

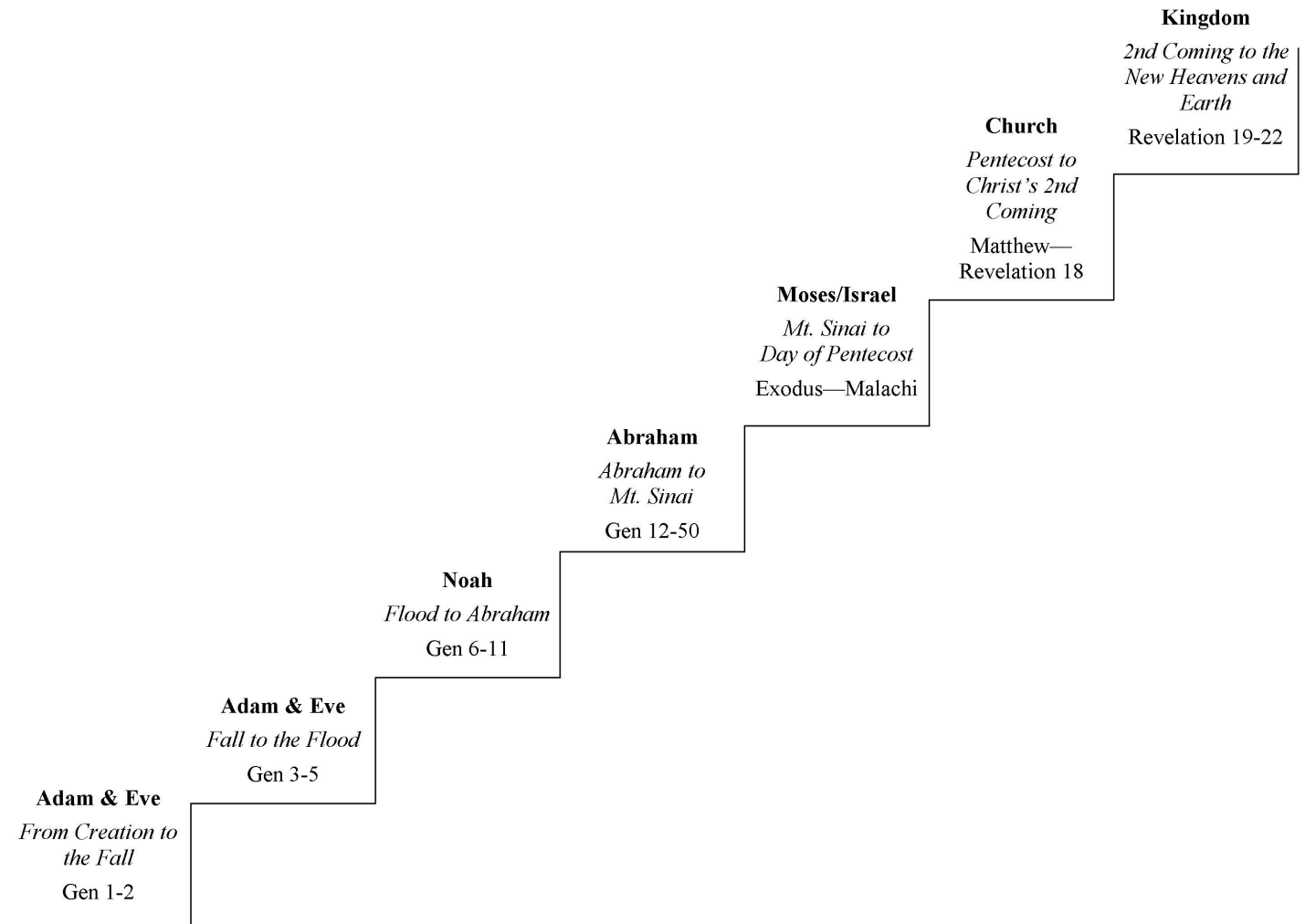
- 5) The Bible sets forth an explanation of history from God’s perspective—what God desires to *do* in history and *how* he has gone about accomplishing that objective. As we considered last week, God has revealed the goal and unifying principle of history *progressively* in events in history and particularly revelation to men.
- 6) Throughout history God is glorified as he **governs** (directs, manages, administrates) the world, revealing his character. As God governed the world he gave different revelation to man. God’s revelation increased in **breadth** as more “deposits” were made.
- So think back to the “rainstorm” illustration of God’s revelation—as God’s Word came once in awhile, sometimes giving a lot of “rain,” sometimes a little, the amount increased from a little bit to a large body of water.
- 7) Why is it important for you, the student of the Bible, to consider this? Well, we have to recognize that there *are* some basic distinctions in the Bible. In fact, every interpreter of Scripture sees that there are different ways (“distinctions”) that God has related to people.
- For example, the distinction we are most familiar with is that of **Israel** and the **church**. The Bible makes it very clear that God **administers** the world differently in these two examples.
 - How you interpret and apply the Scriptures that go with these different administrations is extremely important, so it is crucial that you see them!
 - These distinct administrations exist because God is *progressively* working out His plan in human history.
 - If we can see these two distinct administrations of God’s plan in the Bible, and if our interpretation and application of Scripture is affected by seeing such distinctions, it is important to ask, “What are the different administrations of God in the Bible?”
 - Let’s hit the easy ones first—
 - (1) **Adam and Eve before the Fall**
 - (2) **Adam and Eve after the Fall**
 - (3) **OT Israel**
 - (4) **The church**
 - (5) **The Kingdom of God**
 - So, we can easily see in the Bible five different administrations of God’s working out His purpose in human history. If we dig a little more, we will see that between the Fall and the establishment of Israel as a distinct nation there are two more administrations, tied to two individuals—
 - (1) **Noah**
 - (2) **Abraham**

