

*Foundations of
Covenant Theology*
by
Lane G. Tipton

Book of the Month

R. Carlton Wynne

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Who is Lane Tipton?

- M.Div. (Westminster Seminary California); Ph.D. (Westminster Theological Seminary)
- Pastor of Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Easton, PA.
- Fellow of Biblical and Systematic Theology with **Reformed Forum**.
- Lives in Glenside, PA, with his wife.



What is Reformed Forum?



The image shows the top portion of the Reformed Forum website. At the top is a white header with the Reformed Forum logo (a red shield with a white lion) and the text "REFORMEDFORUM" in a serif font. To the right of the logo is a red "Donate" button with a small icon of a person. Below the header is a dark navigation bar with icons for an envelope, a magnifying glass, and a shopping cart, followed by menu items: "PODCASTS", "ACADEMY", "PUBLICATIONS", "BROWSE", "EVENTS", and "STORE". The main content area features a large banner image of a small white church with a red roof and a steeple, set against a backdrop of rolling hills and a body of water. Overlaid on the left side of the banner is the word "Welcome" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it is a paragraph of text: "Reformed Forum is committed to providing Reformed Christian theological resources to pastors, scholars, and anyone who desires to grow in their understanding of Scripture and the theology that faithfully summarizes its teachings." At the bottom of the text is a small "Learn More" button. Below the banner image is a quote in italics: "Our mission is to support the Church in her charge of presenting every person mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28)."

REFORMEDFORUM

Donate

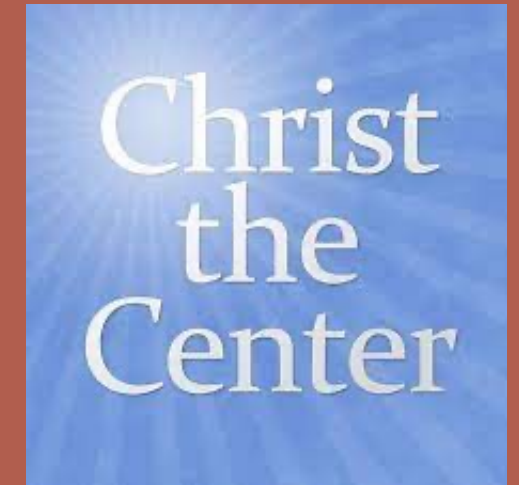
PODCASTS ACADEMY PUBLICATIONS BROWSE EVENTS STORE

Welcome

Reformed Forum is committed to providing Reformed Christian theological resources to pastors, scholars, and anyone who desires to grow in their understanding of Scripture and the theology that faithfully summarizes its teachings.

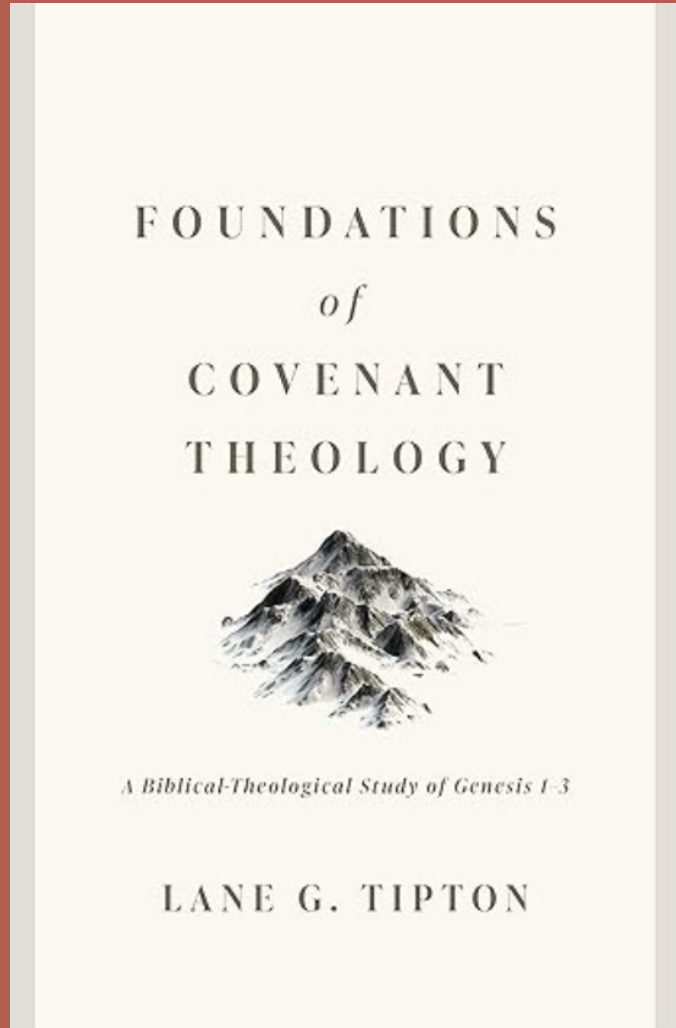
Learn More

Our mission is to support the Church in her charge of presenting every person mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28).



An online educational ministry, academy (free online courses), and community, producing podcasts, publications, and more.

Foundations of Covenant Theology: A Biblical-Theological Study of Genesis 1–3



I think we are going to do "Foundations of CT" for our Book of the Month series this fall. It's Augustine, Warfield, Tipton!



