



LESSON SIX

# Salvation History: God's Promise to Free Us

---

# Opening Prayer

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.*

*He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.*

*Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.*

*He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.*

*This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,*

*free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.*

*You, my child, shall be called prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*In the tender compassion of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

*Amen.*

# Lesson Objectives:

- ❖ Understand God's immediate and long-term response to human sin: a plan of restoration that unfolds in stages and is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Explore the purpose of the major covenants in salvation history—with Abraham, Moses, and David—and how God remains faithful even when people break them.
- ❖ Recognize how the Old Testament promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who is the culmination and completion of the entire story.

# BURNING QUESTIONS

- ❖ Isn't the Bible just a collection of stories that don't really have anything to do with each other?  
*It is easy to see the Bible as a varied collection of stories about God, but how are all of them connected?*
- ❖ What do the accounts in the Bible have to do with my life today?  
*How can stories from so long ago still matter?*

# St. Joseph

**Feast Day: March 19**

c. 1st century BC – c. 1st century AD · Bethlehem / Nazareth · Patron of the Universal Church, Fathers, Workers

At the climax of centuries of covenant promises, God entrusted his divine plan to a humble carpenter from Nazareth. Silent in Scripture—not a single word is attributed to him—Joseph embodies what covenant fidelity looks like: he trusted God without understanding, obeyed the angel’s command without hesitation, protected Mary and the child Jesus through exile in Egypt, and worked with his hands to teach Jesus his trade. He is the bridge between the Old and New Covenants, a descendant of David, and the earthly father of the eternal King. Today he is the patron of the Universal Church.



*“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”*

Matthew 1:20

# What Is a Covenant?

## Not a Contract but a Family Bond

A covenant is not a business deal. While a contract is an exchange of goods and services, a covenant is an exchange of persons, with mutual commitments that establish a family relationship. A marriage is a covenant. So is God's relationship with his people.

## God Pursues Us

Scripture is not a collection of disconnected accounts. It is a single love story—the story of God's love for mankind and his plan to win us back after the Fall. Through covenants, God forms and guides his people toward an ever-broader family bond, culminating in Jesus Christ.

*“They shall be my people, and I will be their God.”*

Jeremiah 32:38

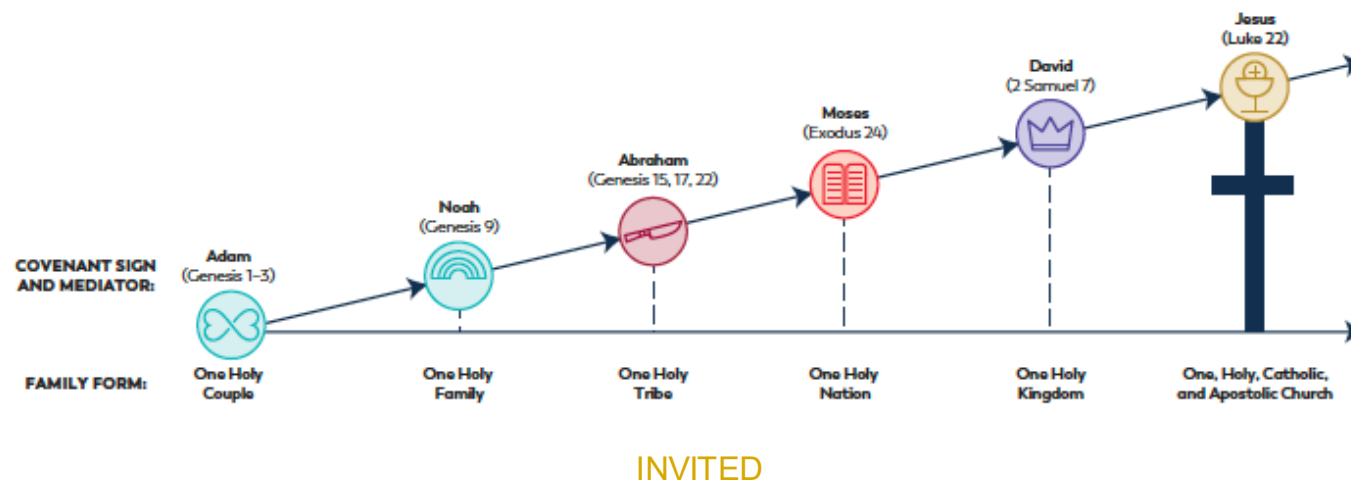
# The Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants

## Abraham: Land, Kingdom, Blessing for All Nations

God called Abraham to leave his homeland, promising his descendants the land, a great nation, and that through him “all the families of the earth shall bless themselves” (Genesis 12:3). These three promises—land, kingdom, blessing—form the framework of God’s entire plan.

## Moses: Covenant at Sinai

Generations later, God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt through Moses and established the Mosaic covenant at Sinai, giving his people the Law as a gift and binding them to himself as his holy nation. Though they repeatedly broke it, God remained faithful.



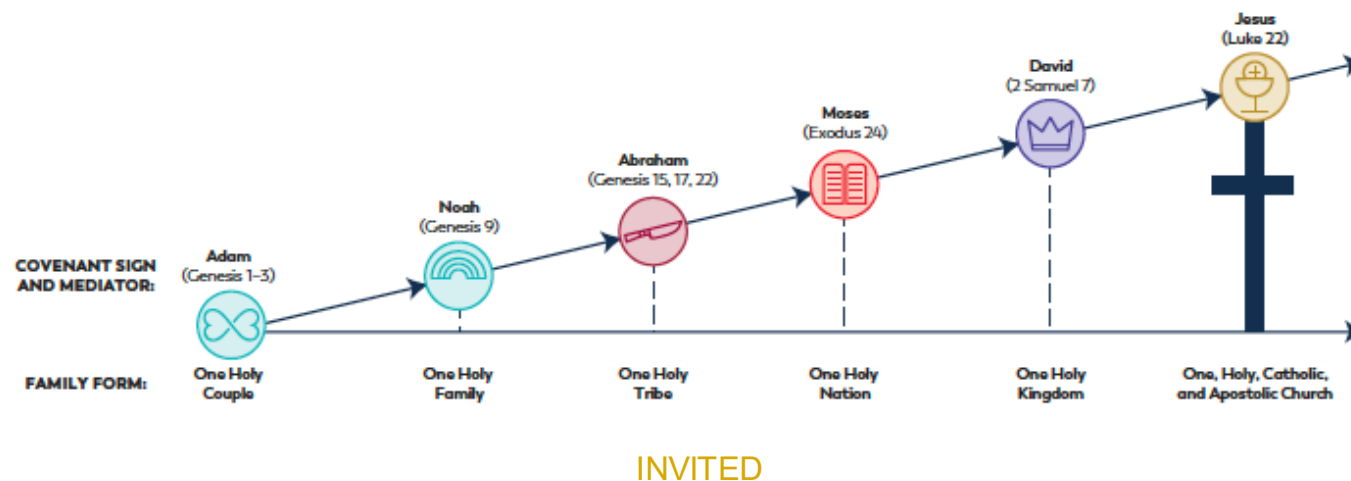
# The Davidic Covenant

## A Kingdom Without End

God promised David that his throne would endure forever: “Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever” (2 Samuel 7:16). This is the covenant that points most directly toward Jesus—the Son of David, the eternal King.

## Waiting for the New Covenant

The prophet Jeremiah looked forward to a day when God would write his law not on stone tablets but on human hearts (see Jeremiah 31:31–34). All the covenants were pointing toward something greater: the New and Everlasting Covenant.



