

2 Samuel 7 The Message

7 ¹⁻² Before long, the king made himself at home and God gave him peace from all his enemies. Then one day King David said to Nathan the prophet, “Look at this: Here I am, comfortable in a luxurious house of cedar, and the Chest of God sits in a plain tent.”

³ Nathan told the king, “Whatever is on your heart, go and do it. God is with you.”

⁴⁻⁷ But that night, the word of God came to Nathan saying, “Go and tell my servant David: This is God’s word on the matter: You’re going to build a ‘house’ for me to live in? Why, I haven’t lived in a ‘house’ from the time I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt till now. All that time I’ve moved about with nothing but a tent. And in all my travels with Israel, did I ever say to any of the leaders I commanded to shepherd Israel, ‘Why haven’t you built me a house of cedar?’

8-11 “So here is what you are to tell my servant David: The God-of-the-Angel-Armies has this word for you: I took you from the pasture, tagging along after sheep, and made you prince over my people Israel. I was with you everywhere you went and mowed your enemies down before you. Now I’m making you famous, to be ranked with the great names on earth. And I’m going to set aside a place for my people Israel and plant them there so they’ll have their own home and not be knocked around any more. Nor will evil men afflict you as they always have, even during the days I set judges over my people Israel. Finally, I’m going to give you peace from all your enemies.

