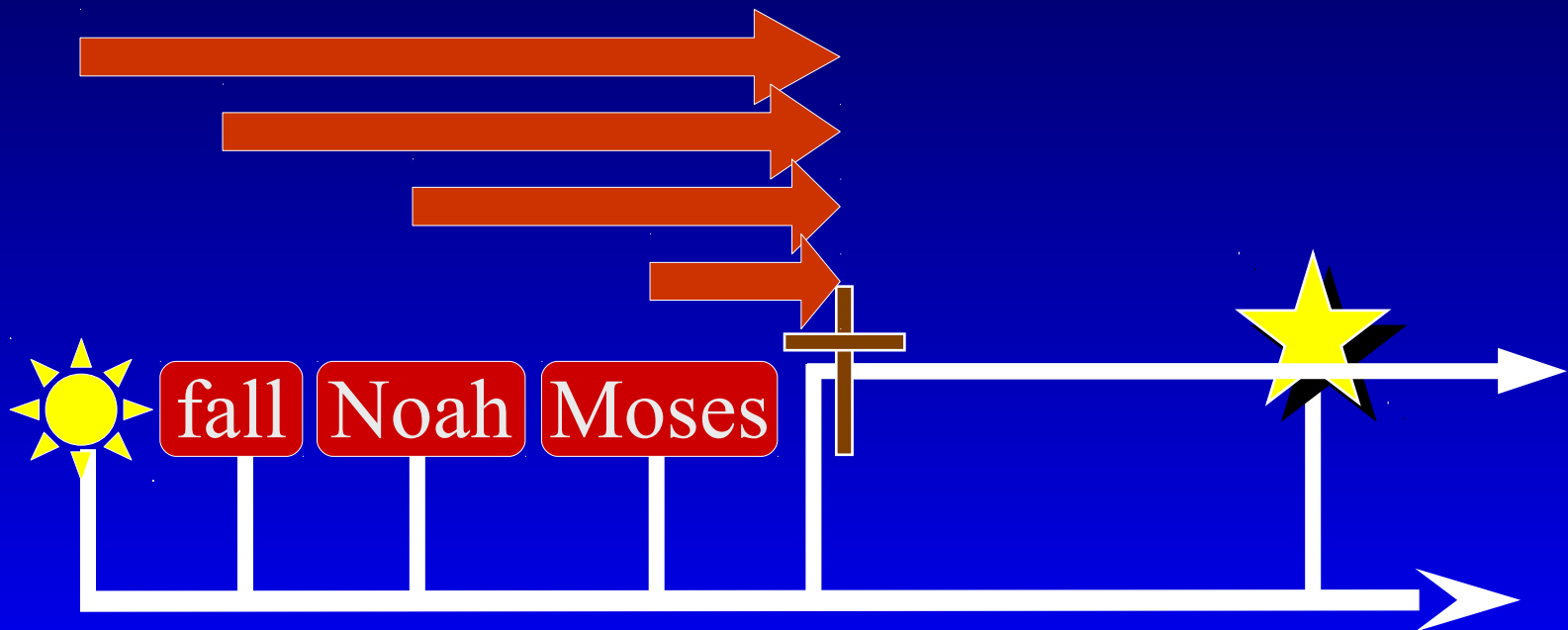
Relations in Speaking to Man

"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it" – Gen. 1:28.



Relations through Fulfillment in Christ

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. – 2 Cor. 1:20.





