

*Prelude to the Storm*

*Preparation for Zephaniah*

**Fabric of Scripture**

Old Testament

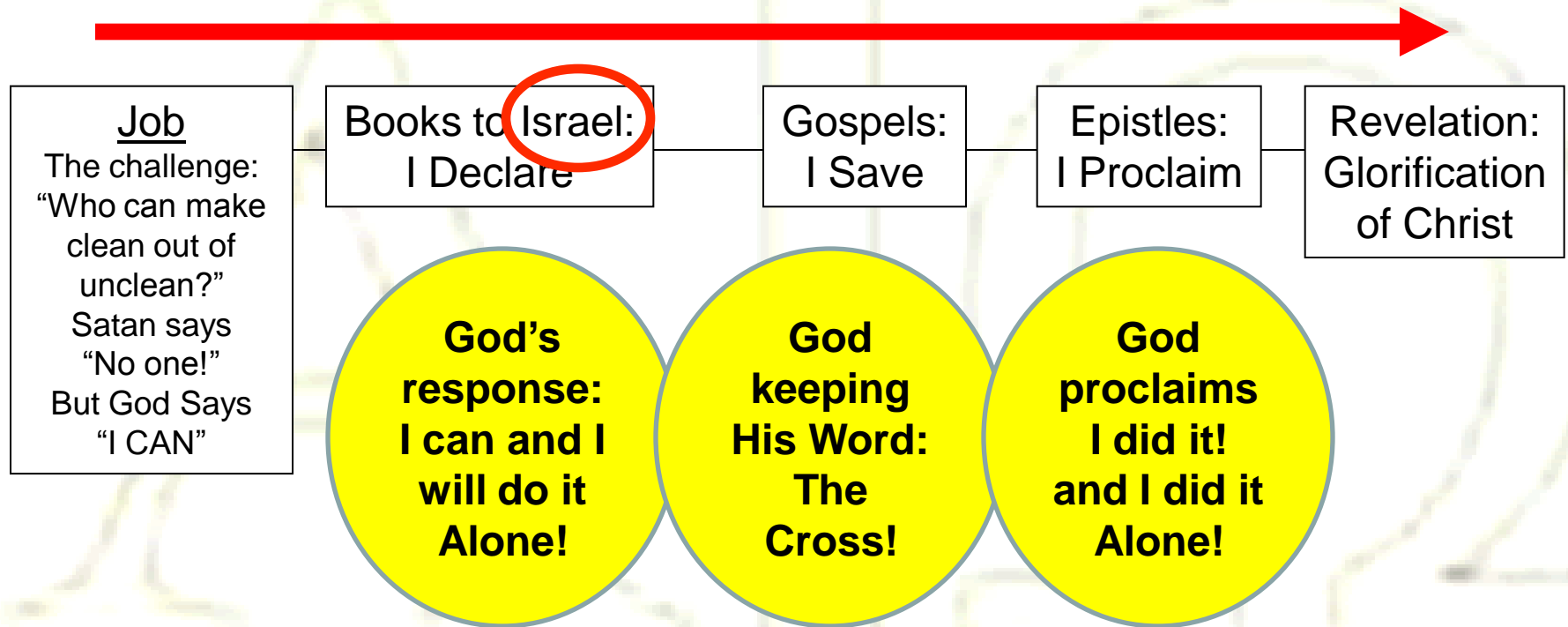
New Testament

# Where Am I?



Zephaniah

# Flow of the Bible



[from Herman Mattox]

# Books of the OT

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**Minor  
Prophets**

# Why Study Zephaniah?

- Zephaniah is focused on Tribulation and Millennium, like Revelation in the NT
- Zephaniah is not a duplicate of Revelation which is written from a post-Cross perspective
- Zephaniah is written from a Jewish, pre-Cross perspective
- It chronicles specific events in the **Tribulation** and **Millennium**
- It is linked with other OT and NT books but provides additional details not found elsewhere
- See the **Faithfulness of God** in Action