11-16 “Furthermore, God has this message for you: God himself will build you a house! When your life is complete and you’re buried with your ancestors, then I’ll raise up your child, your own flesh and blood, to succeed you, and I’ll firmly establish his rule. He will build a house to honor me, and I will guarantee his kingdom’s rule permanently. I’ll be a father to him, and he’ll be a son to me. When he does wrong, I’ll discipline him in the usual ways, the pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life. But I’ll never remove my gracious love from him, as I removed it from Saul, who preceded you and whom I most certainly did remove. Your family and your kingdom are permanently secured. I’m keeping my eye on them! And your royal throne will always be there, rock solid.”

17 Nathan gave David a complete and accurate account of everything he heard and saw in the vision.

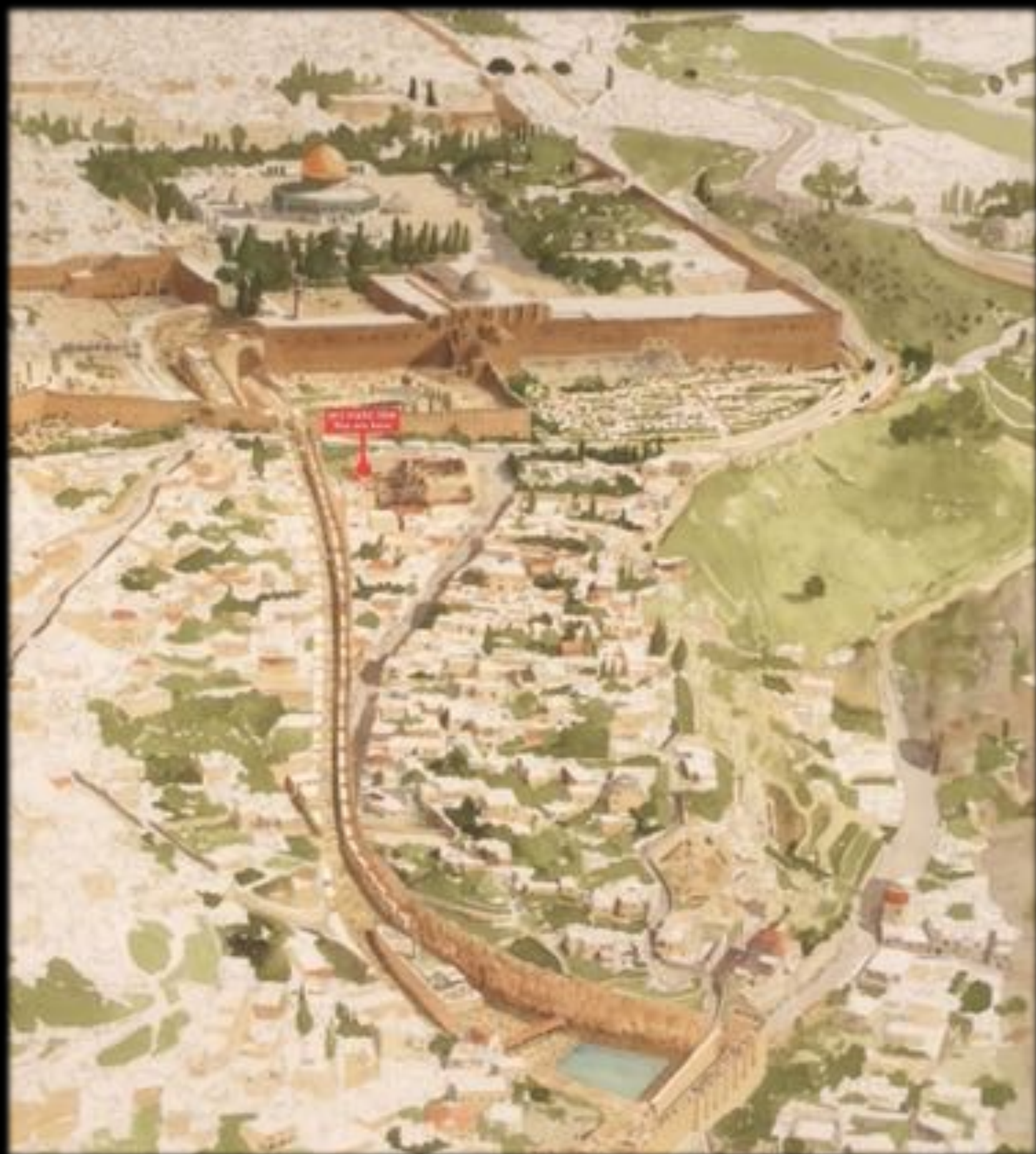
18-21 King David went in, took his place before God, and prayed:
“Who am I, my Master God, and what is my family, that you have brought me to this place in life? But that’s nothing compared to what’s coming, for you’ve also spoken of my family far into the future, given me a glimpse into tomorrow, my Master God! What can I possibly say in the face of all this? You know me, Master God, just as I am. You’ve done all this not because of who I am but because of who you are—out of your very heart!—but you’ve let me in on it.

