

HERMENEUTICS



A photograph of a park or plaza. In the center, there is a fountain with water spraying upwards. The area is surrounded by large, leafy green trees. The ground is paved with light-colored stones. Several people are visible in the background, walking or sitting on benches. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

THE SCIENCE AND ART OF INTERPRETATION

HISTORY





I-25 & I-40

**“He who doesn’t learn
from history is bound to
repeat it.”**

Santayana

HISTORY

➤ Jewish -

460 BC-AD 550



JEWISH PERIOD

460 BC – AD 550

✧ **Beginnings - OT**

Neh 8

- ❖ **Translates**
- ❖ **Interprets**
- ❖ **Expounds**

JEWISH PERIOD

460 BC – AD 550

✧ **Beginnings - OT**

✧ **Alexandrian - LXX**

ALEXANDRIAN

- ❖ Greek Philosophy integrated
- ❖ Septuagint Translated
- ❖ Allegorical Method



Alexandria

ALLEGORISATION

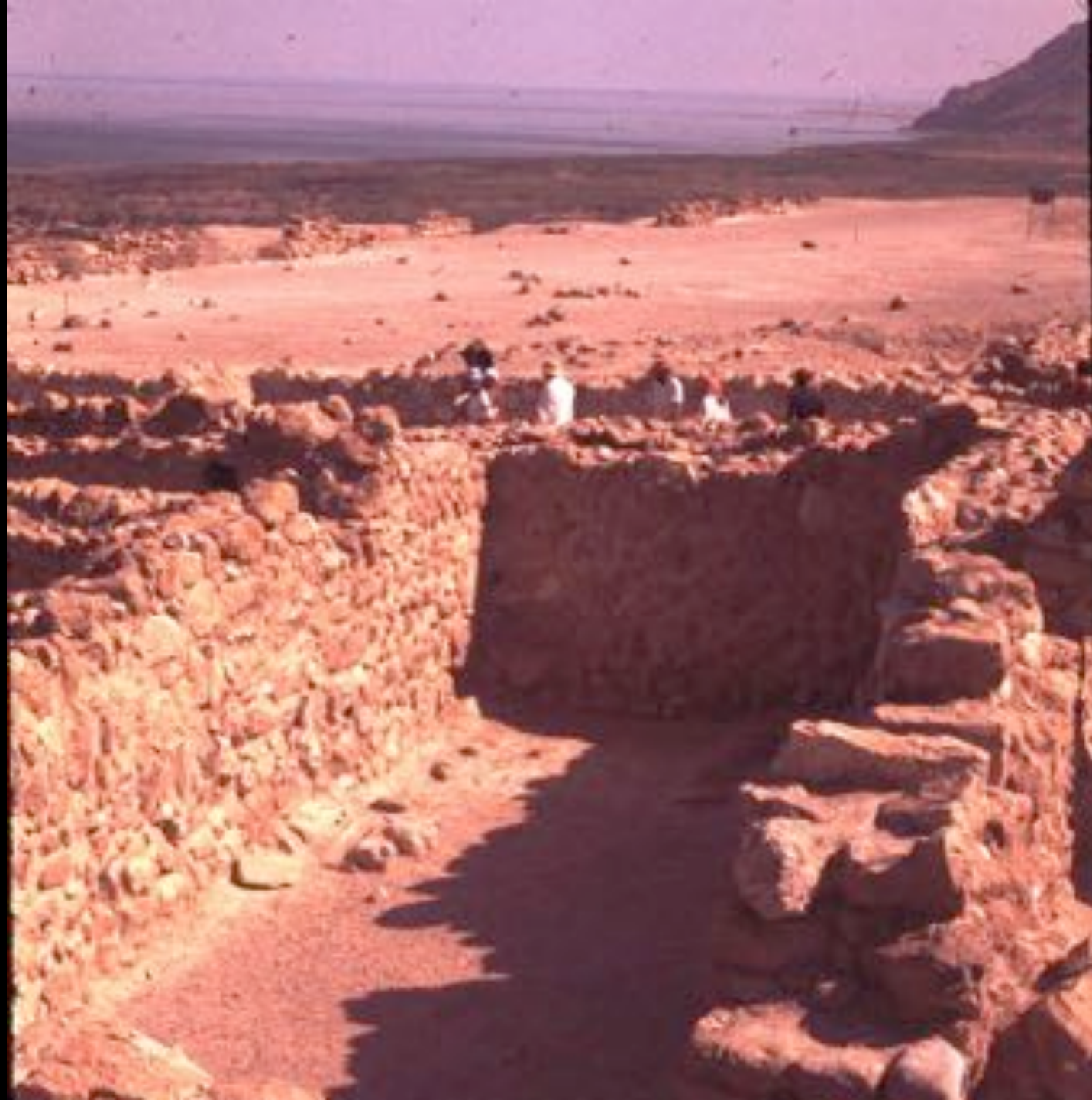
- **Greek Philosophers - to avoid immoralities of Greek gods**
- **Alexandrian Jews -
to harmonize Judaism & Greek philosophers
to solve difficult OT issues -
Lot's incest, Noah's drunkenness,
Jacob's wives, Judah & Tamar**