# Zephaniah

- “Zephaniah prophesied to Judah about 20 years before the first exile to Babylon. Like Joel 200 years earlier, the theme of Zephaniah was the coming “day of the Lord” when God would settle accounts because of sin. But Zephaniah emphasizes that God’s judgment is not simply to punish for sins but is designed for redemptive purposes to those who turn to God and repent.” [Dennis Mock]

# Day of the Lord in Zephaniah

- “Zephaniah contains more references to “the day of the LORD” than any other Old Testament book.” [Constable]
- “The fact that this day is like a two-sided coin, comprising two separate yet related facets, is more fully developed here than in other prophets, where usually one element is stressed to the deprivation or exclusion of the other. The two facets of the same Day of the Lord are judgment and blessing. The day is characterized by both; each affects the same people and occupies a similar time-frame, but each has a different cause.” [Baker]



# Fulfillment

- “The near-time fulfillment of the day of the Lord for Judah was the Babylonian captivity. The far-time fulfillment of the Great Day of the Lord would be the seven year tribulation period before the second coming of Christ when God would pour out His wrath in judgment against sin. For those who turned back to God from sin, the judgment would be redemptive and they would be ‘sheltered’ (hidden and protected) from God’s wrath by being in right relationship to God.” [Dennis Mock]



# Day of the Lord

- “The Day of the Lord’ includes the time and events from the beginning of God’[s] dealing with Israel [including the tribulation, the Second Advent, the Millennium] into the creation of the new heavens and the new earth. That is ‘the Day of the Lord’ covers the book of Revelation. [Mattox]

# Day of the Lord

- Three facets of the Day of the Lord
  - Historical – God's intervention in the affairs of Israel (Zeph 1:14-18; Joel 1:15) and heathen nations (Isa 13:6; Jer 46:10; Ezek 30:3)
  - Illustrative whereby an historical incident represents a partial fulfillment of the eschatological Day of the Lord (Joel 2:1-11; Isa 13:6-13)
  - Eschatological
- Eschatological Day of the Lord Includes:
  - Great Tribulation (Isa. 2:12-19; 4:1)
  - Second Coming of Christ (Joel 2:30-32)
  - Millennium (Isa 4:2; 12; 19:23-25; Jer 30:7-9)
- [Ryrie Study Bible]

