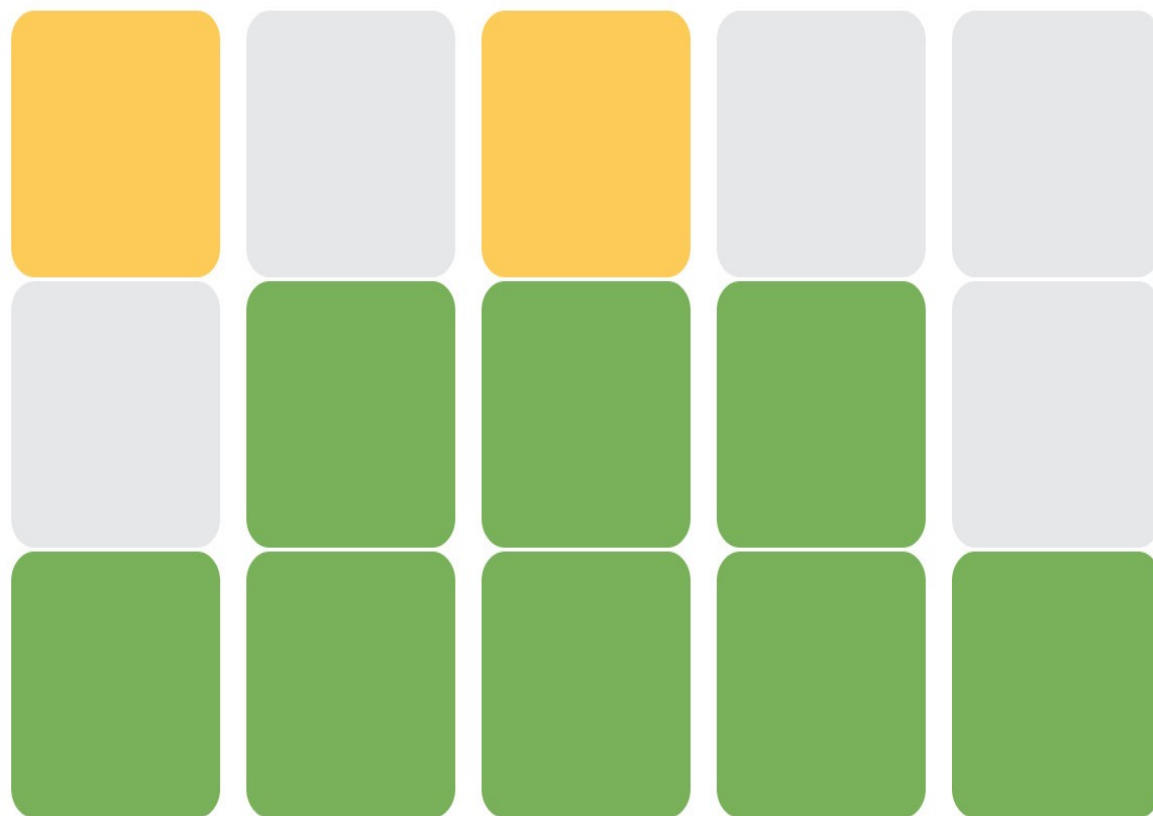


The People of God and the State in the Old Testament



The People of God

A people called and created by God to be agents of God's blessing to all the peoples of the earth.

Genesis 12:1-3

Four Major Periods

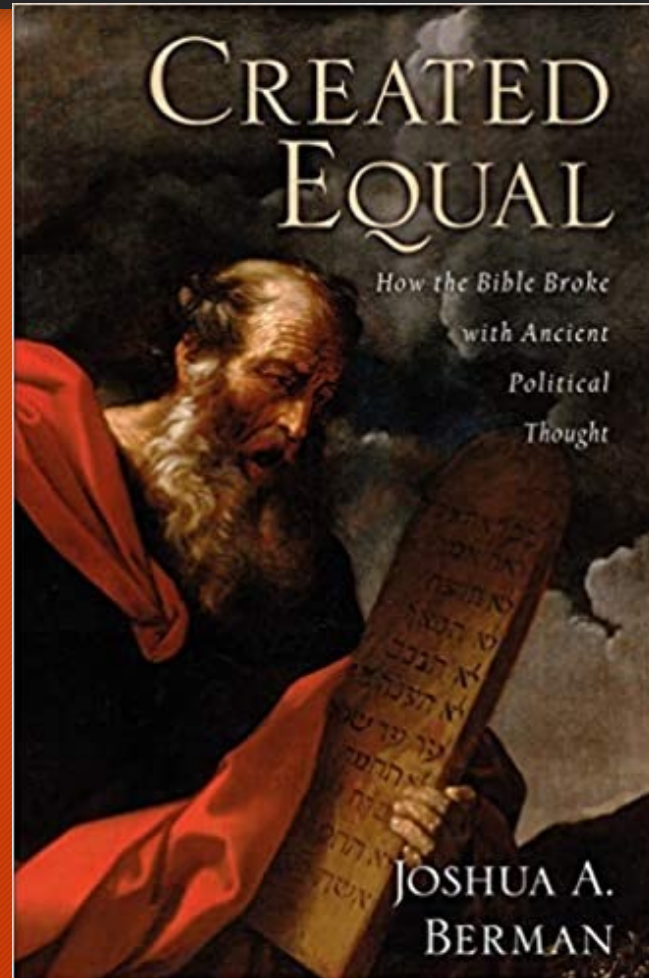
- Beginnings: Sojourners among the Kingdoms
- In the Land: Tribes governing Territories
- In Charge: A Kingdom among the Kingdoms
- Diaspora: God's People scattered among the Nations