JEWISH PERIOD

460 BC – AD 550

- ✧ **Beginnings - OT**
- ✧ **Alexandrian - LXX**
- ✧ **Qumran - Separatists**







1977





2017



2017



JEWISH PERIOD

460 BC – AD 550

- ✧ **Beginnings - OT**
- ✧ **Alexandrian - LXX**
- ✧ **Qumran - Separatists**
- ✧ **1st Century - Tradition**
- ✧ **Rabbinic - Talmuds**

HISTORY

- Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550
- Patristic - 95-590



PATRISTIC PERIOD

95 – AD 590

- ✧ **Apostolic Fathers - various**
- ✧ **Alexandrian - allegory**

ALLEGORISATION

- **Greek Philosophers - to avoid immoralities of Greek gods**
- **Alexandrian Jews - to harmonize Judaism & Greek philosopher**
- **Apostolic Fathers - to explain OT anthropomorphisms & types**
- **Alexandrian Christians - to avoid Scripture difficulties**

PATRISTIC PERIOD

95 – AD 590

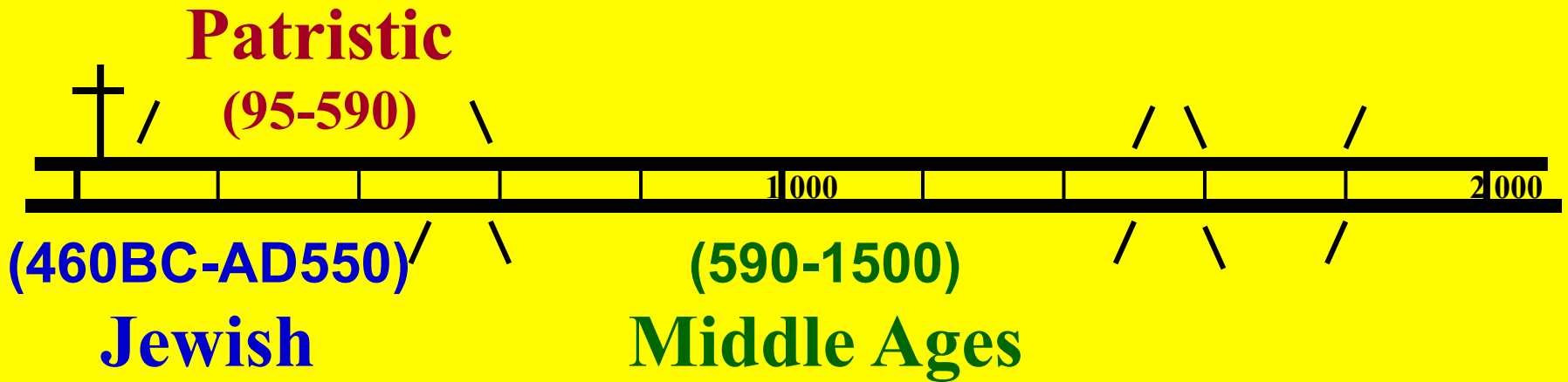
- ✧ **Apostolic Fathers - various**
- ✧ **Alexandrian - allegory**
- ✧ **Antiochene - literal**
- ✧ **Later Fathers - various**