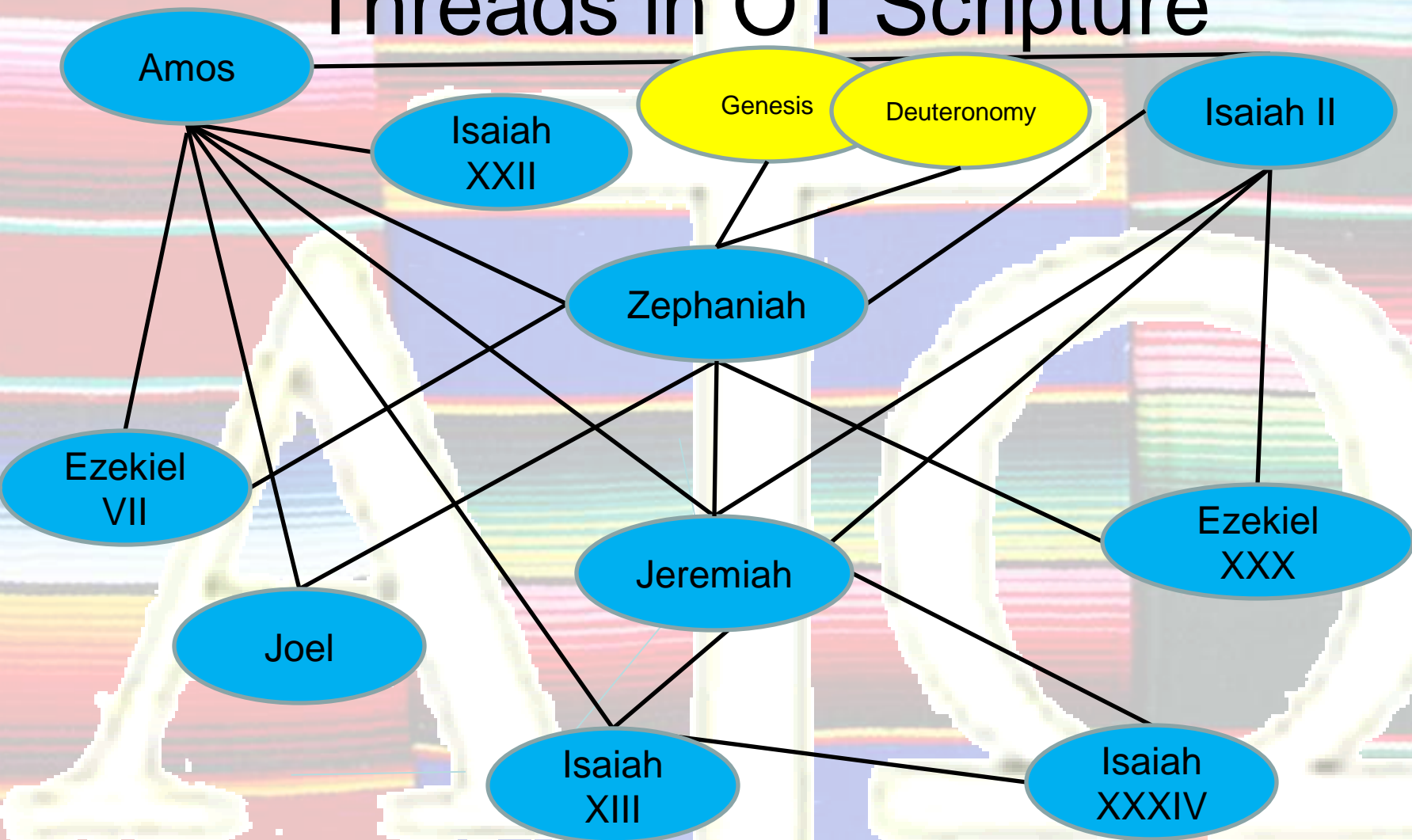


# Simple Outline

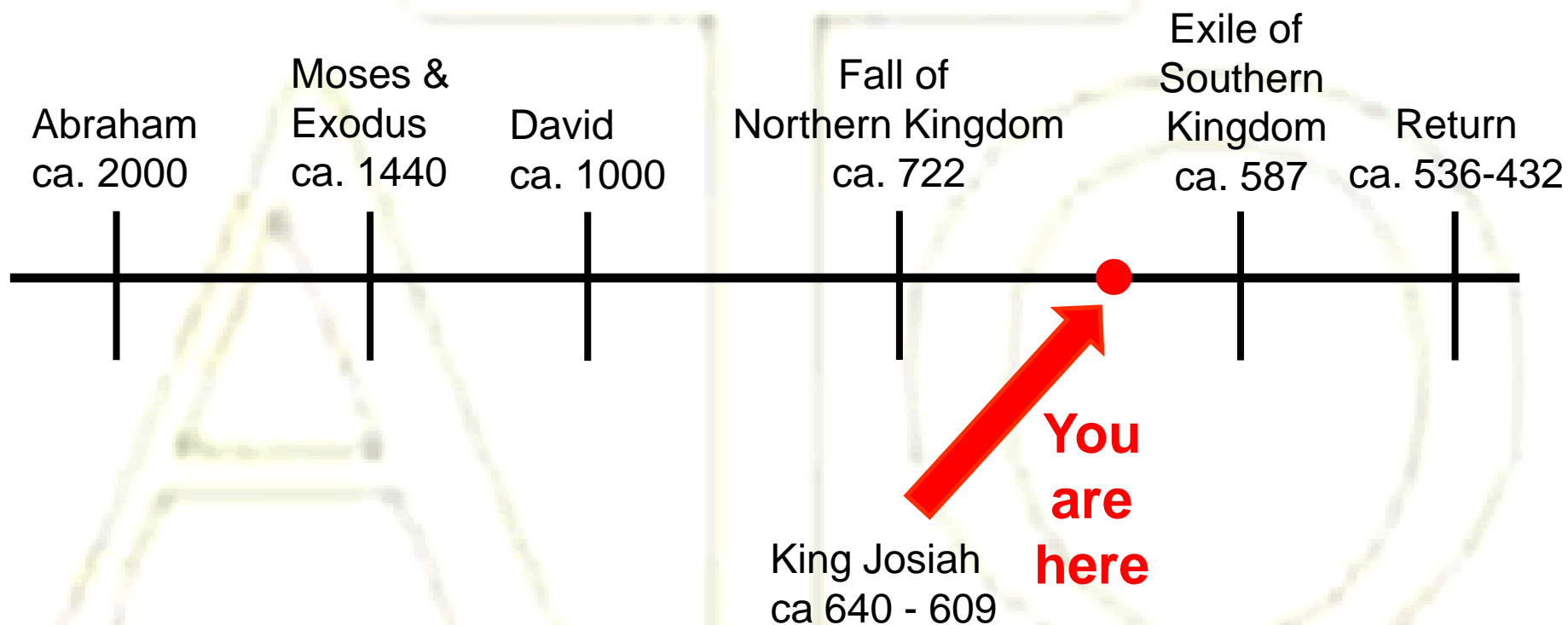
I. Tribulation 1:2-3:8