Key Themes

Key Theme: The God of the Hebrews

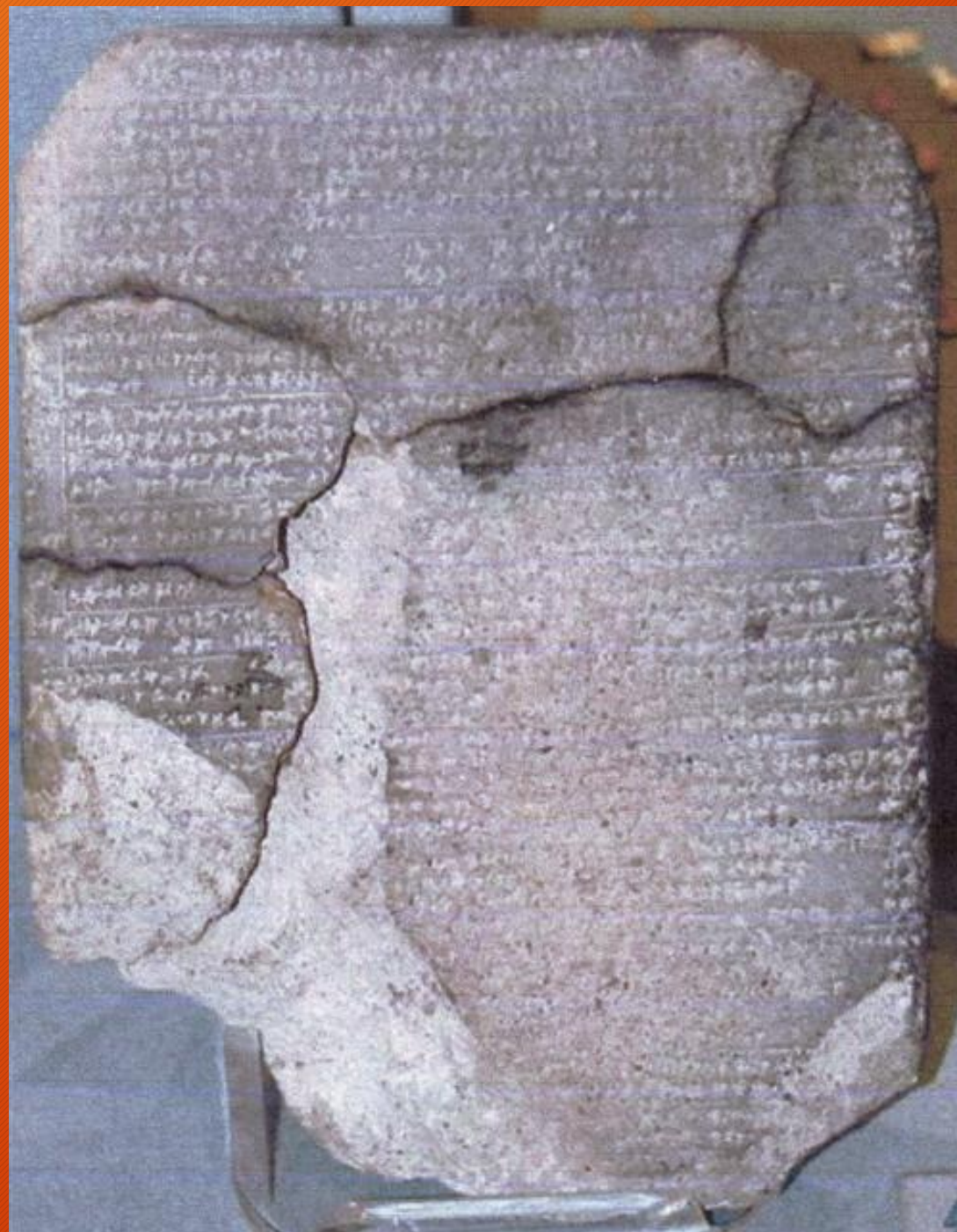
- Hebrews: the outsiders?
- “...you and elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; now let us go ...that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’” Exodus 3:18
- “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” Deuteronomy 10:17-19

Key Theme: The Kingdom of God



The Sinai Covenant and Ancient Treaties

- Historical introduction
- Stipulations governing the relationship
- Instructions for Recording and Preserving
- Blessings and Curses



The Sinai Covenant and Ancient Treaties

ANE Treaties

- Greater king and a lesser king
- Kings aligned with larger kingdom
- Kings, retainers, and subjects

Sinai Covenant

- God and individual Israelites
- “a kingdom of priests”
- God and human beings

Implications

- The Bible is a catalyst for the equality and dignity of all people
- The covenant sees us as sovereigns of our own kingdoms
- The covenant invites us to align our individual kingdoms under God's kingdom

Key Themes: Joshua and Judges

- The Sinai covenant has an anti-kingdom bias
- Families and communities are key institutions for the people of God
- Unfaithfulness, internal conflict, and external threats required a new order

Key Theme: The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Israel

- Deuteronomy 17: a limited kingdom
- Kings: signs or idols
- Prophets: holding kings accountable to the covenant

Key Theme: the Prophets and the Nations

- Amos 1:3-2:5 the nations are all accountable to the LORD
- Amos 2:6-3:2 the covenant people are most accountable to the LORD

Key Theme: The Kingdom of God and the NT

- The OT looks TOWARD the kingdom of God (Daniel 7)
- David and Jerusalem are symbols of the promised kingdom of God (Jeremiah 33)
- Obedience to God's teaching allows participation in the kingdom now (Psalm 15)
- God's promises to David are extended to the whole people of God (Isaiah 55)
- The mission of the people may be fulfilled by one faithful, sacrificial servant (Isaiah 53)