HISTORY

- Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550
- Patristic - 95-590
- Middle Ages - 590-1500



HISTORY



MIDDLE AGES

✧ Allegorical
Prominent



Amiens Cathedral

4-Fold Interpretation

- ✧ **Literal - plain sense**
- ✧ **Allegorical - what believed**
- ✧ **Tropological - what to do**
- ✧ **Eschatological - what hoped**

“The Middle Ages was a vast desert so far as biblical interpretation is concerned”

Klein, Bloomberg, Hubbard

MIDDLE AGES

- ✧ Allegorical
Prominent
- ✧ Tradition Began
- ✧ Literal Survives
- ✧ Scholasticism
Started



Amiens Cathedral

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)



HISTORY

- **Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550**
- **Patristic - 95-590**
- **Middle Ages - 590-1500**
- **Reformation - 16th**



REFORMATION

➤ Reformers -

Hermeneutical Reformation



**“Allegories are
empty
speculations
and as it were
the scum of
Holy Scripture”**

**Martin Luther
(1483-1546)**



John Calvin
(1509-1564)

REFORMATION

➤ **Reformers -**

Hermeneutical Reformation

➤ **Catholic Counter Reformation -**

Tradition

HISTORY

- **Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550**
- **Patristic - 95-590**
- **Middle Ages - 590-1500**
- **Reformation - 16th**
- **Post-Reformation - 17th-18th**



FRAGMENTATION

- ✧ **Literalists**
- ✧ **Rationalists**
- ✧ **Pietists**
- ✧ **Creeds**



HISTORY

- **Jewish - 460 BC-AD 550**
 - **Patristic - 95-590**
 - **Middle Ages - 590-1500**
 - **Reformation - 16th**
 - **Post-Reformation - 17th-18th**
 - **Modern - 19th-21st**
- 