Confessions, Emotional Life of our Lord, and Foundations of CT

It's the right size and will help our people!

As a Meatloaf sang years ago, two out of three ain't bad!

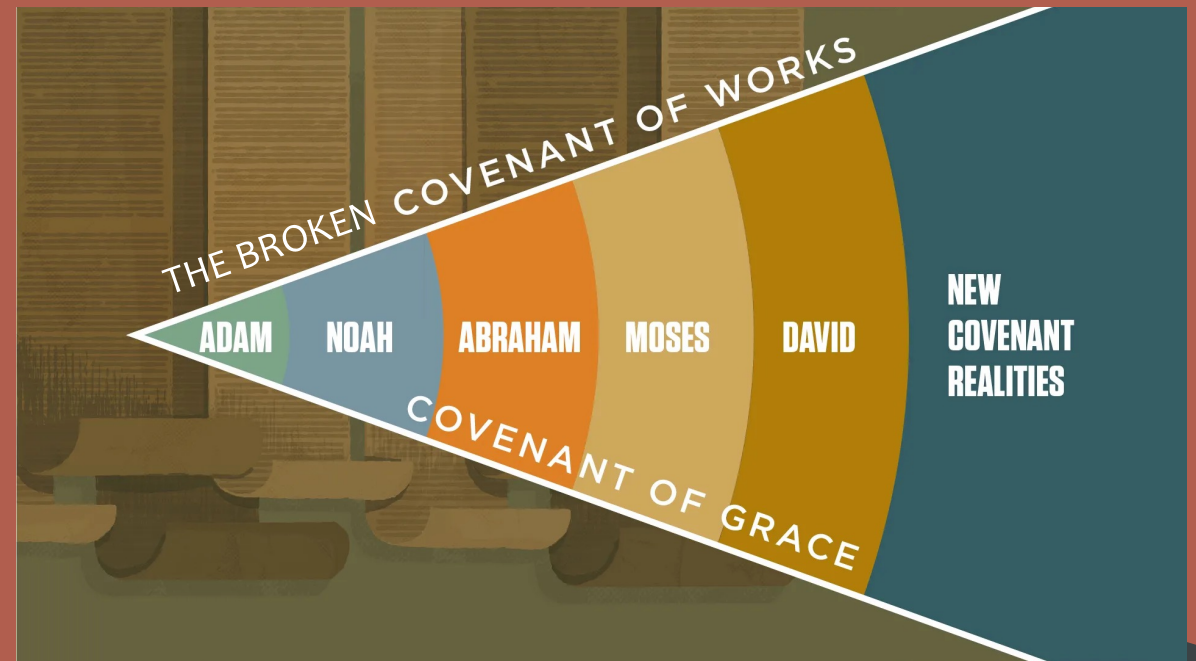
What is Covenant Theology?

Covenant Theology is the organizing framework of God's saving plan as it unfolds in history and is recorded in the Bible.

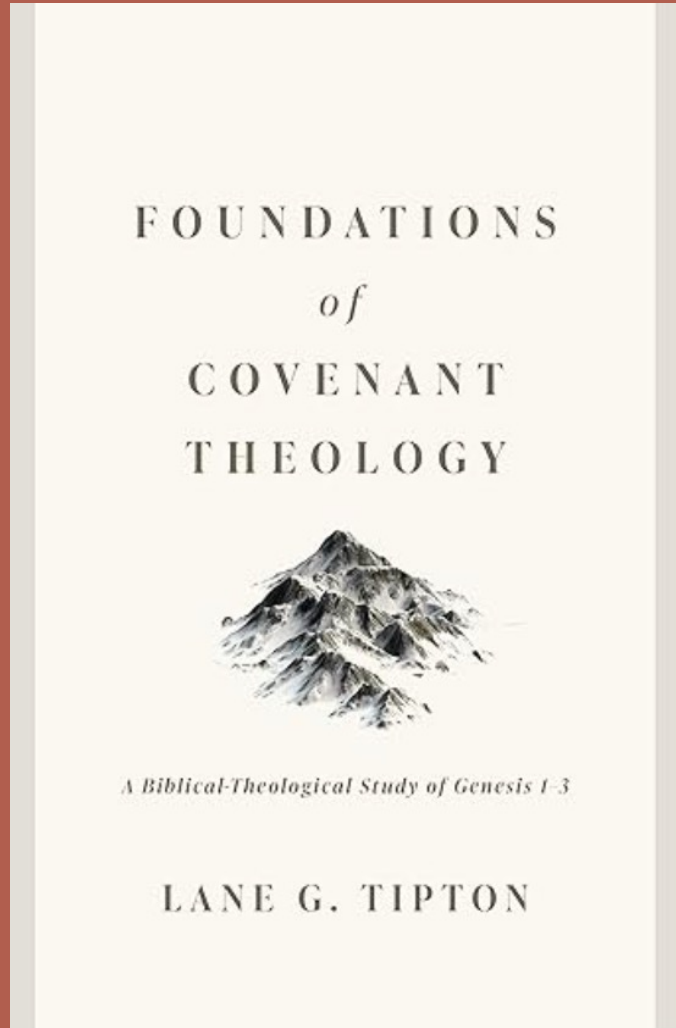
The **Covenant of Works** – the original covenant God made with Adam, promising LIFE for obedience, DEATH for disobedience.



