

# Biblical Hermeneutics and Covenant Population





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# An Example: The Genesis Curse

Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:  
“Cursed is the ground for your sake;  
In toil you shall eat of it  
All the days of your life.

Both **thorns** [*akanthas*-LXX] and **thistles** [*tribolous*-LXX] it shall bring forth for you,  
And you shall eat the **herb of the field.**” Genesis 3:17-18 NKJ

# An Example: The Covenant Curse

Both **thorns** [*akanthas*-LXX] and **thistles** [*tribolous*-LXX] it shall bring forth for you,  
And you shall eat the **herb of the field.**” Genesis 3:18 NKJ

For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears **herbs** useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears **thorns** [*akanthas*] and **briers** [*tribolous*], *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned. Hebrews 6:7-8 NKJ

- Sourced in the Adamic curse and context of Genesis creation (Genesis 1-3) — Adam
- Deuteronomic “Blessings and Curses” context (Deuteronomy 28, 32, 11) — Israel
- Writer combines Adam-Israel as a united whole in the eschatological pronouncement - Thorns to be burned at the end

Thorns are people — Covenant apostates

Herbs are people — Covenant faithful

Compare to the Parable of the Wheat and Tares with grain crop/faithful and weeds/apostates to be burned at the harvest at the end of the age.  
Story begins with God’s planting of “good seed” and then an enemy who planted weeds (Genesis 1-3).

**Matthew 13:24-30**

**Israel’s story begins with Adam**

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**Regenerative Agriculture is Preterist Theology Applied to Farming**

# **Biblical Hermeneutics**

## **“The Art and Science of Interpretation”**

### ***Biblical Hermeneutics* - Milton S. Terry**

“Its fundamental principle is to gather from the Scriptures themselves the precise meaning the writers intended to convey.” ***Biblical Hermeneutics***, p. 70

### ***The Language and Imagery of the Bible* - G.B. Caird**

“My own teacher George B. Caird’s book ***The Language and Imagery of the Bible*** remains spectacularly important”  
— N.T. Wright

### ***Beyond Creation Science*, Appendix A**

“The Bible has amazing consistency from beginning to end.”

# Literalism

- “Common Sense”
- Plain Reading
- Child-like Understanding
- Easy to Understand
- Associated with “Believing the Bible”

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, but take every word at its primary, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context clearly indicate otherwise.” Tim LaHaye, ***Understanding Bible Prophecy for Yourself***, p. 14.

“I take the Bible literally unless it is obviously symbolic. Even where it is symbolic, the words and phrases used have a literal basis.” Ken Ham, ***The Lie***, p. 80.

# Textual Examples

Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Matthew 24:34 NKJ

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which **must shortly take place**. Revelation 1:1 NKJ

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the **elements will melt** with fervent heat; both the **earth** and the works that are in it will be **burned up**. 2 Peter 3:10 NKJ

By these three *plagues* a **third of mankind was killed**—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. Revelation 9:18 NKJ



# Historical-Grammatical

- Audience Relevance
- Cultural Context
- Objectively Rooted in History
- The Bible Provides Meaning
- Literary Genres
- New Testament interprets the Old Testament

The Bible can never mean now what it never meant then.

“Its fundamental principle is to gather from the Scriptures themselves the precise meaning the writers intended to convey.” Milton S. Terry, *Biblical Hermeneutics*, p. 70.

# Language and Change

“Many a word in common use has lost its meaning. How few of those who daily use the word sincere are aware that it was originally applied to pure honey, from which all wax was purged.” Milton S. Terry, *Biblical Hermeneutics*, p. 79.

“Current usage determines public meaning. But current usage changes, either by gradual development, or suddenly when a Humpty Dumpty pays a word extra to work overtime. The scientific study of semantic changes is recent, but the recognition of its existence is as old as the Books of Samuel. When Saul was looking for his father’s lost donkeys, his servant proposed that they should consult the seer Samuel, and a later editor has added a parenthesis, informing us that ‘what is nowadays called a prophet used to be called a seer’ (I Sam. 9:9).” G.B. Caird, *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*, p. 62.