19th CENTURY

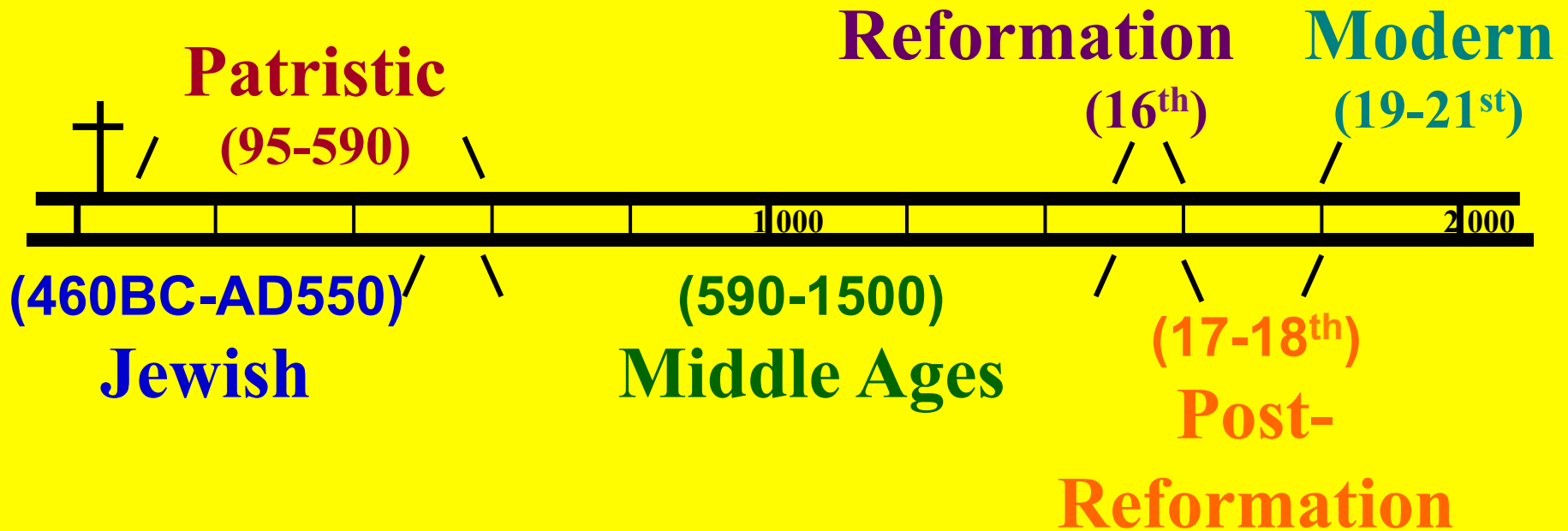
✧ Subjectivism & Liberalism

✧ Historical
Criticism

✧ Exegetical
Works



HISTORY



APPROACHES



Wells in Somerset

ALLEGORICAL

“Behind the obvious and normal (literal) meaning is the real meaning of a passage”

Ramm

αλληγορεω

- αλλος = other
- αγορευειν = to speak
- To speak in a way other than what is meant

PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS 2
CHRISTIANA'S STORY



JOHN BUNYAN

A classic edition with extra features for a new generation

MIDDLE AGES

590 - 1500

Jerusalem

Literal =	Literal City
Allegorical =	Church
Tropological =	Human Soul
Eschatological =	Heavenly City

WEAKNESSES

- 1. Too Subjective**
- 2. Obscures Meaning**
- 3. Diminishes Historical Sense**
- 4. Overlooks Progress of Revelation**
- 5. No Verification**
- 6. Against Clarity of Scripture**

LIBERAL or RATIONALISTIC

Reason
Overshadows
Revelation

Julius Wellhausen
1844-1918

LIBERAL

- ❖ **Naturalism Prominent**
- ❖ **Inspiration Redefined**
- ❖ **Supernatural Redefined**
- ❖ **Evolution of Religion**
- ❖ **Humanistic Influence**



OTHER SYSTEMS

1. Neo-Orthodox

NEO-ORTHODOX

- **Karl Barth (1886-1968)**
- **Between Liberal & Orthodoxy**
- **Revelation when God speaks**
- **Bible a witness to revelation**
- **Inspiration & Inerrancy denied**

OTHER SYSTEMS

1. Neo-Orthodox

2. New Hermeneutic

NEW HERMENEUTIC

- **Bultmann (1884-1976)**
- **Science priority**
- **Historical setting more than exegesis**
- **Mythological principle**
- **Demythological principle**

OTHER SYSTEMS

- 1. Neo-Orthodox**
- 2. New Hermeneutic**
- 3. Devotional**
- 4. Dogmatic or Traditional**
- 5. Cults**

