

# PROMISES KEPT BIBLE OVERVIEW, WEEK NINE (REVELATION 20–22)

## OPENING QUESTION (3 MINS)

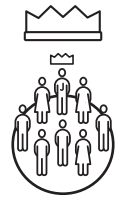
**For this world to become perfect, what would have to change? What would have to go?**

Allow people to give flippant answers—Mondays, or mobile phones, or soap operas! But other, more serious, answers may include: the human heart; death; war; pain and suffering; the devil; disappointment; unemployment; sin.

## VIDEO TALK (18 MINS)

### RECAP (1 MIN)

Where it's all been heading: God's people in his perfect world, living in his presence, under his eternal King's perfect rule.



## APPLY TIME... (5 MINS)

**Revelation 21 v 7 promises: “Those who are victorious will inherit all this”—or, as the NIV84 translates it: “He who overcomes will inherit all this. Life as a follower of the crucified, risen Jesus before his return is hard. How can we use Revelation 20 – 21 to encourage each other to keep going?**

Mainly by reminding each other, as well as ourselves, of what is coming in our future. Sometimes we need to have our horizons lifted from the busyness, or pain, or even success, of our daily lives here. We need to remember that what ultimately matters is reaching our home with Jesus.

## PROMISE KEPT (8 MINS)

**Read Revelation 22 v 1-5**

**1. Compare this future eternal city to God's original garden creation. How is it similar? How is it even better?**

| Garden  | City  |
|---|---|
| <i>Gen 2 v 9</i> : Tree of life                                       | <i>Rev 22 v 1-2</i> : Tree of life (see Note below)         |
| <i>Gen 3 v 8a</i> ,<br><i>2 v 15-16</i> : God is very present         | <i>Rev 22 v 4a</i> : We will see God's face (wow!)          |
| <i>Gen 1 v 26-28</i> : Made in God's image, to rule over his creation | <i>Rev 22 v 3b, 5b</i> :<br>We will reign as God's servants |
| <i>Gen 1 v 14-16</i> : Sun created to give light                      | <i>Rev 22 v 5</i> : Light comes directly from God.          |

Note: In the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented rule—so humans should not have eaten from it, because rule was reserved for the Creator God. But the man and woman chose to reject God's rule, taking the fruit themselves. In the city there will only be people who have definitively chosen to live under the rule of God and the Lamb—so this tree is replaced by his throne. He is the recognised, exalted Ruler. No one will choose to sin, because everyone there will have already, definitively, chosen to live under the loving rule of God's King.

**2. How does this make you feel?**

You may want to stop and pray at this point.

### **3. Read Revelation 1 v 12-19. This is the beginning of John's vision. How does it give us certainty that what he has written down is true?**

The vision is given to John by Jesus. And Jesus is all-powerful (don't get bogged down in the symbolism of v 12-16—the point is that Jesus is unimaginably majestic!). V 18 points us to the fact he “was dead, and ... [is] alive for ever”. The resurrection is where we can find certainty that this Jesus really does exist, and that this vision really is true and trustworthy. We find reassurance of this throughout Revelation (eg: 21 v 5; 22 v 6, 16, 20).

### **APPLY TIME... (13 MINS)**

#### **1. What is one right response to knowing this is the future (22 v 20b)?**

“Amen”—this is true, I believe this, this will happen. “Come, Lord Jesus”—the greatest event of any Christian's life will be the day Jesus returns.

#### **2. What difference will saying and meaning this make to life now?**

This is what Christians are looking forward to and living for. It gives hope in difficult times, perspective in joy and mourning, motivation to share the gospel.

#### **3. Can you remember the promises made in Sessions 1 – 6?**

A very good world; a man to crush the devil; God's people from all nations living in his land, enjoying his blessing; deliverance from judgment through another taking that judgment; an everlasting King to lead us in obeying God; a wonderful future beyond our judgment (in Christ).

#### **4. How is Jesus the way God keeps each promise in his first and second comings?**

*He is the One* who began the re-creation when he came 2,000 years ago, and will finish it one day.

*He is the One* who crushed the devil on the cross by removing his claim on us as sinners, and will throw him into hell.

*He is the One* who makes us God's people, and who will bring us to God's ultimate perfect place of blessing.

*He is the One* who died in our place, taking God's judgment that we deserve.

*He is the One* who is the perfect Ruler, who leads his people in obeying God.

*He is the One* who, having taken our judgment, takes us to a place where we enjoy amazing blessings in this world.