- **Leads to humility for the student of Scripture**
- **Objective: Meaning is frozen in time and can be ascertained with diligence**

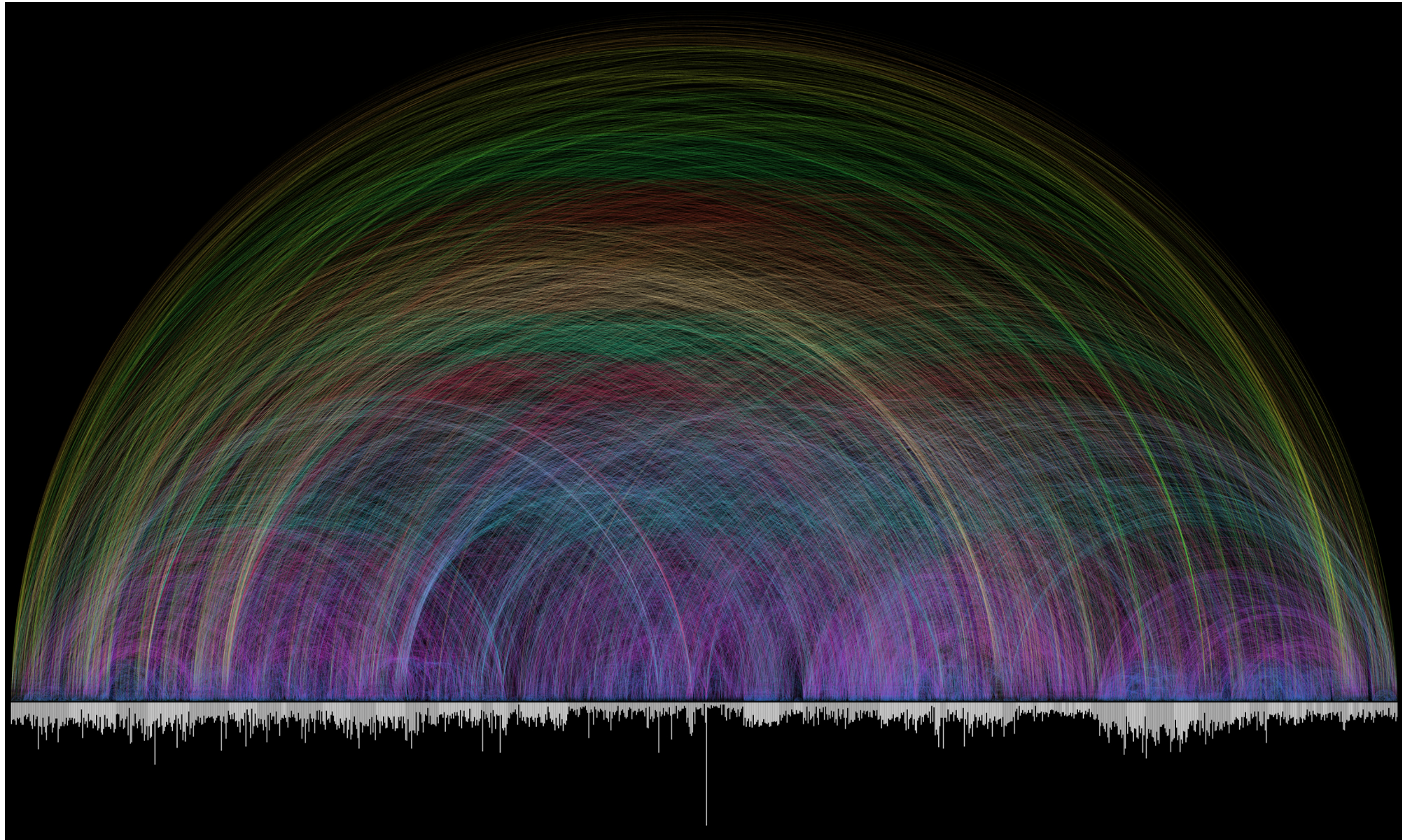
# Unity of Scripture

“[W]e should also remember that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are a world by themselves. Although written at sundry times, and devoted to many different themes, taken together they constitute a self-interpreting book. The old rule, therefore, that ‘Scripture must be interpreted by Scripture,’ is a most important principle of sacred hermeneutics.” Milton S. Terry, *Biblical Hermeneutics*, p. 120.

