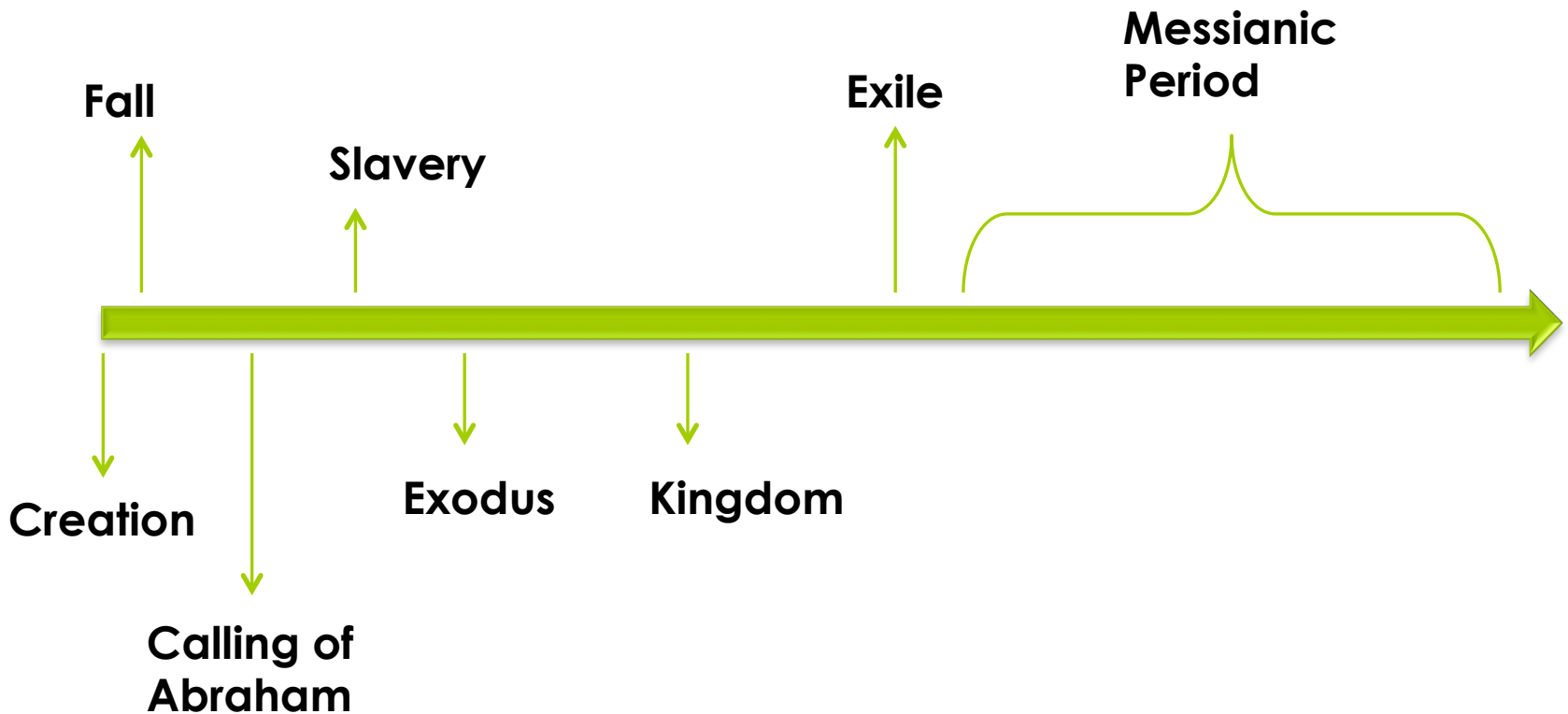




God's Grand Reconciliation

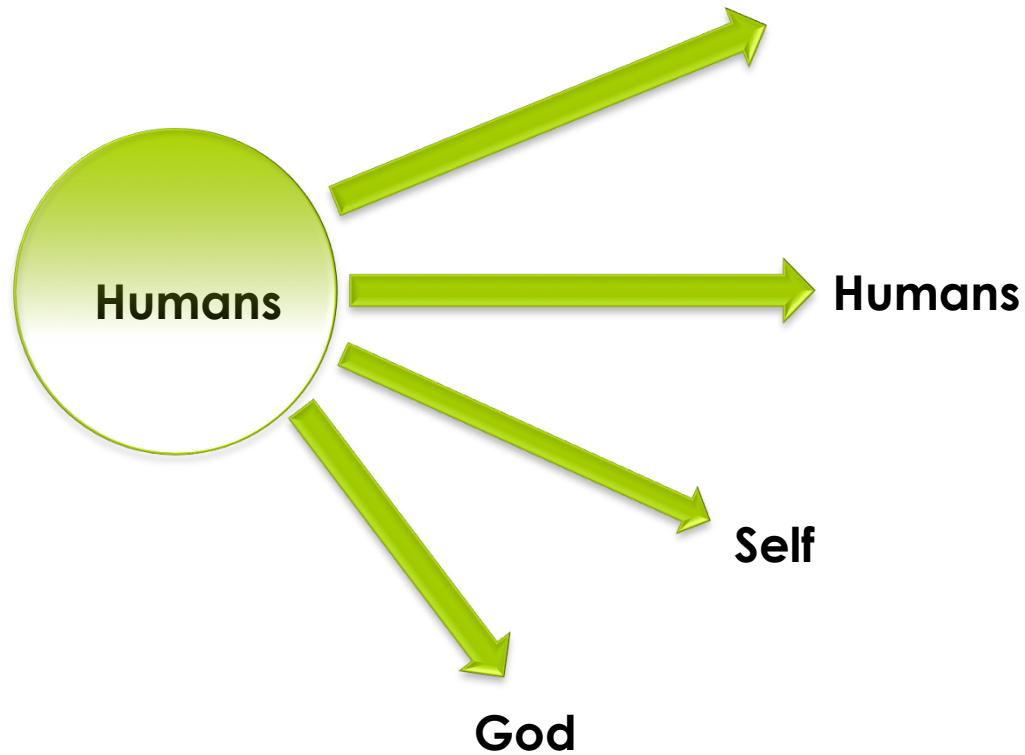
**The Gospel, Salvation, and
God's Justice**