II. Millennium 3:9-20

# Day of the Lord Threads in OT Scripture



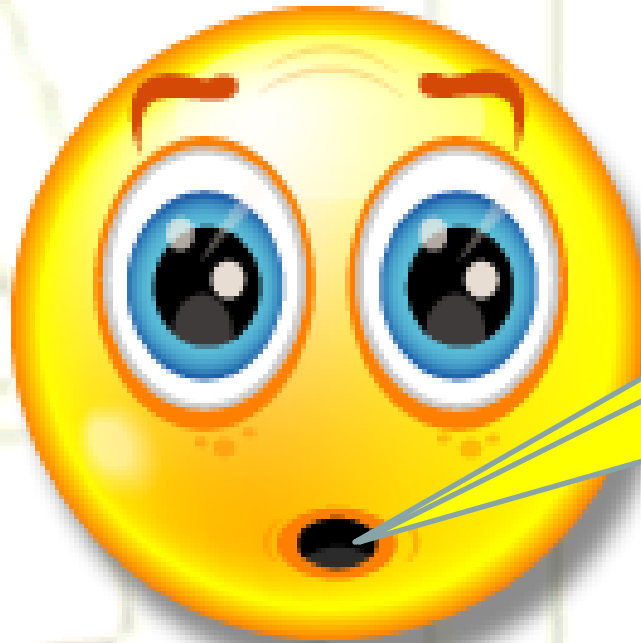
# What Time is it?