The **Covenant of Grace** in its “organic unfolding” through various “sub-covenants” towards Christ’s arrival in the flesh, promising life and salvation through faith in him.

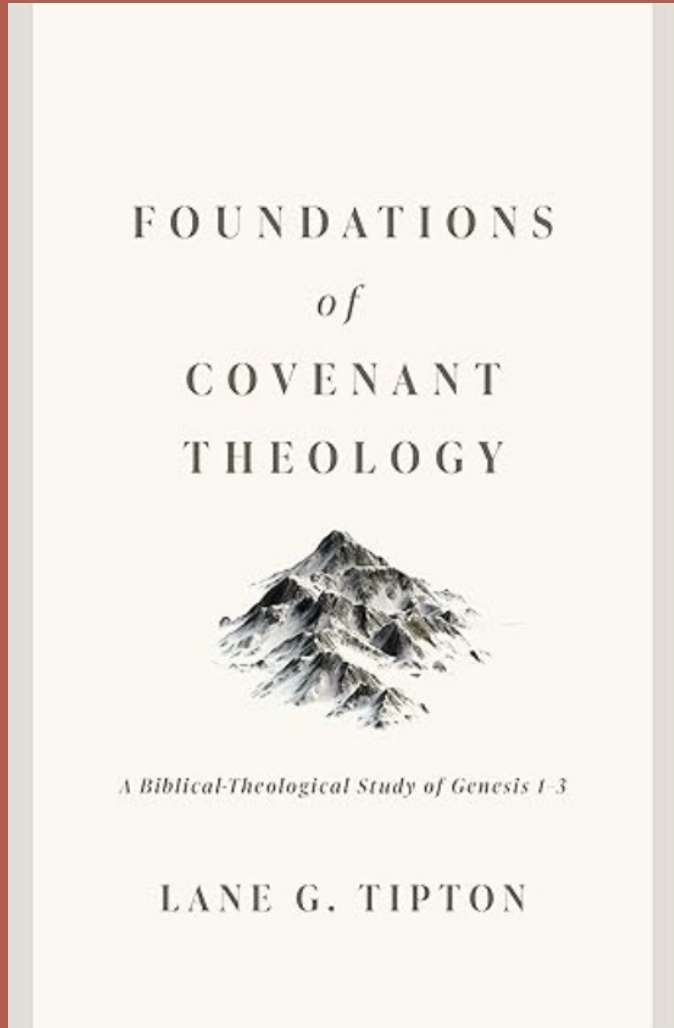


Foundations of Covenant Theology: A Biblical-Theological Study of Genesis 1–3



“The aim is to present from Genesis 1–3 a comprehensive but digestible overview of the teaching of Scripture on the foundations of covenant theology, which is the context that informs God’s relationship to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.” (p. 9)

Ch. 1 – Introduction



GENESIS 1

- ◆ The glory of the Trinity
- ◆ Image of God & covenant
- ◆ The mountain of God
- ◆ The two trees

GENESIS 2-3 (and beyond)

- ◆ The fall
- ◆ Promise of redemption
- ◆ Garments of animal skins
- ◆ The flaming sword
- ◆ Jesus Christ and the Spirit

Ch. 2 – The Glory of the Triune God

SUMMARY: The eternal triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)—who is unchanging, true, self-sufficient, and full of glory—is the central concern of the Bible and the sole object of true worship.

GOD the
Father, the
Son, and the
Holy Spirit

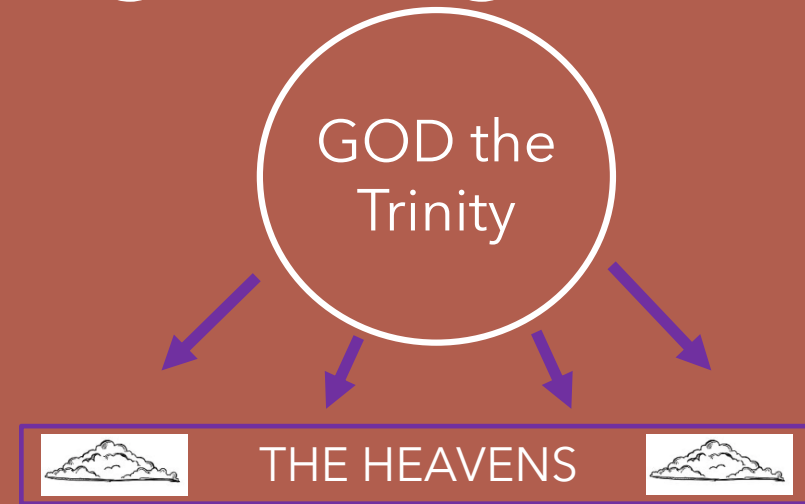
Gen 1:1 – *“In the beginning, God created ...”*

Mal 3:6 – *“For I the Lord do not change ...”*

James 1:17 – *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”*

Ch. 3 – The Absolute Beginning

SUMMARY: Gen 1:1 describes the first creation event (“the absolute beginning”) in which God created a “distinct, created, but presently veiled domain or realm” (p. 33) **called “the heavens,”** a realm perpetually filled with a revelation of God’s glory.