The Story of Israel



The Story of Israel

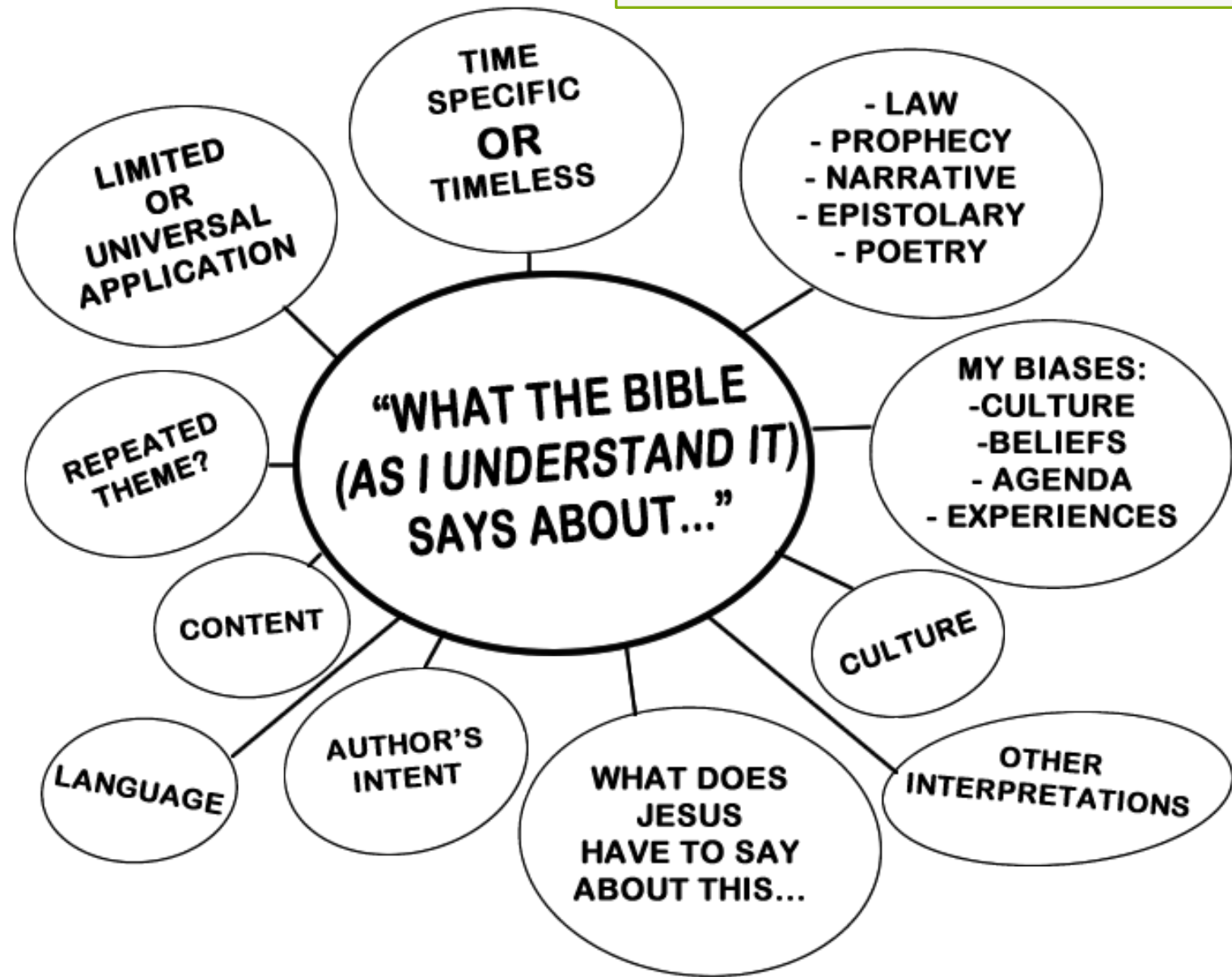
Four fundamental relationships of Creation



THERE IS NO “THE BIBLE SAYS...”