Hermeneutics of Cults

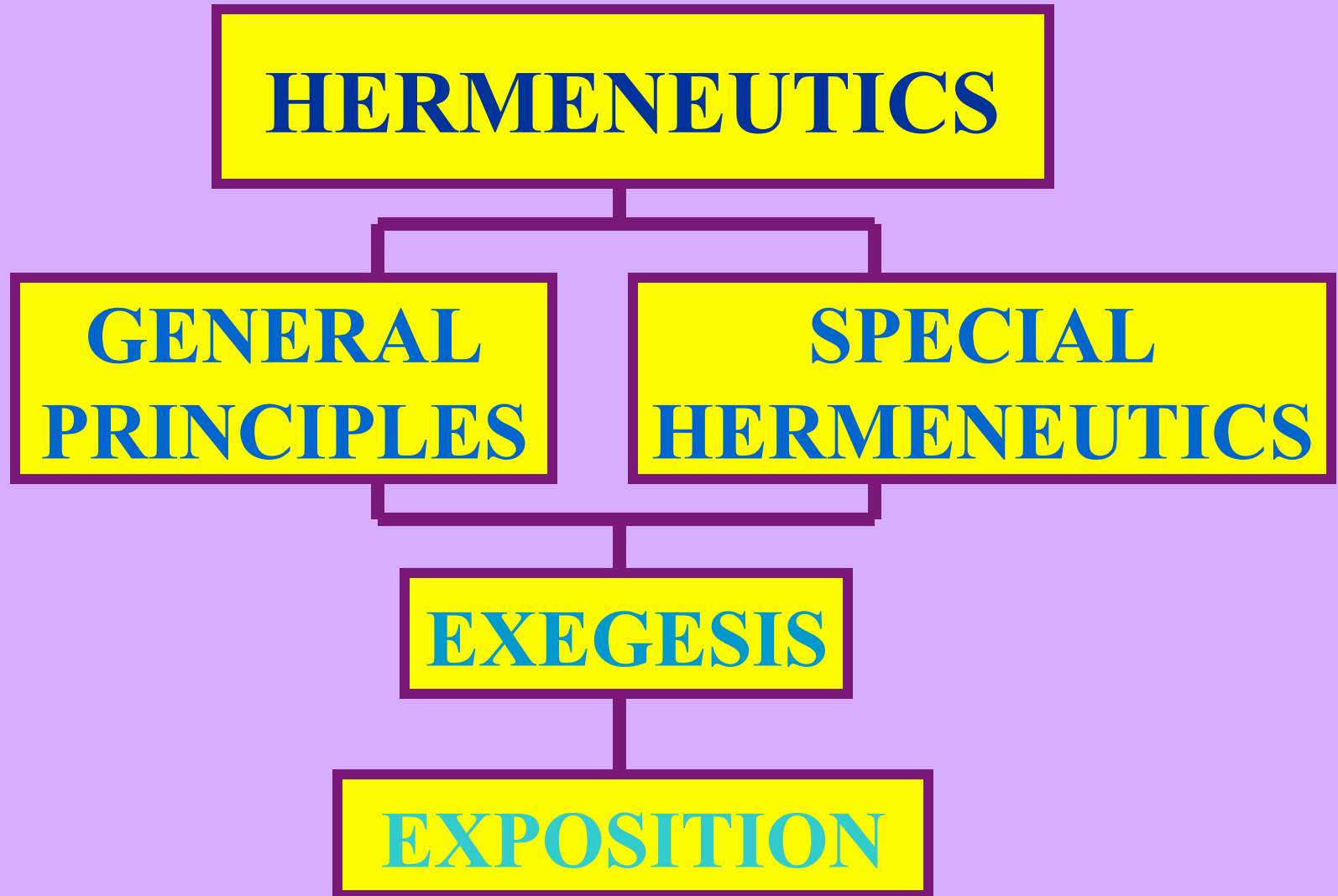


**Theology of founder
superimposed on Scripture**

OTHER SYSTEMS

- 1. Neo-Orthodox**
- 2. New Hermeneutic**
- 3. Devotional**
- 4. Dogmatic or Traditional**
- 5. Cults**
- 6. Other**

BIBLE HERMENEUTICS



SPECIAL HERMENEUTICS

1. Narrative

2. Poetry

3. Wisdom

4. Prophecy

5. Typology

6. Epistles

7. Parables

8. NT Use of OT

9. Legal

WARRAKE



IMPORTANCE

- 1. Foundation for all Scripture**
- 2. Most common genre**
- 3. Meta-narrative = His story**

NARRATIVE

➤ Essence



NARRATIVE

- **The presentation of history or events in story form**
- **Gives reader the sense of being there -> experience**

NARRATIVE

➤ **Essence**

➤ **Historical Narrative**

✧ **OBSERVATIONAL SCIENCE →**

Observations in **Present**

✧ **HISTORICAL SCIENCE →**

Traces of Past

✧ **DATA =**

Traces left by Event



✧ **HISTORICAL FACT =**

Data + **Interpretation**

NARRATIVE

- **Essence**
- **Historical Narrative**
- **Selective**
- **Interpretive**
- **God's View**

ACTS 17:24-28

Act 17:26-27 and **He made** from one man **every nation of mankind** to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