Gen 1:1 – *“In the beginning, God created the heavens...”*

Neh 9:6 – *“You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it ...”*

Col 1:16 – *“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible ...”*

Ch. 4 – The Holy Spirit Fills the Heaven-Temple

SUMMARY: The Bible describes the revelation of God's glory in the created-but-presently-hidden realm of heaven as a **tent filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.**



Gen 1:2 – *"The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."*

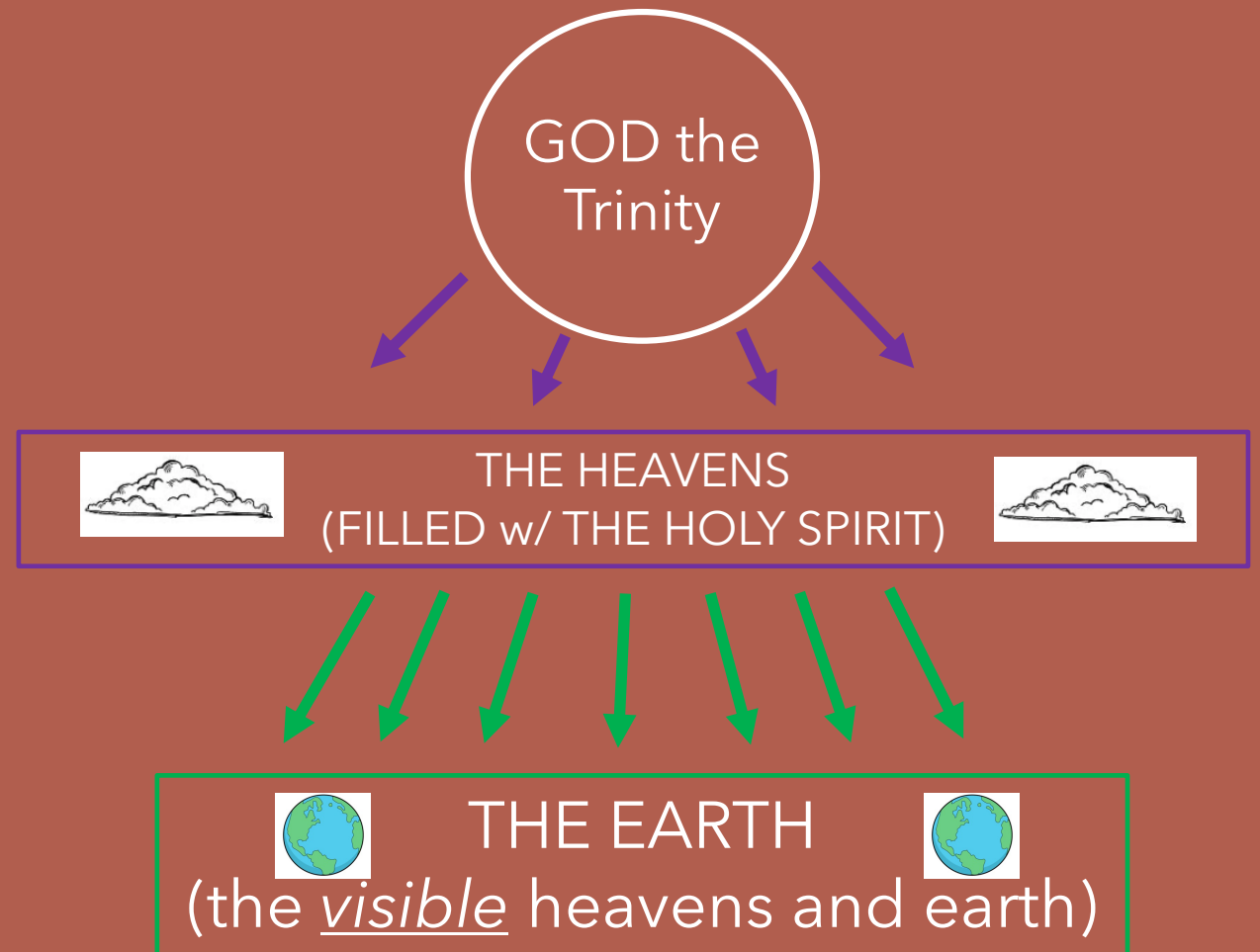
Ex 40:34 – *"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."*

Ch. 5 – The Creation of the Visible Heavens & Earth

SUMMARY: God **replicated** the presently hidden realm of heaven when he made the world that we presently see and in which we presently live.

Gen 1:6-8 – “And God said, ‘Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ . . . And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven.”