Not drawn to scale

# Zephaniah 1:2

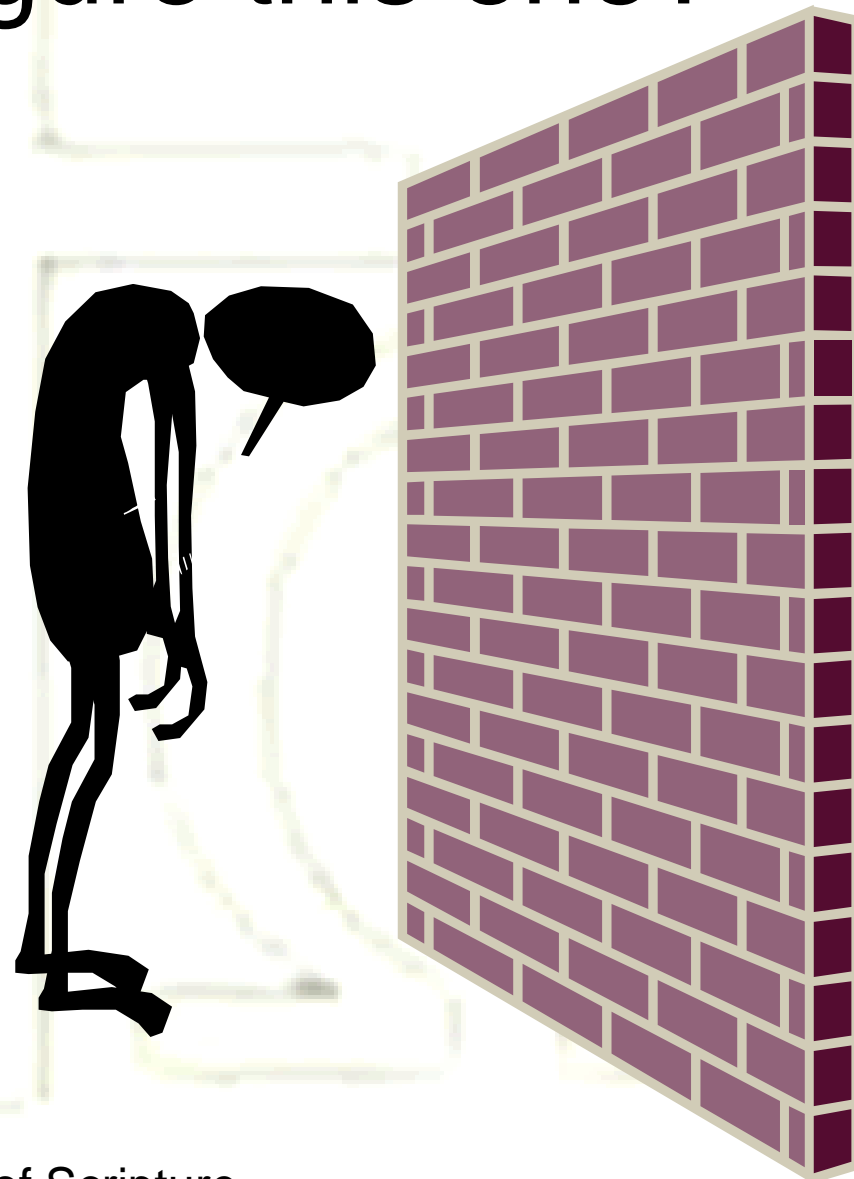
- “I will completely remove all *things* from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.



**Tribulation or  
Last Judgment?  
Israel or Church?**

# How do you figure this one?

- Interpretation
  - Literal or
  - Allegorical/Symbolic
- Kingdom
  - Millennial or
  - Amillennial
- Theology:
  - Dispensational or
  - Covenant
- Do You Believe God Continues to Be Faithful to the Jews? Or does the Church replace Israel?