22-24 “This is what makes you so great, Master God! There is none like you, no God but you, nothing to compare with what we’ve heard with our own ears. And who is like your people, like Israel, a nation unique in the earth, whom God set out to redeem for himself (and became most famous for it), performing great and fearsome acts, throwing out nations and their gods left and right as you saved your people from Egypt? You established for yourself a people—your very own Israel!—your people permanently. And you, God, became their God.

25-27 “So now, great God, this word that you have spoken to me and my family, guarantee it permanently! Do exactly what you’ve promised! Then your reputation will flourish always as people exclaim, ‘The God-of-the-Angel-Armies is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will remain sure and solid in your watchful presence. For you, God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel’s God, told me plainly, ‘I will build you a house.’ That’s how I was able to find the courage to pray this prayer to you.

28-29 “And now, Master God, being the God you are, speaking sure words as you do, and having just said this wonderful thing to me, please, just one more thing: Bless my family; keep your eye on them always. You’ve already as much as said that you would, Master God!











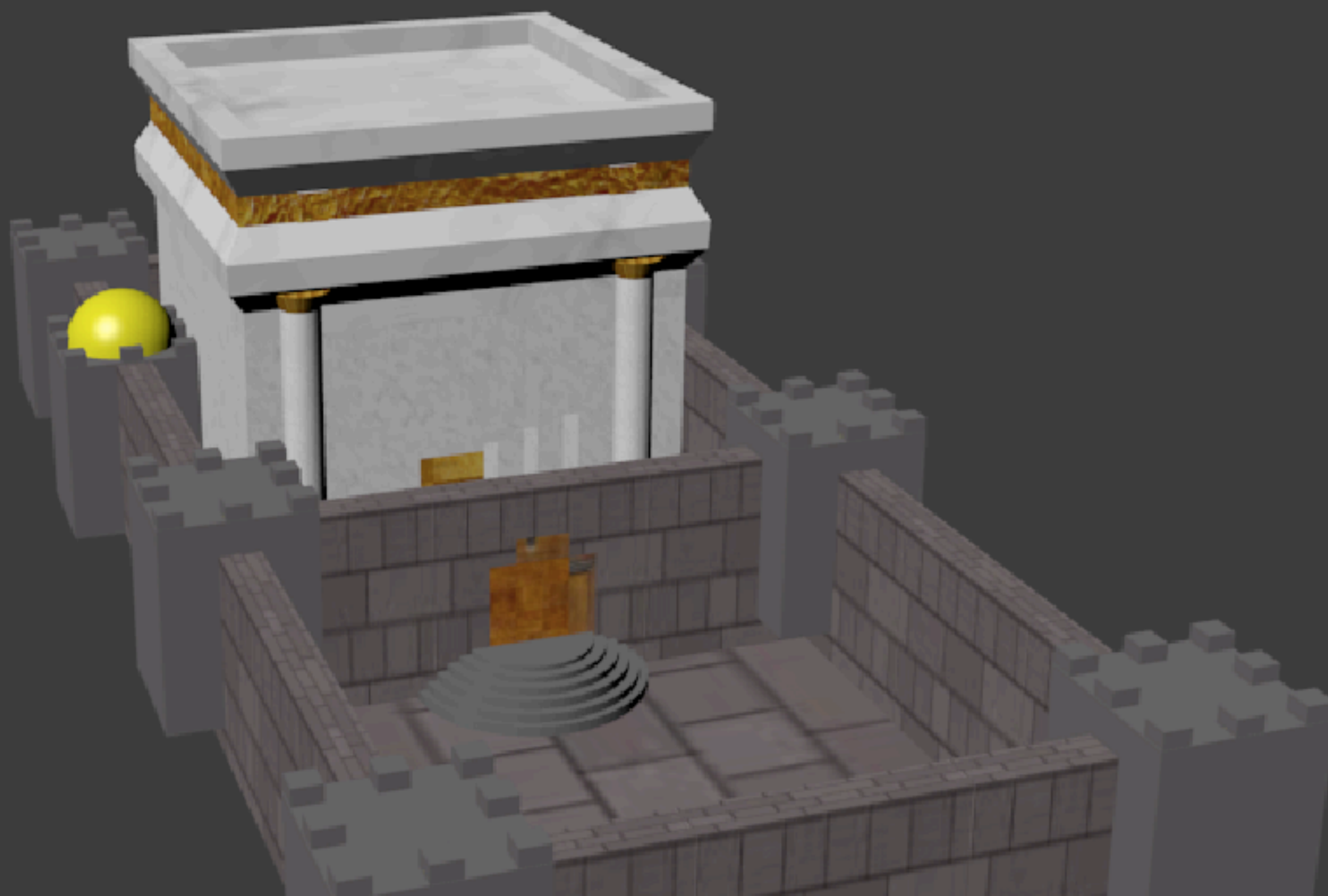


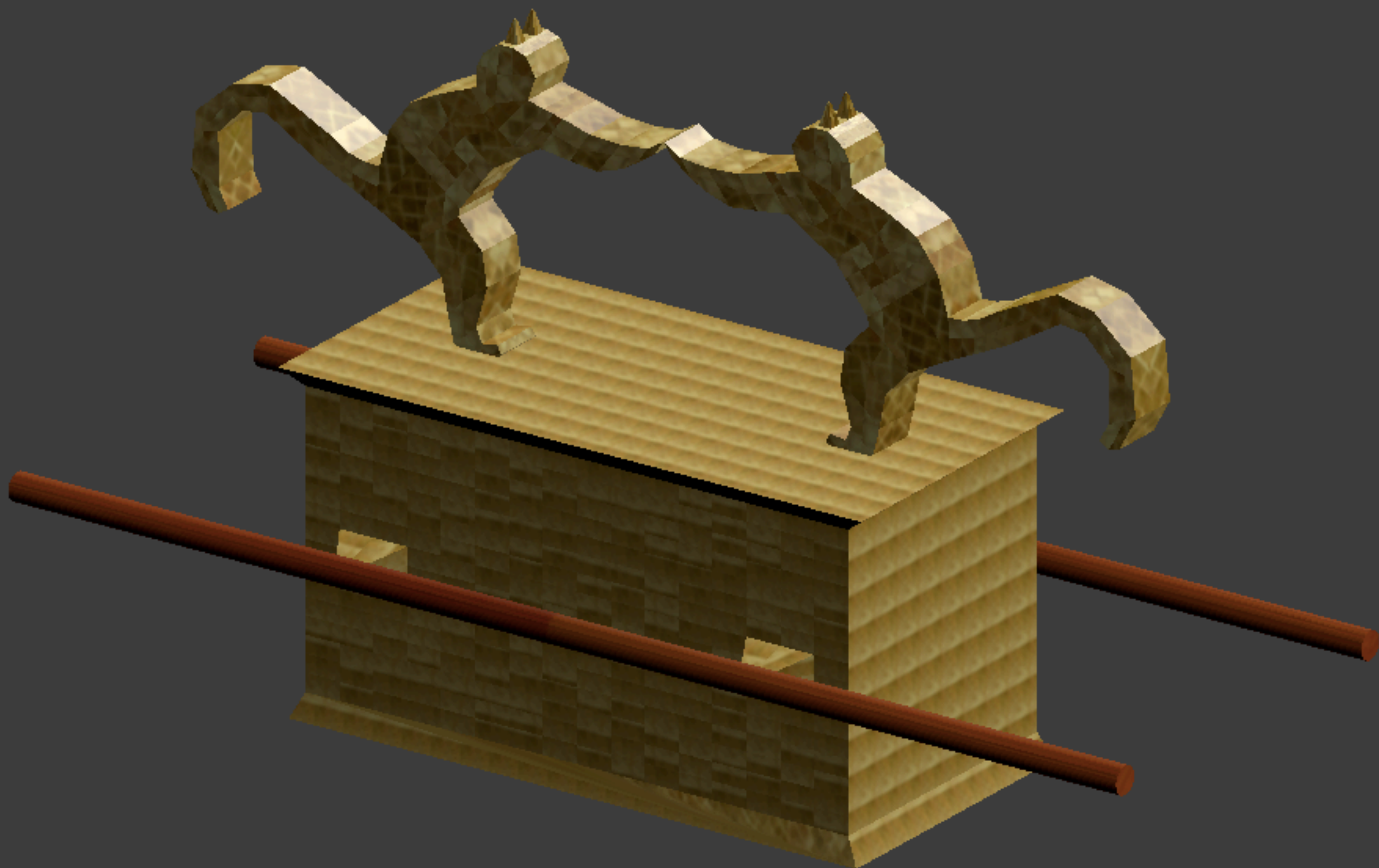












Who is G*d
What is (s)he up to
Where does G*d live
Who are we
How then do we live



“The thing
behind the thing
behind the thing”

Rob Bell



Accurate?

Complete?

Dangerous?

Possible?

The one who made the Pleiades and Orion,
and turns deep darkness into the morning,
and darkens the day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea,
and pours them out on the surface of the earth,
The Lord is his name.