PHILOSOPHY

1. God as Creator is author 26

ACTS 17:24-28

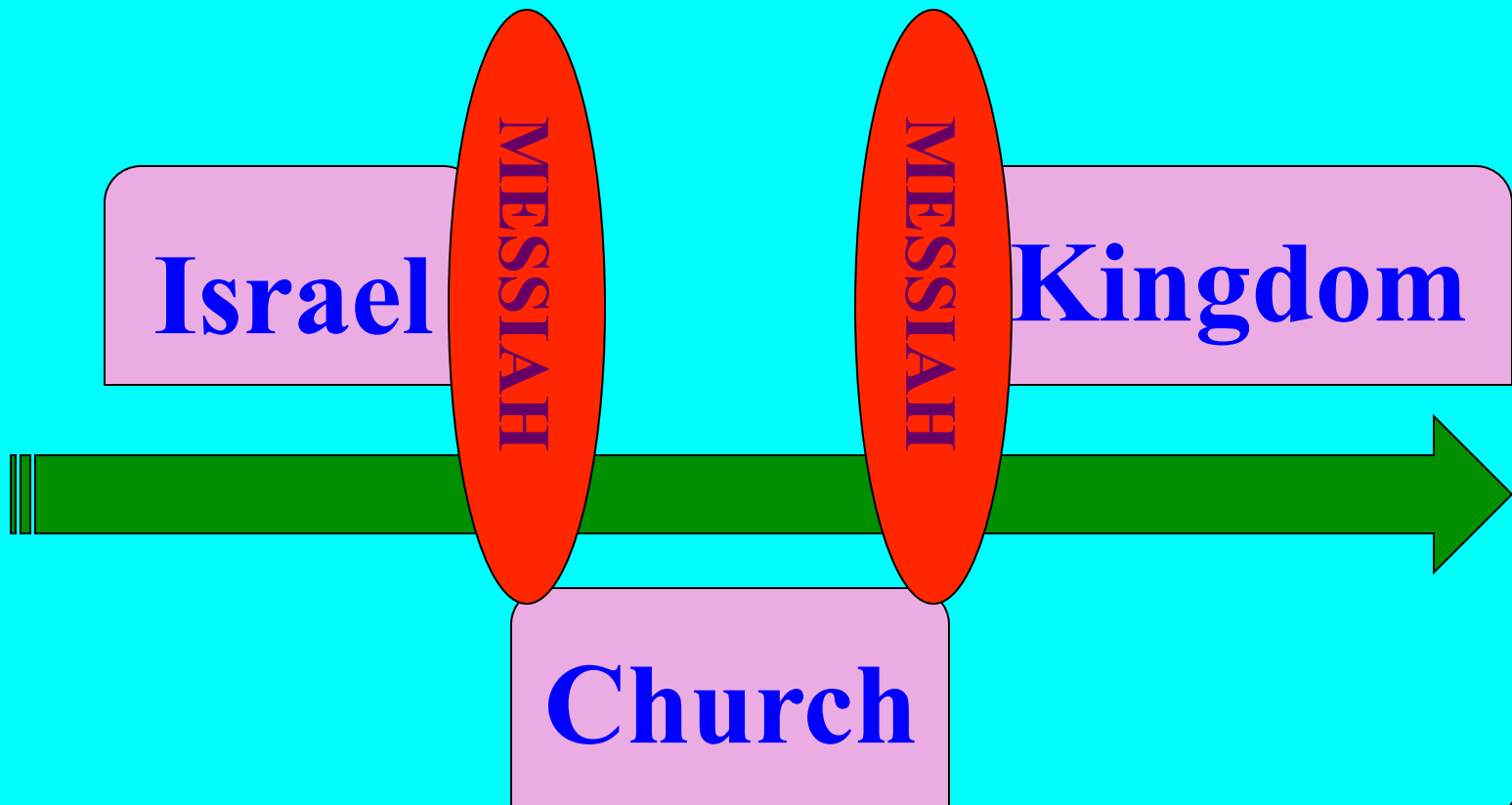
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