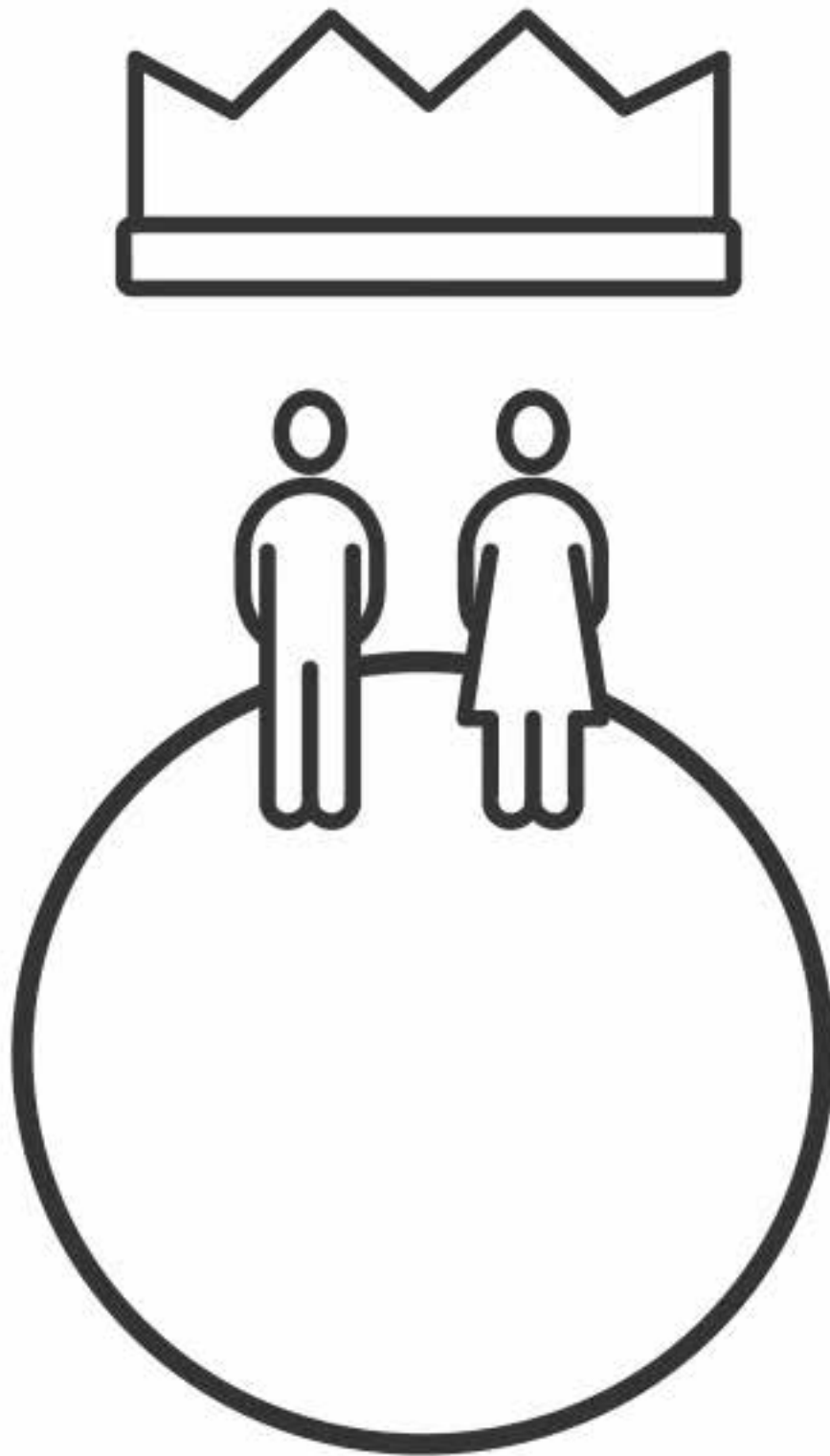
### **QUESTIONS FOR OUR HEARTS AND LIVES (6 MINS)**

**If you are a follower of the Lamb, Revelation 21 – 22 is your future. Next time you have a difficult or painful day, how are you going to remind yourself of where you will be one future day? Will you let it make a difference to your emotions and your actions?**