Amos 5:8

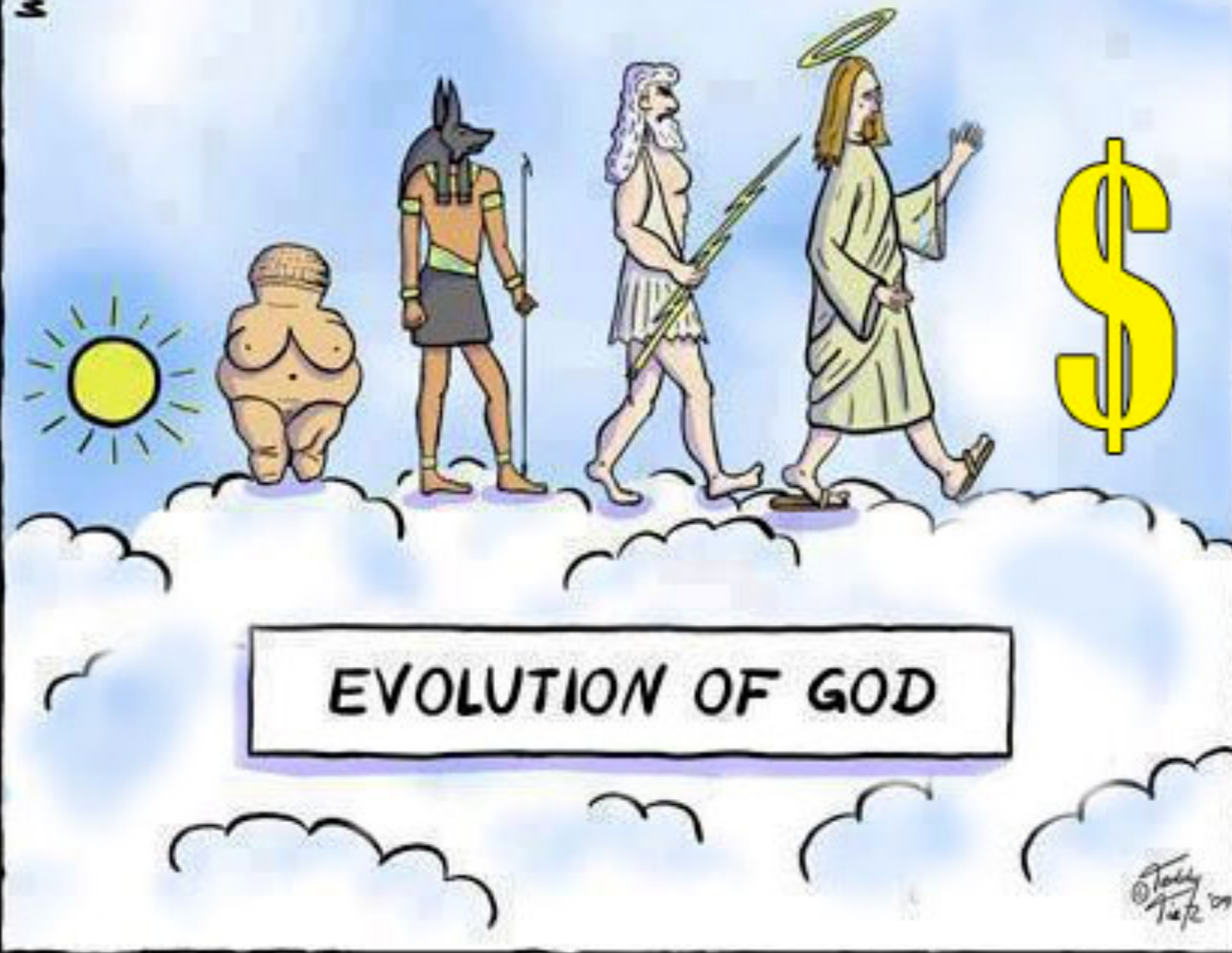
“Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion.”
"Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he-quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"... "Safe?" said Mr Beaver ... "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you.”

C. S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe



Who is G*d?

TEDDYTIETZ.COM



A spiralling trajectory of
change seems at least as
plausible as a linear course of
development.

Mark Vernon

The Judeo-Christian *story* of G*d

Hebrews and 'Shebrews'

'Actual' human history/poems/songs

An evolving understanding of G*d

Non-linear, non-dualistic

Probably universally true





g*d(s) out there/everywhere to

G*d made us to

G*d in a fire/cloud to

G*d in a box/tent to

G*d in a temple to

G*d incarnate to

G*d in us

G*d everywhere

From garden to city

From Lord of all to... Lord of all

Other religions: G*ds in man's image

This story: Man in G*d's image

Universally true?



‘If mankind should one day discover there are indeed intelligent beings on other planets those beings will still be Gods creatures, revealing his Glory and Truth in ways that are perfectly consistent with what He has shown to his children on Earth’.

C. S. Lewis

It's G*d's story

It's going somewhere

G*d is (re)making all things new







The mystery that knows us

I love to define mystery as not that which is unknowable, but that which is endlessly knowable. So you never get to the point where I know it all. And wouldn't we assume that would be the nature of God? That God will always by definition be mystery. More knowability, deeper experience, deeper surrender. So that's the meaning of faith, and why faith has such power, not just to transform people but to keep them on an ongoing path of transformation and growth.

Richard Rohr

What is G*d up to?