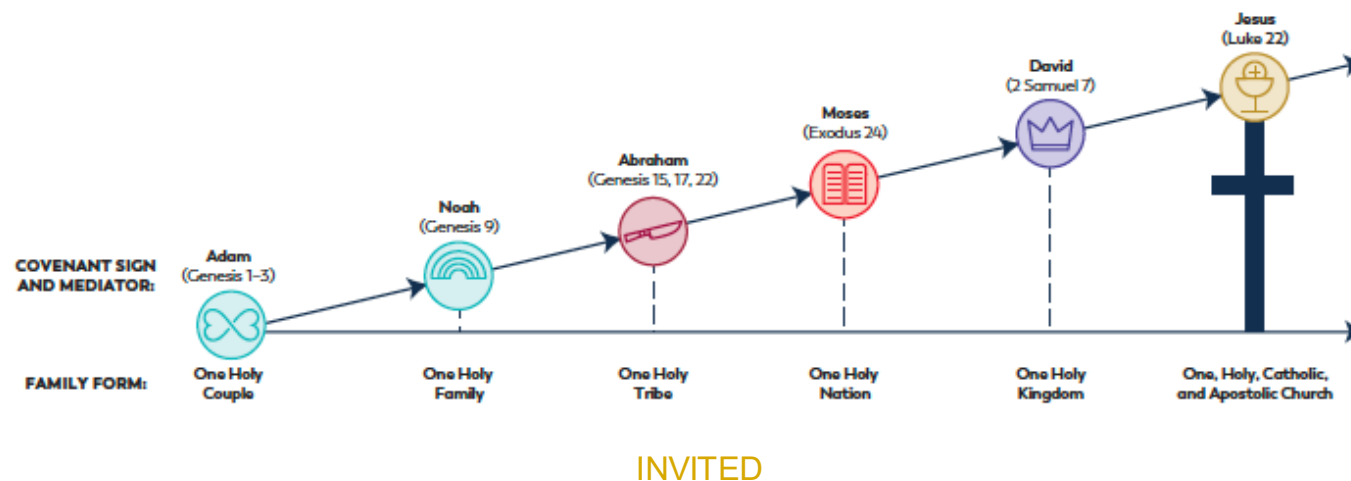
# Jesus: The Fulfillment of All Covenants