### **PRAY (6 MINS)**

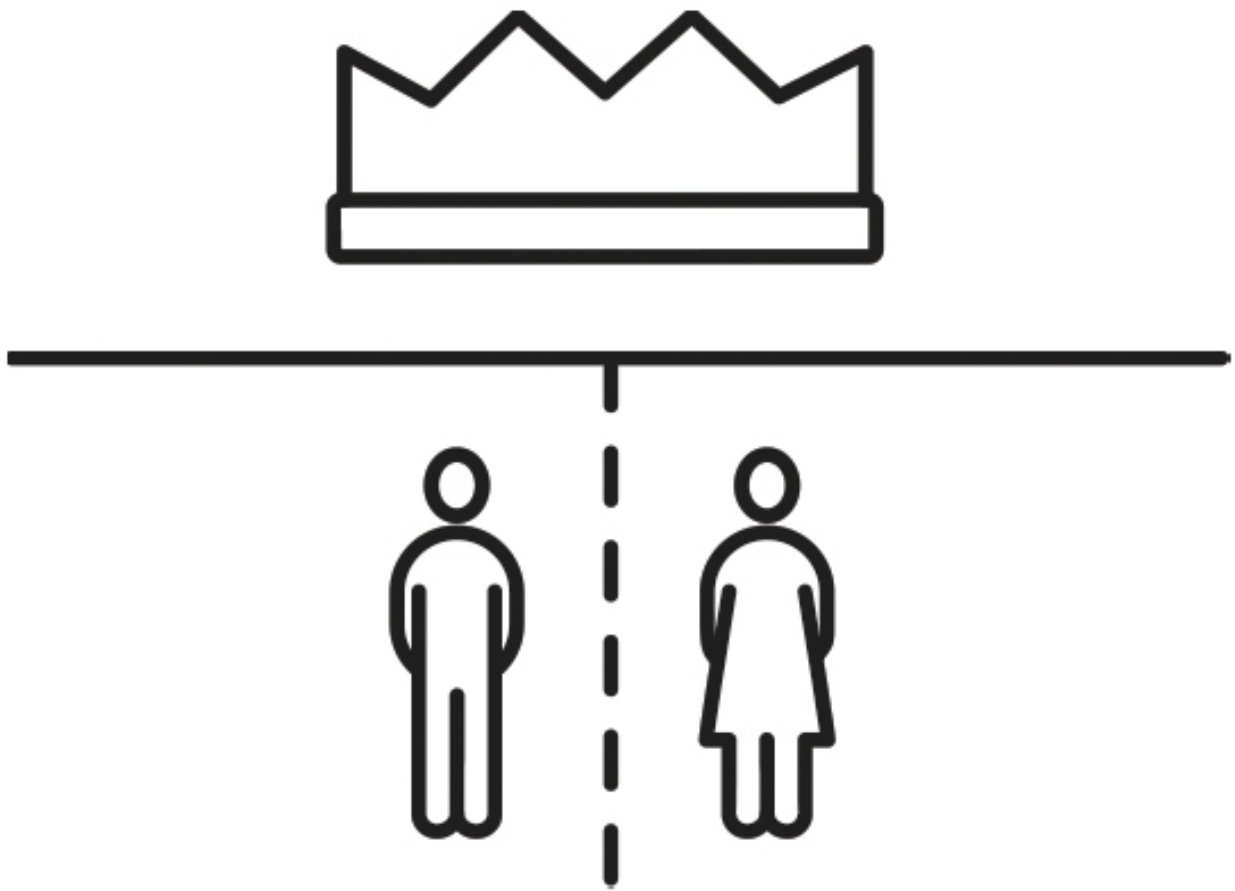
**Spend time giving thanks for who Jesus is, and then for the future he has given his people.**

**Share things which tend to stop you remembering and being joyful about where you're headed, and then pray for one another.**



