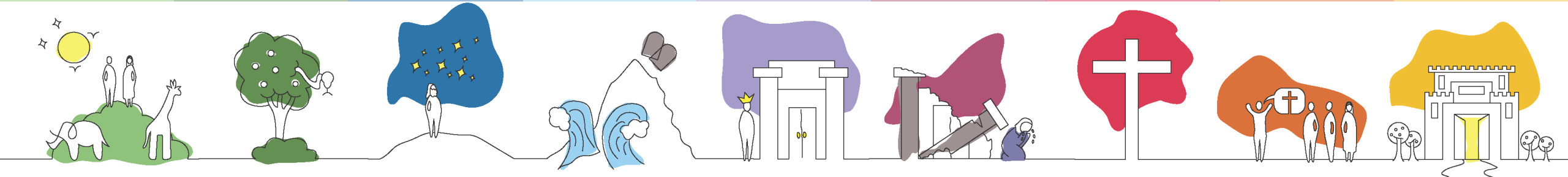
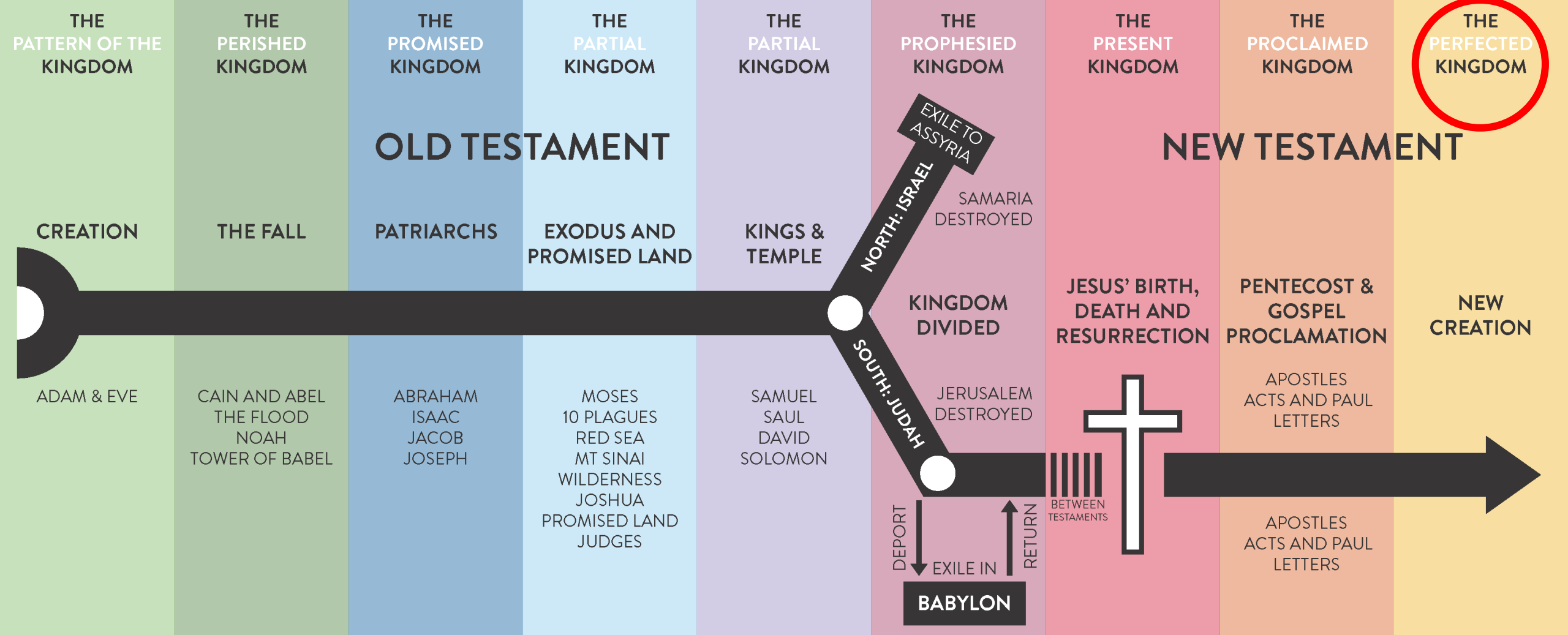




Hope and Holiness

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



Questions

1. **Why** did Paul teach about the consummation in his first letter to the Thessalonian church?
2. **How** does he say the completion of the redemptive story will be come about practically?
3. **What** are we meant to be motivated to do in light of this future?

Why the Thessalonians?

- 20 years after the cross and resurrection
- Expectant of Jesus' return
- Suffering persecution
- First gen. Christians dying 'fallen asleep in Him'
- Misleading theology



Hope and Courage

- ¹³ Brothers and sisters, **we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.** ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, **will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.** ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

The Components of the Consummation

The general categories that are common to all interpretations:

- A permanent and unmissable return to be with his people
- An earthly reign of Christ's Kingdom in some form
- A final judgement on wickedness
- A renewed eternal life in heaven and earth with Jesus

Forevermore with Jesus

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What for now? Faith + hope -> love = holiness

10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your **faith**. 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. 12 May the Lord **make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.** 13 May he strengthen your **hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes** with all his holy ones.

*Through the difficulties of life, God's Spirit, and the fellowship of believers sustains our **faith** in the coming consummation of our redemption in Christ which gives us joyful **hope**, and both of those together enable us to **love** one another, which results in a **holy** life.*

Hope in Jesus = Power for Loving = Holy Living

Among other things holy living looks like:

- Purity and honour in relationships and pleasure
- Being hardworking, honourable, and generous in our communities

Both these honour the Kingship of Jesus and train our hearts to see his goodness in the world of twisted desire.





What we hope for shapes what we live for.

*“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and **he will do it.**”*

~ Thessalonians 5:23-25