THERE IS ONLY

“THE BIBLE, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, SAYS...”



**“IN OUR ESSENTIAL BELIEFS,
WE HAVE UNITY.**

**IN NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS
WE HAVE LIBERTY.**

**IN ALL BELIEFS
WE SHOW CHARITY.”**

-ST. AUGUSTINE

Gospel

Not necessarily what we mean after two thousand years of journey

This word has an etymology – and a history

What did this word mean in Paul's time and context?

Euangelion

Gospel

But it also had a very important political meaning

The providence which has ordered the whole of our life, showing concern and zeal, has ordained the most perfect consummation for human life by giving to it Augustus...by sending in him, as it were, a savior for us and those who come after us, to make war cease, to create order everywhere...; the birthday of the god [Augustus] was the beginning for the world of the glad tidings [euangelion] that have come to men through him.

- *An inscription found on the Asia Minor coast; Priene Inscriptions, ed. F. Hiller von Gartringen, 40, 105.*

Gospel

And, for Paul, a very important religious/historical meaning

**Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of *good news* (*ho euangelizomenos*
Sion)
Lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of *good news*.
Lift it up, do not fear,
Say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”**

Gospel

And, for Paul, a very important religious/historical meaning

**How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of the messenger who announces
(*euangelizomenou*) peace,
Who brings *good news*
Who announces salvation,
Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”**

**- Isaiah 40:9 and 52:7 Septuagint (Hebrew Bible in
Greek)**

Gospel

For Paul, the word “gospel” has at least two specific meanings:

The announcement of a new king - *messiah*

The announcement of a fulfillment of the Story of Israel - *messiah*

And then a special third meaning – *Restoration*

The fulfillment of the Story of Israel

The fulfillment of the Story of Creation

Gospel

That is, *Reconciliation*

The Reconciling of the Four Relationships

That is, *Salvation and Justice*

These are two sides of a many-sided diamond

Salvation

σώζω – “sodzo” – “to save”

Rescue

Heal

Make Whole

Restore what was lost

Creation and Restoration



Salvation

Four fundamental relationships of Creation

Humans and Creation

Humans and Humans

Humans and Self

Humans and God

For salvation to take place, all four of these relationships must be restored

Salvation is *Reconciliation*

Salvation

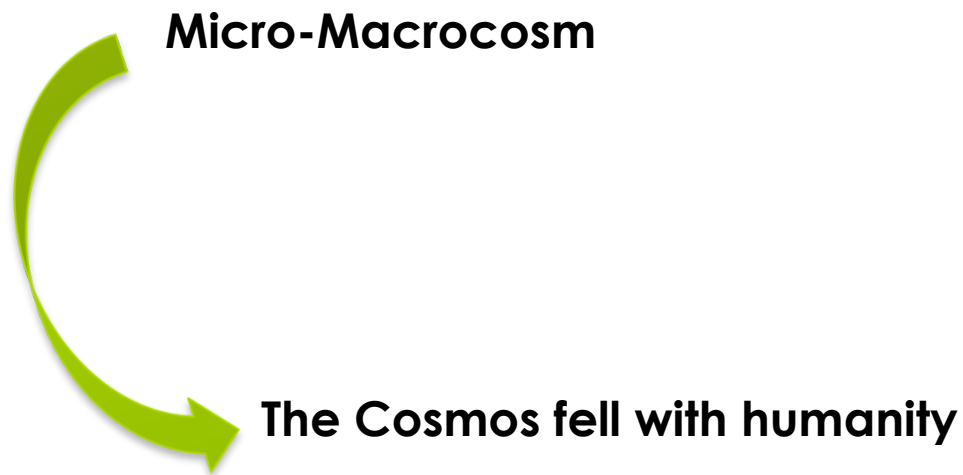
God is remaking the world anew

Reconciling the broken relationships

And thus restoring what was lost in the Fall

Cosmic Salvation

This is thus not only individual, but for the entire Cosmos



Individual Salvation

**Because the Cosmos fell with
humanity, we are trapped in the
cycle of sin**

Individual Sin

Social Sin

Systemic Evil

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. (Romans 7:14-19 ESV)

Justice

**Just
Justify
Justice**

**right
righteous
righteousness**

**In the Scriptures ALL these words
have the same root**

Justice

God intends to put everything to rights

God's covenant with Abraham was always intended as the means by which the Creator God would rescue the whole world from evil, corruption, and death

In Jesus, God has fulfilled His purpose and His promise and invites all people, by faith, to participate in the reconciliation and restoration of all things



**The Bible as primarily a
“HANDBOOK FOR LIVING”
misses its greatest purpose
and most profound Truth**



**THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED STORY OF
GOD'S ROLE IN HUMAN HISTORY**

**THAT POINTS TO JESUS,
IS ABOUT JESUS, AND
CULMINATES IN JESUS**

Justice

**“I’m not ashamed of the good news;
It’s God’s power, bringing salvation to
everyone who believes – to the Jew first, and
also, equally, to the Greek. This is because
God’s covenant justice is unveiled in it, from
faithfulness to faithfulness. As it says in the
Bible, ‘the just shall live by faith.’”**

Romans 1:15-17