“Inasmuch as these two Testaments differ in form, language, and historical conditions, many writers have deemed it preferable to treat the hermeneutics of each Testament separately. And as the New Testament is the later and fuller revelation, its interpretation has received the fuller and more frequent attention. But it may be questioned whether such a separate treatment of the Old and New Testaments is the better course. It is of the first importance to observe that, from a Christian point of view, the Old Testament cannot be fully apprehended without the help of the New... On the other hand, it is equally true that a scientific interpretation of the New Testament is impossible without a thorough knowledge of the older Scriptures. The very language of the New Testament, though belonging to another family of human tongues, is notably Hebraic. The style, diction, and spirit of many parts of the Greek Testament cannot be properly appreciated without acquaintance with the style and spirit of the Hebrew prophets... In short, the whole Bible is a divinely constructed unity, and there is danger that, in studying one part to the comparative neglect of the other, we may fall into one-sided and erroneous methods of exposition.” *Biblical Hermeneutics*, Milton S. Terry, p. 18.

“The right method will not only meet the demands of the immediate scripture or context, but also of every related scripture or context.” [emphasis mine] Max R. King, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, p. 27.

## A Visual Demonstration - 63,000+ Cross References



<https://philosophadam.wordpress.com/2018/05/16/the-first-hyperlinked-text-the-bible-and-its-63779-cross-references/>

# “Mankind” and Covenant Population

“By these three *plagues* **a third of mankind** [*anthropos*] was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.” Revelation 9:18 NKJ

- **Futurism = Modern conception of “mankind” as all human beings - Universal Humanity**
- **Futurism = Heaven and Earth as all planet Earth and material creation - Global Tribulation**

**VS**

- **Preterism = Covenant context of “mankind” as Israelites in the Jewish Wars - Jews**
- **Preterism = Heaven and Earth as the Old Covenant Creation order (symbolized by the Temple)**

How is “mankind” (*anthropos*) used elsewhere in our Bible?

# “Mankind” in the Gospels

“And He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for **man** [*anthropos*], and not **man** [*anthropos*] for the Sabbath.’” Mark 2:27 NKJ

**Was the Sabbath made for all of “mankind” in the Old Testament? Or was the Sabbath specifically made for Israel?**

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak also to the **children of Israel**, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it *is* a **sign between Me and you** throughout your generations...’” Exodus 31:12-13 NKJ (c.f. Isaiah 56:4-6)

“Therefore the **children of Israel** shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout **their generations** as a perpetual **covenant**.” Exodus 31:16 NKJ (c.f. Isaiah 56:4-6)

**Sabbath = Israel’s covenant.  
Sabbath was made for man [*anthropos*].  
Man [*anthropos*] = Israel**

# “Mankind” in the Culture

For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. But Jesus said to her, “Let the **children be filled first**, for it is not good to take the **children’s bread** and throw *it* to the little **dogs.**” And she answered and said to Him, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little **dogs** under the table eat from the **children’s crumbs.**” Then He said to her, “For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter.” Mark 7:25-29 NKJ

**She acknowledges her place in the Old Covenant Creation, and she is blessed because of her humility and faith.**

# The Gospel Goes to the Animals

“The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, “What God has **cleansed** you must not call common.” This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.”

Acts 10-9-16 NKJ (c.f. Isaiah 25:6-8)

- **Animals are symbols for Gentile nations and people**
- **Old Covenant Creation was populated by Man [Israel] and Animals [Gentile Nations]**
- **Eating means to take in to yourself**
- **Peter is called to “Eat” the foreigner and Gentile named Cornelius into the Church**
- **The Spirit is outpoured on Cornelius and friends as Divine confirmation of Ecclesia “digestion”**
- **Illuminates why Israel was barred from eating unclean animals until the arrival of Messiah - Not Ready**



# The Great “Creational” Commission

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to **every creature.**” Mark 16:15 NKJ

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the **nations...**” Matthew 28:19 NKJ