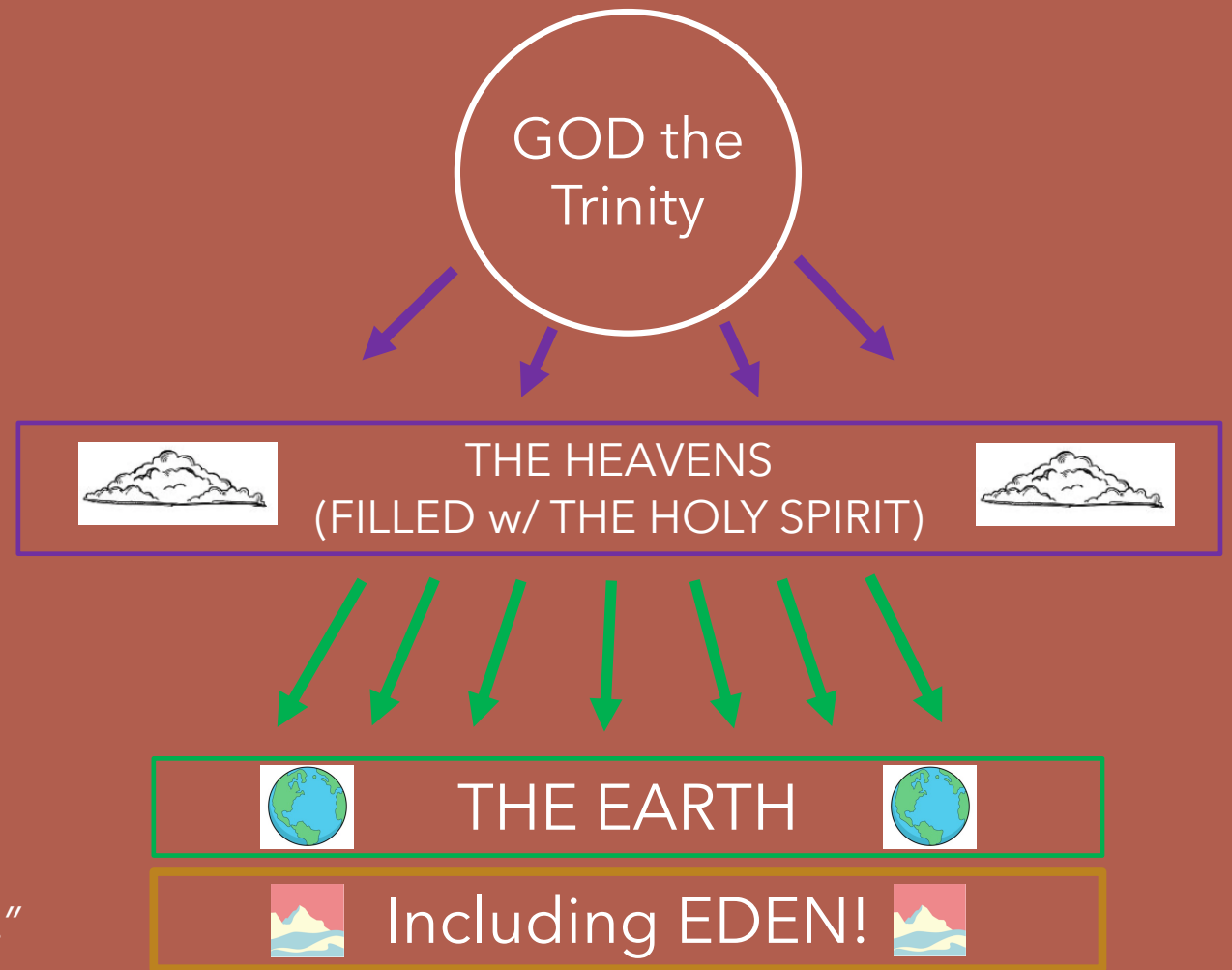
Gen 1:24 – “And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures ...’”



Ch. 6 – Eden as the Place of Worshipful Ascent to God

SUMMARY: The Garden of Eden, with its mountain, beautiful gemstones, and flowing rivers, **intensively replicated the beauty and glory of heaven.**

Ezek 28:13 – “You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering ... I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.”



Ch. 7 – Created in Religious Fellowship With God

SUMMARY: God created Adam and Eve in sinless religious fellowship with Himself as a **replica of the Trinity's own living fellowship of persons** (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