Time Line

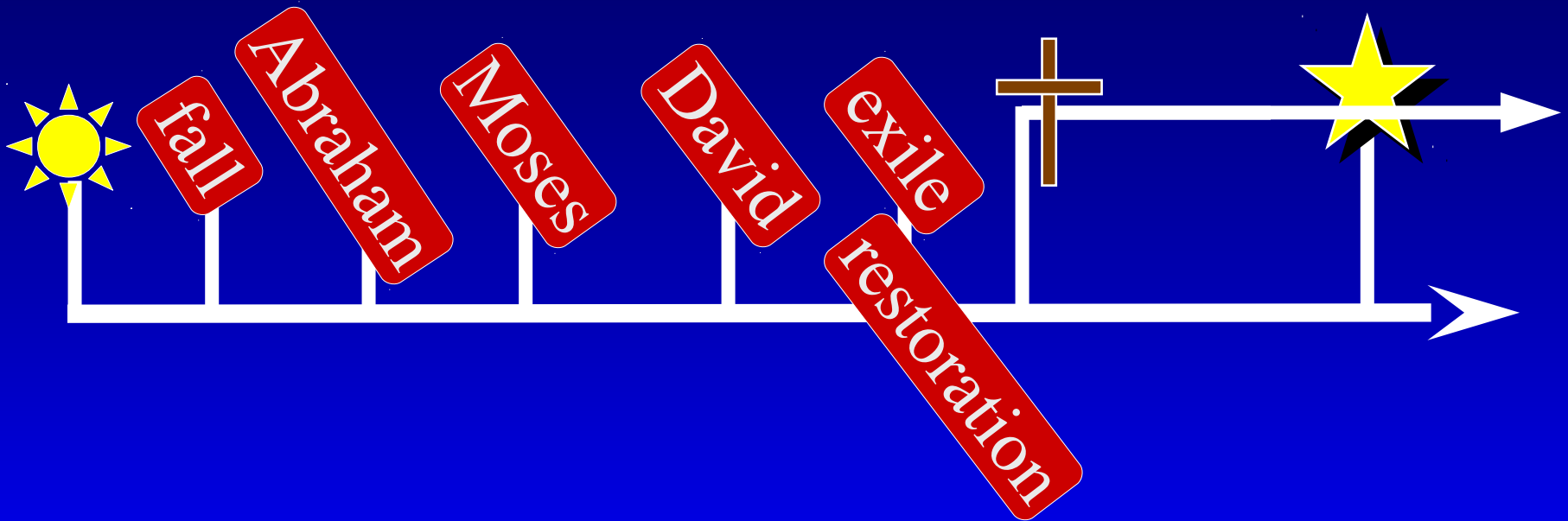
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BC

1500

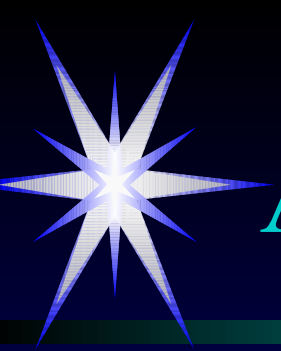
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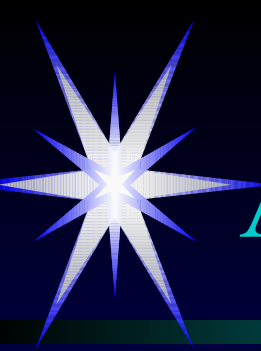