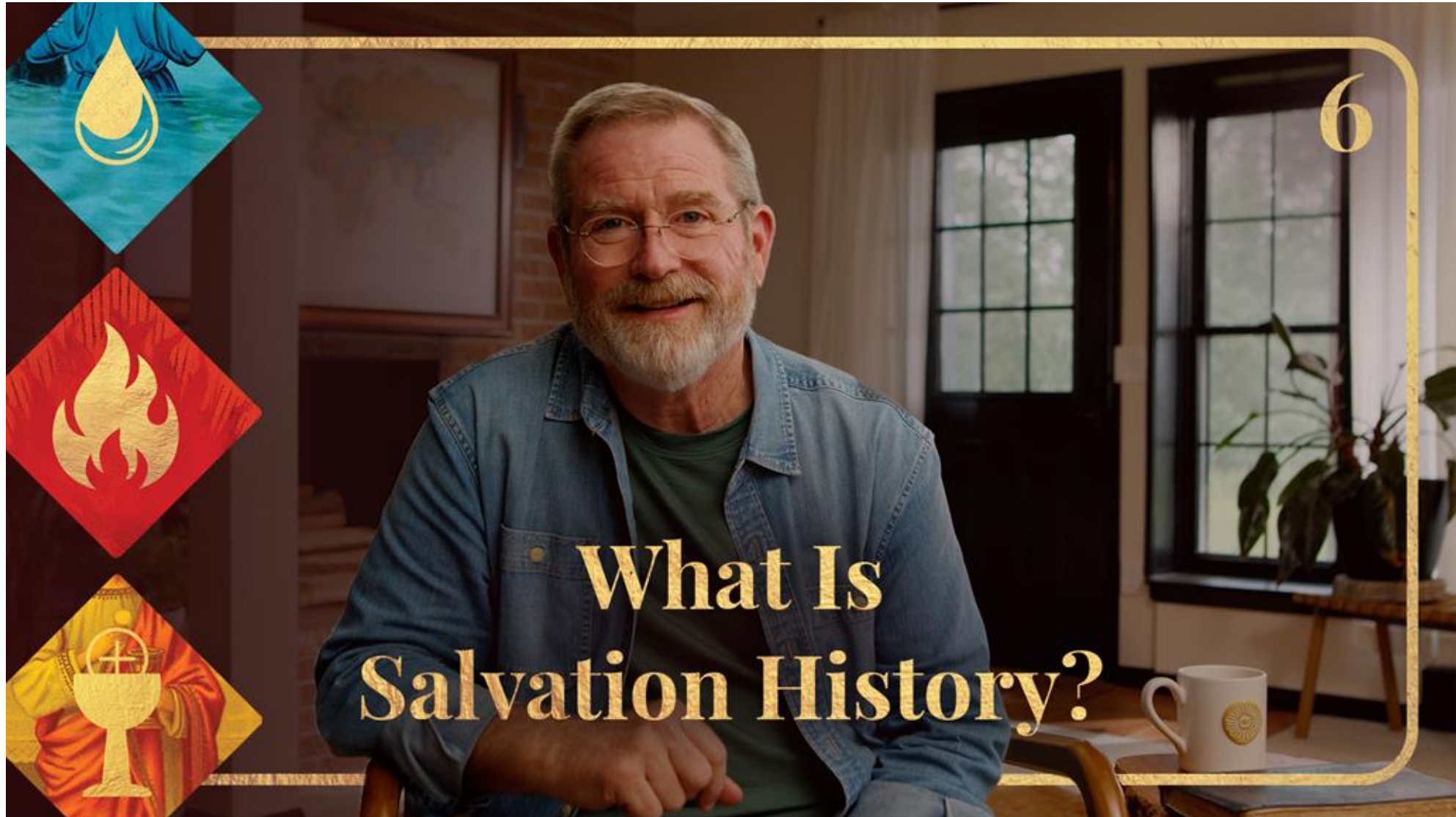
## Every Promise Converges in Christ

Jesus is not just a part of salvation history; he is its culmination. In him, the promised land becomes eternal life, the kingdom becomes the Church and then heaven, and the blessing to all nations becomes the universal Gospel. At the Last Supper, Jesus declared: “This chalice which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood” (Luke 22:20).

## Salvation History Is Your History

The God who made covenants with Abraham, Moses, and David now calls each of us into relationship with him. You are not a spectator of this story. You are invited into it, into his family, his kingdom, his eternal blessing.





# What Is Salvation History?

INVITED

## Discussion Questions

- ❖ How does seeing the Bible as the unified account of salvation history change the way you approach Scripture?
- ❖ What surprised you most about this lesson—the covenants or their fulfillment in Jesus?
- ❖ What do you think your role in God's plan is? How is he inviting you into the story?

# Faith and Fun

Which Old Testament figure is the first person to be explicitly called a priest in Scripture? He prefigures Christ as both priest and king.

a. Abraham

b. Moses

c. Melchizedek

d. David

# Faith and Fun

Which Old Testament figure is the first person to be explicitly called a priest in Scripture? He prefigures Christ as both priest and king.

a. Abraham

b. Moses

c. Melchizedek ✓

d. David

Melchizedek appears only briefly in Genesis 14:18–20 as the “king of Salem” and “priest of God Most High,” offering Abraham bread and wine, foreshadowing the Eucharist. Psalm 110:4 and the letter to the Hebrews both affirm that Jesus is the fulfillment of Melchizedek: the eternal priest and king.

# The Sanctuary Lamp

## A Sign of the Real Presence

When God made his covenant with the people at Mount Sinai, he commanded them to make a Tabernacle where he promised to dwell among them. Just as he did with the Tabernacle of the Old Covenant, today he is present in every tabernacle of the Church, where the Body of Christ is kept. The flame that continually burns near it indicates that Christ is truly present in his Church and invites us to honor him.

*“Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.”*

Exodus 25:8

### Living It Out:

You are a living part of God’s story with his people. Write your story thus far, knowing that it is a part of God’s greater plan.



# Closing Prayer

## *The Magnificat*

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.*

*He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.*

*He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.*

*He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.*

*He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.*

*Amen.*

Announcements / Reminders — add notes here