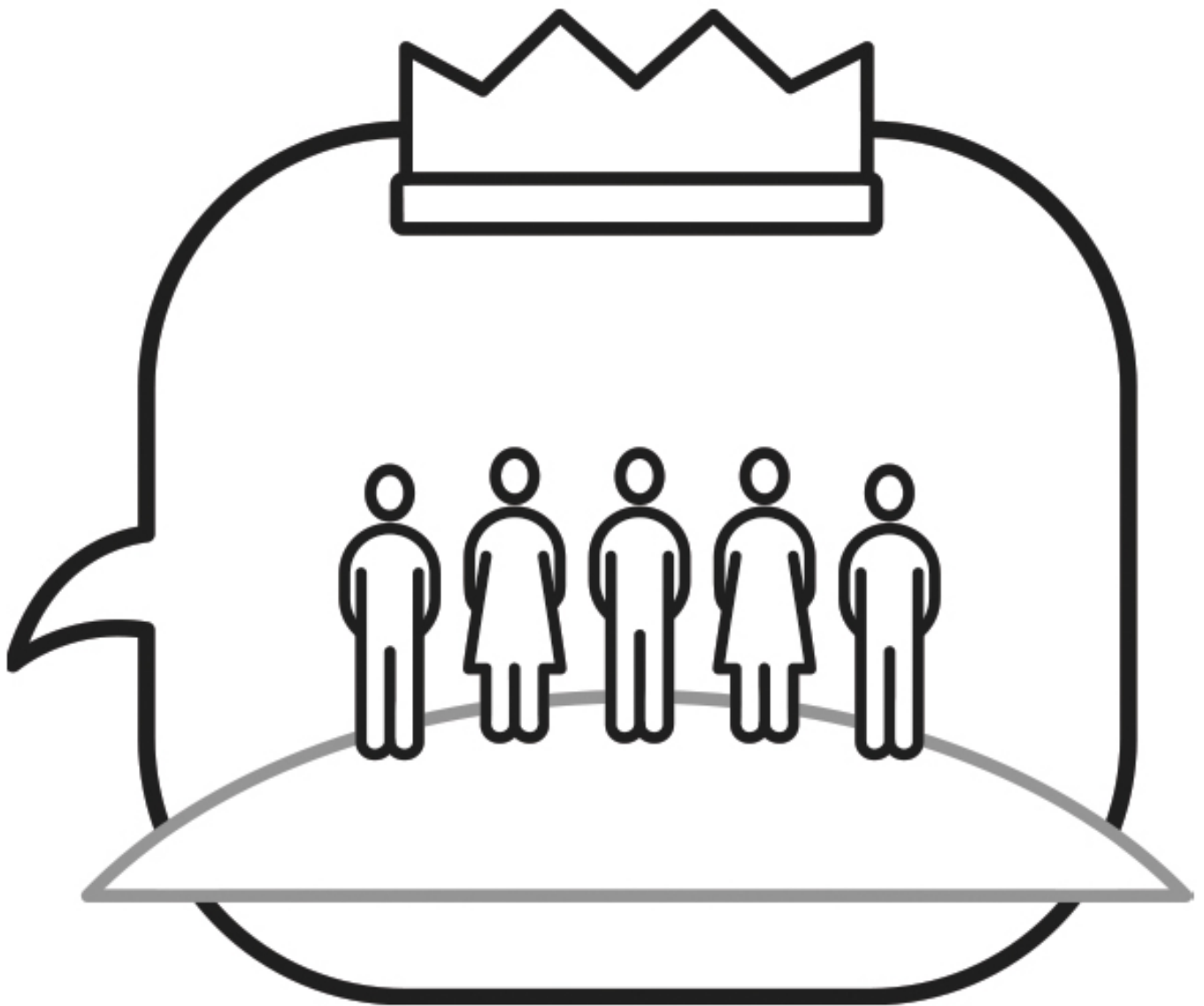
The Promise:

A very good world of blessing in God's presence



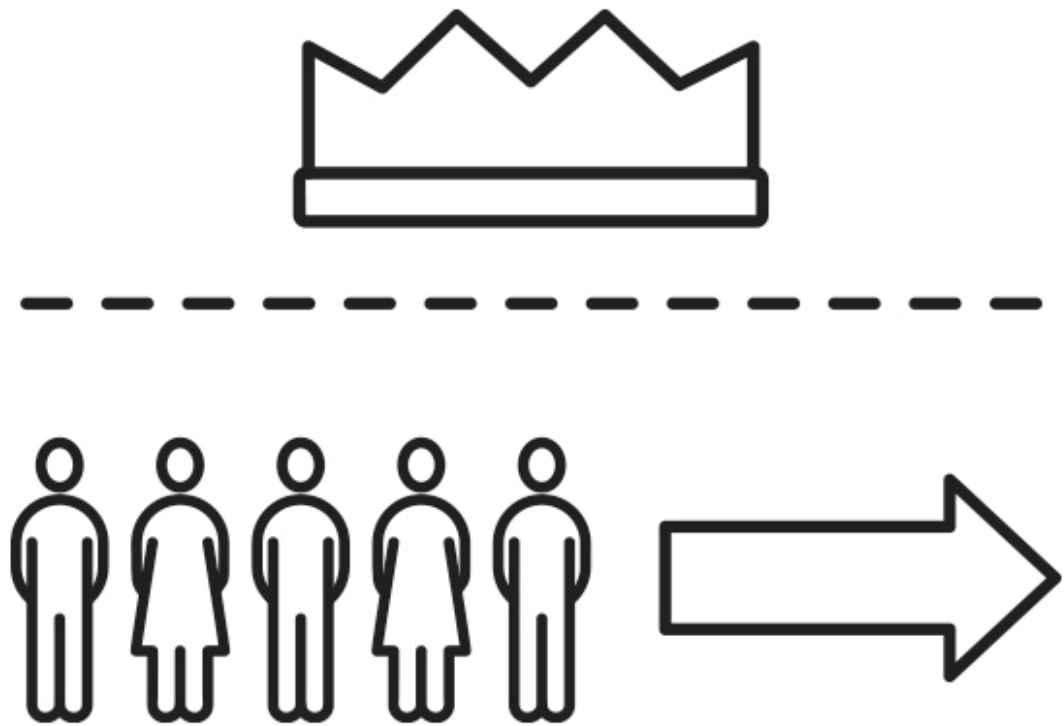
The Promise:

A serpent-crusher, descended from Eve, to undo the ruin of the fall



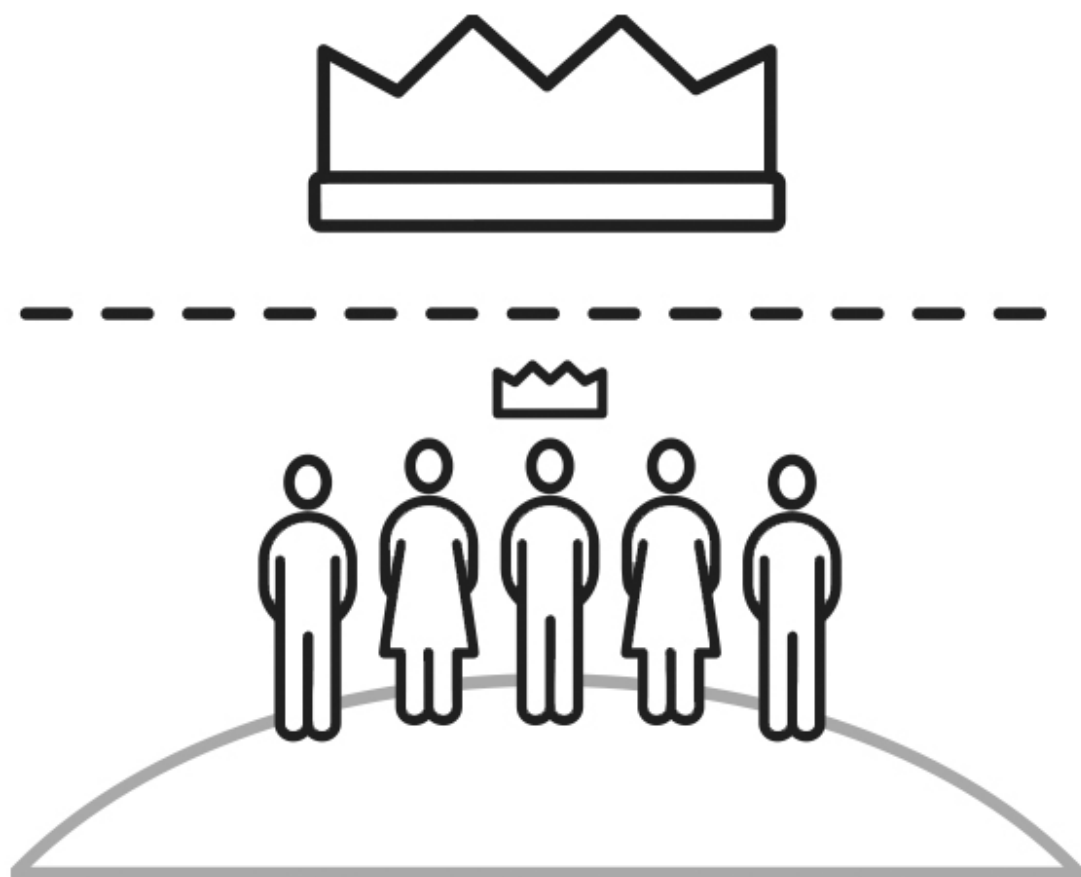
The Promise:

God's people in God's land – a blessing brought to all peoples through Abraham's descendant