F. An Example

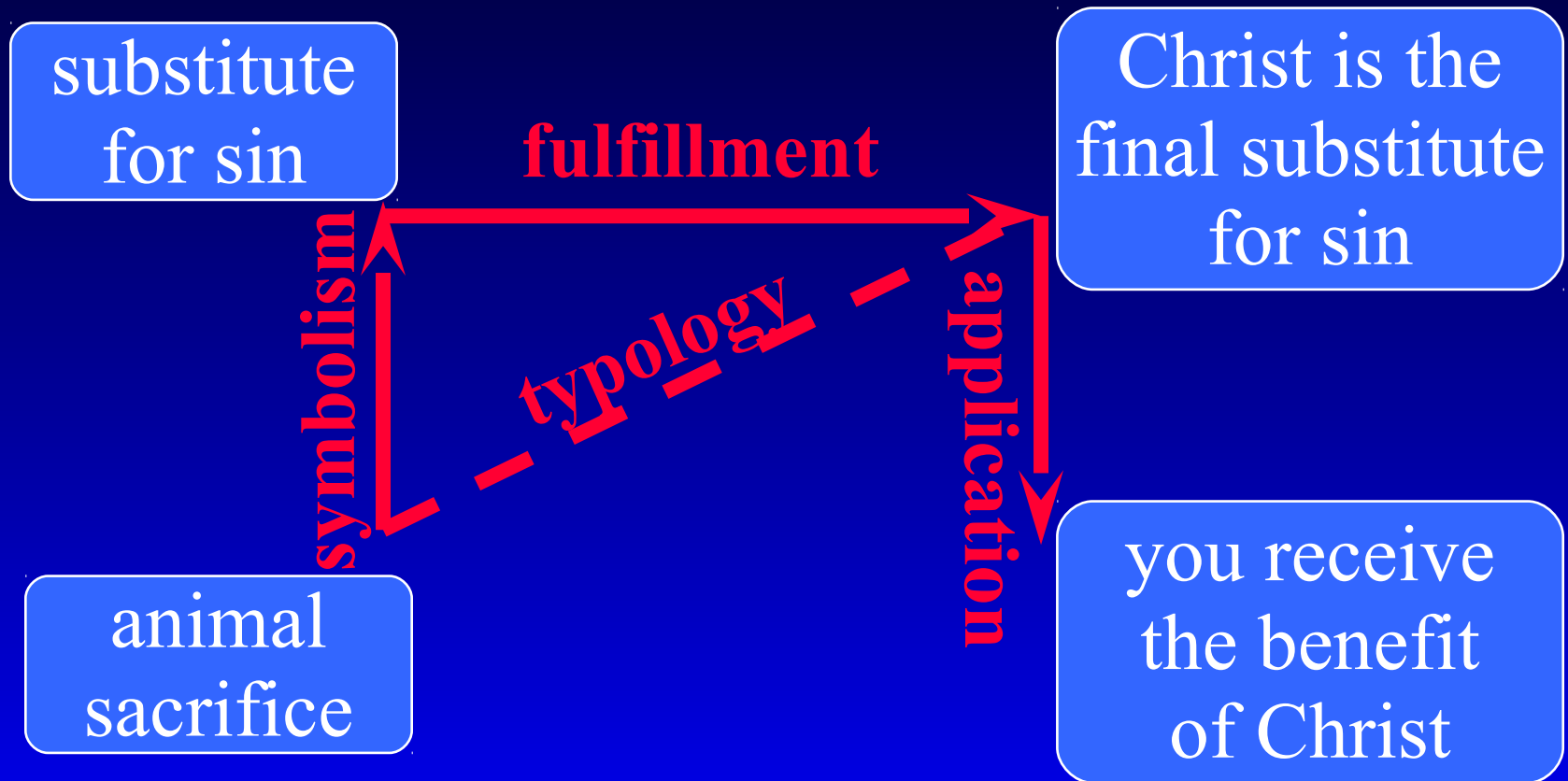


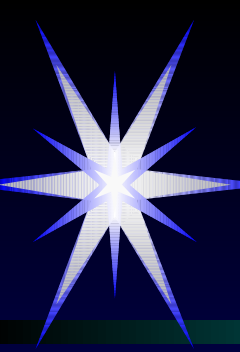
An Example: Acts 1-2

- Unique, watershed events
- Revealing Christ
- Showing the work of Christ
- With implications for understanding the OT
- With implications for us