- **Animals/creatures = Nations/Gentiles**
- **“Fishers of Men” = Disciples are to fish the Gentile Sea (e.g. Matthew 13:47, Revelation 20:13)**
- **Continuation of the Genesis Story as context**

**Jesus through the Apostles works to fulfill the role of Adam who was given dominion over all of God’s creatures on the land and sea (Day 6)**

# The Prophetic Pattern

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the **seed of man** and the **seed of beast.**” Jeremiah 31:27

“And it shall be, in that day,”  
Says the Lord,  
“*That* you [Israel] will call Me ‘My Husband,’  
And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’  
For I will take from her mouth [Israel] the names of the Baals,  
And they shall be remembered by their name no more.  
In that day **I will make a covenant** for them  
With the **beasts of the field,**  
With the **birds of the air,**  
And *with* the **creeping things of the ground.**  
Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth,  
To make them lie down safely.” Hosea 2:16-18

# Exile Pattern

“In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, “Thus says the Lord to me: ‘Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck, and send them to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon, by the hand of the messengers who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah. And command them to say to their masters, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel—thus you shall say to your masters: **‘I have made the earth, the man and the beast that *are* on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me. And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him. So **all nations** shall serve him and his son and his son’s son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them. And it shall be, *that* the nation and kingdom which will not serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish,’** says the Lord, ‘with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.’” Jeremiah 27:1-8. (c.f. Jeremiah 4:23-26)

**The whole creation of Genesis 1 – Israel [man] and Gentile nations [animals] goes into captivity to Nebuchadnezzar! The covenant effect?**

I beheld the **earth**, and indeed *it was* **without form, and void**; Jeremiah 4:23 NKJ

The **earth** was **without form, and void**; Genesis 1:2

# Exile Pattern (Continued)

“The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

“I will utterly consume everything  
From the face of the land,”

Says the Lord;

“I will consume **man** and **beast**; [Land]

I will consume the **birds of the heavens**, [Sky]

The **fish of the sea**, [Sea]

And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked.

I will cut off man from the face of the land,”

Says the Lord.” Zephaniah 1:1-3

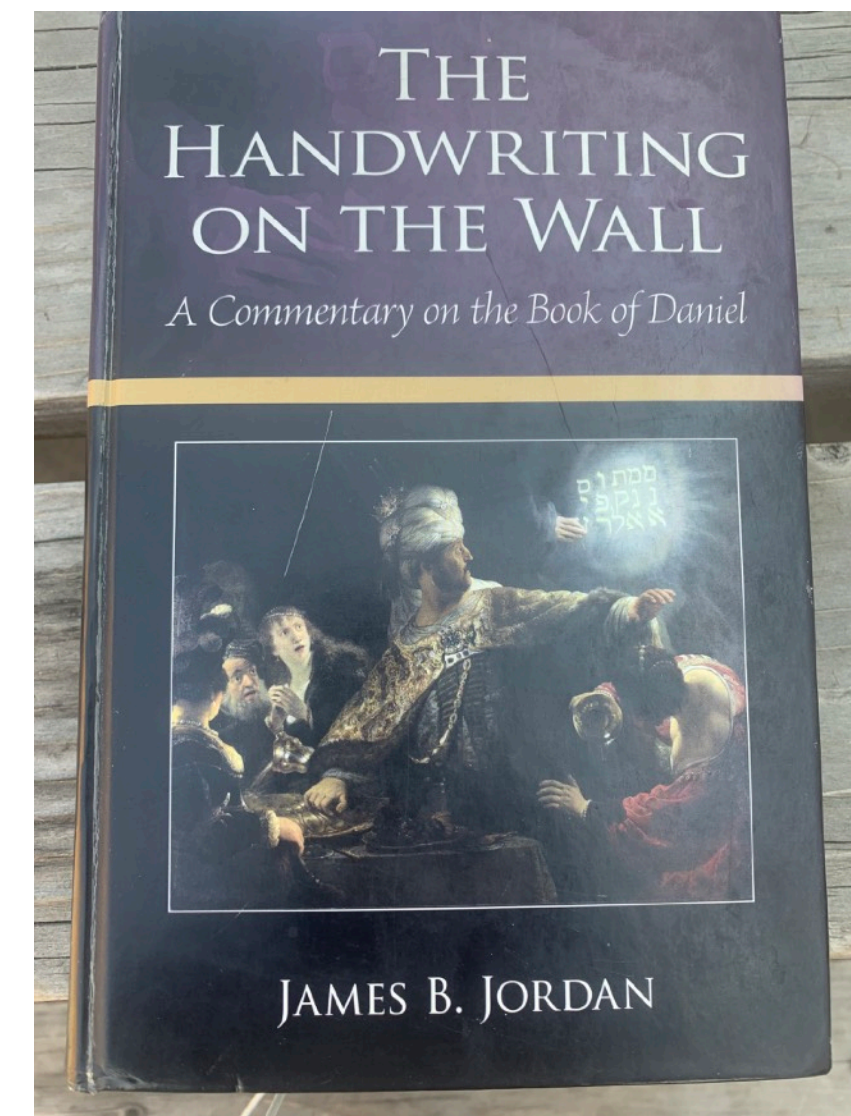
**Structure and detail is drawn explicitly from Genesis 1 — Earth/Land, Heavens/Sky, Waters/Sea**