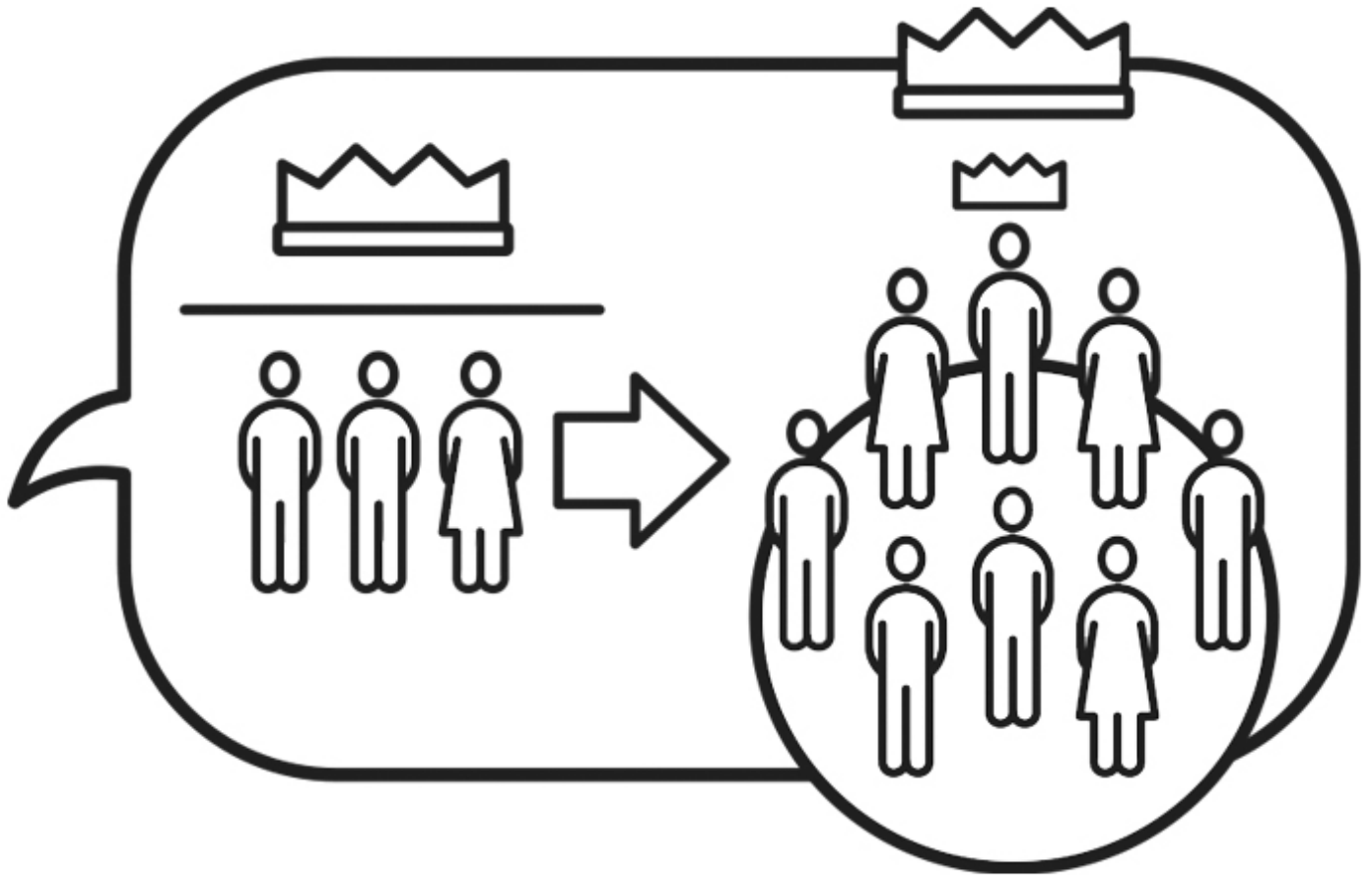
The Promise:

A substitute to die in the place of sinners, taking God's judgment so they can be God's people



The Promise:

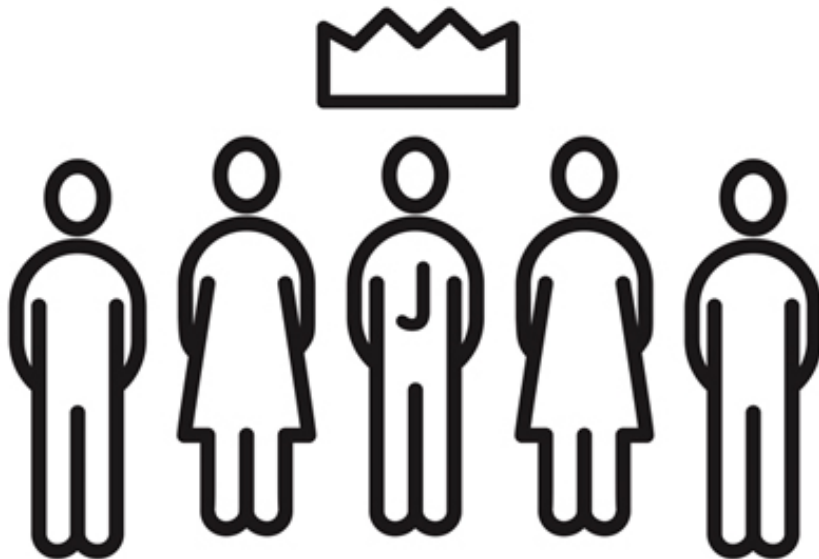
A perfect King, descended from David, who will rule God's people for ever



The Promise:

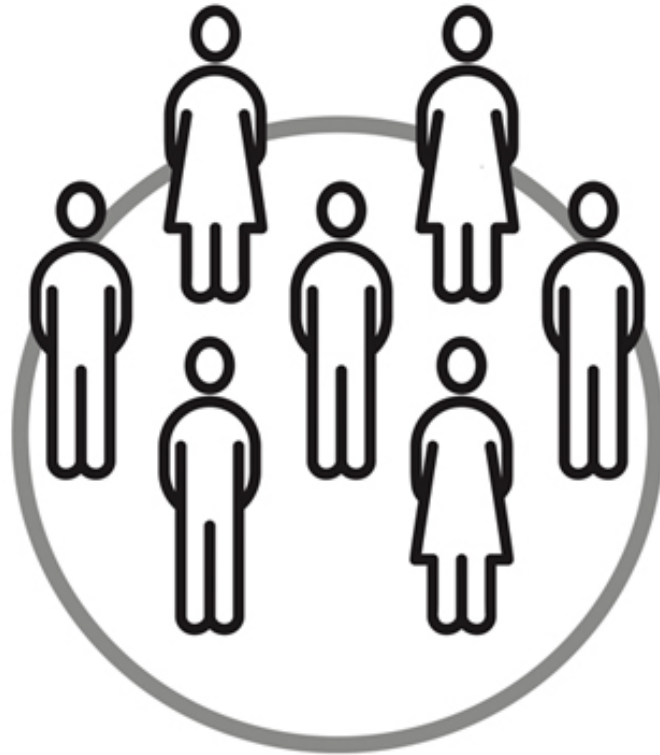
A future world of God's people enjoying God's blessing, under God's king, for eternity





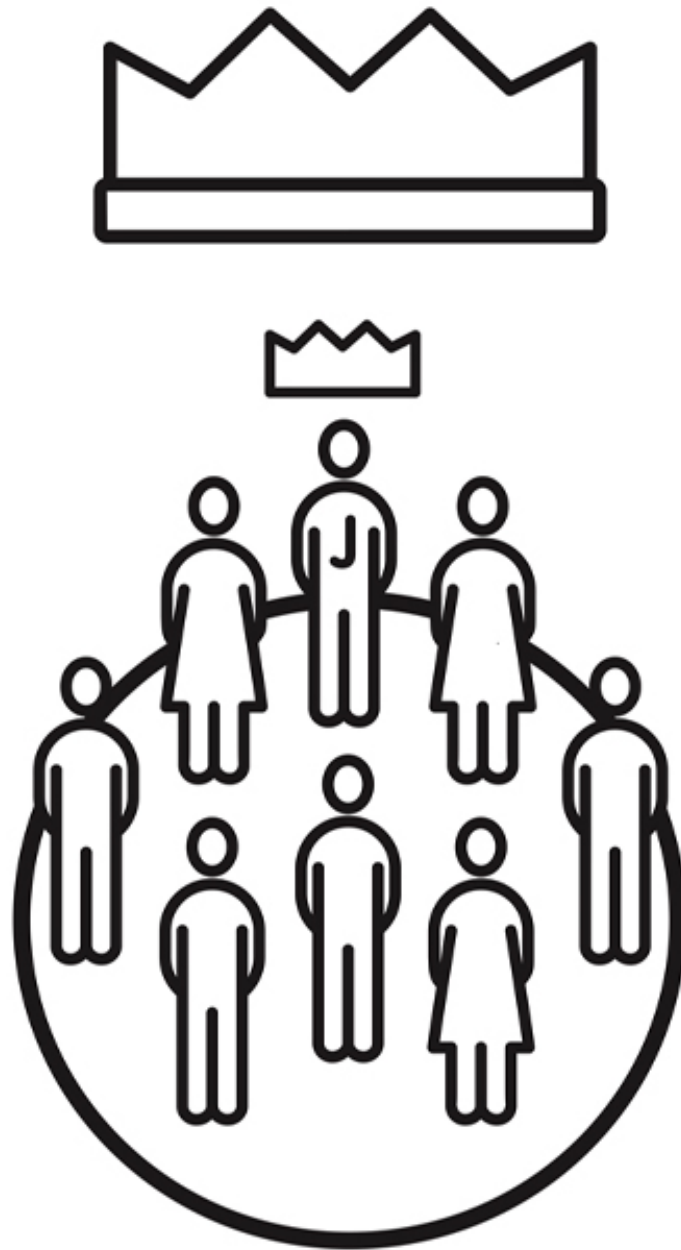
The Promise:

A Messiah who will be rejected, be killed, and then rise from the dead. Promise kept!



The Promise:

Jesus will give his people his Spirit so they can witness to the truth about him throughout the world.

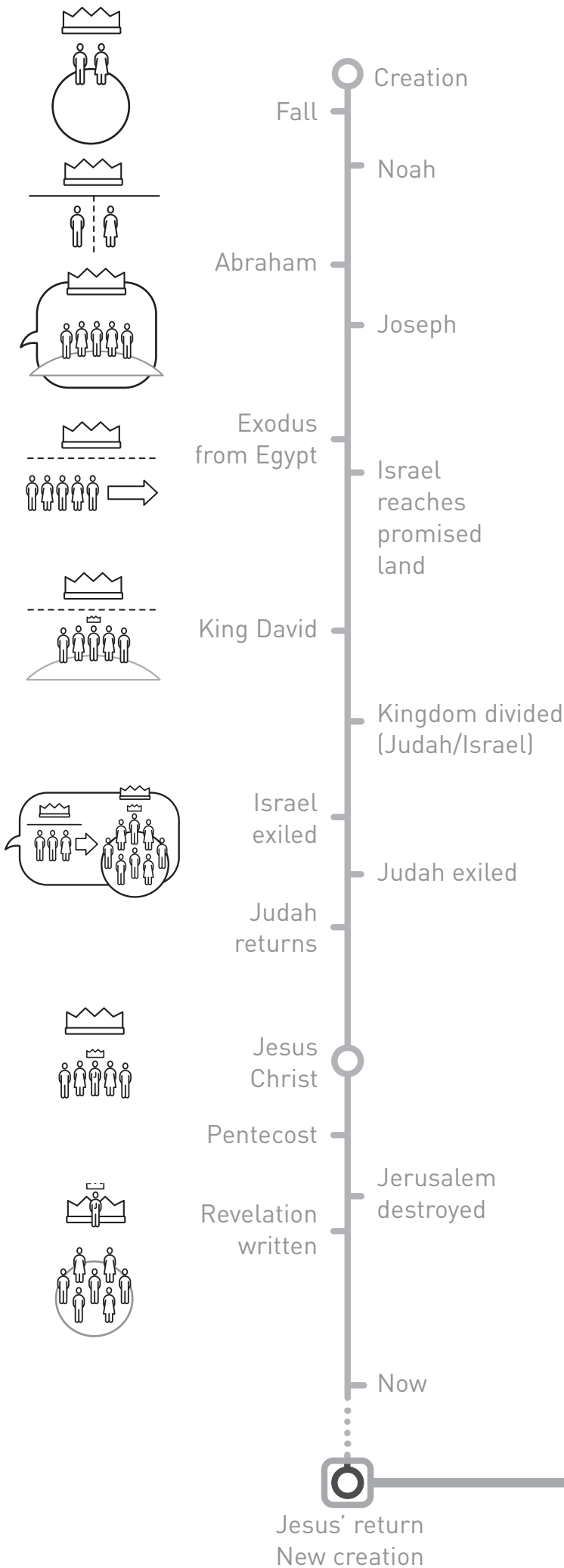


The Promise:

All promises fulfilled, fully and eternally!

# BIBLE TIMELINE

Where are we in the whole story of God's word?



## SESSION NINE JESUS' RETURN

BIBLE SECTION  
Revelation 20 - 22

MAIN CHARACTER  
Jesus Christ