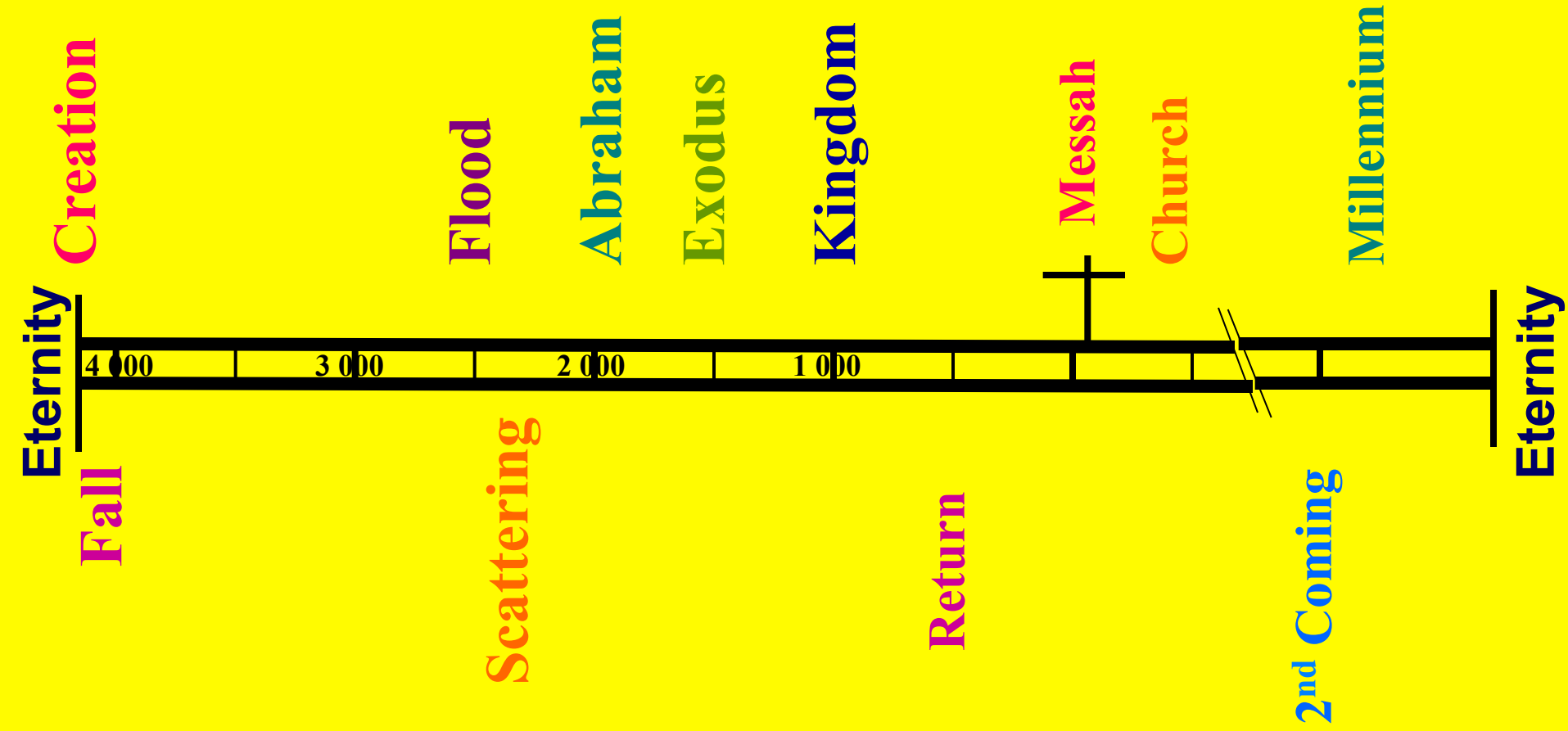
- 1. God as Creator is author 26**
- 2. God's Sovereign Plan**
- 3. Linear Concept**