This G*d is different









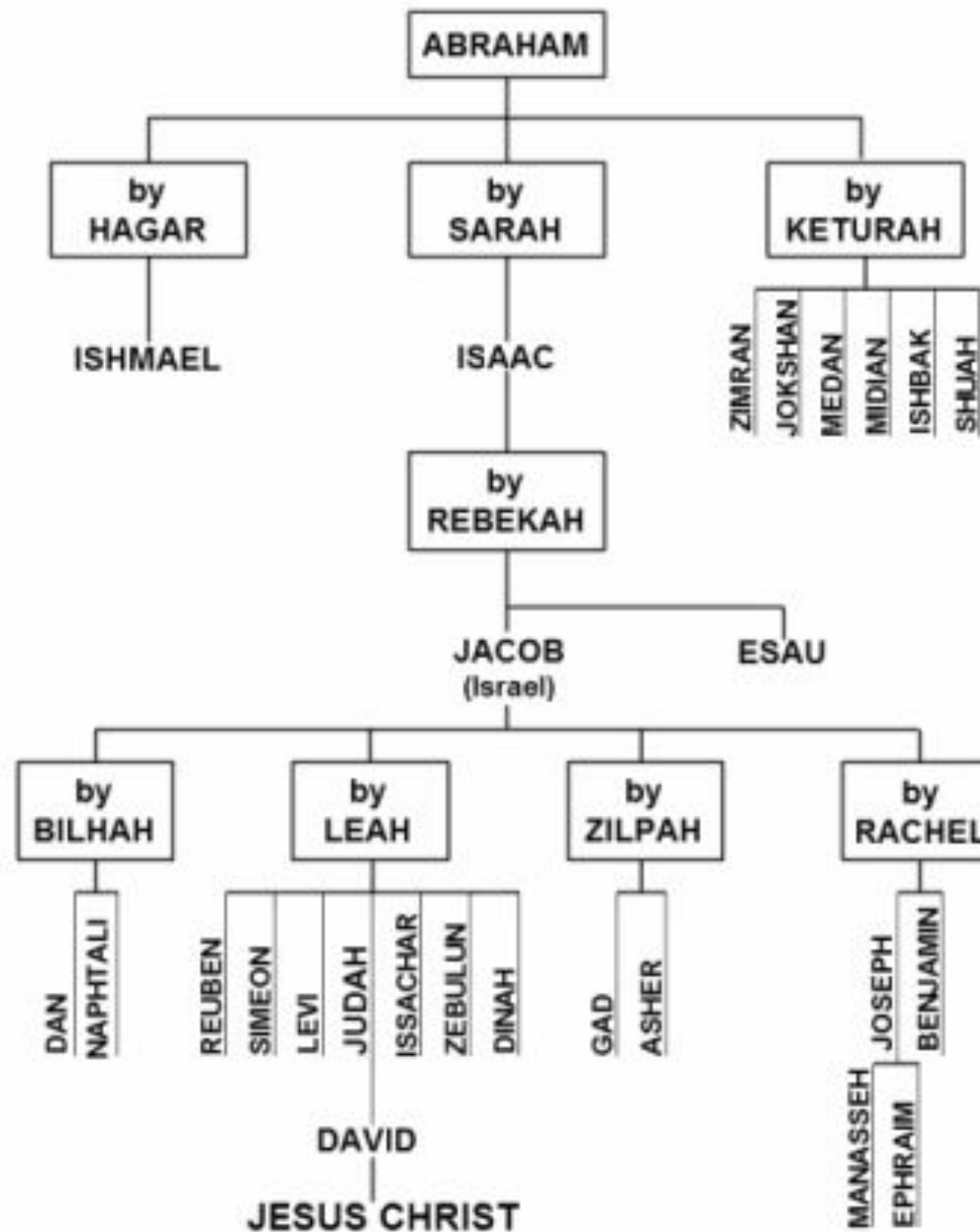








Lineage from Abraham to Jesus



DESCENT Malcolm Guite

They sought to soar into the skies
Those classic gods of high renown
For lofty pride aspires to rise
But you came down.

You dropped down from the
mountains sheer
Forsook the eagle for the dove
The other Gods demanded fear
But you gave love

Where chiselled marble seemed to
freeze
Their abstract and perfected form
Compassion brought you to your
knees
Your blood was warm

They called for blood in sacrifice
Their victims on an altar bled
When no one else could pay the price
You died instead

They towered above our mortal plain
Dismissed this restless flesh with scorn
Aloof from birth and death and pain
But you were born

Born to these burdens, borne by all
Born with us all 'astride the grave'
Weak, to be with us when we fall
And strong to save

A powerful, relentless
graciousness

Walter Bruggeman

Where does G*d live?