- If we put all this together, we see that the Bible reveals **seven** different ways in which God related to mankind. Each “administration” had its own **revelation** and set of **responsibilities**, which affected and controlled God’s **relationship** with people.
- Let’s stop for a second here and ask, “What is the practical importance of this for us?” Well, consider what difference there is between—

- (1) The *revelation* God gave Adam and Eve and the revelation He has given us?
- (2) The *responsibilities* Adam and Eve had and our responsibilities?
- (3) The *relationship* Adam and Eve had with God in the garden and our relationship with God?

We could ask the same questions for each of the different administrations of God’s plan in history, and you must ask those questions to correctly interpret and apply the Bible!

8) Based on the Bible, we could view God’s administration of His purpose in human history according to this chart...



9) Now with this in mind, let's take a quick survey of the Bible...

Genesis – Deuteronomy	Israel's origin and constitution as God's nation
Joshua – Esther	Israel's history as God's nation
Job – Song of Solomon	Israel's wisdom and worship as God's nation
Isaiah – Malachi	Israel's prophets call the nation to repentance and encourage them to be faithful by telling of their glorious future
Matthew – John	The message and ministry of the King of Israel, the Savior of sinners
Acts – 3 John	The origin, history, doctrines, and practice of the church , the Bride of Christ
Revelation	The consummation of human history, climaxing in the Kingdom of God

10) Practical significance of this for the Bible student

- Gives you a “bird’s eye view” of God’s interpretation of and plan for human history
- Helps you see how/what the various portions of Scripture addresses and tells of
- Will help you correctly harmonize Scripture
- You will have a correct knowledge of the Bible essential for Christian living and service
- It champions and demands careful study of the Bible from a literal, grammatical, historical method of Bible interpretation
- You will be protected from theological error (for example, remember the Galatians)

11) Summary and conclusion

- The underlying purpose of history is God’s glory
- Scripture as God’s written revelation must be consistently interpreted in a normal or literal manner
- An important result of a consistently normal/literal interpretation of Scripture is the distinction between Israel and the church in origin, purpose, and destiny