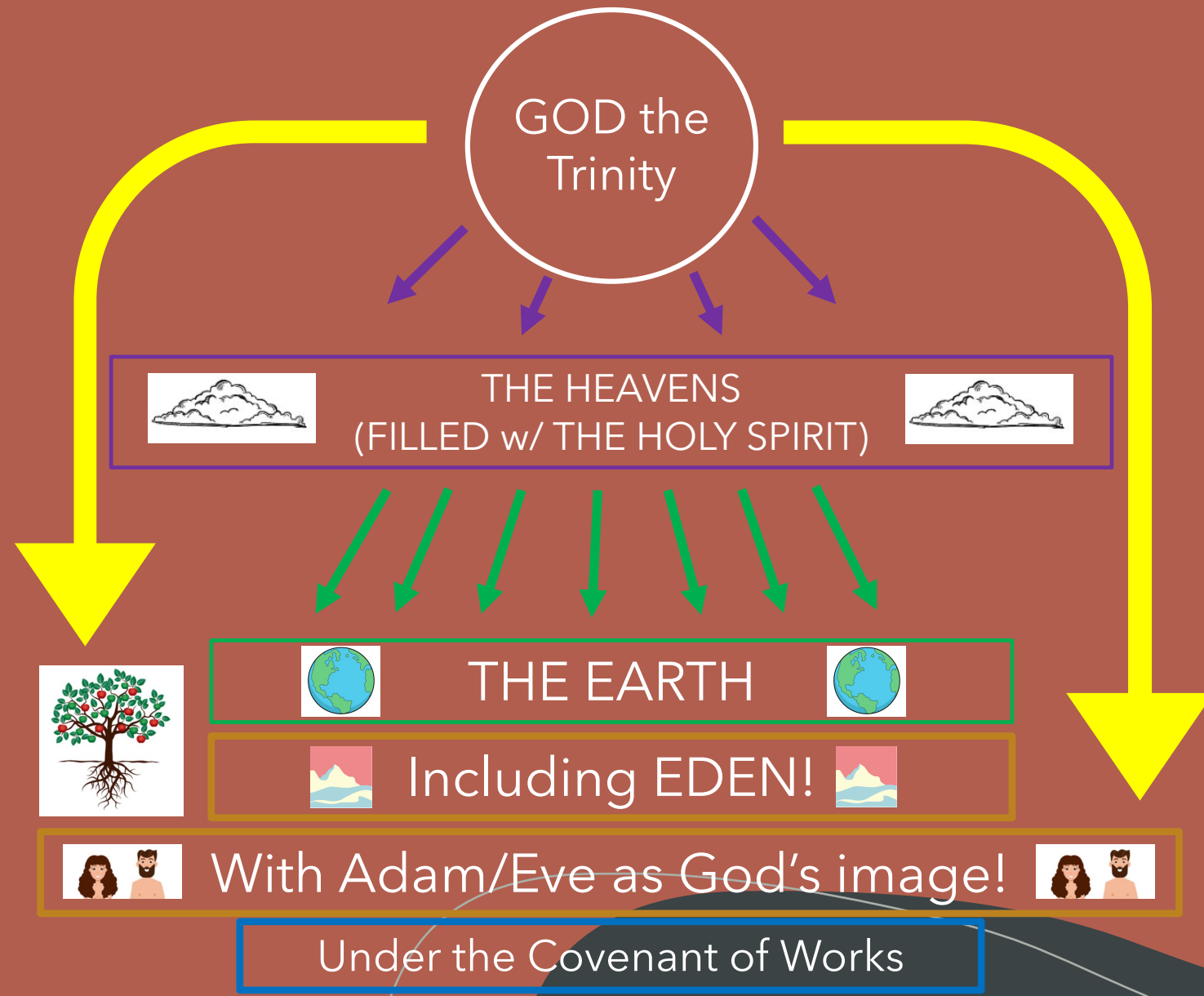
Gen 1:26-27 - "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion ...'
27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."



Ch. 8 – The Covenant of Works

SUMMARY: After creating Adam and Eve in fellowship with Himself, God enveloped that relationship into an original covenant of works, in which **he promised life in the heavenly temple for obedience, and death apart from God for disobedience**, with a probationary tree to decide the outcome).