The ark/tabernacle/temple
answers the personal insecurity
of the Israelites that God is with
them

2 Samuel 7

I judge this oracle with its
unconditional promise to David
to be the most crucial theological
statement in the Old Testament

Walter Bruggemen

David's offer

G*d's counter offer

David's response

“/ will build Yaweh a house”

Genuine piety *and* self-serving
legitimisation

“When I'm good and ready”

Presumptive for a mortal to build a home for the unhoused God

Gods freedom but Gods presence

Yaweh will not be unquestionably limited

God is wanting to legitimise David far beyond Kingship and a state temple

“I will build not a a house but a dynasty”

The dynasty is not unrelated to the temple but is a very different social reality

There will be temple but there will in the future be no need for it

God is in solidarity with David and his family

OK

You are great

Going to hold you to it!

(Deference/doxology/demand)

I

Biblical stories arise in geo-historical political situations
G*d is interested in power, politics, justice and economics
Biblical faith is vulnerable to political contamination

2

Conditional 'ifs' of ethical requirement/obedience replaced

Not if, but nevertheless

Conditional and unconditional in tension

Utter fidelity in the midst of painful breaks

You are loved

3

From David's line will come salvation

Generations of Davids/'Davidas' to follow

Unconditional gospel

Shaping history, righting wrong, restoring justice

Judaism and Christianity are communities of hope

A new tribe

A temple is built

Symbolises transcendent creator and covenant

G*d

G*d dwells with us and orders life

Go to the temple to have peace with G*d

(Loss of temple is loss of G*d)





Christmas is more important
than Easter

Relationships rather than
transactions

Franciscan teaching

Immanuel - G*d with us

Chooses 12 disciples

Blessing others is still the calling

On the side of lost/littlest/least and
last

Completes the law

Ends the sacrificial system

Jesus is 'in some ways a one-
man counter temple
movement'.

NT Wright





I Paul To you at
N901imote





How then do we live?

What might us being a blessing look like?

What does 2 Sam 7 look like today?



Abraham did it

Jesus did it

Then the disciples

Then the early church

Now it's our turn

A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there.

[...whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.]

The 'Orthodox' stuff

Celebrate the origin of your species

Care for creation

Care for women/children/widow/orphans/
prisoners/ex-prisoners/refugees (those in
Exodus)

The “For those who grew up in
sects” stuff

Predestined/election implies
'for a purpose'

The ‘‘I am is OK with that’’ stuff

Accept freedom from guilt and fear

Look for God/truth *everywhere*, in *everyone*

Live the life *you* find *yourself* in

No right answers

Apply principles to situations

Dance with *your* story, *your* situation

Look for wells not fences
Aim to flourish/help flourish
It won't be beige
It will be costly
Look for 'widening circles'

“Widening Circles”

BY RAINER MARIA RILKE

translation by Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows

*I live my life in widening circles
that reach out across the world.
I may not complete this last one
but I give myself to it.*

*I circle around God, around the primordial tower.
I've been circling for thousands of years
and I still don't know: am I a falcon,
a storm, or a great song?*

Book of Hours, I 2

"Now, there are many millions who in their sects and churches who feel the order, '*Do thou,*' and throw their weight into obedience. And there are millions more who feel predestination in '*Thou shalt.*' Nothing they may do can interfere with what will be. But '*Thou mayest!*' Why, that makes a man great, that gives him stature with the gods, for in his weakness and his filth and his murder of his brother he has still the great choice. He can choose his course and fight it through and win... And I feel I am a man. And I feel that a man is a very important thing - maybe more important than a star. This is not theology. I have no bent towards the gods. But I have a new love for that glittering instrument, the human soul. It is a lovely and unique thing in the universe. It is always attacked and never destroyed - because '*Thou mayest.*'"...

The “Challenging your G*dology”
stuff

Jesus' full journey revealed two major things: that salvation could have a positive and optimistic storyline, neither beginning nor ending with a cosmic problem; and that God was far different and far better than religion up to then had demonstrated. Jesus personally walked through the full human journey of both failure and rejection—while still forgiving his enemies—and then he said, “Follow me” and do likewise (see John 12:26; Matthew 10:38). The cross was not necessary, but a pure gift so that humanity could witness God's outflowing Love in dramatic form.

Richard Rohr

In summary...

We find ourselves in a story, within G*d's
story

It's a relational story

We are unconditionally loved

We are the new temple

Our task is to (re)make everything new

Dance with it

Dance with G*d