# Beast to Man

Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the **Great Sea**. And four great **beasts** came up from the **sea**, each different from the other. The first *was* like a **lion**, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and **it was lifted up from the earth** and made to stand on two feet **like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.**” Daniel 7:2-4 NKJ

- **Adam was given dominion (Genesis 1)**
- **Adam-Israel broke Covenant**
- **Nebuchadnezzar was given Dominion (Daniel 2 and 7)**
- **Nebuchadnezzar the Beast becomes the Man over God’s Creation (like Adam)**
- **Story shows it is possible for Man to become Beast due to Arrogance and Pride (Jude echos)**
- **Daniel is the Faithful Israelite [Adamic] priest to the nations via his ministry to Nebuchadnezzar**
- **Gold, Silver, Bronze, Iron (Temple metals from inside the Holy of Holies out to the gate)**
- **God’s presence went with Daniel and the Hebrews into Babylon and the following Kingdoms**

# Daniel as the Faithful Adam



“The strong tie between Daniel 6 and Daniel 7 also highlights the deep background of both stories in Genesis 2. Man is to have dominion over the beasts... The empires and their kings are beasts, and the Jews are men. The Jews are to have dominion over the beast empires. They are to tame and train these beasts... The whole book of Daniel shows how the Man-Jews are to tame and train the beast empires and beast kings. Daniel 1-4 is a four part story about the taming and training of Nebuchadnezzar...

The duty of the Jews to teach, serve, but never compromise with the empire is taught through the book of Daniel. It is the way in which the sons of man rule the animals...”

“It is unnatural for beasts to rise up against man. Daniel is a true man, and has dominion over the lions. His enemies are not true men, and the lions eat them.”

-James B. Jordan, *The Handwriting on the Wall*, p. 364.

# The Coming of the Child-Man-Beast-Tamer

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots...

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.” Isaiah 11:6 NKJ

- **Child from Jesse is Jesus, Son of David**
- **Where was Jesus born?**
- **Where was baby Jesus placed?**
- **What would Jesus do as the Last Adam?**

**Messiah of Israel Leads all the Nations of God's Old Covenant Creation Into the Knowledge of God  
(Colossians 1:6, 23)**

“It cannot mean what it never meant,” I’ve etched that on my brain.  
So when I study scripture, I echo that refrain.

I’ve studied hermeneutics and exegesis too;  
As a consequence of this, I’ve somewhat changed my view.

I’ve learned some nomenclature, too lengthy to define,  
Like cultural relativity and textual design.

There is so much I want to know, how to ferret out the truth,  
I hope someday that I’ll become a Bible-reading sleuth.

A new respect has taken me for God’s own holy word,  
Inspiring me to know the truth, to hear as it was heard.

But I know I must remember, I stepped through an open door,  
And can never return again to where I was before.

-Pat Bergeron





# Bonus Example:

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of **men [antrhopos pl]**”  
Mark 8:31-33 NKJ

**Peter’s conception of “things of men” was the ideas promoted by the Pharisees and Jews in regard to a political Messiah for Israel.**



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