Gen 2:16 – "... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

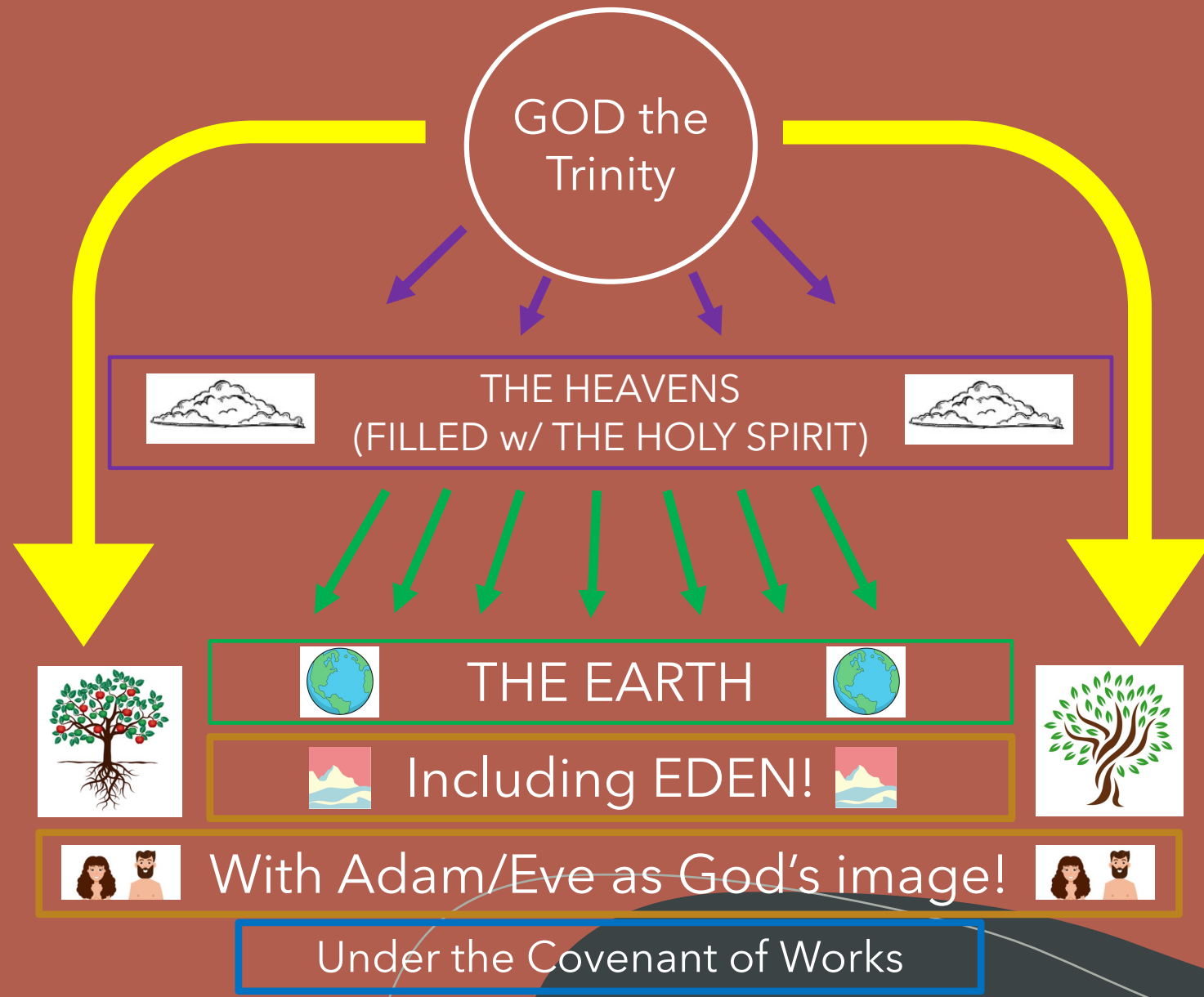


Ch. 9 – The Tree of Life and Sabbath Rest

SUMMARY: God tasked Adam in covenant to guard the holy replica of Eden from unlawful intruders and, in the tree of life, set before Adam a **symbol of the heavenly life and eternal Sabbath rest with God**, to be earned by covenant obedience.

Gen 2:9 – “The tree of life was in the midst of the garden ...”

Rev 2:7 – “To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

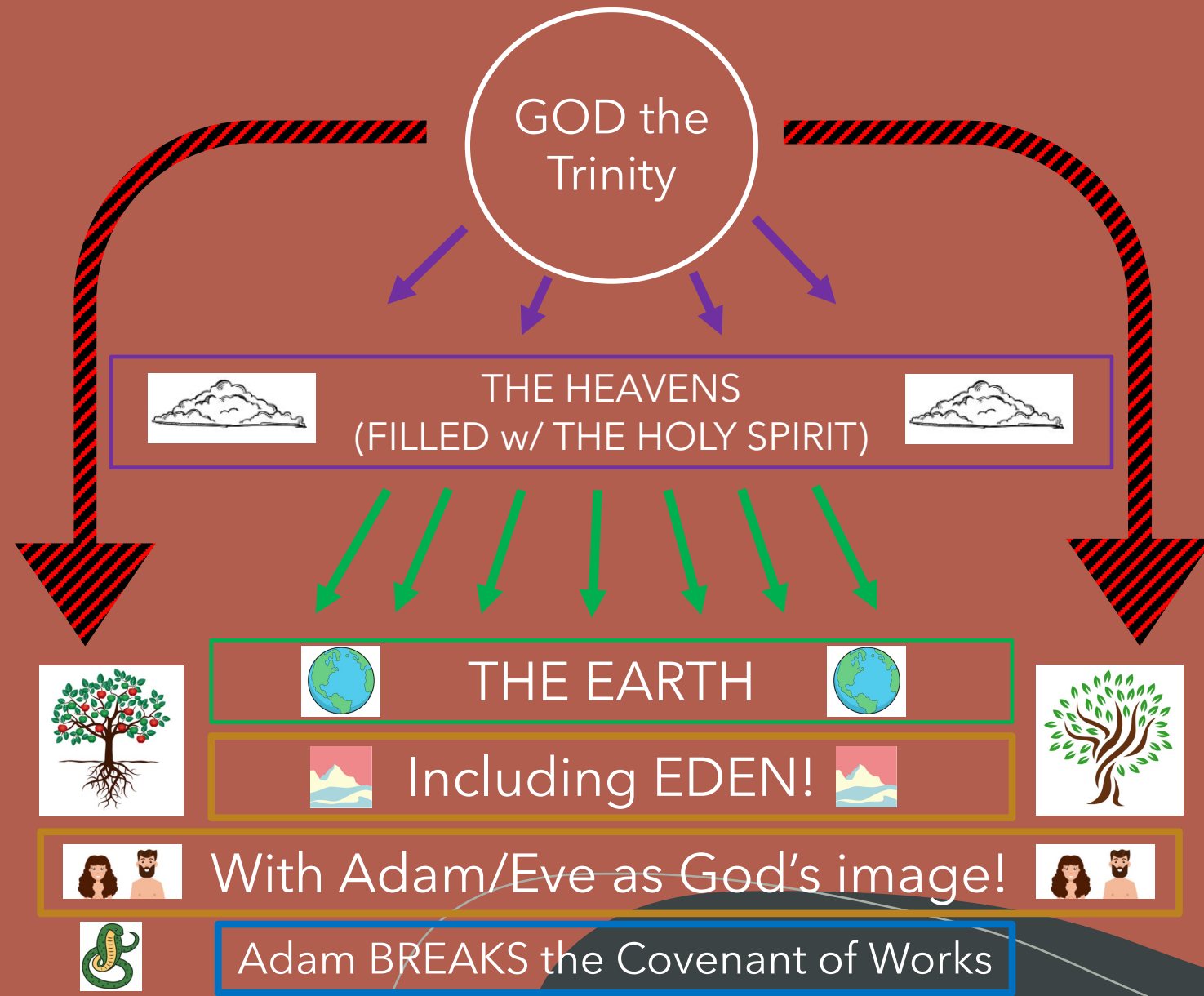


Ch. 10 – The Fall into Sin and the Promise of Redemption

SUMMARY: Adam's rebellion against God in the covenant of works introduced disaster, while God in his grace further introduced **the first promise of the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Gen 3:14-15 – *"The Lord God said to the serpent ... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