# This 's gonna take som' 'splainin'

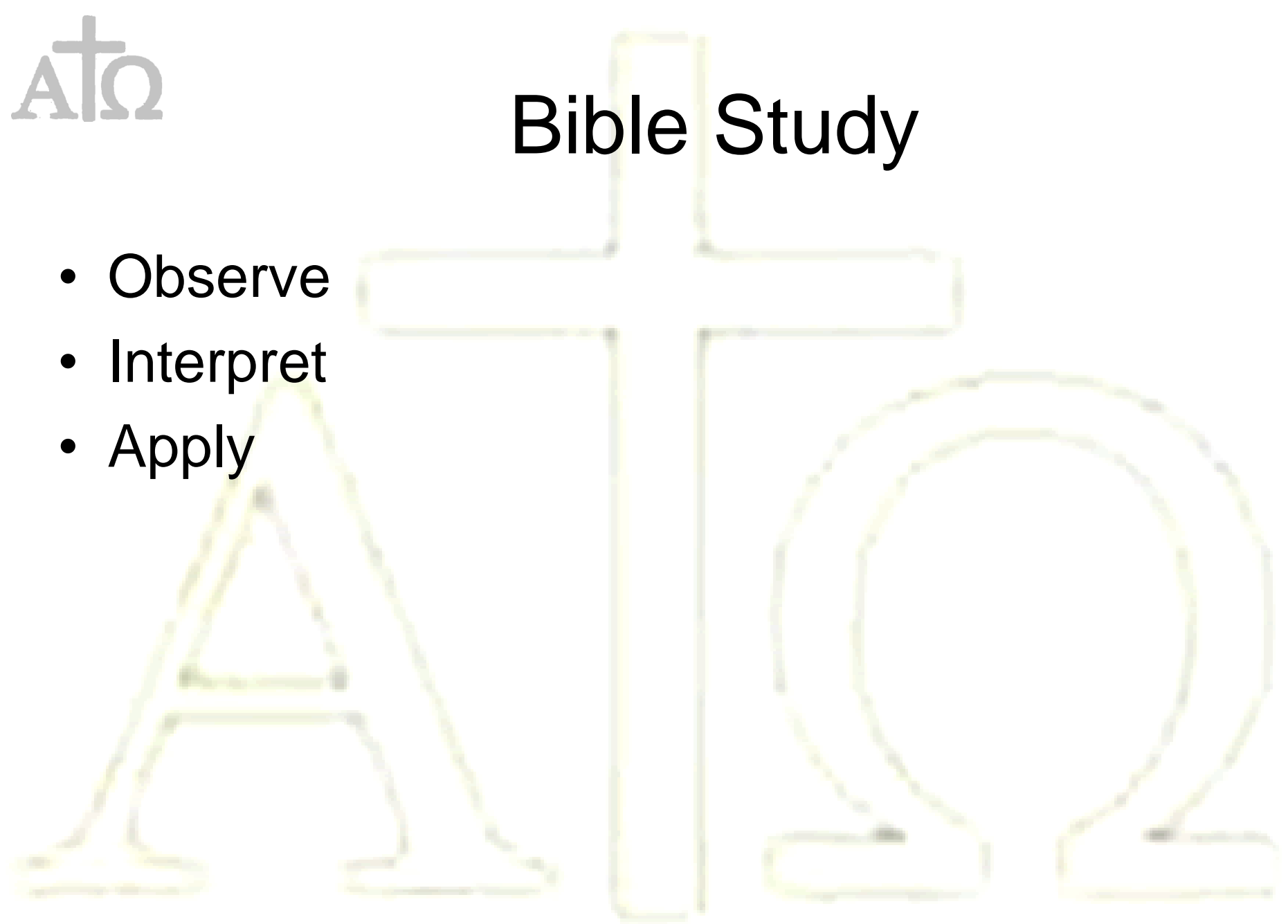
- Literal Interpretation
- Millennial Reign of Christ
- Dispensation of Israel





# Bible Study

- Observe
- Interpret
- Apply



# Prelude to the Storm



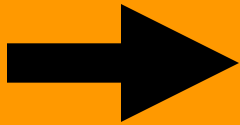
# Necessary Detours

- Literal Versus Allegorical Interpretations
- Old Testament Versus New Testament
- Millennial Versus Amillennial Interpretation
- Dispensational Versus Covenant Theology
- OT Church Versus NT Church
- Some Covenant Theologians  
accuse Dispensationalism of
  - Rejecting salvation by grace in every dispensation
  - Accusing God of getting His plan wrong and having to “shred” each plan until He got it right with the New Covenant





**DETOUR**

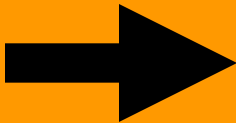


**Why study  
the OT?**



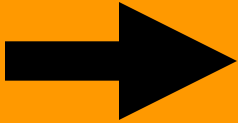


**DETOUR**



**Covenants &  
Dispensations  
Ahead**

**DETOUR**



**What is the  
Church?**

# Peek at the Answer

from a dispensational viewpoint

- Literal Interpretation Leads to
  - 1,000 years (Rev 20:1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7) for a Millennium with Jesus Christ as King Preceded by the Great Tribulation (Rev 8:1 – 19:21)
  - The Tribulation fulfills the OT curses (Deut 28) Daniel's Seventieth week for the Jews
  - The Millennium fulfills the OT promises (Deut 28)
- Not everyone would agree - therein lies the problem