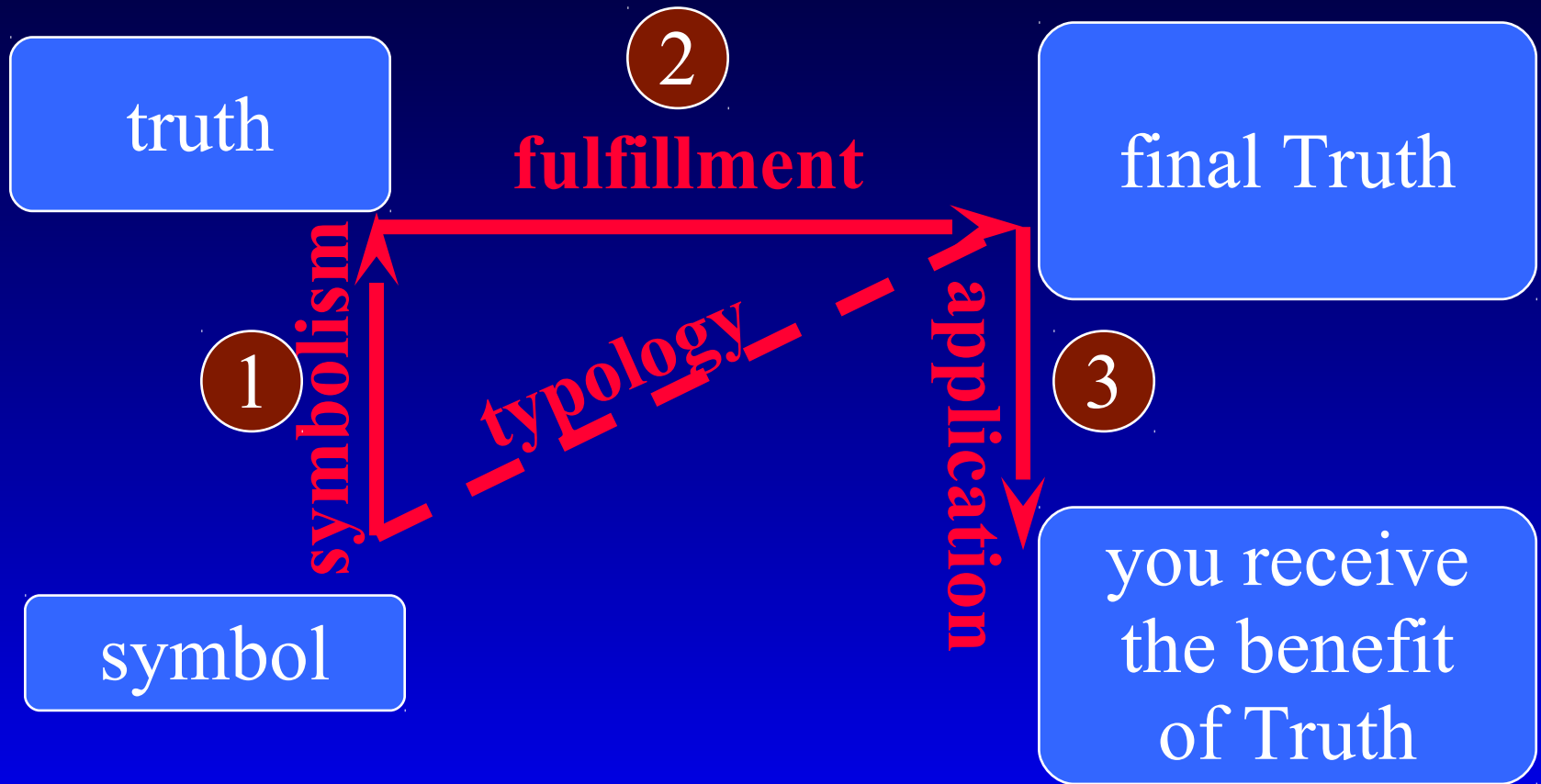


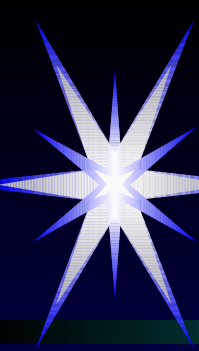
An Example: Sacrifices





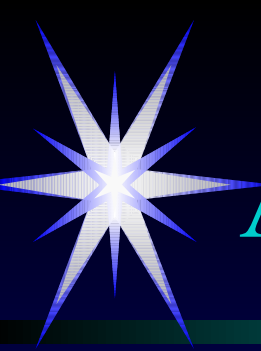
Clowney's Triangle of Typology





G. Principles for Interpretation

- God-centered interpretation
- Progressive revelation
- Christ-centered interpretation
- "Organic" progress
- In historical context, within God's plan for history
- That is, *redemptive-historical* interpretation



An Example: Noah's Flood