Gen 3:21 – *"And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them."*

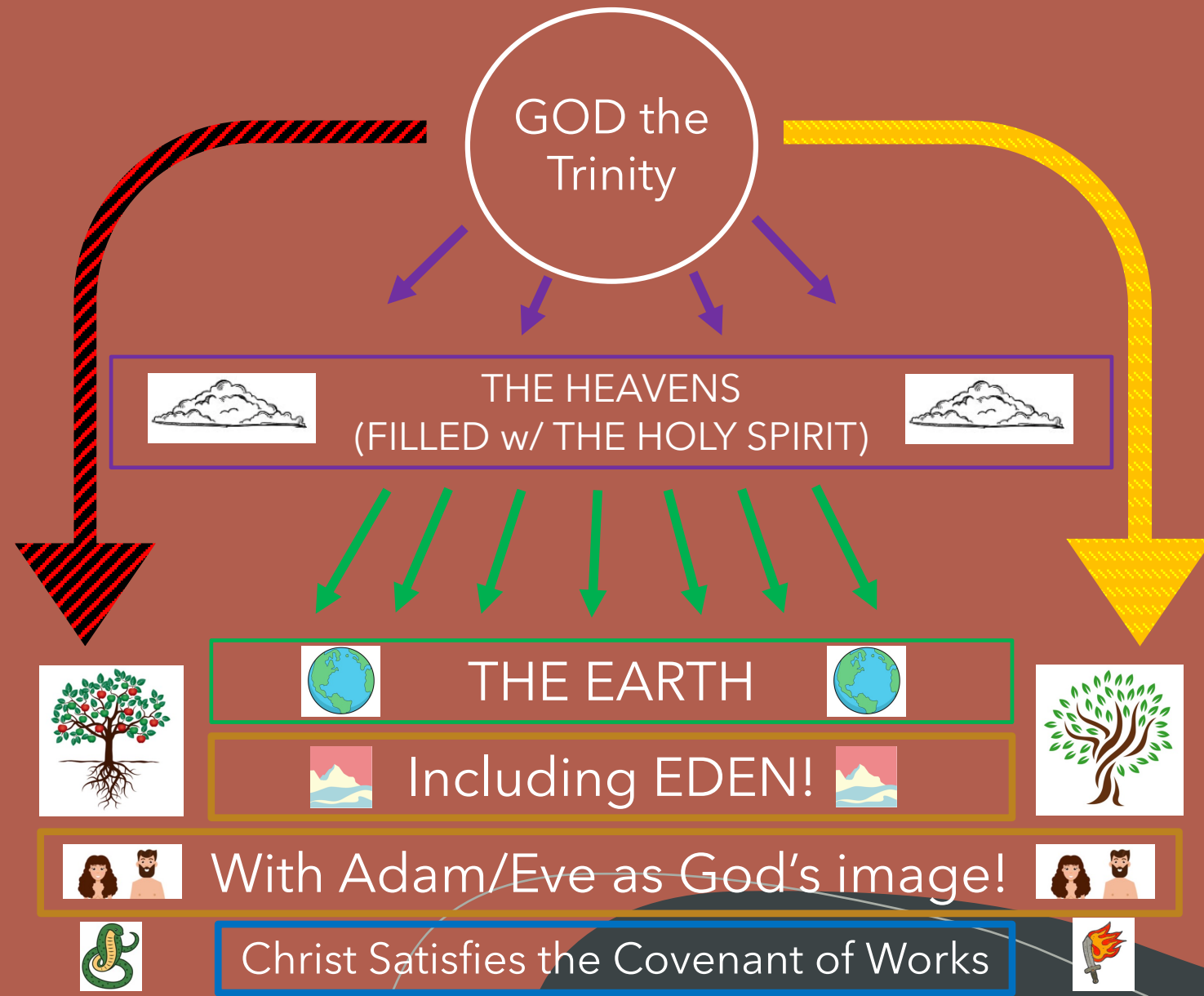


Ch. 11 – The Promised Seed

SUMMARY: Jesus Christ is the promised Champion Seed of Eve, **who passes under the flaming sword of God's wrath on our behalf**, opening the way to the tree of life in God's heavenly paradise for every believer.

Gen 3:24 – "He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life."

Luke 4:13 – "And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time."



Ch. 12 – The Second and Last Adam

SUMMARY: Jesus Christ's perfect obedience unto death and into resurrection life **earns the original covenant blessing of heavenly life** (offered to Adam but forfeited by him), which he gives to all who are united to Him by faith.

Luke 23:42-43 – *And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'* ⁴³ *And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'"*