HIS STORY

Revelation of His Glory



MAJOR EVENTS



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PHILOSOPHY

- 1. God as Creator is author**
- 2. God's Sovereign Plan**
- 3. Linear Concept**
- 4. Involves Time & Geography**
- 5. Divine Purpose**

OCCURRENCE

- **Genesis, Exodus, Numbers**
- **Joshua, Judges, Ruth**
- **Samuel, Kings, Chronicles**
- **Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther**
- **4 Gospels**
- **Acts**

KINDS:



- Reports
- Epic
- Heroic Narrative
- Prophet Story
- Comedy
- Tragedy
- Romance
- Polemic
- Gospel

ELEMENTS



- ❖ Setting
- ❖ Characters
- ❖ Plot

LITERARY DEVICES

- ✓ Scene
- ✓ Dialogue
- ✓ Rhetorical Devices
- ✓ Point of View
- ✓ Test Motif
- ✓ Transformation
- ✓ Foils



GOSPELS

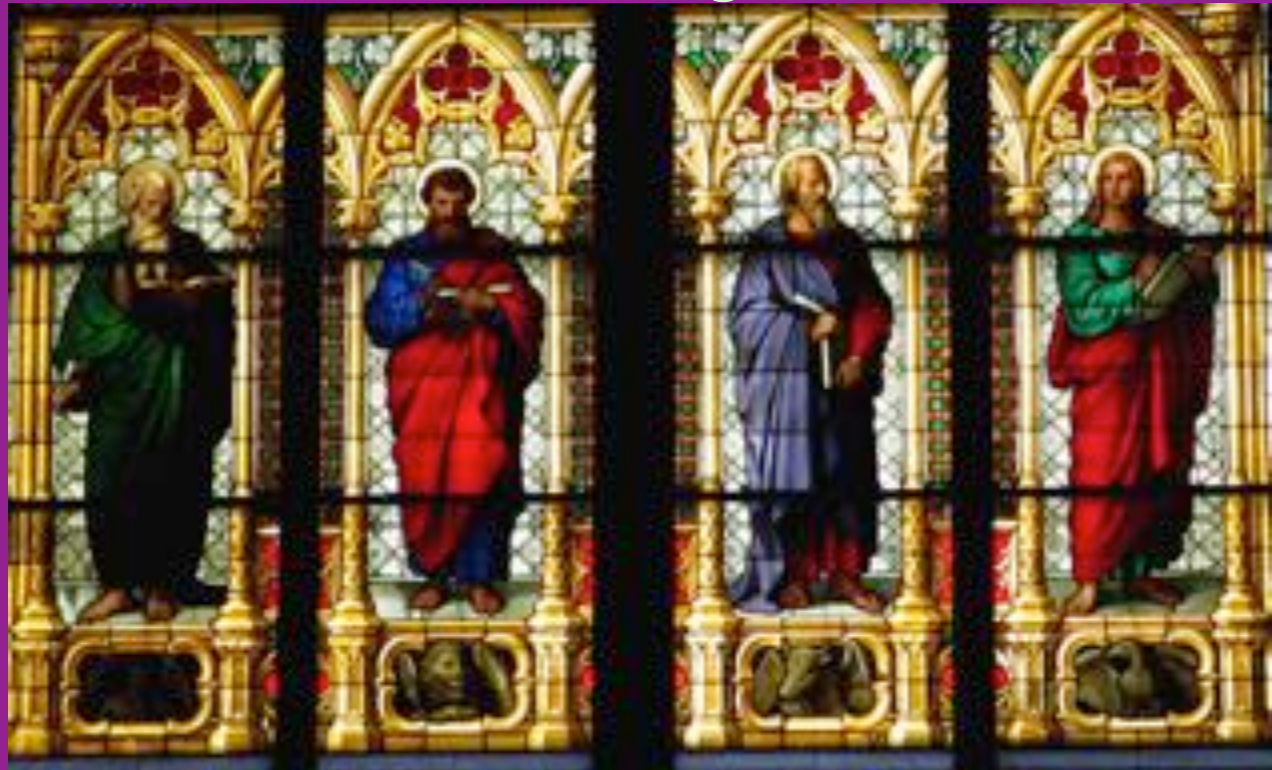
➤ Primary Form

➤ Focus

➤ Hybrid
Nature

➤ Purpose

Cologne Cathedral



SPECIAL HERMENEUTICS

1. Narrative

2. Poetry